

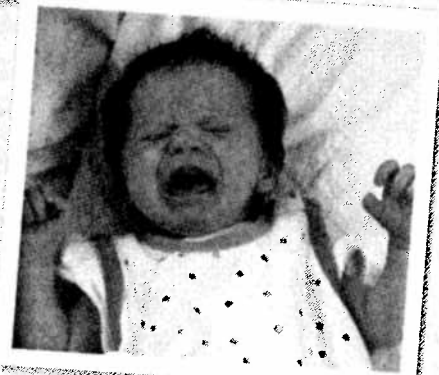
LISTEN TO THIS

As you go through the day, you constantly hear sounds. Sounds are all around you, and they tell you many things. They help you understand people or locate objects. Sounds can give you warning, and they can give you pleasure, too.

When you hear sounds made by other people, you learn something about them. What can you tell from a baby's cry? Maybe the child is hungry or sleepy. When you hear the cry, you know something may be wrong.

Another sound you often hear is laughter. That sound tells you someone is happy. If you hear a groan, you think someone is in pain. A loud scream could mean someone is angry or frightened. You hear the words other people speak, as well. Words are special sounds that help us communicate with others.

People are not the only living things that make sounds you can hear. When you were younger, you learned that most animals have their own sounds. Now if you hear a "moo," you know a cow is nearby. A barking sound tells you a dog is somewhere close. A purring noise is the sound of a happy cat. Just like people, animals use special sounds to communicate.



When you go outside, you hear the sounds of nature. Wind makes a sound when it blows through the trees. Raindrops tap on the window. Sleet bounces off cars and houses. Thunder booms through the sky.

Not all the sounds around you come from nature or living things. You hear sounds from machines and other objects, too. When you hear a kettle whistle, you know the water is boiling. The sound of a mixer tells you someone is making a meal or a snack. A computer makes sounds to alert you. When you hear a doorbell, you know someone is at the door.

Sounds can also warn you of danger. The bleeping of a smoke alarm warns you of possible fire. The screeching of tires tells you a car is stopping in a hurry. The honking of a car horn tells you to get out of the way. Sirens on fire engines, ambulances, and police cars also signal danger.

A blaring horn or siren is not a pretty sound. The sound is supposed to startle you. Sounds can affect you in different ways. Music is another kind of sound that can affect how you feel. When you hear a loud, fast tune, you might want to get up and dance. A soft, slow song might make you feel sleepy. Sounds are a powerful part of your life.

What Makes Sound?

Every sound you hear has a source. And at the source of every sound is something that vibrates. *Vibration* creates sound. Vibrations are rapid back-and-forth movements that can travel through air, liquids, and solids. Sometimes you can see such vibrations. When someone plucks a guitar, you see the string move. But sometimes the vibrations are so fast that you can't detect them with your eyes.

