

Onomatopoeic Verbs

Activity Sheet (page 1/2)

Onomatopoeia is the use of words which imitate the sounds they are referring to.

A. Complete the sentences using one of the nouns below. Underline the Onomatopoeic Verb in each sentence.

toast tap room tiles car moon window beer fly soup

1. After losing my keys, I had to smash a to get into my car.
2. As soon as I let the dog into the garden, he started to howl at the full
3. Please don't have any more, Charles. You know it will just make you burp.
4. Make sure you turn the off properly. If you don't, it will drip all night.
5. I could hear the old floorboards creak as he walked across the
6. Please don't slurp your like that. It's putting me off my food.
7. Try not to splash your bath water everywhere. If the get wet, you'll slip.
8. Do you have to crunch your so loudly? I'm trying to listen to the news.
9. The started to buzz frantically when it realised it was trapped in the car.
10. I heard the screech to an abrupt stop, before disappearing down the road.

B. Write the Onomatopoeic Verbs from Exercise A next to their meanings below.

1. People often do this after overeating or consuming too many fizzy drinks.
2. Flying insects make this sound.
3. This is the sound of water falling repeatedly at regular intervals.
4. This is the sound of walking over gravel or an icy surface.
5. This is what we hear when something heavy lands in water.
6. Car brakes may make this high-pitched sound. Children sometimes do too.
7. Dogs do this to attract attention or to acknowledge other dogs.
8. People sometimes do this whilst consuming liquids or wet food.
9. We hear this sound when we open a door that needs oil.
10. This is the sound of glass breaking into many pieces.

Talk with a partner, ideally someone from another country. Do you use any of these Onomatopoeic Verbs in your own language? If not, what words do you use to describe these sounds?

C. Complete the sentences using Onomatopoeic Verbs from Exercise A in the correct form.

1. After the heavy rainstorm there was water from the ceiling.
2. The burglar the kitchen window, then climbed into the house.
3. The sound of the fly around the room was driving me crazy.
4. The child jumped into the pool and everyone sitting nearby.
5. Whenever Peter drinks beer, he for hours afterwards.
6. If you continue to your milkshake like that, I'll never buy you one again!
7. The van to a halt before taking off in the opposite direction.
8. John was his apple so noisily that I had to turn up the television.
9. The old wooden stairs started to as I made my way up to the bedroom.
10. The dog continued to until its owners finally came home.

D. Complete the list of annoying sounds below using Onomatopoeic Verbs in the correct form, then chat with your partner and rank the sounds from the 1 to 5, with 1 being the most annoying and 5 being the least annoying.

1. A mosquito around your head and not going away.
2. A dog non-stop for hours because its owners have left it alone at home.
3. A tap into the sink all night.
4. A loose floorboard that whenever someone steps on it.
5. Somebody loudly after a large meal and not apologising for it.

E. Talk with your partner and try and think of other things (not mentioned in this activity sheet) that make these sounds.

1. An animal that you might hear howling at night.
2. Something that might smash if you drop it.
3. A food that makes a crunching sound when you eat it.
4. An insect that makes a buzzing sound.
5. A place where you might get splashed with water.