

English Pronunciation: Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is the name given to words which sound like the sound they represent. They can make a poem or text sound interesting. Words like “bam”, “whoosh” or “slap” sound similar to the things they refer to. Here are some examples:

| Liquid | Speech | Collision | Air | Animal |
|----------|---------|-----------|---------|-------------------|
| bloop | ahem | bam | flutter | bark |
| bubble | belch | bang | gasp | bray |
| dribble | blurt | clang | swish | buzz |
| drip | chatter | clank | swoosh | cheep |
| drop | giggle | clap | waft | chirp |
| drizzle | groan | clatter | whiff | cluck |
| plop | grunt | click | whoosh | cock-a-doodle-doo |
| splash | gulp | clink | whizz | cuckoo |
| spray | gurgle | crash | whip | growl |
| sprinkle | moan | crunch | | hiss |
| squirt | mumble | ding | | honk |
| | murmur | jingle | | hoot |
| | shriek | knock | | howl |
| | squeal | slap | | oink |
| | whisper | smash | | purr |
| | | thud | | ribbit |
| | | thump | | tweet |
| | | | | warble |

Onomatopoeia in use

Onomatopoeia is a fun, linguistic tool used in literature, songs and advertisements. Such words bring language alive in the reader's imagination. Let's look at some examples of onomatopoeia in use.

- "Chug, chug, chug. Puff, puff, puff. Ding-dong, ding-dong. The little train rumbled over the tracks." - *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper.
- "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is." - slogan of Alka Seltzer, U.S.A.
- "Little Sal picked three berries and dropped them into her little tin pail ... *kuplink, kuplank, kuplunk!*" - *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey.

Onomatopoeia in nature

- The rocks go kerplunk as they fall into the lake.
- Listen to the pitter-patter of raindrops on the leaves.
- Lightning crackles and thunder rumbles through the night.
- The boulder hit the ground with a flump.
- Leaves rustle in the wind and are whipped into the air.
- The waves crashed against the rocks.
- The hail snapped small branches off the trees.
- The wind whooshed through the trees.
- The dead leaves crackled on the ground.
- The wind howled in the storm.
- The river gurgles and rushes over the rocks.
- Wind whistles through the branches of the tree.
- The small waves lap against the beach.
- The needles chatter against the ice on the pine trees.
- The snow crunches under your feet.

Onomatopoeia in the animal world

- Snakes slither among the leaves.
- The geese honk as they fly across the sky.
- Bees busily buzz as they fly from flower to flower.
- The butterflies flutter as they take flight.
- You could hear the distinct howl of the wolves at night.
- The caw of the crows was all around us.
- The ducks quack loudly as they swim across the lake.
- The birds chirp loudly in the morning.
- The frog ribbited as it jumped around.
- You can hear the roar of the lions in the distance.
- The dolphins clicked to each other in greeting.
- You know the horses are coming down the road by the clippety-clop of their hooves.
- High up in the trees, you can hear the parrots squawk.
- The pigeons always coo loudly as they look for food.
- The mouse squeaked as it ran along the ground.
- We heard the growl of the tiger as it followed its prey.
- It was difficult to ignore the distinct croak of the frogs.
- During the savannah tour, he heard the whoop of zebras.

- The horse neigh at the visitors.
- The pigs oink as they flop in the mud.
- You can hear the peep-peep of the chickens as they peck the ground.
- The cats meow incessantly when they are on the bed.
- The mooing of the cows was very loud.
- Baa-baa bleated the sheep.
- The cat purred loudly as I touched her ears.
- Cock-a-doodle-do filled the air as soon as the sun started to rise.
- The unhappy cat yowled.
- They heard the distinct hee-haw of the donkeys in the barn.