



03 - VOCABULARY: SOUNDS



1 - A “**sound**” can be pleasant, neutral, or unpleasant – but “**noise**” is always either neutral or unpleasant.

2 - I woke up to the **lovely sound** of my wife playing the piano. (*pleasant*)

I could hear the **soft sound** of their voices in the other room. (*neutral*)

The fighting cats made **horrible screeching sounds**. (*unpleasant*)

3 – I can’t hear you; there’s a lot of **background noise**. (*neutral*)

My car is making an **annoying buzzing noise** whenever I turn on the A/C. (*unpleasant*)

4 - If a noise or sound is very strong, we can describe it as a **loud sound/noise** – and if it is REALLY intense, then we can describe it as a **deafening sound/noise**.

5 - On the other hand, if we can barely hear it, then it is a **faint** or **soft sound/noise**. There’s also a **muffled sound** – when it seems that something is blocking the sound.

6 - Noise that doesn’t stop is called **constant/incessant noise**. You’ll hear this type of noise if your house is close to the highway, for example – you’ll hear the **roar of traffic** day and night.

7 - If you work in a factory, then you might hear the **hum of machinery** all day long. And if you live next door to college students, you’ll probably hear **music blaring** as they party every night.

8 - Nature is full of noises, too – such as **birds chirping** and **dogs barking**. If you sit near the ocean, you can listen to the **waves crashing**.

9 - When you’re in a remote, deserted area, you might hear the **wind whistling** through the trees. And if there’s a storm, you’ll hear the **rumble of thunder** – or be scared by a sudden thunderclap.

10 - “**Quiet**” means that there is very little noise, whereas “**silent**” means there is no noise at all. You can also say that it was **absolutely, completely, or perfectly silent**.

11 - When it begins to be silent, you can say that **silence descended** or **fell**, and then when a noise interrupts the silence, it **breaks** or **shatters the silence**.