

Onomatopoeic Verbs

Teacher's Notes

Level: Intermediate

Description: So, what vexing noises prevent *you* from sleeping peacefully through the night? Whether it's a neighbour's dog howling pitifully until the early hours, a mosquito buzzing incessantly round your head, or that irksome tap you've been meaning to fix dripping steadily without relent, when it comes to describing everyday sounds (the good ones and the bad ones), one certainly wouldn't get very far without Onomatopoeia. So, what about our poor students? Whilst these words may come naturally to many of us, chances are your average English learner might find some of them a little hard to grasp. The activities in this resource allow students to practise some of the most common Onomatopoeic Verbs in a fun and practical manner, both alone and with a partner.

Aim: To practise Onomatopoeic Verbs through a variety of written and communicative activities.

Procedure: Give each student a copy of the two-page activity sheet.

Exercise A: Students begin by completing the sentences using one of the missing words provided and underlining the Onomatopoeic Verbs in each sentence.

answer key:

- | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|--------|---------|
| 1. window | 2. moon | 3. beer | 4. tap | 5. room |
| 6. soup | 7. tiles | 8. toast | 9. fly | 10. car |

Onomatopoeic Verbs

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------|
| 1. smash | 2. howl | 3. burp | 4. drip | 5. creak |
| 6. soup | 7. splash | 8. crunch | 9. buzz | 10. screech |

Exercise B: Next, students match the Onomatopoeic Verbs from the previous exercise with the correct definitions. They then chat with a partner (ideally someone from another country) and compare the words which are used in their own languages to describe these sounds.

answer key:

- | | | | | |
|------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. burp | 2. buzz | 3. drip | 4. crunch | 5. splash |
| 6. screech | 7. howl | 8. slurp | 9. creak | 10. smash |

Exercise C: Students then complete the sentences using Onomatopoeic Verbs from the previous page in the correct form.

answer key:

- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------|
| 1. dripping | 2. smashed | 3. buzzing | 4. splashed | 5. burps |
| 6. slurp | 7. screeched | 8. crunching | 9. creak | 10. howl |

Exercise D: Students then complete the list of annoying sounds, using Onomatopoeic Verbs in the correct form. They then chat with their partner and rank them in order from the most annoying (1), to the least annoying (5).

answer key:

- | | | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. buzzing | 2. howling | 3. dripping | 4. creaks | 5. burping |
|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|

Exercise E: Lastly, students talk with their partner and try and come up with one more thing (not mentioned in the activity sheet) that makes each of the sounds listed.