

Sound Effect Decibel Levels

Sound	Type	Decibels (dBA)	Context
Softest sound possible (at 1 kHz)		0	
Rustling leaves	Specific	10	Barely audible
Normal breathing	Specific	10	
Pin dropping	Specific	10	
Broadcasting studio	Ambience	20	
Whispering at 5 feet	Specific	20	
Soft whisper	Specific	30	Very quiet
Very calm room	Ambience	30	
Quiet office or library	Ambience	40	
Quiet residential area	Ambience	40	
Babbling brook	Specific	40	
Computer	Specific	40	
Moderate rainfall	Ambience	50	Quiet
Refrigerator	Specific	50	
Large office	Ambience	50	
Light traffic	Ambience	50	
Electric toothbrush	Specific	55	
Coffee percolator	Specific	55	
Normal conversation	Specific	60	Intrusive
Sewing machine	Specific	60	
Television	Specific	60	
Washing machine	Specific	63	
Air conditioner	Specific	63	
Dishwasher	Specific	63	
Electric shaver	Specific	65	
Passenger car	Specific	70	Difficulty hearing speech
Shower	Specific	70	
Vacuum cleaner	Specific	73	
Alarm clock	Specific	73	
Coffee grinder	Specific	75	
Hair dryer	Specific	78	
Power lawn mower	Specific	80	Irritating
Toilet flush	Specific	80	
Pop - up toaster	Specific	80	
Doorbell	Specific	80	
Telephone ringing	Specific	80	
Whistling kettle	Specific	80	
Food mixer or food processor	Specific	85	
Blender	Specific	85	
Hand saw	Specific	85	
Heavy traffic	Ambience	85	
Noisy restaurant	Ambience	85	
Garbage disposal	Specific	88	
Tractor	Specific	90	Very irritating
Truck	Specific	90	
Electric drill	Specific	95	
Factory machinery	Specific	100	Very loud
Snowmobile	Specific	100	
Motorcycle	Specific	100	
Jackhammer	Specific	100	
Subway	Specific	103	
Snow blower	Specific	105	
Baby crying	Specific	110	Extremely loud
Power saw	Specific	110	
Leaf blower	Specific	110	
Busy video arcade	Ambience	110	
Car horn	Specific	110	
Shouting in ear	Specific	111	
Football game (stadium)	Ambience	117	
Thunder	Specific	120	Painfully loud
Chainsaw	Specific	120	
Hammer hitting nail	Specific	120	
Jet taking off (60 metres)	Specific	120	
Ambulance siren	Specific	120	
Air raid siren	Specific	130	
Stock car race	Ambience	130	
Loudest possible voice	Specific	135	
Airplane taking off	Specific	140	
Bicycle horn	Specific	143	
Jet taking off	Specific	150	
Artillery fire (500 feet)	Specific	150	
Fireworks	Specific	150	
Jet engine	Specific	150	
Capgun	Specific	156	
Balloon pop	Specific	157	
Fireworks	Specific	162	
Rifle	Specific	163	
.357 revolver	Specific	165	
Handgun	Specific	166	
Shotgun	Specific	170	
30-06 rifle being fired	Specific	171	
Howitzer canon	Specific	175	
Rocket launching (at pad)	Specific	180	
Sound waves become shock waves		191	