

Upper-intermediate / advanced vocabulary worksheet + exercise:
Sounds our voices make

whisper	verb: to speak very softly using your breath
examples	• <i>She didn't want the others to hear, so she whispered in my ear.</i> • <i>What are you two whispering about?</i>
sigh	verb: to make a long, deep audible breath which usually expresses sadness, relief, frustration or tiredness
examples	• <i>We all sighed with relief when we heard the danger had passed.</i> • <i>He sighed deeply and looked down at the ground.</i>
yell	verb: to shout in a loud, sharp way (to get someone's attention or to show pain, surprise, or delight)
examples	• <i>He yelled in pain when he stood on the sharp piece of glass.</i> • <i>She yelled and waved to us from across the river.</i>
giggle	verb: to laugh lightly and repeatedly mostly in a silly way (from amusement, nervousness or embarrassment)
examples	• <i>The kids all giggled when the teacher swore by mistake.</i>
stammer	verb: to speak with pauses and repeat the first sound of words, often because of nerves
examples	• <i>Johnny was so nervous at his new school that he stammered every time a teacher spoke to him.</i>
mumble	verb: to speak unclearly and quietly and in a way that others have difficulty hearing and understanding you
examples	• <i>Speak up so that we can hear you – stop mumbling!</i> • <i>I didn't catch what he said: he mumbled something under his breath.</i>
groan	verb: to make a deep inarticulate sound which expresses pain, despair or pleasure
examples	• <i>The player groaned in pain when he fell and broke his ankle.</i> • <i>The kids all groaned when the teacher gave them extra homework.</i>
sob	verb: to cry noisily and make loud gasps
examples	• <i>The little girl sobbed all evening when she lost her favourite doll.</i>

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Exercise

1. He _____ with disappointment when he learned that he hadn't been chosen for the team.
a. mumbled b. sighed c. whispered
2. Martin _____ all the way through his job interview: he was so nervous.
a. yelled b. stammered c. sighed
3. The younger girls _____ all day on the school bus trip.
a. giggled b. mumbled c. sobbed
4. Some of the audience _____ at the end of the film when the main character died.
a. stammered b. yelled c. sobbed
5. He _____ in pain after sitting in the same position on the plane for six hours.
a. sobbed b. groaned c. mumbled
6. Michael _____ something under his breath about the bad service, but the waiter didn't hear him.
a. mumbled b. stammered c. sobbed
7. Joanna _____ the password to me so that the others didn't hear.
a. yelled b. whispered c. sighed
8. Stop _____ ! I can hear you perfectly well from here.
a. yelling b. groaning c. sobbing
9. I could tell that he was embarrassed by the way he was _____.
a. mumbling b. groaning c. sighing
10. I _____ as loud as I could and thankfully someone came to help.
a. mumbled b. yelled c. sighed