12 Sounds and hearing

A Things I don't want to hear

There are noises I love – when someone **bursts out laughing**, or people **cheer** at football matches, for example – but if I went **deaf**, there would also be noises I wouldn't miss:

- **background noise** of cars, machines, etc. that can be so **irritating**
- the sound of a child **in tears**
- the sound of someone **sneezing**[1] – that makes me worry I will be the next person to **catch their cold**.
- someone **whispering** behind me – I imagine they are talking about me!
- **overhearing** something unpleasant that I wasn't meant to hear
- someone **sighing**
- people **booing** at sports events or other occasions – it's very rude.
- my partner **snoring**!


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GLOSSARY

burst out laughing	suddenly start laughing, often loudly	**catch a cold**	get an illness: ***catch** a cold / (the) flu*
cheer	shout to show that you like sth or to encourage sb in a sporting event, etc. OPP **boo**	**whisper**	speak very quietly in sb's ear so others cannot hear **whisper** *n: He spoke **in a whisper**.*
deaf	unable to hear. **Blind** is unable to see.	**overhear**	hear what sb is saying, by accident, when they are speaking to sb else
background noise	sounds or noise that can be heard but aren't the centre of attention and are often unwanted	**sigh**	let out a long deep breath to show you are tired, sad, disappointed, etc.
irritating	annoying; making you angry	**snore**	breathe noisily through your nose and mouth when you are asleep
in tears	crying		

1 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 There was a lot of background noises. _____
2 We burst out laugh. _____
3 The poor boy was into tears. _____
4 Did you overhere what she said? _____
5 Please stop wispering like that. _____
6 My husband snorts in his sleep. _____

2 Find five phrases from the words in the box

background	in	catch	in a	burst out	whisper	tears	laughing	noise	a cold

_____ _____ _____
_____ _____

3 Complete the sentences with a suitable word or phrase.

1 When you have a cold, you often _____ a lot.
2 My next-door neighbour has been _____ for several years, and now has a guide dog.
3 The poor man can't hear a thing: he's been _____ for years.
4 If you spend time with someone with a cold, you might _____ their cold.
5 If you don't want someone to hear what you are saying, you should _____.
6 Most people stood up and _____ when Liam won, but a couple _____. It was a bit embarrassing.
7 One or two people have told me I _____ in my sleep.
8 When my mother _____ like that, I can tell she's disappointed.
9 I _____ two people on the bus talking about unpleasant noises. It was quite funny.
10 A lot of young people talk very quickly and not very clearly. It's very _____.

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B A sound story

It was a dark and stormy night. I shut my eyes …

- I could hear a car **horn** in the distance.
- Several dogs were **barking**.
- I heard a **crash**.
- Someone **yelled**.
- A car door **slammed**.
- Something hit my window – it **cracked**.
- I heard **footsteps** in the hall.
- **Silence**. Then my door handle turned.
- I **screamed** and woke up.
- It was a **nightmare**. I **breathed a sigh of relief**.

GLOSSARY

horn	the thing in a car that makes a loud warning noise
bark	(of dogs) make a loud short noise or noises
crash	a sudden loud noise made by sth hitting sth, etc. **crash** *v*
yell	shout very loudly
slam	shut or make sth shut very loudly
crack	break or make sth break so that a line appears on the surface but doesn't break into pieces: *The glass has **cracked**. The stone **cracked** the windscreen.* **crack** *n*
footsteps	the sound or marks made when you walk or run
silence	no noise or sound at all
scream	make a loud, high, unpleasant sound **scream** *n*
(breathe) a sigh of relief	let out a long deep breath when sth unpleasant stops

SPOTLIGHT *nightmare*

A **nightmare** is a frightening or unpleasant dream. It is also used informally to describe a bad or unpleasant experience.

- *My trip to London was a **nightmare**: all the trains were delayed.*

4 **Put these words in three groups: 1 *no noise* 2 *a noise* 3 *a loud noise.***

crack bark sigh yell silence scream footsteps slam crash

1 ..... 2 ..... 3 .....

5 **Match 1–5 with a–e.**

1	The door	.....	**a** barked.
2	The car	.....	**b** cracked.
3	The dog	.....	**c** slammed.
4	The glass	.....	**d** screamed.
5	The woman	.....	**e** crashed.

6 **Replace the underlined words with a single word. Keep the same meaning.**

1 I walked into the classroom. There was <u>no noise at all</u>. .....
2 I opened the door and someone started <u>shouting really loudly</u>. .....
3 My partner has had <u>bad unpleasant dreams</u> for some time now. .....
4 I could hear <u>the sound of somebody walking</u> along the path towards the door. .....
5 He walked out angrily and <u>shut</u> the door <u>loudly</u>. .....
6 I heard the car's brakes and then a <u>loud noise of it hitting something</u>. .....
7 After I dropped the glass, it had <u>lines along the surface</u>, so I got rid of it. .....
8 A spider suddenly appeared, and Kasia <u>let out a high unpleasant sound</u>. .....

7 **Complete the text.**

Where I work is terrible. For a start, there's constant background noise from the traffic, with drivers sounding their car **(1)** ..... all day long. Then there is a dog that's often tied to a tree outside, so of course it **(2)** ..... all the time. And in my office I have several colleagues who are always **(3)** ..... at each other – they can't talk in a normal voice – and can't seem to leave the office without **(4)** ..... the door. It's an absolute **(5)** ....., and I breathe a **(6)** ..... of **(7)** ..... every day at 5.30 when it's time to go home.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS