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This is the second of two articles on the onomatopoeia of words for sounds produced by inanimate objects; the first article appeared in the May 1991 Word Ways. In that article, a taxonomy was developed relating the pitch and loudness of a sound to the vowel of the word representing it, and the duration to the initial and final consonants (or consonant clusters). The article restricted itself to sounds associated with accidental bumps, bangs or falls of solid objects (both human and inanimate), including the deliberate collisions of war and sport, and the related sounds of friction and breakage.

In contrast, this article restricts itself to sounds associated with:

* liquids and gases  
* daily life (motors, telephones, sirens, switches and the like)  
* bodily noises other than vocalizations (snores, sneezes, coughs, kisses, chewing, etc.)

To finish off, a selection of highly-unlikely sounds is given such as SHOOF (a loose shirt falling about one's ears while one is standing on one's head) and FOOM (all the leaves of a tree drop off simultaneously). Most of the examples are taken from comic strips appearing between Mar 1988 and Mar 1992.

I add to the earlier taxonomy the following consonant interpretations:

- final R Z: buzzing or whirring sounds  
- initial S F, final S F: air escaping under pressure  
- initial PL SPL: objects falling in liquids (or semi-solids)  
- second-syllable LE: sound of extended duration

As before, the comic strips from which the sounds were taken are identified with one-letter codes (see appendix).

LIQUID (OR SEMI-SOLID) HITS SOLID OBJECT

head hit by raindrop PLINK li by snowball SPLAT hjl WHAP c  
SMACK c DOOF g by water GOOSH g SPLOTSH q by pie FFFFFFWOPP h  
SPLAT g SPLUT g by mustard SPLOIT g by ketchup SPLOOT l by ice cream cone SPLAT k by vegetables SPLUT KONG BLAT g by food SPLAT kgi  
SPLOT g SPLUT gi SPLOP y PLOP h by bird droppings SPLUT h by tomatoes SPLAT ge  
wet mop hits dog SCHLOP g
pie hits wall SPLAT g egg hits wall SPLAT o food flung SPLUT y FLING k BLUB t throw soup on table SPLAT h throw hash in bowl PLOP l food dish dumped in bed SPLLOP g egg falls, breaks SPLLOOSH t apple hits ground SPLAT b gas slops on floor SPLAT d

SOLID FORCIBLY STRIKES (FALLS IN) LIQUID

man falls in outhouse pit SPLLOOSH g in water SPLASH n SPLASH o box lid falls in water SPLASH s snake dives in water SPLASH b gold fish dives into tank SPLLOOP o pack falls in water PLOOK c golf ball falls in water SPLASH b big rock thrown in water PLOUCHK c newspaper thrown in puddle PLOUP t truck hits puddle SPLASH-USH t head falls in food dish SPLAT SPLLOT g fist hits plate of food SPLLOT g bat hits meatball SPLAT e wet ball hits catcher's mitt SPLORSH b SPLORK b galoshes in snow GALOSH c

AGITATED LIQUIDS (POURS, DRIPS)

privy topples SPLAT b food tray falls on floor SPLAT s water-filled balloon bursts SPLLOT g hair curler CURICLE k wave onto beach SPLLOOSH g pour coffee KA-PLOP d pump gas GLUG t food down sewer SLURP o pour gas from can GLUG d hard rain GOOSH g watering can FOOSH s flush toilet FOOSH d FLUSH c KASHOOOSH c paper down toilet SPLLOOSH k run faucet hard WHOOSH d FNOOSHHHH h shower head WHOOSH d reduced-flow shower head PWIT d plumbing sounds GLUG DRIP BLOOP FLUMP i dripping ice cream DRIP t roof leak DRIP o faucet drip BLIP m water drips PLIP PLOP d DRIP s glue from tube PLOP l blow bubbles in water B-B-B-B-B-B g drink last juice through a straw SLOR-SLOR-SLOR-SLOR SLOOORREERRRR-k-K-K g sip through straw Sook g SLURF k SIP g SLURFPPP c SZIPPFF h elephant blows through trunk SPLASH o perfume bottle SQUIRT k plant mister SQUIRT g squirt gun SQUIRT i water sprinkler FISSSS ZIT ZIT ZIT g KLICK KLICK t leak under pressure FOOSH s man swimming SPLASH SPLASH o man kicks puddle SPLASH SPLOOSH s man jumps in puddle SPLASH l

EXPLOSIONS, ESCAPING GAS

thunder and lightning BOOM ce CRAACK c ZOT b KABOOM c CRACK CRASH i volcano RUMBLED FOOM b military explosions: grenade BOOM e gun BKOWWW x BLAM cjt POF g BANG ut BANG-G t BAM e machine gun RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-j RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-t RAT-A-TAT-TAT-t keg of gunpowder BOOM h cannon BOOM BAM e tank artillery BLAM e artillery shell BOOM e KA-BOOM d bomb BOOM t flame thrower WHOOSH e rocket launcher FOOM e fireworks FOOM KAPANG SSSSSHHH BAMP i BOOM is auto tire BLAM l can POF c trick cigarette BOOM k flashbulb FOOM co FLASH c charcoal lighter ignites FOOM y acetylene torch WFFFFFFFFFF y propane torch FZZZ-T t TV set falls FFRRR t light burns out PF-F-F-T-T-t overworked hand calculator gives up POF g soap bubble bursts BIP c bubble gum pops SNAP c POW c spray can PSSST a PSSHHHHH g shaving canister FOOSH d open soda can FZZZ t POP SSSSSS e FOOSH i open champagne bottle POP FFIZZZZZZZZ b
Toys and motors, and whatnot...
telephone switchboard RING BEEP k phone busy signal BZZZ t off-hook signal BZZZ t recording signal BEEP i intercom signal BZZZ e
bathroom scale DING s beeper BEEP eu fax machine BEEP k radiation detector BEEP j electric timer BING k RING c DING g
video game ZAP s BEEP s RIP s ZAP PING WHIRRERRR WHACKA e
ice cream truck DING DONG u DING DINGA LING LINGA m taximeter KLUNK
DING s snack cart bell DING o
bells on jester's hat JINGLE h sleigh bells JINGLE b JINGLE g fire bell CLANG q DING t DING s handbell CLUNKA CLANK d DING l BONG b
BING k New Year's BONG u grandfather chimes BONNNNNG 1 school bell RINGGGG c
siren REEEEEEEEEEE WOOP s WEEO v on motorcycle REBOOOWWWRR o smoke alarm WOO-OP W-P-W W-WOO WOO-OOP c WOOP i FTTWEREEEVEE x SCREE... y
B-BEEP BEEP-P BE-EEEP t
duck call HONK o QUICK b
taxi horns DING DONG u DING DONGA LING LINGA m
whistle FWEEVEET t BLOW AIR INTO WHISTLE PPPFFF g whistle
party horn HONK g BLAT g trumpet HONK o

CLICKING (AND SNAPING) NOISES

TV switch (including remote) CLICK bcdgiklprst CLIK dl CLIC i internal TV channel TINK s
telephone hang-up CLICK glmz CLICK 1 telephone pushbutton tones BEEP ROOP c touch-tone buttons TAP k answer recording terminates BIP d
clock TICK gw TICK TOCK g TIC i TIC-TOK-TOC t turn off alarm DONK g push button BOINK c button on console CLICK f
light switch CLICK gk CLIK d light pull-chain CLICK k
typewriter keyboard TIC m TICKA-TICK c PLIK e CLICKETY e PLICK e
type slowly FECK e calculator keyboard TAP k calculator keyboard response BEEP s
toaster TIKKA z TIC l bread pops out ZOOB b BLUT g WHAM 1 SWOING c
shut padlock SNAP r set bolts on door KLJK SKLAKK KLATCH x door latch CLICK gti look door CLIK d key turned in lock CLICK LOCK 1 CLIK m
CLICK e doorknob jiggled RATTLE t

unsnap ski bindings SNAP b unsnap restraining harness SNAP s
toeing booth lever CLICK m cigarette lighter CLICK d electric blanket
switch CLICK t slide-changer CLICK l camera shutter CLICK cigklo
SNAP gk KLJK c CLIK d set stopwatch CLICK g lawn sprinkler KLJK t
knitting needles CLICK g swing-ball "reaction" game CLACK g complete
microwave cycle BING k turn-signal indicator CLICK i rewound
cassette stops POINK s CLICK e car seat back adjustment CLICK CHUNK g
pull out pin to start balloon inflator POINK s trigger on gun CLK q
CLICK gti CLACK w

"walk" signal turns CLICK t traffic light KLJK t check writer princer
TIK a electronic cash register CLIK-K t hospital bed control CLICK g
shave out blanket WHIP g close drapes SHOINK g window shade runs up
too fast FTPW g remove suction-cup arrow POF h operate salad shooter
PHOOT PHUT j fishing reel WHIRRERRRR y beanie propellor TBABTPFFTH
TBABTPFFHB TBABTPFFIP c
RADIOs, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

objectionable radio music TA-RAH-H TA-TAH-H-H DUM-DE-DUM t POP ROCK
BADDOOLA BLAM l hard rock music THUNKA i
trumpet MONK g xylophone PLINK s guitar DOING SPROING i PLINK m
electric guitar ZOOM ZOOOOM SLAP SHUFA TUNK d
drums RAP RAPPA DAP RAPPA RAT-TAT-T-T RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT WHAM-M
BRRUMM-TUM TUM RICKA-TICKA t THUMFA s

BODY NOISES

eating CHOMP egghiko GULP gho SLURP gho SNORT g CRUNCH jk MUNCH gj
Gobble g SWARF g SMUNCH h eat fast RSHUMMPHHFPG g
cat cream puff MOOSH MUMMPH MOCOPH h souse SLURP bm BLUB MUMPFF GLUB j
paper MUNCH CHORKE b rock CRUNCH g lunch-counter top KARRUNC b
candy CRUNCH g sugar CRUNCH c apple CHOMP y bottle CRUNCH h cereal
CRUNCH l carrot MUNCH CRUNCH g piano leg CRUNCH t wood GHOMP GNAM
MUNCH s potato chips CRUNCH r mashed potatoes CRUNCH g pizza

animal eating dog CHOMP wh MUNCH st CRUNCH htu Gobble h SMUNCH c
GULP g SLURP ii SNAP t CHOMP p fish bites CHOMP c
eat food off spoon OMBK k
stomach rumbles RUMBLE e SLOSH m GROWL g CRUMBLE k CURGLE h
creaking joints CREAK nl CREAK g SMUNCH POP g
heart (through stethoscope) PUM PUM BAH BAH e
laugh HEH HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE WB SNORK HB h
drink SLURP bdb GLUG bc GULP i LAP b
animal drink (dog) LAP b
sucking frosting off cake SLURP g noodles SLURP l cheese off lasagna
SLUWUCk g crumbs off floor Suck g through straw SLOK g SLURP k.
SIP g SLURRP c SZIPP g last juice through straw SLOR-SLOR-SLOR-SLOR
SLLORRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
HAAACK g general coughs and sneezes SNIFFLE SNORFLE SNIFF...
snout taps ground like blind man’s cane TAP b
shove baby bottle into baby’s mouth THPT k
pick Christmas light off of tree POINK s pick a fern PLICK g
woodchuck pushes up through layer of dirt POOK b
extract olive from jar POONK l
card ejected from cash machine SPLORP b
“trouble” spots on globe explode POW b
one’s shadow falls from the wall to the ground FLUMP b
penis on anatomically-correct doll springs up SPLOOSH THWAT d
Spiderman deploys webbing THWIPP x

APPENDIX

a Agatha Krumm b B.C. c Calvin and Hobbes d Doonesbury e Beetle Bailey f The Far Side g Garfield h Hagar i Hi and Lois j Bloom Country k Cathy l Blondie m Momma n Andy Capp o Moose p Peanuts q Pogo r Tiger s Safe Havens t They’ll Do It Every Time u Marmaduke v Gasoline Alley w Toles (editorial cartoons) x Spiderman y Grammy z Ziggy

OBoy! Morice

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU AND I HAD A LETTER TO LETTER TALK!

OKAY, DAD, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT!