Onomatopoeia

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What is **Onomatopoeia**?

**Onomatopoeia** is when a word’s pronunciation imitates its sound.

- **Onomatopoeic** words represent sounds.

- When you say an **onomatopoeic** word, it sounds like the noise to which you are referring.
Examples of Onomatopoeia

• The **clanging** pots & pans woke the baby.
• The wolves **howled** at the moon.
• The race-car driver **revved** his engine.
• The bacon **sizzled** in the pan.
• I love the **swish** of the basketball net.
Interjections are a part of speech where the speaker expresses excitement or emotion.

Onomatopoeia should not be confused with interjections.

Examples

“Hey, that’s mine.”

“Wow, that was close.”
Interjections Are Often Not Onomatopoeic

• Sometimes onomatopoeic words are used as interjections:

  “Boom! That’s how you do it.”

• Usually they are not:

  “Ouch, that hurt.”
  “Yay, we won!”
Onomatopoeia Review

Onomatopoeia is when a word’s pronunciation imitates its sound.

Interjections are a part of speech.

Sometimes onomatopoeic words are used as interjections, but not all interjections are onomatopoeic.