

IEP
For discussion

Noise levels and human response

| Source | Decibel (dB) level | Effect |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Jet engine (close by) | 140 | Ear pain, risk of irreversible injury |
| Air gun, aircraft take-off | 130 | Ear starts hurting, Risk of injury |
| Ambulance siren, disco | 120 | Body feels sound vibrations. |
| Power saw, jackhammer | 110 | Risk of permanent damage with more than one minute of daily exposure |
| Portable stereo at full volume, garbage truck, snowmobile | 100 | Risk of damage if more than 15 minutes of exposure without protection |
| Subway, motorbike, lawn mower, personal watercraft | 90 | Very uncomfortable and stressful |
| Diesel truck engine, many factories | 85 | Danger of long-term damage to hearing (8 hours of exposure per day), fatigue |
| City traffic | 80 | Inconvenient, makes conversation hard. For children: may affect learning. |
| Vacuum cleaner, hairdryer, car interior | 70 | Inconvenient, interferes with telephone conversation. |
| Normal conversation | 60 | Comfortable |
| Quiet office, air conditioner | 50 | Comfortable |
| Refrigerator | 40 | Gentle |
| Hushed conversation | 30 | Very gentle |
| Normal breathing | 10 | Barely audible |
| | 0 | Silence |

20 dB more \approx 100 times louder

30 dB more \approx 1,000 times louder

The above table lists common sounds and their decibel levels, along with the potential effects on hearing.