

## GOES IN TIGHT

She says- "Goes in tight."

He says- "Yeah... I know."

She says- " No... I mean you just sneezed. 'Goes in tight' is a way of saying 'God bless you' in German."

He says- "so?"

She says- "So, don't you just love how worldly I am when speaking different languages?"

He says- "whatever. Pass the remote."

Actually it's spelled "Gesundheit", but is pronounced "goes in tight", with the accent on "in". So, when someone sneezes:

If you're German you say, "Goes IN tight."

If you're a Christian you say, "God bless you."

If you're an atheist, or maybe a lazy Christian, you say, "bless you" and leave the God part out.

If you're an Islamic terrorist you say, "decent blast."

If you're a mother you YELL... "COVER YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU SNEEZE!!"

We're going to eventually get to the finer points of sneezing and deer hunting (yes, there is a definite relationship here) but before that I want to expand a little on sneezing techniques just for fun.

I know guys who loosely clench their fists like they're holding a... tube. They sneeze directly into their fist/tube. This very effectively fills your palm with millions of germs. Then, for the next hour or three, everyone you shake hands with, or touch, gets infected. It's not a healthy habit. Basically, sneezing in your hand has no effect other than maybe something similar to the choke for your shotgun barrel pattern. I'm saying you want to STOP the spray, not just change the pattern.

Proper sneezing etiquette is to sneeze into a handkerchief, tissue or your sleeve/ forearm opposite your elbow. This keeps the spray minimal and isolated into an area not often touched. If you question the effectiveness of a good sneeze, next time you feel one coming on, position your face about 6 to 8 inches from a mirror and let 'er rip. You'll get my drift (no pun intended). Please pass the Windex.

Now, let's talk about human sneezes. First off, who made up that old wives tale about looking at the sun will cause you to sneeze? I ain't buying it. I've looked at my share of sunrises and sunsets in my day and can't ever remember looking at one that made me sneeze.

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On to the finer points of sneezing and bowhunting, sneezing is usually caused by an air borne irritant, be it pollen, dust, pepper or whatever. That's why we have nose hairs, to help block out those floating irritants from entering our lungs. Breathing through our mouth doesn't filter irritants as well. There is yet another good reason never to get out of breath.

If you should feel a sneeze coming on when in the timber, the first thing to do is pinch your nostrils with both fingers and "scratch the itch". Rub the outside of your nose. Finger insertion is not necessary and may even be detrimental.

If an external nasal massage does not do the trick and you still feel the sneeze coming on, all is not lost because Uncle Barry is going to teach you how to sneeze perfectly silent. The negativity of a loud sneeze while hunting is obvious. They say it's impossible to sneeze and keep your eyes open, that it's an involuntary muscle contraction. Not true. Only myself and Dwight Schrute, from "The Office", have mastered this technique.

Have you ever seen the slo-mo clip filmed with a little medical camera that shows what happens internally when we sneeze? It's impressive. Every single cell, muscle and organ within your body shakes violently when we sneeze. It's like an internal explosion. This devastating effect is caused by air being forced from our lungs. Hence lays the secret. In the milliseconds just before you sneeze if you forcefully expel all the air from your lungs there is no air left inside to discharge. JUST before you sneeze forcefully exhale, close your mouth and pinch your nose shut. The sneeze will occur but there will be no blast of air because there's almost no air in your lungs. Your body will just mildly "jump" in an almost totally silent sneeze. And, with practice, you can keep your eyes from blinking if you desire, so you'll not miss anything.

In an equally important part of this life changing article on sneezing and bowhunting, I'd like to talk about deer sneezing. There is an absolute difference between a deer snort, a wheeze and a sneeze. The first two are functional within the deer world. The snort is to clear the deer's nasal passages of mucus so they are able to smell things better. They are blowing out the snot so they can better inhale our scent molecules. At the same time, they are moistening the orifice because a moist orifice can and will pick up scent molecules floating in the air easier. It's similar to why a deer licks his nose constantly. They are licking their noses in order to moisten the orifice to be able to pick up scent molecules better. That's the function of the snort.

The wheeze is nothing but communication within the deer herd showing dominance to and over subordinate animals. That's the function, and without a doubt my favorite calling technique.

The deer sneeze is likely something you've never heard or read little about other than now. That's something I find hard to believe because it will make you a better deer hunter. Just being aware of it makes it very important. A lot of this is uncharted grounds. Let me say this, three or four years ago I kept

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track of deer sneezes I heard in the woods. Believe it or not, I heard EIGHT bucks sneezing before I saw them. As I said, knowing what to listen for makes all the difference in the world. As stated, a lot of this is theory and strictly my own opinion. I hope it will stimulate the opinions of others who will now pay attention and hand down their theories to future generations who will now know what to listen for.

Another factor I've noticed is the sex ratio. Be it coincidental or otherwise, a very high percentage of the deer I've heard sneezing have been bucks rather than does. I can't say this really makes sense.

I've got two theories on deer sneezes. In no special order, almost all deer sneezes (nearly 100%) I've heard were in October or early November. This makes perfect sense for theory number one. Additionally, bear in mind I've lived in Iowa for the last fifteen years. The almost thirty years prior I lived in Montana. I honestly can't remember ever hearing a deer sneeze in Montana. Maybe I did and didn't know what I was hearing or it didn't register. The point being, neither western Montana or eastern Montana had any/many mast crops and therefore minimal scrounging for acorns in the leaves.

Herein lays my first theory. When acorns, beeches or any mast crop falls into the dry leaves deer have to scrounge for them. Think about it. October is the normal "Indian summer" type of weather. Cool nights with dry, sunny days and mild breezes. Autumn is here. Foliage dries, dies and flutters to the forest floor.

Some oaks produce sweeter acorns than others. I refer to them as "sweet oaks" because they seem to attract deer like a kid to candy. Because multiple deer end up spending many hours walking around in dry leaves under certain trees the dry leaves get pulverized. You likely see where I'm going here. If you look close beneath the drip line of a sweet oak you'll notice the leaves have been pulverized into a fine dust of leaf particles.

Every day, while acorns are falling, nature drops a new supply of nuts under each tree until the cache runs out. I believe the daily scrounging deer inadvertently inhale some pulverized leaf dust causing them to sneeze. In our DVD "Essential Encounters" ([www.brothersofthebow.com](http://www.brothersofthebow.com)) there is an excellent segment that shows a deer sneezing. I personally taped it myself so I know when/where it was recorded. During the entire segment the buck probably sneezed a couple dozen times. We edited it down where the viewer can see him sneeze eight times in approximately fifteen seconds. You'll also note he scratches his nose with his hind leg four separate times in that fifteen second segment. I frankly just lucked out on the lighting. Because of backlighting of the western sunset you can virtually see and hear every sneeze. This is the noise you need to learn to listen for when hunting. When you hear it, you better slowly stand up, lift your bow from its hook and get ready.

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You'll note it sounds very much like a dog sneezing. But also note it's a completely different sound than a wheeze or a deer snorting.

My second sneeze theory may shock a lot of people. Bot flies are interesting critters to start with. Allegedly, they are our fastest flying insects. Supposedly they've been clocked at 800 MPH... but I ain't buying it. First off, how'd they clock them? We're talking a fly here. It seems like one going by at 800 miles per hour would be tough to keep track of and would take some pretty high tech radar equipment. And... seeing 768 MPH is the speed of sound, wouldn't he create a miniature sonic boom? Whatever.

Not only can the bot fly haul ass she can also hover. Now, get ready... the female bot fly hovers close to the head of the host specie (the deer) and while hovering ejects her larvae into the nostrils of the deer (a feat which is nothing to sneeze at.. no pun intended... sorry, I couldn't help myself). The ejected larvae then migrate to the retropharyngeal cavity at the internal base of the deer's tongue where they develop. They grow into large grubs, sometimes over an inch long, in a cluster of 20 or so. After they mature they again begin to migrate within the nasal passages. The sneezing indicates the migration of mature larvae. They simply "tickle" the deer inside the nasal cavities. Health issues to the host animal are relatively unwarranted. I know this stuff may be hard to swallow (no pun intended) but ask your local taxidermist if he's ever encountered bot fly larvae while sawing a skull.

So there you have it. Learn to listen for deer sneezes. When you hear one you better get ready. And, if he's a shooter, here's hoping your arrow "goes in tight" right behind the shoulder (sorry... I couldn't help myself again).

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