



Live Lesson Notes

Noise Pollution



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General Vocabulary

My morning was full of noise pollution!

Workers **ringing** the door bells

Dogs **barking, yelping**

Construction workers **drilling**

Workers **shouting**

A **cacophony** of sounds

= *a mix of different noises sounding terrible*

They made such a **racket**

= *a terrible noise*

A noise...is a sound, especially one that is loud and disturbs.

Which noise do you really NOT like?

Noises from PEOPLE

Shouting

Screaming

Crying

Bad singing (in the **Karaoke**)

Music **on the loud speaker** of a mobile

People **eating**, chewing, slurping, munching, chomping

Snoring and grinding your teeth when sleeping

Noises from ANIMALS

The **rooster** / cock in the morning

Mosquitoes **buzzing** around my ear at night

Dogs **barking**

Noises from THINGS

Alarm clocks
Thunder, storms and lightning
Car horns
People honking their horn
Ambulance sirens
Drilling
Low flying airplanes

How to talk about noises

I am **sensitive to** certain sounds

I really dislike _____

I **can't stand** the sound of _____

This sound is...

annoying

irritating

aggravating

maddening

(all four words mean the same, i.e. a sound you don't like)

This sound really **grates**

It hurts my ears

It drives me **up the wall**
=makes me angry, drives me crazy

It drives me **round the bend**
=makes me angry, drives me crazy

It drives me **nuts**
= it makes me crazy

It gives me a headache

It gets **on my nerves**

It makes me **cringe**

That noise is...

loud,

piercing,

unbearable,

deafening,

throbbing (for a drill),

grating,

high pitched (adj.),

screeching,

Which noise do you hate the most and why?

I actually find the sound of the the train quote soothing and calming

The shrill of the telephone ringtone is so aggravating and irritating

The high pitched hum of the drill on the construction grates so much.

The piercing noise of the automatic saw is unbearable, it reminds me of the dentist's drill and really scares me.

The shrill crow of the rooster is a terrible way to wake up the in the morning

The crash of breaking glass drives me nuts and gives me a headache.

Is noise pollution a problem? Why?

Yes, it can cause stress

It can affect our **stress levels**

It can lead to sleep loss, or even **insomnia**, (the inability to sleep),

It could lead to **hearing damage**

It can aggravate the health of elderly or sick people.

It disrupts our work

It distracts us and makes it impossible for us to concentrate on our work or studies.

Is there more noise pollution now compared to the past?

With this kind of question notice the 'clues' in the question about comparisons ("compared") and the past time ("to the past")

You don't have to use this grammar (comparisons and past tenses) but it is a good opportunity to do so, and clearly would be appropriate for this kind of question.

One possible template:

Clear opinion: ***I would say arguably yes.***

Talk about the past: ***In the past, there were fewer building sites, so...***

Talk about the present and make comparisons: ***But nowadays...there is more noise pollution because...***

OR

These days there are higher levels of noise because ...

Model Answers

Notice,

Speech is **not** in perfect sentences.

There is **repetition**

There are **false starts**

If you write your answers out in perfect sentences, it will not sound natural, it will sound like you are a book!

Don't write your answer out first,

Speak your answer first, then record it, then write it out.

You can compare these features of spoken and written English below.

Q1. Why do we have to preserve cultures?

SPOKEN

Well, I think there are **several aspects** of our culture that are well worth preserving and some of those are traditional **aspects**.

I think, you know, customs around birthday **celebrations**, wedding **celebrations**, Christmas **celebrations**, ...

It's inevitable for me... I think culture is fluid and forever changing, and to try and stick rigidly to tradition doesn't really work either.

WRITTEN

Well, I think there are **several aspects** of our culture that are well worth preserving and some of those are traditional **features**.

I think, you know, customs around birthday, wedding **and** Christmas **celebrations**,

I think culture is fluid and forever changing, and to try and stick rigidly to tradition doesn't really work either.

Model Answers

Q1. Can the problem of noise pollution be solved ? if yes, how?

A1.

It's a really good question and I think, **frankly speaking**, we can never completely **get rid of** noise pollution.

I think due to the development of technology and industrialisation, there is **a growing amount** of construction happening around us,

so there is always gonna be a certain level of noise pollution coming from the drilling, the building, the shouting of the workers,

even though we put in measures to reduce the amount of noise pollution,

so for example there may be **rules and regulations** about the time of day you can drill or what **kind of machinery** you use to drill,

inevitably, there always be noise pollution.

So, I think it's a real challenge to solve this problem.

Q2. Which noise don't you like and why?

A2.

Well, there are so many noises that **I find aggravating** but **one of the most maddening noises** there is for me, is the sound of the dentist's drill.

It's one of those noises that is so **high pitched** and **piercing** that **it really grates**

and **it drives me around the bend**, and not only that, not only does it drive me round the bend, it really scares me.

It's a sound I think, maybe the dentist wants to attack me and kill me.

So, **it's one of those noises** I really hate.

Q3. What are the primary causes of noise pollution in cities?

A4.

I think, nowadays there's **a number of causes of noise pollution** but probably **one the most significant ones**, is traffic.

As cities grow and there is **an influx of people** coming from the countryside to the city, they bring their cars with them.

Private car ownership is growing, everybody wants their own car and so there is more traffic on the streets

and that comes with the noise of the engine, from the exhausts, people **honking their horns** because there's more traffic jams,

people **get exasperated** and so you get this build up of noise pollution from traffic.

I think, that's one of the primary causes,

but also, as cities grow there is more and more construction right.

so you have the noise from the construction site, **be it from** machinery,

be it from workers shouting, **be it from** drills that are being used and making this **aggravating** and **piercing sounds** that you hear throughout the day.

So, yeah I would say those two; traffic and construction, are two of the primary causes of noise pollution in cities.