

## Sounds We Make Cheat Sheet

**achoo (or atchoo)** – the sound of sneezing

**aah (or ahhhhhhhhh)** – a sound that expresses relief or relaxation

**ahh**—exclamation of surprise or fright; a variant of *aah* used as a sound of pleasure, relief, or relaxation

**aha** – the sound we make when we discover something (Example: Aha, there are my keys!)

**ahem** – to represent a sound that you make to get someone's attention in a polite and quiet way. **Also** used in writing to represent a sound that you make before you say something that may be slightly surprising or shocking

**argh** – a sound used to express upset or pain

**argh** – exclamation of frustration, comparable to *rats* or *drat*; sometimes used for a pirate's exclamation

**arrr** – pirate's sound of agreement; pirate's exclamation

**aw, ohh, ahh** – "That's too bad" "Aww, it hit him right in the nuts!" Feeling sorry or pity for someone.

**aww** – exclamation over the cuteness of something

**bah, beh** – this is used to express contempt, disdain or severe upset

**blah** – (typically written three times) to show that either someone droned on about a topic or what had been said was predictable and/or commonplace and all parties now listening understand what was said without it being necessary to repeat what was said "*And then she moaned about her husband. You know, blah blah blah.*"

**blech** – mild to medium exclamation of disgust

**boo** – a sound made when startling someone or trying to surprise them

**boo-hoo** – a word used in comic books or children's stories to show that someone is crying

**burr** – the sound a person makes to indicate he or she is cold

**chomp** – the sound of taking a bite

**crunch** – the sound made when eating crunchy food like crackers or chips; also the sound of footsteps on hard stones like gravel

**d'oh** – a sound made when someone suddenly realizes they have made a foolish mistake; Homer Simpson is famous for making this sound

**duh** – exclamation of exasperation or disdain over the explanation of something obvious

**EEK** – the sound a person makes when he or she is scared; this sound is often made when someone is scared by something small like a mouse, not when being scared by something big like a bear

**eh** – mild exclamation of unconcern or indifference (*Eh, who cares.*); solicitation to repeat something (*Eh, what was that?*); question tag (*You heard about it, eh?*)

**er** – placeholder signifying hesitation, confusion, ignorance, or even guilt, often indicating that the speaker is thinking frantically; may be followed by an ellipsis (*Er . . . I'm not sure.*); variations are *ah*, *um*, and *uh*

**ew** – exclamation of disgust, typically over something nasty; can be made more dramatic by repeating letters (*Ewww, that's foul. Eeew, that stinks.*)

**glug** – the sound of swallowing a lot of liquid quickly

**ha-ha** – the sound of laughter

**humpf, humph** – an expression of stubbornness, doubt, or contempt

**hm, hmm** – used for the sound you make when you're pausing to think before saying something OR a sound you make when you want someone to say or repeat something

**hooah** – U.S. Army sound of agreement or affirmation; battle cry; [pronounced *hua*, accent on *hoo*]

**hooyah** – U.S. Navy sound of agreement or affirmation; battle cry

**ho ho** – a sound that someone makes when they laugh or are pretending to laugh

**hooray (or hurrah)** – an exclamation of joy

**huh** – a sound that expresses confusion; this sound is usually made to invite someone to respond or provide more information

**ick** – exclamation of disgust; see: *yuck*

**ooh** – an expression of amazement, wonder, or understanding

**meh** – old-fashioned mild interjection of dismissal or indifference, much like **beh**

**mm-hmm** – murmur of agreement that may also indicate inattention; much like **uh-huh**

**mm** – a spoken sound when someone else is speaking and you want to show that you are listening or that you agree with them.

**mmm** – murmur of pleasure

**mwah** – Simulating you're giving someone a kiss with lip movement

**mwahaha** – mock-sinister laugh, often used for a villain; also **mwah-ha-ha**; variant is **bwahaha**

**nah** – informal no; opposite of *yeah*; [pronounced two ways: like the n-a in *nap* or the n-o in *not* rather than as *nay*]

**nuh-uh** – childish argumentative no; opposite of yuh-huh; [stress on *uh*]

**oomph** – sound of exhalation of breath, often after a collision (may be comic)

**oorah** – U.S. Marine sound of agreement or affirmation; battle cry

**ow** – exclamation of pain

**pfft** – old-fashioned sound of dismissal or unconcern (not common in contemporary fiction); also **phfft**

**phew** – exclamation of relief, often used humorously in contemporary fiction OR a sound related to fatigue or being tired

**phooey** – mild interjection used to show disagreement or disbelief; also a mild curse word akin to **darn** or **drat**, but more genteel

**psst** – usually) quiet interjection used to gain the attention of someone else

**sheesh** – exclamation of exasperation; a mild oath used in place of *Jesus*; also **geez**

**shh, shhh** – used for telling someone to stop talking or to be less noisy

**shoo** – a sound made when trying to drive something (usually an animal) away (Exmpale: Shoo, shoo, get out of here.)

**sniff** – the sound of smelling

**ta-da, ta-dah** – a sound that means ‘here it is’ or ‘all done look at this’; this sound is usually made after completing something

**tut** – used for showing you are annoyed or do not approve of something  
This word represents the sound you make by putting your tongue in the position for a “T” and sucking air in.

**tee hee** – used for expressing the sound of a short laugh

**ugh** – used for the sound that people make when they think something is extremely unpleasant

**ugg** – an exclamation of frustration and annoyance

**uh-huh** – a sound that is used to indicate agreement or when people agree with something, or when they say “yes” to a question

**uh** – placeholder signifying hesitation, confusion, ignorance, or even guilt, often indicating that the speaker is thinking frantically; may be followed by an ellipsis (*Uh, I think it's that one. Uh . . . I'm not sure that what you're saying is true.*); variations are **ah**, **er**, and **um**

**uh, uh, uh** – command, often to young children, to stop doing something (*Uh, uh, uh, don't touch that.*)

**uh-oh** – an expression of concern or dismay that something unexpected just happened or something went wrong

**um** – used for the sound that people make when they are thinking about what to say next or when they are not sure how someone will react to what they are going to say

**wahoo** – an exclamation of joy and enthusiasm

**whoa** – exclamation of surprise or shock (**not woah**)

**yay** – exclamation of triumph or victory (*Yay, we won!*)

**yea** – yes; used in the context of a spoken vote; rhymes with and is often paired with *nay*

**yeah** – contemporary informal yes; opposite of *nah* (*Yeah, I get it.*); [does not rhyme with *nay*]

**yech** – variation of yuck, an exclamation of disgust

**yeow** – exclamation of pain, shock, or surprise; also **yow**

**yikes** – exclamation of (negative) surprise or shock; comic

**yow** – variation of **yeow**, an exclamation of pain, shock, or surprise

**yowza** – exclamation of pleasure or pleased surprise or a pleasant

**yippee** – a sound made to indicate delight (Example: Yippee, I just learned a lot of new English words!)

**vroom** – used to represent the loud sound vehicles make when moving fast

**wham** – used to represent the loud sound of something being hit hard

**whee** – used to represent the sound children make when they are enjoying moving fast, like a swing or slide

**whew** – a sound you make when you're uncomfortable or surprised, or when you feel happy that something has finished. This sound is sometimes written as Phew.

**whoomph** – used for the sound that something makes when it travels very quickly or hits something else with a lot of force

**yecch** – used for the sound “yuck”

**yuck, yuk** – used for saying that you think someone, or something is dirty, ugly or unpleasant

**yuh-huh** – argumentative or insistent childish yes; [accent on *huh*]; opposite of *nuh-uh*

**zzz** – a way of writing the sound that someone makes when they are sleeping, often used in cartoons