

The longer answer is **yes, indirectly**, sound can cause dry mouth by triggering a specific psychological and physiological chain reaction.

Here is the breakdown of how sound can lead to that physical sensation.

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## 1. The Fight or Flight Response (Sympathetic Nervous System)

The most common way sound induces dry mouth is by triggering fear or acute stress.

When you hear a sound that your brain interprets as a threat—such as a sudden, deafening crash, a high-pitched scream, or a growl—your body activates the **Sympathetic Nervous System**. This is the "fight or flight" response.

- **The Mechanism:** When this system activates, your body diverts resources to survival organs (heart, lungs, muscles).
- **The Result:** "Rest and digest" functions are deprioritized. Salivation is considered a digestive process, so the body effectively shuts it down to save water and energy.
- **The Outcome:** Almost instant dry mouth (cottonmouth).

## 2. Aversive Psychoacoustics

Certain sounds are biologically "hardwired" to be unpleasant to human beings. While these may not cause full terror, they cause significant physiological stress, which can inhibit salivation.

- **High Frequencies:** The sound of nails on a chalkboard or a knife scraping a plate (usually between **2,000 Hz and 5,000 Hz**) is universally hated. The physical cringe reaction involves muscle tension and autonomic arousal, which can dry out the mucus membranes.
- **Infrasound (The "Fear Frequency"):** Sound waves below 20 Hz (which are generally inaudible to the human ear but felt as vibrations) can cause feelings of awe, fear, anxiety, and nausea. Research into **19 Hz** frequencies suggests they can induce a feeling of "presence" or dread. If a person feels dread, their mouth will often go dry as a symptom of that anxiety.

## 3. The Power of Suggestion (ASMR's Opposite)

Just as ASMR (Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response) uses soft whispers and wet mouth sounds to trigger relaxation and tingling, the **inverse** can happen through suggestion.

If you were to listen to a high-fidelity recording of someone panting, wheezing, or describing the sensation of eating a spoonful of dry cinnamon or sand, your mirror neurons might empathize with the sound. This can make you become hyper-aware of your own mouth, making it feel drier than it actually is.

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## Summary

You cannot use a specific hertz frequency to physically dehydrate a tongue. However, you **can** use:

1. **Sudden, loud noise** to trigger adrenaline.
2. **High-pitched screeching** to trigger physical distress.
3. **Low-frequency vibration** to trigger dread.

Any of these will activate the nervous system in a way that naturally stops saliva production.