

Overview

The decibel (dB) is the universal unit of sound measurement and is measured with a meter that registers sound pressure and displays these readings on a sound level scale. Decibels are a logarithmic unit, which means that a noise measuring 30 decibels is actually two times louder than a noise registering at 20 decibels.

Measurement

Sound levels vary depending on one's distance from the noise source. Below are some frequently heard sounds and their approximate decibel levels at common distances from the noise source. When designated as "dB(A)," as seen below, the measurement is weighted in the "A" scale to simulate human hearing.

