

3 Onomatopoeic words

Activity A

What does it sound like?

Onomatopoeic words are ones ~~which~~ contain sounds similar to the noises they describe. For example, the word **hiss** sounds like the noise a snake makes, which is one of its meanings.

See if you can work out which word from the box below fits the description of each sound 1–6. You will definitely need to say the words aloud! When you think you know the answers, check them in the dictionary.

- 1 the sound of a stone falling into water
- 2 the sound of something moving quickly through the air
- 3 the sound of a heavy book being dropped onto a sofa
- 4 the sound of a wet flannel hitting the bathroom floor
- 5 ~~the sound on a telephone answering machine which indicates it is recording~~
- 6 the sound film stars make when they kiss the air next to each other's cheek as they greet each other

mwah whoosh beep plop thud splat

Activity B

In the activity below, a woman is chatting on the phone to her friend, Andrea. Her conversation uses plenty of onomatopoeic words but they are missing from the text. Choose a suitable word from the box to complete the gaps. Then use the dictionary to check any of the words in more detail and find out more about onomatopoeic words.

Complete the conversation with suitable onomatopoeic words from the word box below.

Oh hi, Andrea, yes I know I said I'd email you but when I tried to (1) _____ on 'send' my internet connection crashed so I thought I'd just call instead. Are you all right? ... Yes, we're all OK but (2) _____, it's so cold in here. I hope the plumber comes soon to fix our heating. Yes, and the water heater is broken too. It's a nightmare not having any hot water and with this terrible dog, you can imagine I'm desperate to clean the floor properly! ... Yes, he's still a nuisance! Yesterday Bob took him on a walk and he got so muddy that he (3) _____ when he walked in. And then with one (4) _____ of his tail he knocked over a vase of flowers so I had to clean that up too. ... No, luckily it was a plastic vase but the water (5) _____ all over the floor. ... Yes, the silly dog's here right now. His tail is (6) _____ against my leg, silly thing. Oh just a moment, I heard the microwave go (7) _____. That's my lunch ready. I'll call you back later, OK? Bye.

~~splosh~~ ping swish click ~~brr~~ thwack squelch