

Key word	Definition
amplifier	A device for making a sound louder.
amplify	To increase the amplitude of a sound so that it sounds louder.
amplitude	The distance from the middle to the top or bottom of a wave.
audible range	The range of frequencies that you can hear.
auditory canal	The passage in the ear from the outer ear to the ear drum.
auditory nerve	An electrical signal travels along the auditory nerve to the brain.
cochlea	Snail-shaped tube in the inner ear with the sensory cells that detect sound.
compression	The part of a longitudinal wave where the air particles are close together.
crest	The top of a wave.
decibel	A commonly used unit of sound intensity or loudness (dB).
diaphragm	The part of the microphone that vibrates when a sound wave hits it.
ear	The organ of the body that detects sound.
eardrum	A membrane that transmits sound vibrations from the outer ear to the middle ear.
echo	A reflection of a sound wave by an object.
energy	Energy is needed to make things happen.
hertz	The unit of frequency (Hz).
incident wave	The wave coming from a source of light.
infrasound	Sound below a frequency of 20 Hz.
inner ear	The semi-circular canals that help you to balance, and your cochlea.
kilohertz	1 kilohertz (kHz) = 1000 hertz (Hz)
longitudinal	A wave where the vibrations are in the same direction as the direction the wave moves.
loudness	How loud you perceive a sound of a certain intensity to be.

medium	The material that affects light or sound by slowing it down or transferring the wave.
microphone	A device for converting sound into an electrical signal.
middle ear	The ossicles (small bones) that transfer vibrations from the outer ear to the inner ear.
oscillation	Something that moves backwards and forwards.
oscilloscope	A device that enables you to see electrical signals, like those made by a microphone.
ossicles	The small bones of the middle ear (hammer, anvil, and stirrup) that transfer vibrations from the eardrum to the oval window.
outer ear	The pinna, auditory canal, and eardrum.
oval window	The membrane that connects the ossicles to the cochlea.
pinna	The outside part of the ear that we can see.
pitch	A property of sound determined by its frequency.
rarefaction	The part of a longitudinal wave where the air particles are spread out.
receiver	The device that absorbs the sound waves.
reflected wave	The wave that is reflected from a surface.
reflection	The change in direction of a ray or wave after it hits a surface and bounces off.
reverberation	The persistence of a sound for a longer period than normal.
sound	A series of compressions and rarefactions that move through a medium
speed of light	The distance light travels in one second (300 million m/s).
speed of sound	The distance sound travels in one second (330 m/s).
superpose	When waves join together so that they add up or cancel out.
transmitter	A device that gives out light or sound.
transverse	The vibrations are at right angles to the direction the wave moves.
trough	The bottom of a wave.

ultrasound	Sound at a frequency greater than 20 000 Hz, beyond the range of human hearing.
vacuum	A space in which there is no matter.
vibration	Backwards and forwards motion of the parts of a liquid or solid.
vocal chords	The pieces of skin that vibrate to produce sound.