

Sounds like gibberish to me: Sound adjectives defined

It is endlessly frustrating to read a long list of sound adjectives, seemingly derived from Medieval English, and having no idea what the author is trying to convey. Thus I have provided a few definitions relevant to this text specifically—note that they do not necessarily constitute the exact official definition of the word, but are subjectively defined by the author!

Ascending: Becoming progressively higher in pitch, as opposed to *descending*.

Bright: Crisp, sharp, clear and melodious.

Buzzy: Somewhat scratchy, transcribed with the letter 'z'.

Clipped: A short, sharp note that starts and ends abruptly.

Deep: Full and low pitched.

Descending: Becoming progressively lower in pitch, as opposed to *ascending*.

Drawn-out: Notes sounding like they are being stretched, extended.

Full: Loud and distinctive, as opposed to *thin*.

Hissing: A sound including the letter 's', synonymous with *sibilant*.

Jangling: Rattling *trill* but with some variations in the individual notes comprising the phrase.

Lively: Sounding excited, heartening.

Measured: A note repeated at regular intervals, as if the bird measures the time between notes.

Metallic: Somewhat reminiscent of two pieces of metal being banged together, with a sharp, crystal-clear and ringing tone, sounding almost electronic.

Monotonous: Dull, unimpressive and often repetitive notes or calls.

Musical: As opposed to *monotonous* or dull.

Nasal: Buzzy, whining notes sounding like a person "speaking through the nose" or speaking with the mouth closed.

Penetrating: Loud and easy to hear, standing out clearly from environment.

Pure: High-pitched, shrill, whistling notes, without a hissing or rasping quality.

Raspy: Scratchy, somewhat *trilling*.

Rattle: Similar to *trill*, but lower pitched and more stuttering.

Ringing: A note ending gradually, almost hanging in the air, as opposed to *clipped*.

Scratchy: A harsh and penetrating but unpleasant note.

Sharp: Explosive and usually high-pitched.

Sibilant: *Hissing*, including the letter 's'.

Strident: Loud, urgent, penetrating note; can be noisy or grating.

Strong: Full and loud, *penetrating*.

Structured: Following a specific pattern, as opposed to *unpredictable* or random.

Sweet: Pleasant to the ear, musical and melodious.

Thin: Indistinctive, subtle and usually high-pitched and slightly *hissing*, as opposed to *full*.

Throaty: *Full*, loud and somewhat guttural and gurgling.

Trill: A sound with a stuttering, repetitive note, usually rendered with the letter 'r'.

Unpredictable: With much variation in the song, as opposed to structured.

Weak: Soft, indistinct *thin* note; easily missed in background noise.

Whistle: A pure, usually high-pitched sound rendered without the letter 'r'.