

Essay on Noise

Sound is what we hear with our ears. However, there is a wide spectrum of sound that we can hear ranging from pleasant to downright unpleasant ones. The pleasant ones could be called music while the unpleasant ones, noise.

Most of us would agree that a loud sound is unpleasant to the ears. A loud sound could be called noise. If the sound is loud enough, our ear-drums might be damaged and we may become deaf. That is why artillery gunners and marksmen wear earmuffs to protect their ears.

The noise that I hear most often is that made by my class when a teacher is not in. I do not know how many decibels these kids can make but they are noisy. I have to admit that I sometimes contribute to it too. The noise is a jumble of sounds coming from our mouths when all or most of us try to speak at the same time. As it is impossible to make oneself heard when others are speaking, everyone is tempted to speak louder and louder. So the noise rises in a crescendo until a teacher appears to put an end to the uproar. The abrupt silence that follows is indeed golden.

There is one thing I notice about sound A sound is just a sound, but whether it is music or noise depends very much on the listener, For instance, my neighbour likes to play his radio loudly. He enjoys it otherwise he-would not play it so loud. To me, that loud music is not music. It is noise and a very irritating one too.

I know a motorcycle mechanic who loves to “rev” up motorcycle engines. The sound of high-pitched engines is music to his ears. He spends hours on these engines each day and he can describe in detail how the sounds can tell him the condition of the airlines. However,

most people would agree that the engines are too noisy.

Every Saturday night the roads near my house are turned into race-tracks by leather-jacketed youngsters on their souped-up machines. The noise they make in the middle of the night is terrible. These “help-riders” however would surely disagree with me.

Noise is produced every day and everywhere by vehicles, machinery, factories, aeroplanes, loudspeakers, television and radio, dogs and other animals and of course people, both young and old.

The modern world is polluted, not only by material things like rubbish and smoke but by unpleasant sound as well. Each of us has to put up with some form of noise every day. It could be the scream of a baby, the blast of a car horn, the clanking of machinery, the distorted sound of the supermarket’s loudspeaker, the rubbish on television, the barking of dogs or some quarrel between people. We cannot escape from them completely, but we can reduce them by not making unnecessary noise ourselves. This is a good idea, but I know it is easier said than done.