

Typical Sound Levels

	Noise Source of Activity	Relative Loudness (Human judgement of different sound levels)	Subjective Impression
140	Jet aircraft takeoff from carrier (50 feet)	64 times as loud	Threshold of pain
130	50-horsepower siren	32 times as loud	
120	Loud rock concert near stage Jet takeoff (200 feet)	16 times as loud	Uncomfortably loud
110	Float plan takeoff (100 feet)	8 times as loud	
100	Jet takeoff (2,000 feet)	4 times as loud	Very loud
90	Heavy truck or motorcycle (25 feet)	2 times as loud	
80	Garbage disposal (2 feet)	Reference loudness	Moderately loud
70	Typical at-grade light rail vehicle	1/2 as loud	
60	Moderately busy department store	1/4 as loud	
50	Typical television show (10 feet) Typical quiet office environment	1/8 as loud	
40	Bedroom or quiet living room	1/16 as loud	Quiet
30	Quiet library, soft whisper (15 feet)	1/32 as loud	Very quiet
20	High-quality recording studio	1/84 as loud	Just audible
10	Acoustic Test Chamber	1/128 as loud	
0			Threshold of hearing

Sources: Beranek (1988) and US EPA (1971).