

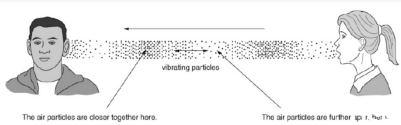
SOUND VIBRATIONS AND WAVES

Sound is a way of transferring **energy**. Sounds are made when things **vibrate**. The vibrations are passed on by **particles**. Sound therefore needs a **medium** (substance) to pass on the vibrations, so it can travel through solids, liquids & gases but not through empty spaces. The speed of sound is usually faster through materials in which particles are closer together. Closer particles hit each other more easily and so the energy is more likely to be passed from one particle to the next. Sound travels faster in solids than in liquids, and it travels slowest in gases.

FREQUENCY AND AMPLITUDE

The **frequency** of a sound wave is the number of complete waves passing a point each second. The unit is the **hertz(Hz)**. **Pitch** is how high or low a sound is. High frequency sounds have a high pitch. The **amplitude** of a wave is how far the particles move as the vibration passes. The larger the amplitude, the louder the sound. The loudness of a sound is also described as the **volume** or the **intensity** of the sound. The loudness of a sound is measured using a **sound intensity meter**. The units are **decibels (dB)**.

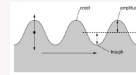
Sound and Waves



Longitudinal Waves



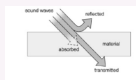
Transverse waves



CHARACTERISTICS OF SOUND

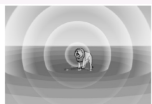
Humans and other animals use sound for communication. Some animals [**bats & dolphins**], use ultrasound to locate their prey and avoid obstacles. Humans use ultrasound in sonar, to find the depth of the sea or locate fish or submarines. Humans use the energy transferred by ultrasound to clean delicate objects [**Jewellery**] or in physiotherapy (**to relieve pain or aid healing**)

ABSORBING, REFLECTING AND TRANSMITTING



Sound waves can be **Reflected** by a material. This usually happens if the material is hard. Soft materials **Absorb** some of the sound that reaches them, and **Transmit** only a little.

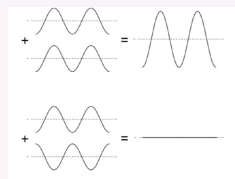
ABSORBING, REFLECTING AND TRANSMITTING (PT.2)



When a sound wave moves energy from one place to another, we say that the energy has been **transferred**. The energy spreads out in all directions unless something stops them. This means that the intensity of a sound gets less as you get further from its source

EARS AND HEARING

All Waves



COMPARING WAVES

