

Decibel Scale

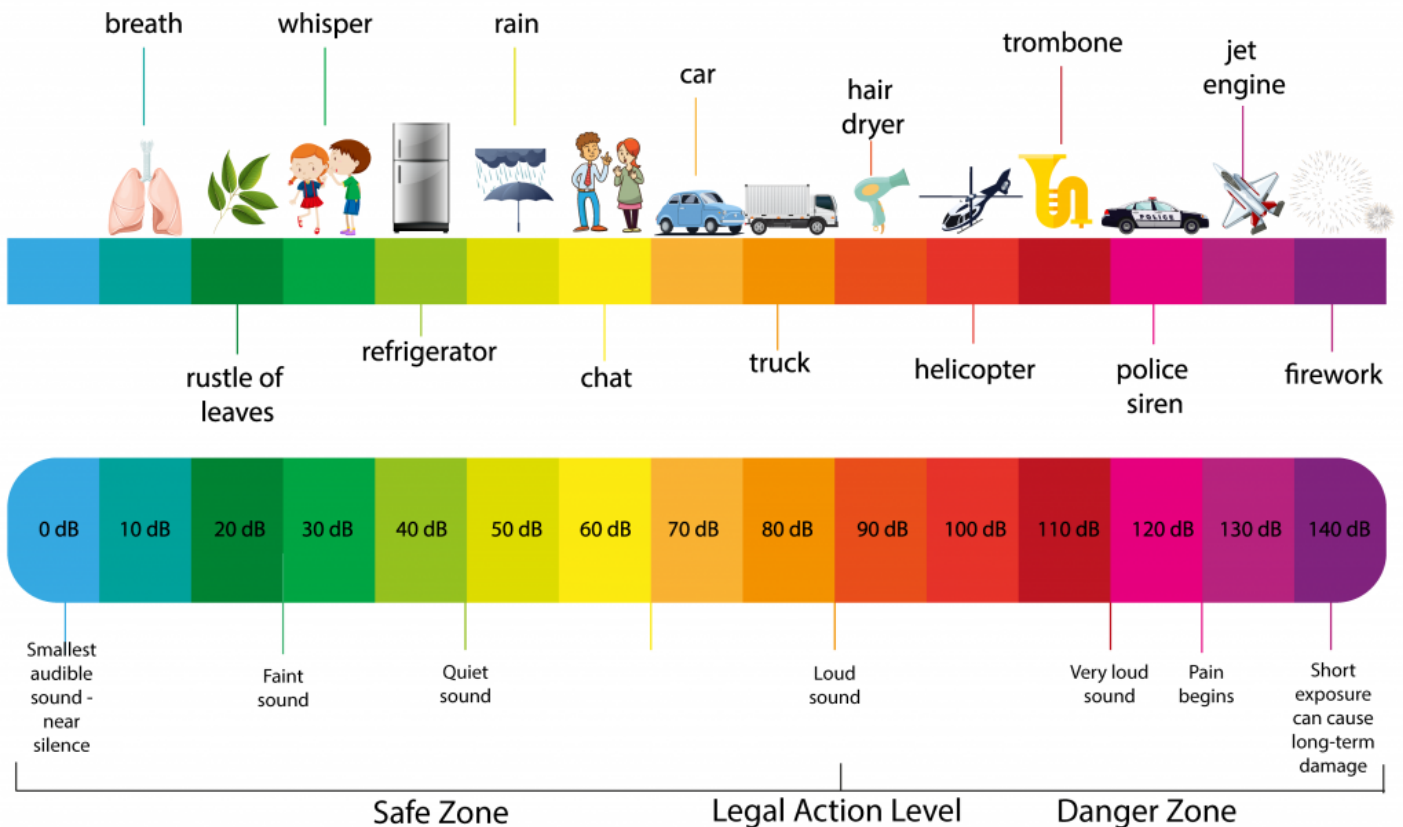
130

Gunshot, Metal concert

dB Level	Examples	Permitted Exposure (Hours per Day)
10	Breathing	
20	Whisper	
30	Library	
50	Quiet Office	
60	Conversational Speech, Electric shaver	
65	Piano Practice	
70	Noisy Restaurant	
75	Alarm Clock	
80	Vacuum Cleaner	
85	Garbage Disposal / Busy Hotel Lobby	
90	Tractor / Subway	8
100	Blender, Factory Noise	2
105	Motorcycle, Orchestra	1
110	Power Saw, Heavy Truck, Power Mower	0.5
115	Uncomfortable Feeling Starts	0.25
120	Disco / Loud Bar Music / Shotgun	0
130	Cymbal Crash, Air Raid Siren	0
140	Rock Concert Front Row / Jet	0
150	Chest begins to vibrate	0
160	Eardrum bursts	0
190	Loudest Possible Sound	0

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	130	Gunshot, Metal concert
	120	Jet Plane take off
	110	Industrial noise
	100	Subway train
	90	Bass drum
	80	Loud radio
Hairdryer, Noisy restaurant	70	
Busy street, Alarm clock	60	
Conversation	50	
Moderate snoring	40	
Whisper, Light snoring	30	
Quiet room	20	
Breathing	10	
Threshold of human hearing	0	



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Intolerable	180	Explosion	(bagpipe ensemble playing finale of Mahler's 2nd)
	170	Space Shuttle Launch	(piano dropped off a building)
	160	Inside The Speaker at a Rock Concert	(trombone playing pianissimo)
	150	Shotgun	(angry director stare at percussionist)
Painful	140	Firecracker	(unison clarinet ensemble squeak)
	130	Jet Engine	(maximum volume for saxophone)
Extremely Loud	120	Siren	(trumpet ego entering the room)
	110	Chainsaw	(drumline)
	100	Motorcycle	(director yelling at ensemble to play softer)
	90	Lawnmower	(beginning oboist's fortissimo. also sounds like a lawnmower, as well)
Annoying	80	Toilet Flush	(french horn section shenanigans)
	70	Dishwasher	(shy clarinet player playing forte)
	60	Air Conditioner	(tapping baton on music stand)
Comfortable	50	Bird Call	(irrelevant question asked by tuba player)
	40	Average Home Noise	(room volume after director yelled at the ensemble)
	30	Soft Whisper	(flutes giggling)
	20	Leaves Rustling	(music director ripping out hair after missed cut off)
	10	Faint Sounds We Can Hear	(sweat dripping off forehead of bassoonist at beginning of The Rite of Spring)
	0	Silence	(Oboe Reed Soaking)