

# A to Z English



Episode: Fun with Language: Onomatopoeia

Website: <http://atozenglishpodcast.com>

In this episode, the trio discuss some onomatopoeia: words that represent sounds!

What sounds do you write out in your language? What sound does a dog/cat/cow/rooster make?  
How do you write laughing?

Share your answers to the discussion questions in our WhatsApp group chat!

<https://forms.gle/zKCS8y1t9jwv2KTn7>

If you could take a minute and complete a short survey about the podcast, we would be very appreciative. You can find the survey here: <https://forms.gle/HHNnnqU6U8W3DodK8>

We would love to hear your feedback and suggestions for future episodes.

## Full Transcript

**00:00:00** Jack

You're listening to the A-Z English podcast.

**00:00:05** Kevin

Second, welcome to A-Z English grammar or language tips from A-Z. We're going to help you with different language points every week, so remember to check our website for study guide and vocabulary notes, as well as discussion questions and links to our WhatsApp.

**00:00:25** Kevin

Facebook Page and other social media so you can join in the conversation.

**00:00:29** Kevin

So today I kind of thought it would be fun to talk about onomatopoeia, and that's a fun word to say.

00:00:36 Kevin

Just just by itself onomatopoeia and the spelling is terrible.

00:00:41 Kevin

Because there's a silent T for for some reason, but onomonapia what is onomatopoeia?

00:00:51 Jack

I let me feel this one because I used to watch this show called a Batman, but a very, very old version of Batman when I was a kid and every time Batman punched a bad guy like the Joker.

00:01:10 Jack

Instead of seeing the the fist hit the Joker face.

00:01:16 Jack

There would be a big bubble on the screen and it would say POW.

00:01:22 Kevin

Oh I I I watched that Batman.

00:01:23 Jack

Yeah for bang.

00:01:25 Jack

Yeah bam something like that boom so yeah all of those examples are examples of onomatopoeia.

00:01:36 Kevin

Right so and automotive P event.

00:01:38 Kevin

Is basically a word that.

00:01:41 Kevin

Represents a sound of some kind, yeah?

00:01:43 Jack

Yes, right?

00:01:46 Kevin

Yeah, it's it's.

00:01:46 Kevin

A sound word and other materials are really fun because they're they're different in different languages, and some languages have a lot of them and and others have others.

00:01:55 Kevin

But I mean, we've got some simple ones.

00:01:57 Kevin

Of course, like.

00:01:58 Kevin

I mean, even when you go to knock on the door, right?

00:02:02 Kevin

Knock, knock, knock, like?

00:02:03 Kevin

That's Onomatopoeia

00:02:04 Jack

Oh yeah.

00:02:05 Kevin

*Knock* is Onomatopoeia, right?

00:02:06 Jack

That's right, because the word *knock* sounds like the actual knocking on the door when you hit the door.

00:02:12 Kevin

Exactly, yeah, not is different.

00:02:14 Jack

It sounds yeah.

00:02:16 Kevin

Yeah, when your phone rings, ring, ring, ring.

00:02:21 Jack

Yes, that's a good one too.

00:02:22 Kevin

Right would would be an onomatopoeia.

00:02:25 Jack

I was thinking when kids are playing Cowboys and Indians or you know 11 kid has a gun with his finger.

00:02:33 Jack

He's making a gun with his hand.

00:02:35 Jack

And what does he say?

00:02:37 Jack

He says yeah Bang Bang bang like that you know that's the sound.

00:02:41 Jack

Of a gun shooting, yeah.

00:02:46 Kevin

How about when a when a balloon?

00:02:46 Jack

OK.

00:02:48 Kevin

Bursts what's the sound?

00:02:51 Jack

Pup right, yeah pop right pops yeah bubble pumps.

00:02:56 Kevin

Are all of those?

00:02:57 Kevin

Or if you're cooking something in a frying pan.

00:03:02 Kevin

Mayor nice sizzle.

00:03:03 Kevin

Rex, it sounds.

00:03:04 Kevin

Like like it.

00:03:05 Jack

Oh yeah, I didn't think about that one sizzle.

00:03:05 Jack

Is everything yeah?

00:03:08 Jack

Yeah, that's a good one too, yeah?

00:03:10 Kevin

Yeah, there's a lot of fun onomatopoeias as well.

00:03:12 Kevin

I know before we started, Jack, you wanted to talk about animal sounds.

00:03:17 Kevin

Because animals are great and it sounds really fun onomatopoeia.

00:03:22 Jack

Oh, there it's so fun to compare different languages and the sounds that animals make.

00:03:29 Jack

So in in English, a pig says Oink, oink, oink.

00:03:37 Jack

Like oh NK, oink, oink, oink?

00:03:40 Jack

What does a pig say in Korean Kevin?

00:03:45 Kevin

Our Korean pigs say cool cool cool cool cool, cool, cool.

00:03:50 Jack

It's yeah.

00:03:53 Jack

Yeah, but when I think about.

00:03:54 Jack

What does a pig say in Spanish?

00:03:55 Kevin

Pulling pulling almost doesn't make sense.

00:03:57 Kevin

Link is weird.

00:03:58 Jack

Uh, it was yelling a weird one and in Spanish they go EE.

00:03:58 Kevin

Forget with it.

00:04:03 Jack

Kind of how do you?

00:04:05 Kevin

Right?

00:04:06 Jack

Just like a bunch of eyes I guess.

00:04:08 발표자

Just a bunch of eyes.

00:04:10 Jack

Yeah, OK, if you hear them they.

00:04:10 Kevin

Eat me.

00:04:12 Jack

Kind of do make that noise.

00:04:13 Jack

I didn't imitate it super well.

00:04:15 Jack

But they're like, you know.

00:04:16 Jack

Yeah, yeah.

00:04:17 Jack

Yeah, right?

00:04:18 Kevin

What about what about?

00:04:19 Kevin

What about a cow Jack in English?

00:04:23 Kevin

What's what's a cow?

00:04:23 Jack

OK, a cow goes moo.

00:04:29 Kevin

Right, right?

00:04:29 Jack

M Oh yeah.

00:04:31 Kevin

In in Korean, cows and sheep.

00:04:33 Kevin

Actually, it's kind of the same word for both are similar, at least it's in May, may may.

00:04:40 Kevin

It's kind of like a new may sound is in May is the is the the cow.

00:04:45 Jack

That's a good one.

00:04:45 Jack

In Spanish tiles also go moo.

00:04:48 Jack

Oh so.

00:04:50 Jack

Cows are bilingual, alright, interesting.

00:04:50 Jack

You start.

00:04:52 Jack

I didn't know that.

00:04:56 Kevin

What about dogs?

00:04:58 Kevin

Dogs are an interesting one.

00:05:01 Kevin

What's the English?

00:05:02 Kevin

Let's start with.

00:05:02 Jack

That yeah, I'm I'm trying to. There are several but I the one I'm thinking of is Ruff, Ruff Ruff, Ruff, Ruff.

00:05:05 Kevin

There's a couple actually, right?

00:05:11 Jack

Yeah, or wolf? Yeah thank.

00:05:11 Jack

The West Coast.

00:05:14 Kevin

You yeah, which is quite quite similar.

00:05:16 Kevin

Yeah, in in Korean mostly dogs, although I think this is because we got a lot of small dogs here in Korea, so most dogs here it's.

00:05:22 Jack

We had.

00:05:24 Kevin

Mung mung mung.

00:05:25 Jack

Mum, mum, mum, mum mum.

00:05:28 Jack

Just saying.

00:05:31 Kevin

What about what about in Spanish?

00:05:33 Jack

He's very good wow wow wow wow.

00:05:33 Jack

How do dogs?

00:05:36 Kevin

OK, that would actually kind of makes.

00:05:38 Jack

Sense, So what you're saying social is that in Spanish?

00:05:39 Jack

That one sounds.

00:05:42 Jack

Dogs are very surprised.

00:05:45 Jack

All the time.

00:05:45 Jack

Yeah, that's true.

00:05:46 Jack

That's true that I'm like.

00:05:48 Jack

Wow wow wow.

00:05:51 Kevin

Another pun on episode and other.

00:05:53 Jack

Yeah, I can't help her.

00:05:55 Jack

I can't help myself.

00:05:56 Jack

What about a frog frogs go ribet ribet ribet.

00:06:02 Jack

That's a good one.

00:06:03 Kevin

Right in what is it in Korean?

00:06:05 Kevin

I think I think, for I have to think about this.

00:06:08 Kevin

One, I think it's like, giggle, giggle, giggle.

00:06:11 Jack

Oh yeah, OK, OK.

00:06:12 Kevin

But that's I've heard that before for sure.

00:06:14 Jack

Yeah, yeah.

00:06:14 Kevin

I'll have to double check on this one later.

00:06:16 Kevin

But I think that's what I've heard for frogs.

00:06:18 Jack

I think social is doing some quick.

00:06:20 Jack

Research right now.

00:06:21 Jack

Yeah, I was trying to pick up with my like fruits or it was also rivet.

00:06:25 Jack

The problem is my mom taught me a lot of these bilingually.

00:06:29 Jack

So what do frogs?

00:06:32 Jack

Say in Spanish, what noise do they make I guess.

00:06:37 Jack

What cola cola?

00:06:40 Jack



OK.

00:06:42 Kevin

I guess the most most fun one is a good one to end on the for animals.

00:06:42 Jack

Right, yeah and favorite, yeah.

00:06:46 Kevin

What about chickens or Roosters?

00:06:49 Kevin

Rather, this is this is the best one in every language because in English it's just weird.

00:06:54 Kevin

What does it mean with?

00:06:55 Jack

In England, OK, the English one is.

00:06:58 Jack

Cocked the doodle Doo.

00:07:01 Kevin

Yeah, \*\*\*\*\_\*\*\_\*\*\*\*\*\_\*\*\* is great when I tell my Korean students out there like what I got to.

00:07:06 Kevin

Do a lot yeah.

00:07:08 Jack

It makes no sense, yeah?

00:07:10 Kevin

\*\*\*\*\_\*\*\_\*\*\*\*\*\_\*\*\* in in.

00:07:13 Kevin

Korean, It's it's interesting 'cause they add to it.

00:07:16 Kevin

So officially it's it's chokio chokio, but yeah, so it's chokio.

00:07:22 Kevin

But when when they actually make the sounds to imitate it, it's not just chokio done, they go.

00:07:29 Kevin

Coco, Coco, Coco, Coco, Coco.

00:07:31 Kevin

It's kind of how they.

00:07:32 Kevin

Like say it when they're when they're copying.

00:07:34 Kevin

It so you wouldn't actually write that out, you just write cookie.

00:07:35 Jack

Yeah, yeah.

00:07:37 Kevin

Oh, that's like the word for it.

00:07:39 Kevin

That's the online.

00:07:40 Kevin

Yeah, but then when they're saying it when they're copying the chicken.

00:07:43 Kevin

That they could kill.

00:07:43 Jack

Pokémon Go Coco Coco Coco.

00:07:45 Kevin

Which I think is actually quite close to like what a better router actually fetch.

00:07:48 Jack

Yeah, that one's pretty that's.

00:07:50 Jack

A pretty good one.

00:07:51 Jack

Yeah, I mean the the English one is it is very far from anything, yeah.

00:07:57 Jack

Yeah, yeah, I think the Spanish one is even closer idea.

00:08:00 Jack

This one off the.

00:08:01 Jack

Top of my head but keep freaky.

00:08:04 Jack

It's like he he he.

00:08:05 Jack

And it does sound.

00:08:06 Jack

Like a rooster.

00:08:06 Jack

Yeah, yeah, sure, that's a good one.

00:08:10 Kevin

Don't lose this thing.

00:08:12 Kevin

OK, so.

00:08:12 Jack

What about these ones are good ones too?

00:08:14 Jack

There's all there's so many other ones too that are not animal based, but what about like a car so in English?

00:08:18 Kevin

Yeah, first.

00:08:19 Jack

Uh, cargos room BROOM room.

00:08:23 Jack

Room like that.

00:08:25 Jack

Kevin, what is the cars make?

00:08:28 Jack

What's a car?

00:08:29 Jack

Sound in in.

00:08:30 Kevin

I actually don't know.

00:08:31 Kevin

Offhand, where the car onomatopoeia is in in Korean?

00:08:35 Jack

But we can.

00:08:36 Jack

We can throw it out to our listeners out there and tell us what does a car sound like in your language.

00:08:42 Jack

What is?

00:08:42 Jack

What sound does a car make?

00:08:44 Kevin

So just other onomatopoeias in in general, like I mean even really basic ones.

00:08:50 Kevin

Actually, I think a really cool one would be to see how do people spell or how do they right?

00:08:55 Kevin

Laughing in in their language because in English when you type laughing it's hahahaha, right?

00:08:57 Jack

Ah, right.

00:09:03 Kevin

HHH in Spanish?

00:09:05 Kevin

Do you do it?

00:09:06 Jack

Haha it's JJ.

00:09:06 Kevin

For boats it's day.

00:09:09 Kevin

Yeah, it's Jay and I remember the first time I saw that my friend.

00:09:12 Kevin

I was like chat and was like oh right now.

00:09:13 Kevin

It's Spanish pronunciation haha.

00:09:16 Kevin

And in Korean they use the the key sat.

00:09:18 Jack

The user one.

00:09:20 Kevin

Letters and it's a different letter, it's a.

00:09:21 Kevin

Different alphabet of course, but it's basically the cuckoo cuckoo.

00:09:22 Jack

Dig dig dig.

00:09:25 Kevin

And the first time I saw that that was really confusing because.

00:09:29 Kevin

'cause I was like how is K has a sound?

00:09:33 Kevin

Ha ha ha.

00:09:33 Kevin

How is that laughing?

00:09:35 Kevin

But a lot of times when Korean people will chuckle, you'll hear a little like it's it's that kind of sound.

00:09:41 Kevin

So it's more of.

00:09:42 Kevin

A chuckle, it's not like the outright.

00:09:43 Kevin

Laughing one 'cause sometimes they will.

00:09:45 Kevin

Say ha ha ha.

00:09:46 Kevin

As well, but yeah, the it's the cuckoo.

00:09:50 Kevin

Sound is laughing.

00:09:51 Jack

I have a little side note for you.

00:09:53 Jack

I lived in Thailand for three years and the way that they type.

00:09:59 Jack

Laughing is 555-5555 and the reason they do that is because the number 5 in Thai it goes one is noon to noon.

00:10:02 Kevin

Ah, I thought I said.

00:10:11 Jack

Song Sam see ha ha is #5 so 55555 means.

00:10:16 Jack

Ha ha ha.

00:10:18 Jack

Ha ha ha ha ha.

00:10:20 Jack

So that's kind of an interesting little text message.

00:10:24 Jack

Uh, I don't know.

00:10:26 Kevin

Great, I think that's a that's a good one.

00:10:26 Jack

Yeah, interesting little tidbit.

00:10:28 Kevin

So for everyone out there listening first, are there any interesting onomatopoeias that you can share with us in in your language that we can read?

00:10:37 Kevin

Of course, so any any words?

00:10:39 Kevin

Any onomatopoeias are interesting, but really what about animals?

00:10:44 Kevin

And what about laughing?

00:10:45 Kevin

How do?

00:10:46 Kevin

What does a dog?

00:10:47 Kevin

What does a pig?

00:10:47 Kevin

What does?

00:10:47 Kevin

A cow, say.

00:10:48 Kevin

Or a chicken of course.

00:10:50 Kevin

And how do you laugh in your language?

00:10:50 Jack

Yeah, and we missed one.

00:10:52 Jack

Major one curve and I think we should.

00:10:53 Kevin

How did?

00:10:54 Jack

We'd be remiss if we didn't add it in here.

00:10:57 Jack

Uhm, if I bump my knee on something I say Ouch of JCH Ouch, what do you?

00:11:05 Jack

Say in Korean.

00:11:09 Kevin

Off hand I don't know.

00:11:11 Jack

Looking screen I go right.

00:11:11 Jack

Is it?

00:11:14 Jack

Yeah, I I go, I go something like that.

00:11:15 Jack

I well.

00:11:17 Kevin

Although often actually when Korean people when when something happens like that, they in English we make a lot of just noises.

00:11:25 Kevin

But in Korean they often use a word they say, oh, mom, like my mom like hey mom like oh, it's so it's.

00:11:33 Kevin

It's actually not the the onomatopoeia for.

00:11:36 Kevin

For Ouch, exactly.

00:11:39 Jack

Interesting is here in Spanish we usually go, sometimes we.

00:11:42 Jack

Like suck their teeth like or I.

00:11:46 Jack

I I yeah Ouch I yeah.

00:11:46 Jack

Don't think.

00:11:48 Jack

It's very funny.

00:11:51 Jack

I mean there's a lot of different sounds that we make depending on if it's a hammer smashing your thumb or just bumping your foot or something.

00:11:59 Jack

But I thought Ouch is a very is is a really funny one in in a a very common one in.

00:12:00 Jack

They've had.

00:12:07 Jack

So I thought.

00:12:08 Jack

Be a good one and done, yeah alright.

00:12:11 Kevin

So yeah, for everybody, how do you say Ouch if someone if you stub your toe or what do animals say?

00:12:17 Kevin

Or how do you laugh in your language?

00:12:19 Kevin

So remember to check our website for all of the links to our social media to come to our WhatsApp group and tell us your answers.

And also, of course, if you're on Apple Podcasts and you can give us a review that would.

**00:12:32**Kevin

Be very helpful.

**00:12:33**Kevin

See you all next time.

**00:12:36**Jack

Bye bye.

**00:12:47**Jack

Need to see.