ONOMATOPOEIA

100+ sound words, sorted by what makes the noise. Print it, pin it above the desk, steal from it.

on-uh-mat-uh-PEE-uh (noun): a word that imitates the sound it names. *Buzz* is the bee. *Crash* is the plate.

Animal sounds

buzz, chirp, tweet, cuckoo, quack, moo, baa, oink, neigh, woof, bark, meow, purr, hiss, roar, howl, croak, hoot

Impacts and collisions

crash, bang, boom, thud, thwack, smack, whack, clang, clank, clatter, slam, pop, snap, crack, kerplunk, kerplop

Water and liquid

splash, drip, plop, gush, trickle, gurgle, slosh, spurt, squirt, drizzle, splatter, spray, fizz

Fire and cooking

sizzle, crackle, pop, hiss, whoosh, spit, bubble, simmer, boil

Wind and weather

whoosh, howl, whistle, rumble, boom, crackle, patter, drizzle, swoosh

Machines and vehicles

vroom, beep, honk, screech, whir, hum, buzz, tick, tock, ding, ping, chug, rumble

The human body

achoo, cough, burp, hiccup, sniff, snore, yawn, gulp, slurp, chomp, crunch, munch, giggle, chuckle, shriek

Movement

swoosh, swish, zoom, whip, flutter, flap, thump, shuffle, scuff, rustle, creak, squeak, squelch

Comic book

POW!, BAM!, WHAM!, BIFF!, KAPOW!, SMASH!, ZAP!, ZONK!, KABOOM!, BLAM!, WHOMP!, SPLAT!

Rule of thumb: one sound word per scene, placed where the noise matters.