

Additional problem for 'Issues for further thought and exercises', Chapter 4

1. What is an ideophone? Who first used the term *ideophone*, and in what connection? What languages are ideophones usually associated with? Give some examples of ideophones in a language (note the language name). Begin by checking dictionaries and encyclopaedias of linguistics.
 - a. Do you consider ideophones to be words: why, or why not? Can you explain the difference between an ideophone and an interjection?
 - b. Why do you think a language would have ideophones? What use could they be?
 - c. Does your language have anything comparable to ideophones? If so, what? Here is a list of some meanings that could be expressed by ideophones. Is there any ideophone-like word in your language that is commonly used? If not, try and invent one that sounds as though it could be — or give a better word than the existing one.

sound of banging with a hammer	sound of a cup bashed on a table
sound of a bell ringing	sound of a bomb blowing up
sound of a tree splitting	sound of thunder
noise of something falling	noise of water rushing out of a tap
splashing sound	grabbing hold of something
glancing through a doorway	catching sight of someone
a really bad smell	a really good smell

Here are a few web-sites with basic information on ideophones (see what others you can find):

<http://www.sil.org/linguistics/glossary/>

<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/johnm/sid/sidi.htm>

http://lists.village.virginia.edu/lists_archive/Humanist/v03/0027.html

Beware: don't believe everything you read about ideophones on the web!