

**FOSS Physics of Sound Module
Glossary
2005 Edition**

American Sign Language (ASL): A system that uses hand and face gestures and body movements to communicate. (SS)

Amplify: To make a sound louder. (TG, SS)

Audiologist: A person who tests and treats people who have trouble hearing. (SS)

Audiometer: A tool used to test a person's range of hearing. (SS)

Brain: The mass of nerve cells and fibers in the skull; the organ of consciousness. (SS)

Code: A signal used to represent letters or numbers. (TG)

Convert: To change from one form to another. (SS)

Decibel: A unit for measuring the loudness of sounds. (SS)

Echolocation: A process for locating distant or invisible objects by using sound waves that are reflected back to the sender. (SS)

Electric current: A flow of electricity through a wire. (SS)

Electricity: The energy available in batteries. (SS)

Energy: The power that makes things happen. (SS)

Energy conversion: When energy changes from one form to another. (SS)

Frequency: The speed at which something vibrates. High-frequency vibrations are rapid vibrations (TG, SS)

Fuel: Material that contains energy. (SS)

Hertz: The unit of frequency equal to one vibration per second. (SS)

Inner ear: The innermost part of the ear, containing the essential organs of hearing and equilibrium. (SS, TG)

Instrument: Something used to produce music. (SS)

Kalimba: An African instrument. (TG)

Medium: The material (solid, liquid, or gas) through which sound travels. (SS)

Megaphone: A funnel-shaped device that can amplify sounds at a receiver. (TG)

Middle ear: The hollow space between the ear drum and the inner ear where the hammer, anvil, and stirrup are located. (SS)

Molecule: A tiny particle of matter. (SS)

Natural gas: A mixture of gases found in Earth that will burn to provide energy. (SS)

Nerve: A body tissue through which electrical impulses pass. (SS)

Oscilloscope: An instrument used to measure the frequencies of sounds. (SS)

Outer ear: A flap of flesh and cartilage visible on the sides of many animals' heads. The outer ear gathers sound vibrations and directs them into the middle ear. (TG, SS)

Pitch: How high or low a sound is. (TG, SS)

Property: How an object looks, feels, sounds, or tastes. (TG)

Sound discrimination: The ability to identify sounds as different from one another. (TG, SS)

Sound receiver: Something detects sound. (TG, SS)

Sound source: An object or material that vibrates in a way that makes sound. (TG, SS)

Stethoscope: An instrument for listening to sounds in the body. (TG)

Tension: The degree to which a material has been stretched. (SS, TG)

Tune: To adjust the musical pitch. (SS)

Vibration: A rapid back-and-forth movement. (TG, SS)

Volume: The loudness of a sound. (TG, SS)

Xylophone: A musical instrument made from a set of bars or tubes of different lengths. (TG)