

Teaming Up for Sound Effects

You will need a minimum of four people for this activity. Each person repeats one line of the following verse over and over in rhythm with the other players. The result that your synchronized voices produce is a sound effect. One person begins, setting the rhythm or beat (not too fast); then the next person joins in at the same tempo, but says a different phrase; then the third and fourth players join in too, each with his or her own phrase, one after the other. Let's try one and see what it sounds like!

Person 1: Cold liver, cold liver, cold liver (keep repeating)

Person 2: Bean soup, bean soup, bean soup (keep repeating to same rhythm)

Person 3: Wish-wash, wish-wash, wish-wash (keep repeating to same rhythm)

Person 4: Washing machine, washing machine, washing machine (you have to say this fast to keep up with the preset beat)

Everyone keeps repeating, never stopping, until they can all hear the effect. What sound did your special effects carschoolers get? You guessed it—a washing machine!

Here's another one to try. What do your carschoolers sound like this time?

Person 1: Bananas, bananas, bananas (say this in a low voice, and don't say the word too fast)

Person 2: Knee deep, knee deep, knee deep (in a medium or normal tone of voice)

Person 3: Tea and coffee, tea and coffee, tea and coffee (in a high-pitched voice)

Person 4: "Hear the lively song of the frogs in yonder pond." (keep the same beat, and use a normal voice)