

The word *onomatopoeia* describes words that sound like what they are. It comes from a Greek word meaning “word making.” Onomatopoeic words are also called imitative or echoic words and are described as sounding like the actual noise they make. Examples of these kinds of words are *zip*, *thump*, or *screech*. Onomatopoeic words exist in all languages but are not the same from one language to another.

Poetry often uses onomatopoeic words to help convey the message of the poem. An example of this can be found in the poem “The Bells” by Edgar Allan Poe as he describes various kinds of bells. Sleigh bells are *tinkling*, fire bells are *clanging*, wedding bells are *chiming*, and funeral bells are *tolling*, *moaning*, or *groaning*.

Other onomatopoeic words often imitate animal sounds, such as the *bark* of a dog, the *cock-a-doodle-doo* of a rooster, the *whinny* of a horse or the *hiss* of a snake. Short words are often onomatopoeic. Think about the *buzz* of the bee, the *purr* of a kitten, or the *pop* of a balloon.

- 1 Onomatopoeic words are words that
  - a sound like what they are.
  - b sound like the actual noise they make.
  - c Both a and b
  - d None of the above
- 2 Another word for onomatopoeic words is
  - a echoic.
  - b imitative.
  - c Both a and b
  - d None of the above
- 3 Onomatopoeic words
  - a exist in all languages.
  - b are the same from one language to another.
  - c Both a and b
  - d None of the above
- 4 Poetry uses onomatopoeic words to
  - a help the spelling.
  - b convey the meaning.
  - c Both a and b
  - d None of the above
- 5 An example of onomatopoeia can be seen in the poem
  - a “Wedding Bells.”
  - b “Poe’s Bells.”
  - c “Jingle Bells.”
  - d “The Bells.”
- 6 Fire bells are described as
  - a tinkling.
  - b clanging.
  - c chiming.
  - d tolling.
- 7 Onomatopoeic words often imitate
  - a clocks.
  - b trains.
  - c animals.
  - d rain.
- 8 Some examples of onomatopoeic words are the
  - a moo of a cow.
  - b bang of a gun being shot.
  - c click of a light being switched on.
  - d All of the above

**1** c

**2** c

**3** a

**4** b

**5** d

**6** b

**7** c

**8** d

SAMPLE