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Insights into European Science

Research duo uncovers clues about why 'fingernails across a chalkboard' is so horrible

Researchers have found why fingernails down a chalkboard sound so bad. But tell us what noises drive you up the wall! Musicologists studying people's responses to the noise of fingernails on a blackboard, which so many people find excruciating, have found that it matches frequencies found in human speech to which the ear has evolved to be particularly sensitive. Though it must be many people's least favourite sound, there are surely plenty of other candidates: the buzz of a mosquito, the whine of a toddler, whatever noise your alarm clock makes. What bugs you the most? If you're able to find audio clips of your worst sounds - or better still, record them live and upload them to the web using, for example, audioboo.com - give us the link and we'll try to post them above the line. Psychologyguardian.co.uk © 2011 Guardian News and Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved. | Use of this content is subject to our Terms & Conditions | More Feeds

[Research duo uncovers clues about why 'fingernails across a chalkboard' is so horrible \(http://medicalxpress.com/news/2011-11-duo-uncovers-clues-fingernails-chalkboard.html\)](http://medicalxpress.com/news/2011-11-duo-uncovers-clues-fingernails-chalkboard.html)

(Medical Xpress) -- Proving that science isn't always just fun and games, two researchers with music backgrounds have conducted experiments to get to the bottom of why people are so adversely ...

Thu 3 Nov 11 from Medical Xpress

[The sound of screech \(http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/335730/title/The_sound_of_screech\)](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/335730/title/The_sound_of_screech)

Experts decipher the blood-curdling nature of fingernails on a chalkboard

Tue 1 Nov 11 from ScienceNews

[Why Fingernails on Blackboards Sound So Horrible \(http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2011/11/chalk-board-fingernail-sound/\)](http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2011/11/chalk-board-fingernail-sound/)

A new study pins the blame of the unpleasant sound of fingernails on a blackboard on psychology and the design of our ear canals.

Tue 1 Nov 11 from Wired Science

[Frustrating mobile phone chats explained \(http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/10/31/3352226.htm\)](http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/10/31/3352226.htm)

MOBILE DEFICIT: It's not just low volume or poor reception that makes it hard to hear people on the other end of a mobile phone call, say US researchers.

Mon 31 Oct 11 from ABC Science

[Why Do Fingernails on a Chalkboard Make Us Cringe? \(http://www.livescience.com/16967-fingernails-chalkboard-painful.html\)](http://www.livescience.com/16967-fingernails-chalkboard-painful.html)

The shape of your ear canals is likely to blame for your hatred of chalkboard screeches.

Wed 9 Nov 11 from Livescience

[What's worse than the sound of fingernails on a blackboard? | Open thread \(http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/nov/04/sound-of-fingernails-on-a-blackboard\)](http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/nov/04/sound-of-fingernails-on-a-blackboard)

Researchers have found why fingernails down a chalkboard sound so bad. But tell us what noises drive you up the wall Musicologists studying people's responses to the noise of fingernails on a ...

Fri 4 Nov 11 from Guardian.co.uk

[Revealed: Why fingernails down a blackboard sound so awful \(http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2056640/Revealed-Why-fingernails-blackboard-sound-awful.html?ITO=1490\)](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2056640/Revealed-Why-fingernails-blackboard-sound-awful.html?ITO=1490)

Researchers at the Universities of Cologne and Vienna found that our ears actually amplify the shrieking sound because it's similar to human speech.

Wed 2 Nov 11 from Daily Mail

[Why the Sound of Fingernails on a Chalkboard Irks You \(http://www.m.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/news/20111104/why-fingernails-on-a-chalkboard-irks-you?src=RSS_PUBLIC\)](http://www.m.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/news/20111104/why-fingernails-on-a-chalkboard-irks-you?src=RSS_PUBLIC)

The mere thought of fingernails scratching a chalkboard can be enough to set some people on edge. Now, a new study may help explain why.

Fri 4 Nov 11 from WebMD

[Why the Sound of Fingernails on a Chalkboard Irks You \(http://www.webmd.com/balance/news/20111104/why-fingernails-on-a-chalkboard-irks-you?src=RSS_PUBLIC\)](http://www.webmd.com/balance/news/20111104/why-fingernails-on-a-chalkboard-irks-you?src=RSS_PUBLIC), Fri 4 Nov 11 from WebMD

[Ear Anatomy May Amplify Irritating Tones of Chalkboard Squeak \(http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/582254/?sc=rssn\)](http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/582254/?sc=rssn)

The sound of fingernails on a chalkboard sets many people's teeth on edge, and now a team of researchers from the University of Cologne in Germany and the University of Vienna in Austria think ...

Thu 3 Nov 11 from Newswise

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