

## Say It in CI

### A Dictionary of Mapping Terms for Cochlear Implant Users

Following is a list of words that people with cochlear implants have used to describe the quality of sound during or after mapping sessions. The terms also may relate to sounds users have experienced that may indicate a problem with equipment (i.e., a processor cord). Note that how one individual perceives a sound may not be the same as another person might, thus words on this list could mean entirely different things to different people. When choosing a term(s) to describe your listening experience, be prepared to explain it in more detail to your audiologist.

Bang	Dulled	Mushy
Barking	Echoing/Echoey	Muted
Bass	Electronic	Nasal
Beeping	Fading	Off the Station (radio out of tune)
Blaring	Far Away	Oooooom
Blunted	Flat	Out of Focus
Blurred	Flour-y	Out There (Voices sound disconnected from bodies)
Booming	Fluctuating	Piss-y ("P" sounds)
Bottom of a Barrel/Well	Fog Horn	Pitch
Breathy	Frog in Throat	Plinky
Buzzy	Fuzzy	Pointy (like "crisp")
Cartoonish	Fuzzy on the Edges	Quacking
Chimes	Garbled	Raspy
Chipmunk	Gargling/Gargly	Resonant
Chirpy	Grating	Resonating
Chopped Up	Gravelly	Reverberating
Clangy	Growly	Roaring
Clashy	Gurgling	Robotic
Clear	Harsh	Rough
Clicking	Helium	Rumbling
Clinking	Hissy/"essi" (too much, or not enough "s")	Screechy
Clipping	Hoarse	Shadow Voices
Compressed	Hollow	Sharp
Cottony	Indistinct	Shrill
Crackling	Intermittent	Sibilant (too hissy)
Crinkling	Jumping Out	Signal to Noise Ratio
Crisp	Layered	Snap
Cut Off	Mechanical	Soft
Cutting Out	Metallic	Solid
Cymbals	Metal Pipe	Spongy
Damped	Microphonish	Squashed
Disembodied	Motorboating	Squawky
Distorted	Muffled	Squeal
Droning	Multiple Voices	
Ducks Quacking	Murky	
Ducks Underwater		

Squeezed  
Static/Police Radio-like  
Tapping  
Thin  
Throaty  
Tinkley

Tinny  
Tunnel-Like/Metal  
Tunnel  
Tweety  
Underwater  
Vibrating

Warbling  
Whiny  
Whispery  
Whistling  
White Noise  
Zipper-y

Contributions of terminology were made by adult cochlear implant users on the CI Forum and Nucleus Forum and compiled by Camille Jones. This list may be reprinted for further distribution.

July 2, 2001; Revised May 2005