



NEWSLETTER 6

A week in Finland - WEDNESDAY

Sound profiles and cultural analysis

Before we gathered in Vaasa, each student had to listen to a series of five sounds that another student had recorded. These sounds were to define the identity, the habits and the tastes of the person.

As they did not know who the sound profile had been recorded by, they had to guess. Is it possible to know where a person comes from with five sounds only?

Actually it sometimes was. For example, would the sound of steps in the snow, someone skiing or playing ice hockey be likely to have been recorded anywhere?

Yet one can notice that we also have so much in common, no matter which of the six countries we are from. Many of us like the same songs or watch the same American series.

In a few days, the description and explanations written by the students who recorded the sounds will be added on [clyp.it](https://twitter.com/citysoundprofile) (#citysoundprofile) so that everyone knows if their analyses were correct.

Interviews

<http://online.vasabladet.fi/Artikel/Visa/93251>

As you know - if you read yesterday's newsletter - journalists came to Vasa övningsskola to interview some of our students. To read the article that was published in a local newspaper, click on the link.

<http://arenan.yle.fi/1-3269270?autoplay=true>

We also listened to the interviews that were broadcast on the radio. Our students were asked to speak about the situation of refugees in their countries. Quite a difficult question, actually, but they really showed much maturity, respect and tolerance.

Maximum sound level

A few weeks ago, the students from our six different countries measured the sound level in various places of their schools: the corridors, the dining hall, the teachers' room, the principal's office and the gym. They had to use their smartphones and download applications that would enable them to do so.

The dining hall at lunchtime and the corridors during a break can get really noisy. The sound level often reaches 80dB. However the principal's office is a quiet place, which is necessary to be able to work in good conditions.

The students came to a common conclusion: some places can be really noisy and in fact being exposed to such loud sounds for hours every day can be dangerous.

So some of the students also mentioned what could be done to improve the sound level we are exposed to.

Here is just an example in the dining-hall in Vaasa.

Simple but so clever!



Eureka!

Do you have any idea how old your ears are? Well... To find out, go on YouTube and type *How old are your ears?* You might be surprised.

Sound art

Is this sound art?! The man you can see in the video we watched is definitely an artist!

Here is how you can watch the video again and show it to your friends and relatives. No doubt they will love it! Go on YouTube and type '*Michael Winslow - While Lotta Love by Led Zeppelin*'

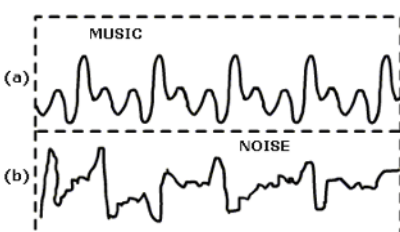
In a word

Two words, actually. **Noise** and **Sound**. But what exactly is the difference between noise and sound?

Musical sounds (a) are periodic and somewhat regular. They are pleasing to our ears and minds, and sound has been one of the greatest forms of expression since the beginning of time.

Unpleasant sound (b) is often described as noise. Noise is more irregular.

When looking at the waveform, a visual representation of sound, music has more patterns and gradual variances in volume, but noise is jagged and sporadic.



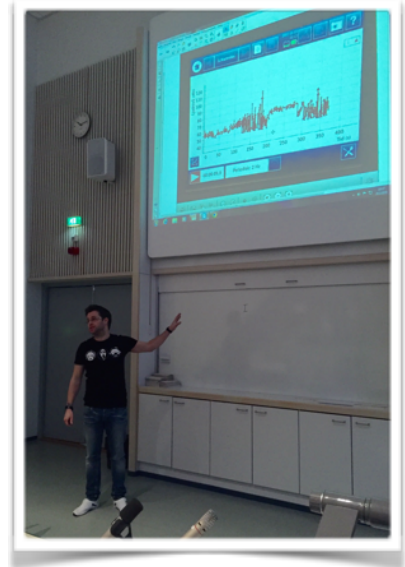
A talk on sound level

Then Nikke Palmberg (who teaches maths and physics at Vasa övningsskola) told us more about decibels.

A blend of knowledge, games and even magic tricks. What an interesting class!

Here are a few easy things to remember:

- If the sound intensity doubles, the sound level does not double. It goes up 3 dB.
- Usually sound level is measured one metre away from the source.
- A higher pitch is not necessarily louder. The pitch does not have anything to do with sound level.



Workshops

Today, all the students spoke together about the activities they took part in yesterday afternoon. They had to prepare a short presentation so that they could share their knowledge with all the other groups.

But this time, the audience was quite bigger as there were about 150 people in the room!

The students have also posted several pictures and written explanations about their workshops. To know more about them, visit Vasa övningsskola's website (workshops).



Family evening

Tonight no special activity has been planned for the pupils. After all, they have also come to Finland so as to spend time with a Finnish family, haven't they?