

The Alice Sound



HUMAN/ANIMAL VOICES

WRITING RESOURCE

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LSO London
Symphony
Orchestra

Queen Mary
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HUMAN/ANIMAL VOICES

The most common sound in the *Alice* books is probably the sound of people speaking – pretty much everyone and everything speaks – including a leg of mutton, an egg and nearly all the animals. But they don't all speak in the same way. Carroll gives us lots of detail about *how* the characters speak.

Human characters sometimes sound like animals. For example, the White Queen Queen says something 'in a voice like the cooing of a pigeon' (*Looking-Glass*, chapter 9)

What about the animal characters? They don't meow or cluck or woof...instead they speak human!

What kind of voices do they have?

Let's take a **lion** (who features in *Looking-Glass*). What sort of voice would a lion have?

'What's this!' he said, blinking lazily at Alice, and speaking in a **deep hollow tone that sounded like the tolling of a great bell**' (*Looking-Glass*, chapter 7).



The very **old Frog** that eventually lets Alice into her party is **so 'hoarse that Alice could scarcely hear him'** (*Looking-Glass*, chapter 9).

There are possibly lots of jokes here about a frog being hoarse (/horse - have a look at the Homonyms worksheet!)... and perhaps he has 'a frog in his throat'?!



TASK:

There are lots of other animal characters in the books - hedgehogs, flamingos, a fawn, a unicorn.

Imagine what their voices would be like.

Try and describe them using a metaphor/simile.

E.g. X says something that sounds like....