

Secret Sounds of the Oven Shelf

Discover the fascinating sounds of your kitchen.



What you need:

- oven shelf
- **string**
- fork



What to do:

1. Tie a piece of string to each end of an oven shelf.
2. Wrap the other end of each string to the index finger of each hand.
3. Get a friend to tap the oven shelf with a fork. How does it sound?
4. Put your fingers in your ears and get your friend to tap the oven shelf again. Does it sound different?

What is happening?



Sounds from the oven shelf travel to your ears as sound waves. Low frequency vibrations don't travel very well in air, so the oven shelf usually sounds high pitched. When you put your fingers in your ears, you create a solid path from the shelf to your ears. Sound waves travel faster in solids than in air so all of the frequencies get to your ears and it sounds different

Tips:

Try other metal kitchen implements - what does a spoon sound like? Or a cheese grater? Listen to the secret sounds of the tongs!