

Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP)

by Melissa Tanner, TnT Paranormal Investigators LLC

A frequently used term in the paranormal field is Electronic Voice Phenomenon or more commonly known as EVP. EVP is not the same thing as a disembodied voice. In the next few paragraphs we will distinguish between the two.

An EVP is a noise, such as a voice or voice-like sound, that was captured using an audio or video recorder, but was not heard by the humans in the location at the time of the recording. In the case of an EVP the investigator(s) did not hear the noise at the time of the investigation, but it was picked up by the equipment they had in the area at the time. The theory is that an EVP is not audible to the human ear and can only be heard when captured on recording equipment. Typically these sounds are in frequencies below the range heard by the average human ear.

A disembodied voice is a noise heard by the human ear but has no known origin, source, or explanation. In the case of a disembodied voice investigator(s) present heard the noise as it occurred, but did not see what caused the noise. This noise will also appear on the recording devices.

An EVP will fall into 1 of 3 classes (A – C):

- **A** - This type of EVP is loud, clear, and of very high quality. The voice is easily understandable and does not need enhancement or amplification. Class A EVPs are also often (but not always) in direct response to a question being asked.
- **B** - This is the most common type of EVP. This type of EVP is of somewhat lower quality and clarity than a Class A EVP but still very audible. Class B EVPs often do need some amount of enhancement or amplification to be heard clearer. The voice may not be clear enough to be totally understood or there may be disagreement as to what it is saying. Class B EVPs are often not in direct response to a question.
- **C** - This is the lowest quality EVP. With a Class C EVP even the best enhancement and amplification may not be sufficient to make the voice audible or clear. There may even be debate whether or not an EVP is actually present.