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Subject: Re: If a tree falls in the forest...

Posted by [Blazer](#) on Fri, 05 Oct 2007 04:12:46 GMT

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Almost the oldest argument ever. There are two schools of thought:

1. A sound is not a sound unless it is heard by something. Sound waves themselves are not a sound. Once the waves strike something that vibrates and is converted to electrical signals to a brain, then there is a "sound". If there is nobody there to convert the soundwaves, there was no sound. The tree fell, there was cause, but no effect.

2. Sound waves do not require physical/electrical conversion to be classified as a sound. The tree falling definitely disturbs the air, creating sound waves. It does not matter that there was nobody there to say "hey I hear I sound", the sound waves are still generated and propogate outward. Sound waves do not operate on the quantum level, the tree fell, it made a sound, there was nobody to hear it, simple as that.

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