

— *About the* — American Association Electronic Voice Phenomena

Dedicated to Public Education about EVP and ITC and the Support of EVP/ITC Experimenters Everywhere

Instrumental TransCommunication (ITC) and the Subset of ITC Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP)

This is a brief overview of these phenomena and the AA-EVP. You will find more information at the AA-EVP website: <http://aaevp.com>.

Overview

Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) are voices detected in electronic devices that cannot currently be explained with known physical principles. The voices typically constitute short utterances of just a few words, often in direct response to questions or comments about occurrences in the environment. Reports of these voices have involved virtually every known technology that is capable of supporting human voice. EVP are typically recorded using audio-recording devices or audio-recording computer software. In the basic form of EVP, they are not heard at the time they are recorded, but only on playback of the recording. (See note about other forms of ITC below.)

EVP is a well-established fact; however, the source of the voices, how they are formed and why, remains an important question that requires considerable research. As will be explained in **Characteristics of EVP** and **Theories**, the theory most commonly used to explain the voices is the Survival Hypothesis; (See article) however, two alternative explanations that remain viable in the face of research results are that the voices are initiated by the etheric (nonphysical) (See article) self of the EVP experimenter or that one aspect of a living person is a biologically evolved awareness that survives physical death as a residue of energy which is able to be detected by electronic instruments. This last theory is commonly referred to as the Quantum-Holographic Hypothesis.

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History

Speculation about EVP can be traced back to the 1920s. In a *Scientific American*²⁸ interview, Thomas Edison was quizzed on his views regarding contacting the dead. Edison said that it might be “possible to construct an apparatus which will be so delicate that if there are personalities in another existence or sphere who wish to get in touch with us in this existence or sphere, this apparatus will at least give them a better opportunity to express themselves than the tilting tables and raps and Ouija boards and mediums and the other crude methods now purported to be the only means of communication.” There is no indication that Edison designed or tried to construct such a device.

From the National Park Service website for the Edison National Historic Site (http://www.nps.gov/archive/edis/edifun/edifun_4andup/faqs_fables.htm#talk):

Did Edison make a machine that could talk to the dead?

This seems to be another tall tale that Edison pulled on a reporter. In 1920 Edison told the reporter, B.F. Forbes, that he was working on a machine that could make contact with the spirits of the dead. Newspapers all over the world picked up this story. After a few years, Edison admitted that he had made the whole thing up. Today at Edison National Historic Site, we take care of over five million pages of documents. None of them mention such an experiment.²⁹

In 1936, Attila von Szalay, A Californian, started capturing paranormal voices on phonograph records and then in the mid 1950s he was joined by Raymond Bayless. Together they acquired many evidential EVP on their new tape recorders and they published their findings in the *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*.³⁰

In 1959, the person credited with bringing EVP to the public, Friedrich Jürgenson, a Russian-born Swedish film producer, after recording birdsong on his tape recorder, heard on playback what appeared to be a human voice. Subsequent recordings contained a message which seemed to be coming from his dead mother.³¹

Konstantin Raudive is credited for learning about EVP as a student of Jürgenson and with the actual introduction of EVP to the English-speaking world with the publication by Colin Smythe of *Breakthrough*.³²

Colin Smyth is credited with coining the term, “Electronic Voice Phenomena” (EVP) as a more inclusive alternative to “Raudive Voices,” as the voices recorded by Raudive were referred to.³³

Characteristics of EVP

The following list is extracted from the book, *There is No Death and There are No Dead*.³

By definition, EVP are unexpected voices that are collected onto digital and analog recording media and that are not explained by currently known physical principles. They appear to be ubiquitous in that experimenters around the world are able to collect them with just about anything that will record human voice frequencies and under just about any recording circumstance. They often vary in nature as the experimenter, recording environment and technique is changed.

The following list of characteristics will provide a sense of how EVP sounds and the nature of the phenomenal voices.

EVP are Distinctive: EVP have a distinctive character of cadence, pitch, frequency, volume and use of background sound. The voices have a distinctive sound that is difficult to describe. For instance, they often have an unusual speed of enunciation; the words may be spoken more quickly than normal speech. Regarding this peculiarity, Konstantinos² wrote, “The best way I can describe it is that it’s almost as if each word is spoken quickly, yet the pauses between the words are of a natural length. The combination of these two speed factors makes for the peculiar rhythm and perceived speed.” You may also notice that the paranormal voices often have a hollow and/or monotone quality.

Frequency Range: EVP are sometimes received at higher or lower time base than normal speech. The enunciation of words is not just faster, but the frequency range of the phrases is sometimes higher than normal human speech.

Missing Frequencies: Italian researcher, Paolo Presi,⁴ has reported that spectral analysis of EVP samples has shown that the fundamental frequencies of voice associated with the human voice box are sometimes missing in EVP. He describes the typical EVP as a “thickening” of the background noise to form the voice.

Precursor Sounds: Sounds are often heard prior to an occurrence of EVP. Although these vary in nature, they tend to be within tenths of a second of a phrase and are a “popping” or “clicking” noise reminiscent of the “squelch” sound caused when the automatic gain control engages as the “push to talk” button is depressed on a Citizens Band radio.⁷

EVP Show Evidence of Being Limited by Available Energy: Alexander MacRae⁵ has noted that the utterances tend to have about the same amount of audio power in their associated sound wave from one EVP sample to another. That is, a short EVP will tend to be louder than a long EVP. A very long phrase might be composed of two or more average-length phrases separated by minor pauses. Also, an utterance may trail off at the end, as if the energy is being depleted before the message is delivered. Again, this is as if the communicator is attempting to manage available power as “packets” of energy. The evidence is very strong that EVP are energy-limited phenomena.

EVP are Complete Words or Phrases: Researcher Alexander MacRae has also conducted considerable analysis of EVP messages, determining that a message is typically one to two seconds in duration and is not truncated at the beginning or end. If EVP were crosstalk, they would often begin in the middle of a word. EVP messages are usually complete thoughts, as well.

EVP are in the Language of the Experimenter: Alexander MacRae has conducted experiments in a place that has no English language radio or television stations, yet resulting EVP were in English, which is his primary language. It is typical for the EVP, no matter where they are recorded, to be in a language that the experimenter understands. There have been exceptions to this which were apparently intended as a demonstration, but as a rule, EVP will be spoken in a language understood by the experimenter or an interested observer.

This brings up an interesting point of speculation about psi-based communication. Mental mediums often report that they receive communication from nonphysical entities as images which they must interpret. These images are not just mental pictures. They are packets of information that are sufficiently complete for the receiver to fully understand their meaning. Robert Monroe⁸ referred to this form of information as “Thought Balls.”

EVP are not Ambient Sound or Broadcast Programming: Again, Alexander MacRae has made a contribution to the field of EVP by submitting the newest model of his Alpha Device for testing at the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) (<http://www.noetic.org/>). The device produced EVP in a chamber that was shielded from environmental Radio Frequency (RF) sound energy and light.⁹ This demonstration proving that EVP are not stray sound or RF has been made before.¹⁰ One of the problems researchers have faced in the past is that “old proof” is often discounted because of the considerable improvement in instrumentation, experimental protocol and understanding of physical principles. In light of this, it is important that our modern generation of scientists is able to witness demonstrations that adhere to modern standards for research, such as that just provided by Alexander MacRae. As of the writing of this book, we await a response from the scientists.

EVP are Appropriate to the Circumstances: There are numerous examples of EVP that are clearly direct responses to questions recorded just prior to the EVP phrase or to the circumstances. An example of an EVP being appropriate to a circumstance is an instance in which experimenters were trying to figure out how to set up a new tape recorder for an EVP experiment. The tape recorder was finally set up correctly but not before causing a very loud feedback squeal that was recorded. On that recording, a male voice said in a Class A EVP, “*Leave it alone*” right after the loud squeal.

Precognitive Responses: Answers to questions may be recorded prior to a question being asked, so that the answer as a phenomenal message is on the sound track followed by the experimenter asking the question. More research is required before informed speculation about this observed characteristic, but the indication is that, while time may be meaningful to us, our time may well be irrelevant to a nonphysical entity. Alternatively, the entity may be sensing what the experimenter is about to ask.

EVP are Found by Playing the Soundtrack Backwards: One of the more bizarre characteristics of EVP is that it is possible to discover an EVP that seems to be garbled, but that makes perfect sense when the soundtrack is played in reverse. By this, we mean to say that the sound track is played so that the voice of the experimenter can be heard speaking backwards, but the EVP can be heard speaking forwards.¹¹

As with the ability of communicating entities to anticipate questions by placing answers into recording media before the question is asked, the phenomenon of reverse track EVP provides important hints as to the nature of time.

Vocalized Questions Elicit more EVP: There is evidence that the communicating entities are able to read our thoughts, as in placing an answer on a recording prior to the asking of a question. However, experiments conducted by Alexander MacRae⁵ have shown that EVP responses increase when questions are asked out loud. MacRae conducted a simple experiment during which he ran numerous sessions and did not verbalize questions, and then the same number of sessions speaking the questions. He then counted the number of EVP responses. On the non-verbalized sessions he collected 3.2 utterances per session, whereas on the verbalized sessions he collected 5.3 utterances per session. (MacRae uses a baseline recording session duration of five minutes for such controlled sampling.)

EVP Found on the Reverse Direction of a Sound Track

Please use the technique of looking for EVP on the reverse with care. EVP seems to be formed in noise wherever in the spectrum the experimenter might look for the voice. That is probably why some researchers have theorized that EVP are always ultrasonic or infrasonic. However, in reversed sound track EVP, the presence of the voice seems to be more of a demonstration that the communicators are able to do something that is simply not explainable with known physical principles. Also, EVP is considered communication and leaving a message in a place that most people would not consider looking, or do not have the tools to look, is not realistically considered an attempt to communicate.

Many offered examples of EVP found on the reverse turn out to be nonsensical, and one of the Best Practices in EVP is that, if the message is not meaningful in some way, it should be set aside until supporting material is available. There is also a problem with the value of utterances found on the reverse as evidence. Knowledgeable researchers understand that there are many words that, when heard in the reverse, naturally form other normal words. It is also disconcerting for a researcher to recognize the staccato cadence of reversed-voice speech in someone's offered EVP example and reverse it only to discover the person speaking in the forward direction. Considering these issues, it is often recommended that researchers use the technique of reversing a sound track in search of EVP sparingly, and avoid offering examples that are clearly a forward-speaking voice played in the reverse.

The Voices in EVP are often Recognizable: It is common for an EVP to contain the recognizable voice of the discarnate person thought to be speaking. It is also common for that entity to say something that was typical of what he or she would have said while in the physical. Their personality clearly remains intact even though the person no longer has a physical body.¹²

Mundane Voices are Sometimes Transfigured: A communicating entity will sometimes remodulate or transfigure the experimenter's words into EVP. In one example, a French-speaking radio announcer's words were changed, mid sentence, into an English spoken EVP. The EVP was clearly inappropriate for what the announcer had been saying.

Transfigured

The term, "transfigured," is used in much the same way here that it is used in mediumship to describe how an entity transfigures or changes the medium's features into the entity's likeness.

Please Note: One caution about using foreign-language that you do not understand as a sound sources for EVP is that it is very easy to mistake a mundane utterance as seeming to say something in your language. While this is a characteristic sometimes encountered with EVP research, we discourage the routine use of foreign-language sound sources for EVP experimentation.

Party Line: Some EVP sound as if they are comments intended for someone other than the experimenter. This is much like momentarily listening in on a party line telephone call. It is not uncommon in both field and controlled recording situations to record comments that seem as if unseen people are discussing the experimenter's actions in much the same way that you might discuss the activity of someone that you were watching.

A Need for Background Sound Sources: Research has shown that the voice in EVP is formed as "a thickening" of ambient sound energy. This is an opportunistic use of sound energy that often results in no or largely missing voice box frequencies and an unnatural arrangement of other frequencies usually formed by the passage of the fundamental frequencies through the mouth.¹³ Also, EVP has been recorded by audio-recording devices or processes which have been isolated from ambient sound by such techniques as removing the microphone, and in some instances, acoustically isolating the recording device." Because of these characteristics, it is standard practice to assure in some way the availability of ambient sound for voice formation, even while isolating the recording device or process from uncontrolled ambient sounds, such as crowd noise.

Layered EVP: Experimenters often complain about having several layers of EVP in the same location of the recording media. This is especially common when more than one background sound source is used during the experiment. For instance, if a fan and radio static is used for background sound, a message might be found in the fan noise and a second message might be found in the radio static—both in the same segment of sound track.

The “Newness” Effect: The experimenter’s excitement in trying a new detection device or recording technique may be the source of improved EVP collection. As the new approach becomes “normal operating procedure,” the improvements generally fade back to a more “normal” Quality and Quantity (QQ) of EVP collection. This suggests that it is important for the experimenter to maintain piqued interest during experiments. This is also one of the reasons it is speculated that the experimenter is an integral part of the recording circuit. The experimenter is apparently supplying the necessary psi energy to enable a nonphysical to physical transfer of energy.

Effective Devices Unique to the Experimenter: Exceptionally effective EVP and ITC collecting systems have been developed; however, these typically work well for the developer, but do not work as well for other experimenters. This paradox supports the belief that the experimenter is part of the recording circuit. It has also reinforced the concept that the communicating entity may be specific to the experimenter.

Because various devices and equipment setups have worked exceptionally well for one experimenter and not for another, it has been argued that it is a waste of time to try to develop the hoped for equipment that will become the proverbial “spirit telephone” that anyone would be able to use to call up his or her loved one on the other side.¹⁴ This may prove to be the wrong assumption. There is growing evidence that people who have not done well with a cassette recorder are now recording increased QQ EVP using digital voice recorders.

EVP can be Thoughts of Living People: There have been a number of well-designed experiments that appear to have resulted in EVP initiated by living people who were sleeping at the time. As an ethical consideration, such experiments are always prearranged with the person who volunteers to be the sleeping “sender.” In these experiments, questions are clearly answered by a communicating entity, and the answers are appropriate for the sleeping person. This fact of EVP suggests the possibility that EVP can become an important tool for consciousness research. For instance, is it possible that a patient in a coma might initiate an EVP when requested?

EVP is Found Wherever the Experimenter Listens: This suggests that the source of audio noise is not a factor for EVP, so long as the audio energy is suitable for voice formation. In practice, the majority of techniques for recording EVP involve sound conditioning, rather than unique forms of psi detection. For instance, upscaling infrasound so that it can be heard by human ears or downscaling ultrasound, really constitute techniques of sound conditioning, and the resulting EVP is not evidence that the utterance was formed beyond human hearing, but that it was formed when the audio energy was made available to the recording process.

Theories Proposed to Explain Observed ITC Phenomena

The existence of EVP is not realistically contested. Any reasonably capable person with a device capable of recording audio can expect to eventually record an understandable utterance. A workable protocol for such recordings can be found at http://aaevp.com/techniques/techniques_evp9.htm.

The real questions are what causes the voices, who is causing them (if appropriate) and how they are caused. The following list details the most commonly proposed possible answers:

Radio signals, unnoticed conversations and/or light-generated signals: Probably the most obvious explanation is that the voices are recordings of stray radio signals. Inexpensive electronic equipment designed to handle audio signals are designed with “unbalanced” input and output ports, poorly shielded circuitry and what amounts to a “floating ground” in portable equipment. All of these design shortcuts leave the equipment open to detect and record stray radio signals, and if it is possible to pick up a radio station, with a portable radio, then it is also possible to record a stray radio signal. This does not often happen, but it is possible.

The most obvious way to test the possibility that EVP are stray radio signals is to shield the audio recording device from ambient radio frequency noise. One way is to place a turned on, voice-activated audio recorder in a padded metal container, such as a candy tin, place that in a second padded tin, and that in a third padded tin that has a metal strap from the metal side of the tin to a good ground—usually a metal water pipe will do. This will prevent most stray sound, all light and essentially all radio frequency energy from reaching the recorder.

Since research shows that the voices are formed from available audio frequency energy,¹³ some noise will be required for this experiment. Inexpensive digital voice recorders usually produce sufficient internal voice frequency noise for EVP formation, but if EVP are not collected in the above enclosure when the recorder is known to produce EVP in the open, it may be necessary to include a sound source, such as a turned-on am radio with the volume set so that the resulting static

would not obscure the voice of a person speaking into the microphone. There is a figure at http://aaevp.com/techniques/techniques_evp3.htm that will give a sense of what is a good background noise level.

Variations of this experiment have been conducted by many people. In the simplest version, a recorder is placed in a microwave oven to take advantage of its radio frequency-shielding. One experimenter used a metal paint tin in the desert.¹⁵ Another used a grounded metal oil drum,¹⁰ and Alexander MacRae used the Institute of Noetics' Sciences (<http://www.noetic.org/>) screened room to isolate his recording apparatus from ambient light-, sound- and radio-frequency energy.⁹ All of these techniques produced EVP.

Simple content analysis is usually sufficient to establish that the utterance in question is unlikely to be cross-talk or unnoticed voices from people in the room. Assuming the experimenter is not attempting to provide "scientific" evidence, it is usually adequate to note whether or not the utterances are complete statements, if they are appropriate to the circumstances and if they are understandable. If they were stray radio or television signals, they would contain the tell-tale signs of commercial broadcast, they would often be partial statements and they would usually be nonsensical, considering the circumstance.

Imagination of the experiencer: This is an important possible explanation for any form of phenomena involving unexpected sounds, images or events. Modern technology is capable of producing such a wide variety of unexpected results, often referred to as mundane artifacts, and a person can easily mistake an artifact as phenomenal unless the experiencer is an expert in the use of that technology. For instance, when used in an automatic mode, and with a flash, modern cameras often keep the shutter open much longer than the user realizes. A characteristic of film and digital image detectors referred to as "latency" will cause a moving camera to quickly image a bright light, such as a street light or flash reflected from a bright object in the scene, much quicker than a poorly illuminated background. This can result in a "ghostly" streak of light in a photograph while the background scene seems to indicate that the camera never moved.

The point is that such photographic artifacts are mundane, yet they are often offered as evidence of ghosts. In the same way, sounds in an audio recording can be made by very mundane influences but yet sound very phenomenal. For instance, it is common for a person to take a breath of air just before speaking, and the sound of that breath can be mistaken as something phenomenal when a person is examining every little deviation in the wave form.

All aspects of etheric studies are plagued by what is generally termed "the lack of critical thinking" amongst people seeking to experience these phenomena. This is a natural result in view of the complexity of the involved technologies and when the very large population of amateur experiencers is considered. So the casual witness to this field of study should be dubious about individual reports of phenomena, as many such reports are demonstrably misattributed mundane events.

It is intellectually lazy to say that all reports of etheric-to-physical phenomena are just the imagination of the experiencer when the evidence for the existence of EVP is reviewed. The fact that the voices can be collected by just about any person with average hearing, access to an audio recorder and sufficient patience to learn how to listen for the voices, provides sufficient reason to discount this argument. A better argument is that following.

Thoughts of the experimenter: Once the possible explanations that would prove the voices to be mundane have been dispensed with, there remains the possibility that the voices are phenomenal, etheric to physical influences, but that they are caused by a physical person. It is here that the argument changes from if EVP is real to who is talking.

A number of experiments have been conducted to see if it is possible to record the thoughts of people known to be still in the flesh. Perhaps the most conclusive was conducted by Jacque Blanc-Garin of the French ITC organization, Infinitude.¹⁸ In that experiment, Jacques had arranged with Monique Simonet to attempt contacting her via an EVP experiment while she slept.¹⁶ (It is an ethical consideration to ask permission of the "sender" before conducting such an experiment.) In the exchange, Jacques, in a different part of the house, verbalized the question, "If you answer me, you are maybe in the environment where I record. If that is it, you can then tell me what I currently hold in my left hand?" The recorded EVP was, "*It is a crystal*" Jacques reported that, "I indeed, had a crystal in my hand. Monique saw me!"

Lisa Butler and Sarah Estep also conducted coordinated experiments from either coast of the USA with convincing results.¹⁷ Other experimenters have reported similar results, some possibly impressing their thoughts into recording medium, although this point requires further research.

Current thinking is that the conscious aspect of a person is what survives physical death, and when a person still in the flesh is in some way disassociated from the physical body, his or her conscious self is much the same as the etheric communicator. In other words, it is predicted by some proposed theories that the thoughts of a living person should be able to be recorded in EVP. Probably the real question is whether or not all of the EVP are from living people.

American Association of Electronic Voice Phenomena

Many of the observed characteristics of EVP could be explained as thoughts of the living. One, the fact that some messages are clearly spoken in response to something the experimenter is about to say, seems to eliminate the experimenter as a source. More convincing are the reports from the AA-EVP Big Circle recording group¹⁹ showing that, on occasion, a member will record the voice of a person, say “John,” who is later shown to be the discarnate son of a person who had not yet joined the Association, but that in subsequent conversations, John’s voice is recognized saying the sort of things John would have said while in the flesh.

Another source of experimental evidence that not all EVP are initiated by the experimenter is the results from the 4Cell EVP Demonstration.³⁴ In this series of experiments, four people work together to execute the experimental protocol. A Requester decides on a question and relays only the question to the Sender. The Sender asks his or her etheric communicators to give the answer to the Receiver, and then tells the Receiver that a question has been sent. The Receiver conducts an EVP session and asks for the answer that he or she does not know to an unknown question, and then sends any resulting EVP to the Scribe. The Scribe makes the first determination as to what is said in the EVP, and then the group decides on the best response, and all information is included in a report. An example “hit” recorded by 4Cell Infinite is, **Question:** What are the names of Jim’s Montessori school teachers?” **Correct Answer:** “Vivian” and “Rosmund.” Class B answer: “*Vivian.*” Class C answer in same file: “*Rosmund.*” This is one of the better results, but the 4Cell experimenters are averaging around 69% correct or very meaningful responses.

EVP are “echoes of the past” or residual energy: The Quantum-Holographic hypothesis has been proposed to explain the origin of consciousness,²¹ meaning that the personality has a biological origin and the information being accessed via EVP and the other forms of apparent etheric-to-physical influences are either caused by the experimenter or some other physical agent, or a form of residual energy described by physicist David Bohm and neurophysiologist Karl Pribram as a field of energy that underlies all of reality.²⁴ This field of energy is thought to have three characteristics that might account for the observed etheric-to-physical phenomena. It is thought to behave according to quantum principles, especially that of entanglement which shows that, once certain objects have become associated in specific ways, influencing one object will have a similar influence on the other, even though it may be very far away.

The second characteristic is that this field exhibits the character of nonlocality, meaning that information in it is equally available from any place in the field. This characteristic is required to explain such phenomena as a remote viewer accessing information that is miles away and a medium supposedly getting information from discarnate entities. It is this nonlocality that requires holographic theory, since it is known that any part of a holographic representation of a scene can be used to reproduce the entire scene. In other words, the information is not local to any one part of the photographic plate. The third characteristic of this field is that it is formed of the residual energy of consciousness, and therefore contains all that was ever known, thought and experienced. It is this residual energy that provides the information psychically gathered.

There is growing evidence that some form of field exists, that it is of a subtle energy that is not detected by normal means and that it interconnects groups of life forms. Rupert Sheldrake²³ refers to this field as a “morphic field,” and Dean Radin²² calls it a “biofield.” However, the existence of a biofield does not assure that Bohm and Pribram’s field is proven to exist, or how such a field might be populated. This author is not aware of experimental evidence showing that residual consciousness does remain in a field. Conversely, the experimental evidence of EVP seems to show that consciousness is local, that it is self-aware and interactive.

Super-psi²⁵ is a second hypothesis designed to explain observed psychic abilities, but from the perspective of psychology. This hypothesis also depends on a vast reservoir of residual conscious energy which is accessible by people who exhibit the ability to access information that should not be available to them.

Both the Quantum-Holographic and Super-psi Hypotheses may provide important pieces to the puzzle which will eventually explain personal survival and EVP and should not be completely discounted—especially the concept of a biofield. However, neither hypothesis explains the evidence collected via EVP.

Conducting an EVP Experiment

The following information is intended to provide a technique which is most likely to produce the phenomenal utterances. This is based on the material provided by the AA-EVP in the Techniques (<http://aaevp.com/techniques.htm>) section of their website.²⁶

Equipment: Any device capable of recording voice frequency sound. A computer is recommended and a way to transfer audio from the recording device to the computer. The computer can also be used as the initial recorder. Also, the computer should be equipped with an audio management program, such as the open source, Audacity (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>).²⁷ It is possible to use just the audio recorder, as experimenters have always done before the advent of personal computing, but again, this set of instructions is designed to offer the best chance of success.

There are instructions for transferring audio into a computer here: Techniques (<http://aaevp.com/techniques.htm>).

Environment: For controlled-conditions recording, find a quiet place in the home that can be routinely used for EVP recording sessions. It is important to be aware of environmental sounds, such as passing cars, and people talking in another room. If there is any doubt that environmental sounds can be accounted for, it is a good idea to use a second audio recorder, perhaps the sound track on a video camera, as a control. This is because a single EVP is not normally recorded at the same moment by more than one recorder, so if something that might be an EVP is on both recordings, it is recommended that they be discarded.

Protocol: Verbalize the questions and comments by announcing to the room that you are about to turn on the audio recorder and that you wish to communicate with a loved one, friend or total stranger on the other side. The idea is to engage the communicators in a conversation. Turn on the recorder and wait about ten seconds. It is at this time that some of the strongest utterances are recorded. Then, ask a question, such as “Aunt Martha, can you tell me how you are?” (Avoid questions with “yes” or “no” answers.) Wait about ten seconds for Aunt Martha to respond, and then ask your next question, and so on until you are ready to stop. Then, say, I am going to turn off the recorder now, but first, does anyone have something they would like to say? Wait ten or fifteen seconds and turn off the recorder. A three to five minute recording is more than enough for one session.

Field Recording: The technique for field recording is about the same, except that it is even more necessary to use a second recorder as a control. Be sure to approach the session as a conversation and it is a good idea to record your voice saying where you are. This is especially helpful if you are moving from room to room.

Special Considerations: It is possible to supply background sound to facilitate EVP formation while recording in controlled conditions. A common household fan will usually do, but one of the reasons the sessions are referred to as “experiments” is that practitioners are always on the hunt for the ideal recording equipment, conditions and background sounds. So, be inventive. In controlled conditions, it is also possible to use high-quality recorders, because you can supply sound.

The concept is that sooner or later everyone will have recorded an EVP. Think of EVP as a form of communication. A rule of thumb is that the communicators will leave their message wherever they think someone will listen. Higher quality recording devices tend to record fewer phenomenal voices, and electronic circuits that are strongly constrained by limiting circuits leave fewer opportunities for voice formation. It is a good practice to expect to find the voices where normal human voice would be found, and in noisier conditions.

Although EVP can be found by listening to a sound track in the reverse, it is recommended that the experimenter restrict efforts to find EVP to the normal direction of the recording. Finally, it is important that the experimenter does not try too hard to record a voice. Some people will record one on the first try, but some may take much longer and there are never any guarantees that a person will record one. There are also no guarantees that a person will be able to use EVP to reach a particular person, although dedication to a regimen of controlled-conditions recording offers the best chance for success.

It is harder to bring sound for field recordings, and it is for this reason that digital voice recorders that produce a lot of internal noise are so popular for field recording. As a rule of thumb, set the mic sensitivity to medium and the quality to low. Set the volume to medium and then experiment from there. Many people prefer voice-activated recording because it produces less to listen to and more internal noise for voice formation. The communicators can trigger voice-activated recording if there is enough sound to lower the threshold.

Listening for EVP in the Sound Track: Assuming a digital recorder is used, the voice is digitized right after it is limited to the required signal strength coming from the input amplifier. If it is necessary to record the sound file into the computer via an audio cable, the signal is turned back into analog, and then digitized again by the computer. There is little or no evidence that an EVP will be changed while in a digital format, but it is possible for change or even new utterance while transferring in the analog phase.

It is possible to reasonably reproduce the average human voice with a sample rate of 8,000 KHz, so it is recommended that the audio file be saved into the computer as a 11025 KHz sample rate, 16 bit word file. Mono or stereo is a personal choice. Once the audio file is in the computer, it should be saved as a *.wav file for storage and editing.

Current best practice for sharing an EVP example on the Internet is to convert the file to mono, *.mp3 format, but using editing tools on mp3 is discouraged.

It is also best practice to provide a raw clip of the EVP, along with a bit of your voice for reference, if possible, followed by a short silence and then the whole clip again with any editing you may have done. Explain what you have done so that your listener will know what to expect.

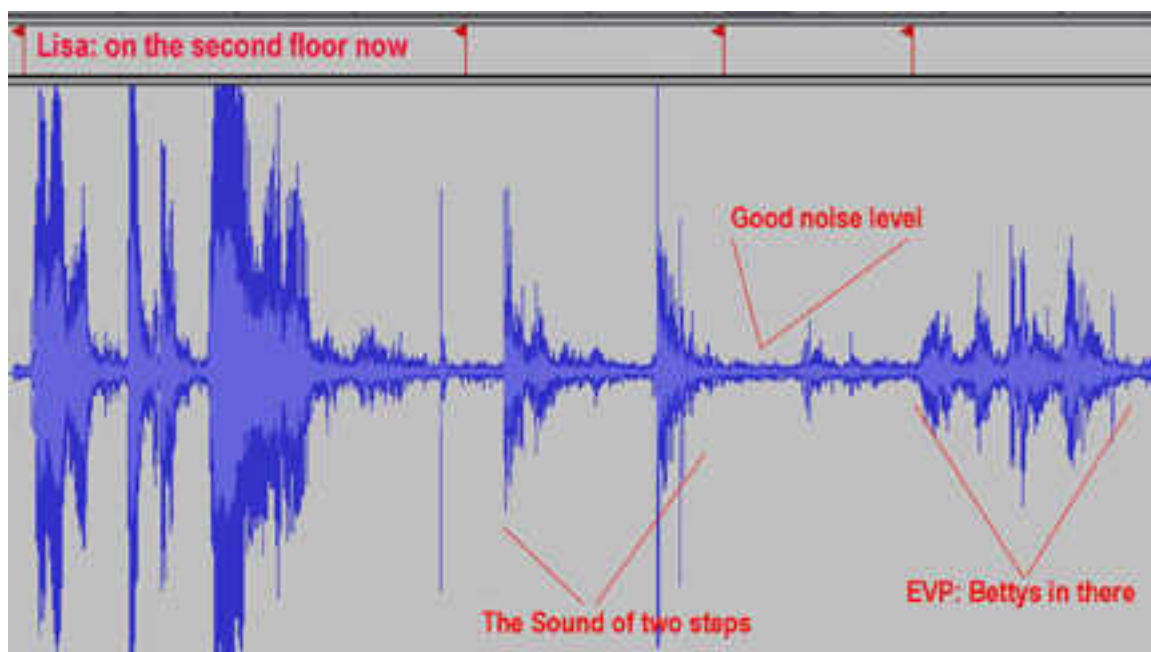
Finally, ten decibels or so of amplification, perhaps a little noise reduction and high-end filtering is about all that should be done to a sound track to make the utterance more easily understood. It is possible to change the meaning of an EVP with over processing, and the rule of thumb is to discard the EVP if it cannot be understood with only slight enhancement, and certainly discard nonsensical utterances.

A listening technique is to select a few syllables of a possible utterance and then play it over and over to allow your mind to look for familiar sounds. People are trained to recognize common arrangements of sound as words, but EVP are often formed from odd arrangements of sound, depending on what is supplied, and the usual cues are often missing. A very loud, well-spoken phrase could still be difficult to make out for a person not accustomed to hearing EVP.

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An example of a good level for background noise. The "*Betty's in there*" EVP example is at http://aaevp.com/examples/examples_voice11.htm

The AA-EVP Today

The AA-EVP offers several venues of support to its membership:

- Quarterly NewsJournal publication. See the table of contents for a recent issue at <http://aaevp.com/news.html>
- Address-sharing list for those who are interested in communicating with other experimenters. This list is known as the “Member Registry” list.
- Access to the AA-EVP Archive which contains the majority of quarterly AA-EVP newsletters published since May, 1982.
- Access to the AA-EVP Idea Exchange discussion board. Here you can hear and see examples and share your work while asking for help from other members.

In 1982, AA-EVP founder, Sarah Estep, introduced the phrase, “Established to provide objective evidence that we survive death in an individual conscious state,” which is now included in the AA-EVP NewsJournal. Current directors Tom and Lisa Butler have been careful to continue this view as a fundamental goal of the Association.

The AA-EVP averages around 500 members in 47 USA states and 22 countries including the US (current: 2007). Members understand that this “objective evidence” must be based on good science. As such, you will see that great care is taken by members to maintain an objective view of these phenomena. The evidence strongly indicates that the messages are nonphysical in origin; however, members also recognize that there are other possible explanations.

AA-EVP members are today experimenting with a wide variety of devices, testing many different concepts. The most common experimental approach is the use of a digital voice recorder or tape recorder and optional background sound source. An approach that is gaining wide acceptance is recording with a computer, rather than a tape recorder. Interestingly, telephone-based devices such as answering machines are also used. Video cameras and computer-based video editing software are gaining popularity as well. Virtually any device that can record information can be used to capture Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) or Instrumental TransCommunication (ITC).

Grief Management: Many AA-EVP members are learning to use EVP for grief management. A medium may reassure a person that a loved one is okay on the other side by delivering a message from that loved one. In a similar way, hearing an EVP recording that has a (sometimes) recognizable voice of a loved one speaking an evidential phrase will do wonders for someone grieving a loss.

Sharing Ideas: AA-EVP members are generally happy to share their ideas about recording techniques and what they have received. Some approach EVP from a very technical and research-oriented view, while others simply like to work with one technique and do their experimenting by analyzing the information they receive.

Interestingly, several AA-EVP members are research scientists. Their titles are not shown on our member lists, however. Just as you may be harboring doubt about these phenomena, many institutions feel that a “true scientist” would not be associated with such organizations. Therefore, the Association takes great care to follow the privacy wishes of its members, and it is for this reason that the Idea Exchange is also restricted to members.

The AA-EVP welcomes prospective new members; see the Membership page (<http://aaevp.com/membership.htm>) for more information. Tax-deductible donations to support the work of the AA-EVP are also welcomed and appreciated.

AA-EVP Membership Form

The AA-EVP is an association dedicated to research that will lead to the understanding of Electronic Voice Phenomena, improvement of communication techniques and the dissemination of information about EVP to the public. You are invited to join us in this work.

As an AA-EVP member:

- You will receive the quarterly NewsJournal containing information about EVP researchers around the world.
- Your name can optionally be included in the Member Registry, which is an address sharing list for members.
- You will be able to participate in a members-only discussion board to share your ideas and examples with others.
- You will have access to an archive that contains many of the past newsletters.

You can also submit a membership form online at aaevp.com using PayPal.com or credit cards!

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AA-EVP Membership Form for New Members

Membership Registration (Please print or type)

Member \$30/year All services for one year
 Subtract \$5 per **additional** year for multiple years (1 Year Membership = \$30, 2 Years = \$55, 3 Years = \$80)
 Please specify the number of years you are joining: _____

International Member not using Email \$40/year All services for one year *

Sustaining member \$100/year Member + name listed in NewsJournal

* If you live outside of the USA and do not receive the AA-EVP NewsJournal via email as a PDF file, \$10 USD is required for the additional postage.

The AA-EVP is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Funds in excess of dues are tax deductible in the USA. In addition to my annual dues, I am enclosing a DONATION of \$ _____ to support the ongoing work and programs of the Association. (<http://aaevp.com/donate.htm>) **Please make checks payable to AA-EVP.**

Name _____ Email Address (Optional) _____

Address _____ Phone Number (Optional) _____

City/State/Zip code _____ Country _____

Do you wish to be in the Member Registry? _____ Do you wish to include your physical address? _____

Do you wish to include your email address? _____ **[We require at least City, State and Zip address]**

Do you wish to receive the newsletter via postal service? _____ or via email? _____

On the other side, tell us a little about yourself, and if you record, what techniques you like to use and how you found us.

Member Profile: (Please check what best describes your interest in EVP)

- I record on a regular basis. I plan to begin recording.
 I joined because of the loss of a loved one.
 None of the above, however, I have a general interest in EVP and its evidence for survival.

By indicating that I want to share my name and address with others through these lists, I realize they are private and I agree that other names on the list will not be given to anyone who is not on the list, used for commercial purposes or the furtherance of personal causes. I also understand my membership will be terminated if I violate this agreement.

I certify that I am twenty-one years of age or older.

I understand that the AA-EVP is not liable for the results of EVP/ITC experiments that I might conduct, and that the Association is also not liable for damages due to the use of information it publishes on the Internet or in literature such as the NewsJournal. Officers of the AA-EVP reserve the right to refuse membership to anyone.

Signed _____ Date _____