Audio Levels and Clipping Check

Compare peaks without confusing loud with good

Name: _____ Date: _____

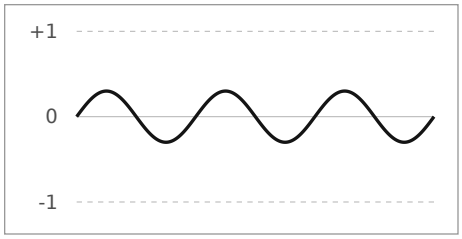
Compare three versions of the same sound at the same display scale. Version C is known to have clipped during recording. Answer from this evidence.

QUICK CLUE

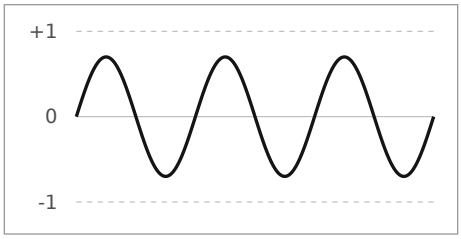
A peak is a waveform's highest amplitude. Clipping can flatten peaks when a recording exceeds its limit. Turning it down later does not restore the lost shape.

SAME SOUND. SAME SCALE.

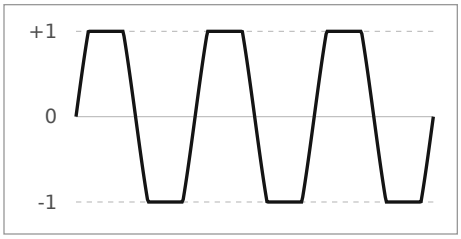
VERSION A peak 0.3



VERSION B peak 0.7



VERSION C peak 1.0



Time moves left to right in each box; vertical values show amplitude.

Identical time scale and vertical scale. C: confirmed clipped recording. Peaks are simplified.

1. **Which unclipped version has the larger peak: A or B?**

2. **Which version is confirmed clipped? Describe one visible clue.**

3. **For a new recording that clips, should you raise or lower the recording input level?**

4. **C is turned down after recording. Are its lost peak shapes automatically restored?**

5. **Music covers the spoken words. Which is the better first edit: lower the music or boost everything? Why?**

6. **A file has no clipping. Is it guaranteed to sound clear and balanced? Give one check.**

For explanation questions, give a clear reason for your choice.

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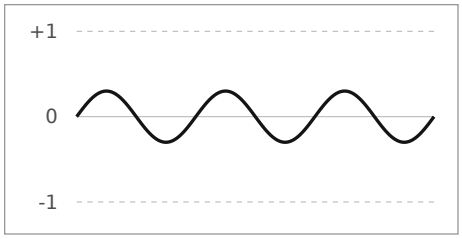
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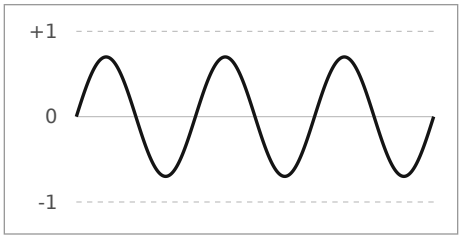
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SAME SOUND. SAME SCALE.

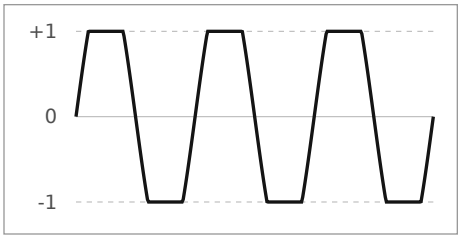
VERSION A peak 0.3



VERSION B peak 0.7



VERSION C peak 1.0



Time moves left to right in each box; vertical values show amplitude.

Identical time scale and vertical scale. C: confirmed clipped recording. Peaks are simplified.

1. **Which unclipped version has the larger peak: A or B?**

   B (0.7 compared with 0.3).

2. **Which version is confirmed clipped? Describe one visible clue.**

   C. Its tops and bottoms are flattened at the limits.

3. **For a new recording that clips, should you raise or lower the recording input level?**

   Lower the recording input level, then make and listen to a new test.

4. **C is turned down after recording. Are its lost peak shapes automatically restored?**

   No. It becomes quieter, but the lost shapes are not automatically restored.

5. **Music covers the spoken words. Which is the better first edit: lower the music or boost everything? Why?**

   Lower the music so the words are clearer; boosting everything does not improve their balance.

6. **A file has no clipping. Is it guaranteed to sound clear and balanced? Give one check.**

   No. Listen for clear words, unwanted noise, or music that masks speech.

   Also accept: check joins, pacing, or the balance between clips by listening.

For explanation questions, accept equivalent well-reasoned responses.