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ca·coph·o·ny  (kə-kŏf ə-nē)

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n. pl. **ca·coph·o·nies**

1. Jarring, discordant sound; dissonance: *heard a cacophony of horns during the traffic jam.*
2. The use of harsh or discordant sounds in literary composition, as for poetic effect.

[French *cacophonie*, from Greek *kakophōniā*, from *kakophōnos*, cacophonous; see [CACOPHONOUS](#).]

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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