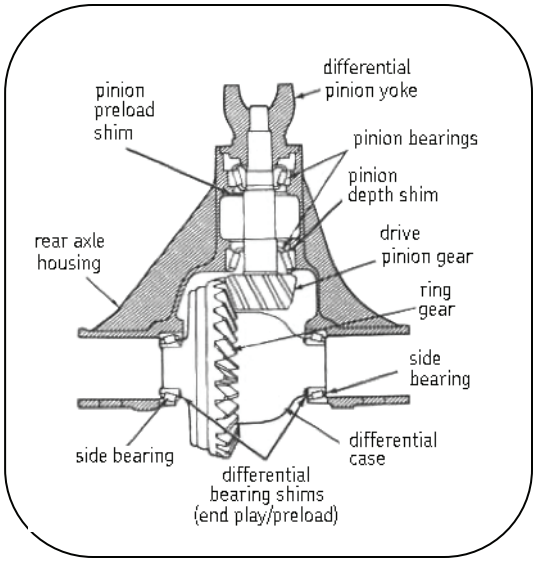
What does your car tell you?
Diagnosing differential noise problems

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Tech tip

Your vehicle makes many sounds. Most are normal while the vehicle is in motion. But there are times when a noise coming from under the car can be a serious matter. Here are a few common "noises" that may come from the rear axle that need immediate attention:



- A "whirring" noise while decelerating at any or all speeds is most likely caused by bad pinion bearings or loose pinion bearing preload. This condition is typically always diagnosed as a bad ring and Pinion gear.
- A "howl or whine" during acceleration over a small or large speed range is usually caused by worn ring and pinion gears or improper gear set up.
- "Rumbling or whirring" at speeds over 20 mph can be caused by worn carrier bearings. The noise may change while cornering or turning.
- Regular "clunking" or loud "clicking" every few feet may indicate a broken ring or pinion gear tooth.
- "Banging, clicking or clunking" while cornering can be caused by broken cornering gears commonly called "spider gears", lack of sufficient positraction lubrication, or worn positraction clutches.
- A "Rumble" while cornering or turning may indicate bad wheel bearings.
- A steady vibration that increases with the vehicle's speed can be caused by worn u-joints or an out of balance driveshaft.
- "Clunking or clicking" when starting to move or getting on and off the gas might be loose yokes, bad u-joints or worn transfer case or transmission parts.

<u>All unusual or strange noises produced by the driveline while driving have a root cause and should be thoroughly investigated to prevent serious damage to the vehicle or the operator.</u>

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