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The top 5 most annoying noises in open-plan offices

...and what to do about them.

Noise is a big problem at work.

4 in 5

employees consider noise in their office to be distracting.

90%

of office workers are adversely impacted by noise.

55%

of workers have brought at least one noise complaint to the attention of their management.

Opinion Matters surveyed organisations employing over 250 employees in the UK, Germany and France (1,000 per region) in February 2015.

What do people say are the most annoying noises in open-plan offices?

More importantly, what can we do about them?

1. Noisy colleagues

Solution:

Stereo headset with active noise canceling (ANC) technology

2. Overhearing other people's calls

Solution:

Wireless headsets to allow movement away from your office desk

3. The background noise created by electronic office equipment

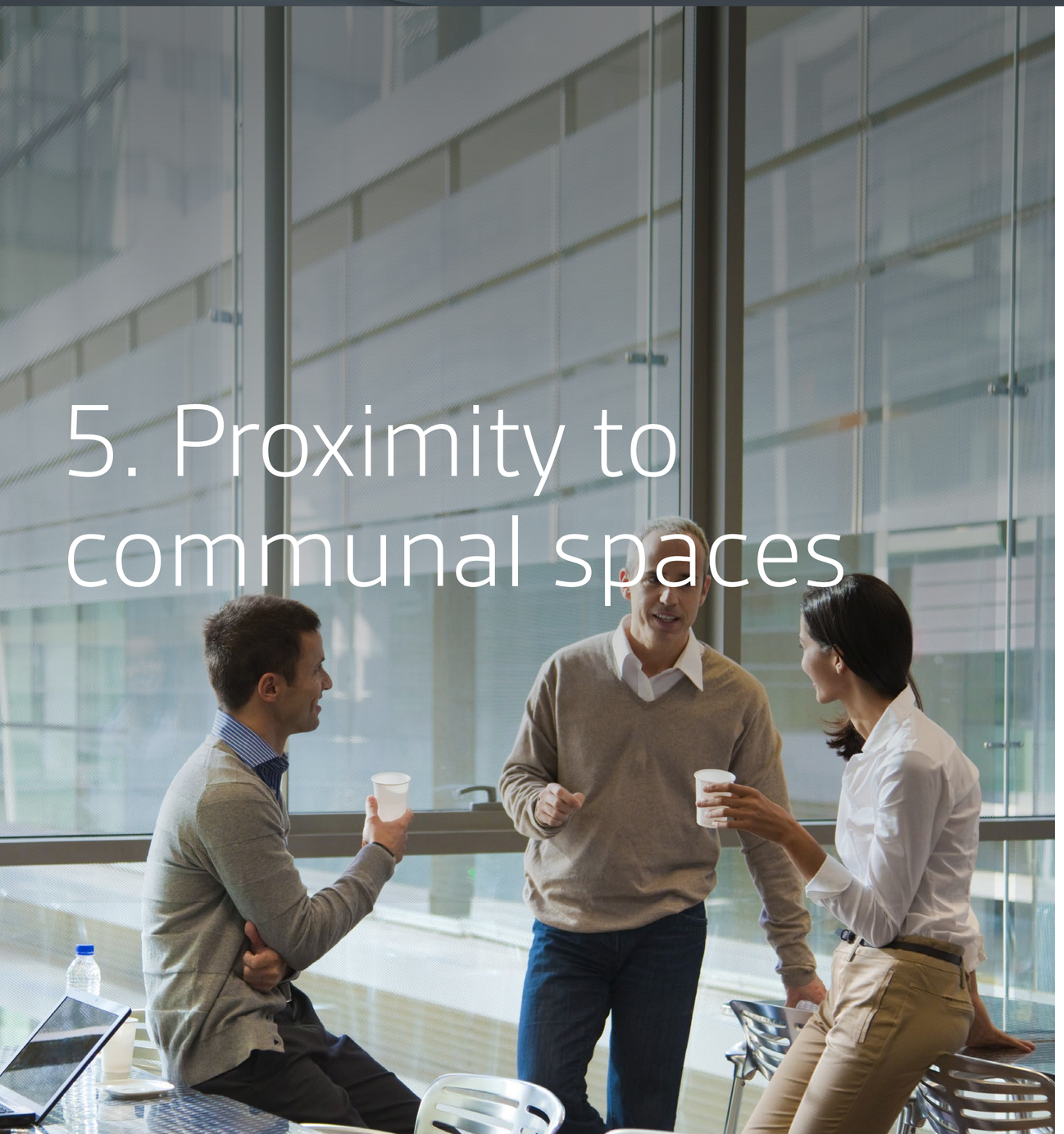
Solution:

Use masking sounds, such as pink noise or ANC technology

4. Bad office acoustics

Solution:

Install noise-absorbing ceiling tiles



5. Proximity to communal spaces

Solution:

Better acoustic workspace planning

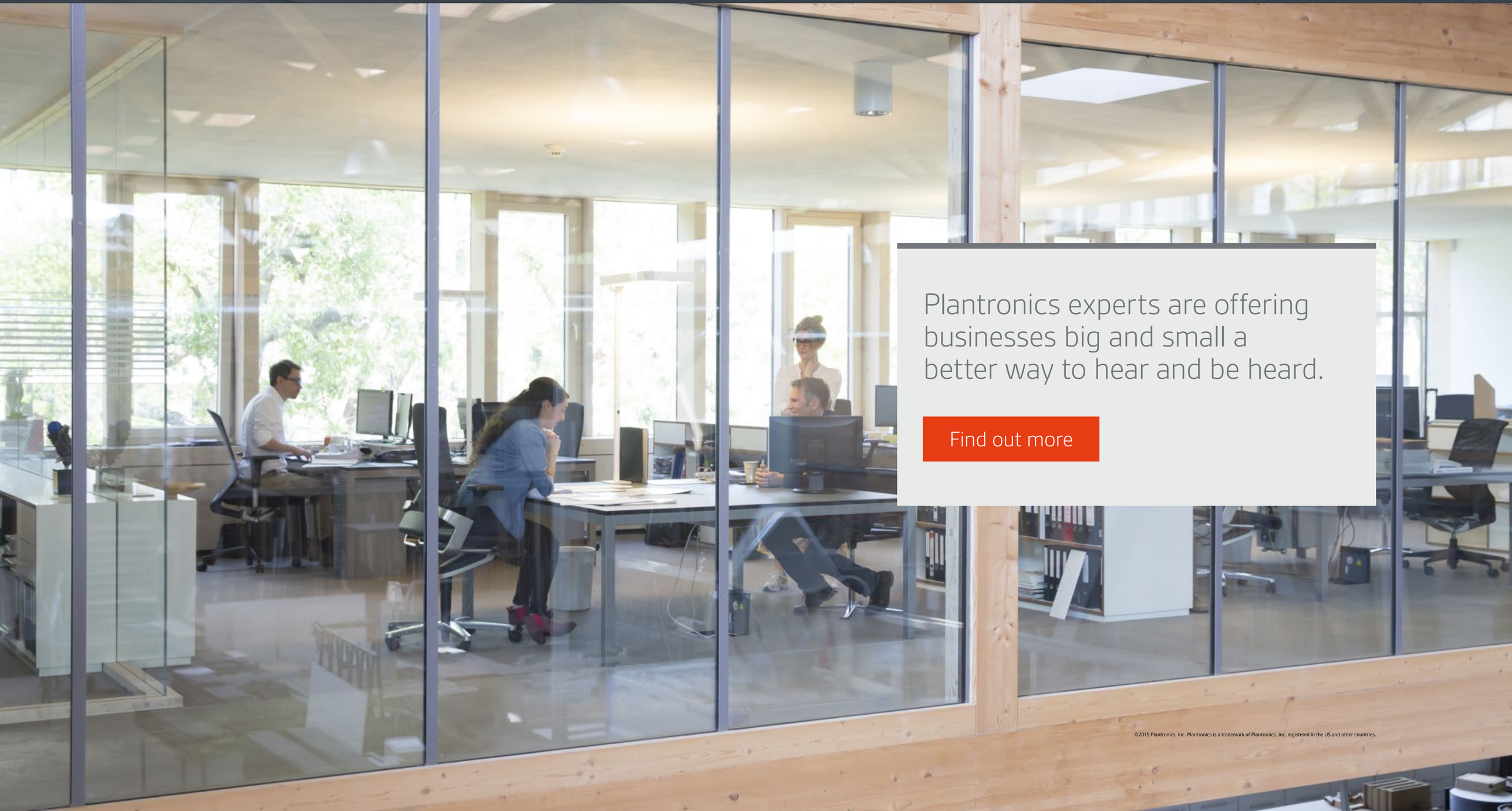
And there are other annoying noises in the office—
such as these:

People eating loudly at their desks

Heavy data entry on a keyboard

Excessive coughing

Doors opening and closing



Plantronics experts are offering businesses big and small a better way to hear and be heard.

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