

9 Important Sound Tips

(For Podcast Hosts & Guests)

Every Podcaster's Goal:

Get the best audio quality from our microphones and the recording settings as possible.

The audience deserves sound that's easy to enjoy. So let's look at some things to consider! :)

Let me know anytime you have questions! - Laura

1. Microphone / Headset / Earbuds

- Please be prepared to use the best quality option you have. At a minimum please use earbuds that have a microphone built-in.
- No computer speaker (it sounds echoey).

2. Audio only!

During the Skype call, keep will turn the video off (we can use it before and after if you like to say hello). This is for two reasons:

- Better audio quality without the video using data/juice
- You may react to body language unconsciously and leave the listener confused!

3. Increase bandwidth and strength of internet and Skype connection:

- Shut off other things running in the background (lots of open browser windows, Dropbox or Google Drive syncing, file downloads or streaming)
- "Hardwire" into your modem with a cable - no wifi (ideal!).
- Reduce competing use of bandwidth from others in house or office (if others are streaming videos or downloading large files it will affect your connection & audio quality).

4. Turn off all notifications on your computer and phone.

- Silence your cell phone
- Turn off notifications from Skype, Facebook, iMessage, Email, calendars, etc.
- Disconnect landlines in the room (if that still exists ;))

5. Where are you? Things to consider:

Avoid:

- **Rooms with hardwood floors.** [But if only option, lay rugs or blankets down to help reduce the echo. You can even set up a 'sound fort' with blankets if recording from home. That's what I did. It's fun. (Ask kids to assist building it if you have 'em)]
- **Sitting facing a wall 5 feet or less in front of you.**
- **Places with loud sounds from outside.** Even though a sound might originate several hundred feet away, we can't edit out something as loud as a church bells or fire alarms.
- **Coffee shops and co-working spaces.** You may not be able to speak at full volume and project your voice clearly and confidently. Trying to be quiet destroys audio quality.

Okay:

- **Sitting in a car** is actually okay because the upholstery soaks up reverberation. Just not while driving and turn the AC and engine off.
- **Crowded spaces like conference halls** are not too bad. We can edit ambient noises so they don't detract too much as long as you're 10 feet away from the closest person.

6. Reduce echo in room you are in and sounds from outside:

- Close doors and windows.
- Close curtains or drapes on windows.
- Strategically place sound absorbing furnishings, rugs, and blankets where needed.

7. Tell others in house or office not to disturb. :)

- Hang a little sign outside the door if needed.

8. Switch off noisy appliances

- TVs, radios, air conditioners, fans, etc.
- If your computer fan is running loudly: Go into settings and reduce the fan speed. Make sure you close out all unnecessary programs and reboot your system so you don't cause any damage.

9. Don't fidget or type on computer during interview.

- No table kicking, pen clicking, paper rustling, or typing.
- Also, avoid playing with your mic during the interview. :)
- If you want to take notes, have a pen and paper nearby.

This is going to be a great interview! Looking forward to it!

xo Laura