

Checklist: Good Audio

Evaluate audio quality



Use this checklist to evaluate audio quality for your own recordings, or when giving feedback to other instructors. If you'd like to review the key concepts included in this checklist, we recommend revisiting the lecture "Recognizing Good Audio". Create one video that satisfies all of the elements below before moving on to creating the rest of your videos. Investing the time up front will help make your course creation process both easier and faster -- we promise!



Audio is free of echo

Echo sounds like the audio is far away - like recording in a well or tunnel. This is often due to recording in a large open space, or an empty or tiled room with no carpet or cushions.



Audio is free of background noise

There are no distracting sounds in the background, like traffic, air conditioning, phones ringing, or people talking. The only thing you should hear is the audio track.



Audio is free of distortion

This sounds like an electrical static sound in your recording. It can come from your equipment not being plugged in correctly, or from having the gain turned too high in the audio settings when recording.



Audio is free from background hiss

This will sound like a raspy noise within your recording. It typically comes from using a poor quality microphone like the one built into your camera or computer.



Sound comes out of both speakers

Sometimes audio comes out of the left speaker only. This happens when the setting in the audio output is set to mono instead of stereo.



Volume is the right level

Volume isn't too low, which can happen if the microphone is too far away. Volume isn't too high, which is often due to being too close to the microphone. The ideal distance is 6-12 inches (15-30 cm).



Audio is free of "pops"

There are no popping sounds in your recording, which is especially common in words with "p's" and "t's". This will show up as unnatural spikes in the audio.