

Hints for creating a good sound recording

Practice

Before you make your first recording, please practice reading the sample passage (*Leseprobe*) a few times before actually making the recording. The passage should sound familiar to you before you begin to make a recording. If it sounds like you are practicing on the recording, you will be asked to re-record your work thereby demonstrating greater fluidity.

Environment

Record in a quiet room. Make sure there is no traffic noise. Find a time to record when other members of your living community are not present. The quieter your environment, the cleaner the recording will be. If your recording has too many extraneous noises, you will be asked to re-record your work in a quieter environment. The computer lab in Plaza 115 is an ideal room to make your recordings.

Microphone

Keep the microphone at a consistent distance from your mouth. Hold the microphone just slightly off-center from your mouth. Don't speak directly into the microphone, otherwise sounds such as "T" and "P" will make a pop or a whoosh. Hold the microphone close to your mouth but off to one side. You may have to practice a couple of times to find the perfect placement of the microphone.

No Pauses

Record the passage straight through. If you feel you've made too many mistakes. Simply re-record the passage. A few glitches here and there won't be a problem. If you've already read out loud the passage through a couple times, this should go fairly well. Please don't try to make segments of the recording and paste them together. Please make a single, seamless file.

Listen

Listen to your recording. Listen to your recording several times. You will learn a great deal about your own pronunciation by hearing your own voice. Listening critically to your own voice takes some

getting used to. The sound of your voice that you normally hear while speaking (live) is a different sound from the sound of your voice that people around you hear. The majority of the sound of your own voice is transmitted to your ears through bone conduction, not through the air. Your voice will sound very different to you in a recording from the way you are used to. It is worth getting used to the "true" sound of your voice on tape. Most people are embarrassed when they first hear a recording of themselves. But you cannot react critically to your recording if you are still at the stage of embarrassment. Listen to your voice many times until you become comfortable its sound on tape.

File Names

Please follow these rules for naming your file: Name your file using the first few letters of your last name followed by your first name then 01 for the first recording, 02 for the second recording, etc. No need for spaces or other punctuation. Here are some examples of how my own files would be named: philtim01.mp3, philtim02.mp3, etc. If you need to place more info in the file name, please put that AFTER the number. Ex.: philtim01phonrec.mp3. Please be sure that your files are all in mp3 format.

More Practice

I will return your recording to you with a sheet of corrections indicating where the trouble spots are. Work on the trouble spots. They will be indicated phonetically. If you need personal help, please come to me and we can work on your trouble spots together.

Additional Recordings

You will be asked to make a second recording of the material and mail that in for corrections. We will continue the process of recording/correcting until I feel that your pronunciation is adequate. Be prepared to e-mail your recordings as many as three or four times.

Thanks

Thanks in advance for your help in making good sound recordings and adhering to these suggestions.