

Recording Tips.

Recording Equipment: You can start recording with just your iPhone/Android/ipad/laptop and a headset (Mic and headphone combination) or just headphones, using the device's microphone. Remember, your content is the most crucial part.

Picking a place to record: While you might enjoy the echo you get singing in the shower, recording in small spaces with hard, flat surfaces will almost always mean a more reverberant-sounding recording, and that isn't what you want in your recording. If possible, record in a quiet room, one with few reflective surfaces, or lots of material that can absorb the sound: furniture, carpeting, or even a closet full of clothes can help.

Warming-up: Breathing – put your hands on your stomach and breath in, pushing it into your hands, like a balloon filling up with air. Now push the air out from your stomach all the way through the front of your mouth. Next, pretend you are a librarian shushing ornery students. Give a big, “Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!” Just remember to keep your shoulders down. Do this “Shhhhhh!” a few times.

Repeat both exercises a few times over.

Do one long “hmmmmmmmmmm.” Hold it for as long as you can. Then loosen your lips and mouth as you hum so you are not pressing your lips together. Keep your jaw and cheeks nice and loose too. Now go up and down with your hum. Alternate between descending and ascending hums. Finally, do some repetitive phrases and tongue twisters:

1. Meem, Mime, Mohm, Moom
2. Ma, Pa, Ta, Ma, Pa, Ta
3. Nine nice night nurses nursing nicely
4. I saw Susie sitting in a shoe shine shop
5. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers
6. Wayne went to Wales to watch walruses.
7. Six sleek swans swam swiftly southwards
8. How many cookies could a good cook cook
9. Four furious friends fought for the phone
10. The thirty-three thieves thought that they thrilled the throne throughout Thursday

Now give a big yawn to relax the jaw and throat.

Set up: Firstly check the levels of your recording. Nothing technical here, just record a few words then play them back – if the levels look or sound too low, increase the volume level on your mic input settings, if distorted, then lower the input levels. Somewhere in the middle is just fine.

Microphone technique: We've all heard distracting explosives or "P-Pops" before and cringed at hyper-sibilant "S" sounds. Excessive bursts of air hitting the microphone capsule cause both of these issues, and in both cases, it is a symptom of poor mic technique.

To avoid this, the simplest solution is to move off-centre from the microphone. Setting your mic up to the side, angled slightly toward your mouth, will prevent bursts of air from hitting the mic directly and can result in a smoother, more natural recording. If using a headset, then position the mic just along your chin line.

Start Recording: Having a glass of water, coffee nearby will do wonders for your voice (and your guest) if it starts to get dry, but try to avoid carbonated drinks as that will increase the chances of a burp or hiccup making its way into your recording. Don't worry about mistakes, stammers, or a little silence, just take your time and all will be fine. Please remember, once you've hit the record button to count 3 before speaking, and again before you hit the stop button count 3, once you've finished speaking.

