

Lightswitch's Guide to Self-Recorded Audio

1. Record in a quiet space.

This should be obvious, but the most important thing you can do is ensure your recording environment is as quiet as possible and has good acoustics. That same echo that makes your singing sound great in the shower can make you sound robotic in a recording. Head into a closet or even put a thick blanket over your head while you record to block out all environmental sound.

2. Get a Microphone

If you have time ahead of your recording or know this is something you will do on a regular basis, buying in a good microphone is a worthwhile investment. Something as simple as a plug-in lavalier microphone can be purchased online for as little as \$20. If that's not an option - phone microphones work in a pinch.

3. Record Multiple Takes & Break Up the Recording.

The magic of editing is that we can often take the best part of several take to create one perfect take. We always recommend both making multiple recordings of the full script, as well as recording the script line by line. This gives our editors more options in post to be sure your read sounds like it was done by a pro.

4. Use a dedicated recording app

Both iOS and Android have built dedicated apps for recording audio - Voice memos on iPhone, Google Record on Pixel, and Easy Voice Recorder for other Android phones. These will work for you in most instances

There are also "pro" options available for each. These apps often record at higher quality, save in better file formats, and do a better job of blocking out environmental audio.

Our recommendations for each (as of 2026) - Voice Record Pro on iPhone or RecForge II on Android

5. Don't put your mouth too close to the microphone

Enough said. Place the phone 4-6 inches from your mouth and talk into the same place you would if you were talking on a speaker phone call.

6. Check the audio with headphones



Before sending, put on a pair of headphones and playback your recordings. Listening through headphones vs through the phone speakers will give you a better understanding of how the recordings turned out.

7. Grab Some Room Tone

This sounds ridiculous to a non-video person but recording the sound of the space you are in for 10-20s helps your editing team isolate the "room tone" so that your voices shines through. It's simple - just record nothing, the sound of the room you are in for 10-20 seconds.