

Handout for *Audio Journals for Pronunciation*

INTESOL 2018

Audio Journal Instructions

Sample Schedule:

	Assignment
AJ 1	Read a passage, poem, or article.
AJ 2-19	Choose a prompt (see below).
AJ 20	Read the SAME passage, poem, or article from AJ 1.

Prompt Suggestions:

- **Common Problems:** Identify 1-2 common problem sounds for you and read 5-10 exercise sentences from the textbook. Practice saying the sentences again, attempting to improve the pronunciation.
- **Conversation:** With a classmate/roommate/friend, record yourselves having a conversation. Listen to it, and answer the self-evaluation questions for *your speech only*. If you do this with a classmate, both of you can share the same link for your audio journal assignments.
- **Poetry:** Read a poem of your choice. Listen to the recording and read it again, attempting to improve one sound or suprasegmental you noticed struggling with.
- **Children's book:** Read a short children's book as if you were reading to a child. Listen to the recording, identify one or two aspects of pronunciation you could improve, then read the story again.
- **Mimicry:** Record a line or two from a YouTube TV show, TED Talk, Poem of the Day, or other online audio/video clip. Press pause on the clip and repeat the line yourself, attempting to copy the pronunciation of the original. Repeat.
- **Personal Questions:** Answer one of the following questions about yourself
 - Where in the world would you like to visit? Why?
 - If you could change something in the world, what would it be? Why, and how might this be changed?
 - What is one favorite memory you have of your childhood?
 - What are three of the best meals you've ever had?
- **Academic Conversation:** Choose one of the following topics
 - Talk about a controversial issue in either your department or your field. What are the different sides of the issue? What is your opinion? Why?
 - Talk about what makes a persuasive argument. Tell a story of a time you had to convince someone of something. Compare what it takes to convince yourself vs. others.
 - Imagine someone outside your field asks you what you are studying. Answer the question so that someone who does not study in your field can understand your answer. Optional: record yourself doing this 2-3 times, each time making the description more clear and understandable (not only in pronunciation, but also in vocabulary and grammar).

How to Create an Audio Journal

Step 1: Prepare

- Choose a topic and think about what you are going to say. Gather any materials you might need during your recording. **Don't write a script of what you are going to say**, but you may make some simple notes to help you remember what you are talking about.

Step 2: Create a Recording

- Using the recording tool of your choice, record yourself for 1-2 minutes. **The recording tool must provide a link, not a file.** The following are all good options, and PDF instructions for each can be found under *Resources* on Sakai.
 - [Cloud Audio Recorder](#) – for use with Chrome on a PC/laptop
 - [Voice Record Pro](#) – for iOS
 - [Voice Recorder](#) – for Android
- [Video instructions for saving to Google Drive](#)
- Save the recording and copy the link.

Step 3: Listen to the Recording

- Listen for your pronunciation, stress, intonation, vocabulary, and grammar.








Step 4: Write a Self-Evaluation

- In a Google doc, copy and paste the link to your recording.
- Answer the questions in **full sentences**:
 1. What did you do well in this speech sample?
 2. What are one or two things you could improve in this speech sample?
 3. How do you plan to work on improving those things?
 4. Do you have any questions for the professor?

Step 5: Send a shareable link to your teacher.

- Click on "Share" → "Get shareable link" → "can edit" and copy the editable Google doc link.
- Paste the link into your LMS assignment or email.

Sample Audio Journals with Feedback

<p>https://drive.google.com/...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What did you do well in this speech sample?</i> I worked on pronounce better the contractions as you suggested me in the AJ#15, I think I did it better. In general I think I clearly pronounce the different vowels. 2. <i>What are one or two things you could improve in this speech sample?</i> The pronunciation of moustache / mas.tæʃ; I mess the right reading of the phrase "Did you pick up some bread at the bakery?", then I tried to correct it. 3. <i>How do you plan to work on improving those things?</i> I did check on the Cambridge dictionary the right pronunciation of moustache, and I written it in a key word card. 4. <i>Do you have any questions for the professor?</i> How else can I practice æ? 	<div>  <div> Lisa Oglesbee 2:57 PM Today Resolve </div> </div> <p>Yes, your use of /æ/ was different than /a/ this time!</p> <div>  <div> Lisa Oglesbee 2:57 PM Today Resolve </div> </div> <p>Silly French spellings! :)</p> <div>  <div> Lisa Oglesbee 2:59 PM Today Resolve </div> </div> <p>Rachel's English has several videos on this sound at https://rachelsenglish.com/video-categories/.</p>
<p>https://drive.google.com/f...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you do well in this speech sample? I pronounced "bearing" correctly. I used to pronounce the verb to bear like "beer". • What are one or two things you could improve in this speech sample? It seems that I spoke too fast a few times, so the thought group, or a part of it, is not understandable. • How do you plan to work on improving those things? To continue working on blending the words in thought groups. • Do you have any questions for the professor? I have no questions. 	<div>  <div> Lisa Oglesbee 3:46 PM Nov 9 Resolve </div> </div> <p>Good! They are different sounds.</p> <div>  <div> Lisa Oglesbee 3:57 PM Nov 9 Resolve </div> </div> <p>One thing you could work on is your vowel+r combinations: ar, er, or, & eyr as in car, early, sort, and hair. The Pronunciation Pairs book has some exercises on these, and Rachel's English does too.</p> <div>  <div> Lisa Oglesbee 3:46 PM Nov 9 Resolve </div> </div> <p>And maybe slow down a bit!</p>
<p>https://drive.google.com/sdk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you do well in this speech sample? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ I think by pausing in the right time, it helps people to better understand my words • What are one or two things you could improve in this speech sample? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ I need to give strong stress for the key words • How do you plan to work on improving those things? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ I will listen to the news video to see how they are saying to deliver the information to us and try to imitate it. 	<div>  <div> Lisa Oglesbee 3:32 PM Nov 9 Resolve </div> </div> <p>yes!</p> <div>  <div> Lisa Oglesbee 3:32 PM Nov 9 Resolve </div> </div> <p>I would suggest inserting more emotion in your speech. Don't be afraid to exaggerate!</p>

Setting up & Using Voice Record Pro on your iPhone



Instructions in green are
one-time setup steps.

12 January, 2017



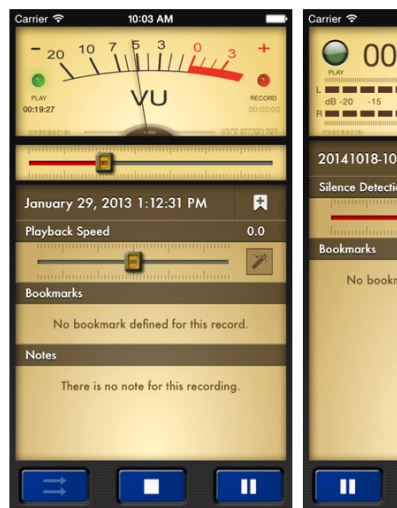
Get the App

Find the **FREE** app in the App Store
Install it and open it



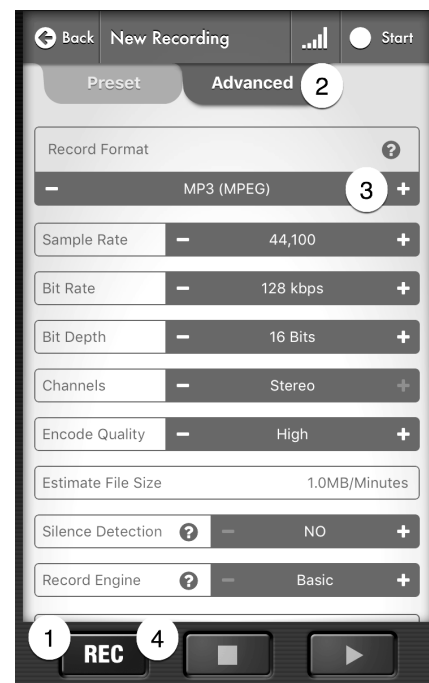
Voice Record Pro
Dayana Networks Ltd
★★★★★ (217)

Offers Apple Watch App



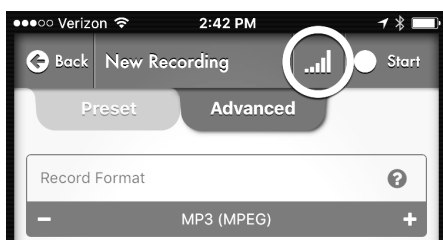
Record (and Choose MP3)

1. Press **REC**
2. tap **Advanced** tab
3. **Record Format**: press + for MP3

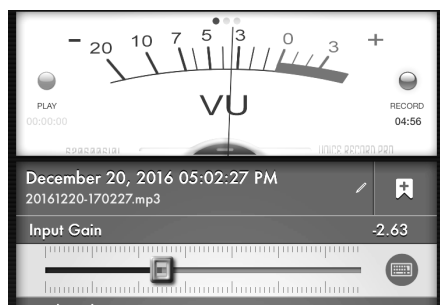


Adjust the Volume

Press the **bars** icon at the top
in order to see the VU meter screen.



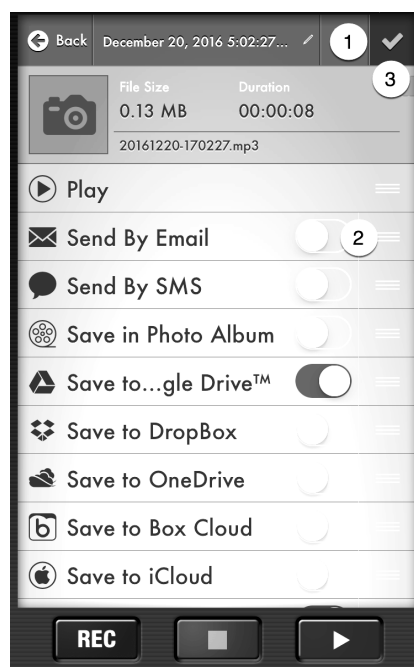
Drag the slider to adjust the **Input Gain** (record volume level)



Press the blue **check** button (bottom)
to return to the New Recording screen
And press **REC** to start recording.

Simplify the Options

1. Tap **menu** icon (top right)
2. Hide most options; keep Google Drive and others seen at right.
3. Tap the **check** icon (top right)



Save the File

Tap **Save to Google Drive**

