

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## Using Podcasts and sound files in and out of the Languages Classroom

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Scenario: Students can find it difficult to remember how to say the words correctly especially if they only have your language twice a week, like my Year 9 class.

Solution: Provide them with sound files with the words that you are learning on them.

Examples: CD – word list read on it and other listening exercises or songs on it. Upload mp3 files and Podcasts onto the student drive for them to listen to.

What are MP3 files? They are sound files which are smaller than WAV or normal CD files. The sound is compressed, but not often noticeably different if it is just a voice speaking.

### Programs

To record sound: "Audacity" or "Sound recorder" or if you have a voice recorder and a microphone if using computer software. This goes into the red/pink socket on most IBM compatibles, or the microphone socket of a laptop, but often built in on a Mac.

Audacity can also be used to record off cassettes.

### Steps

1. What? Work out what you want there to be in your CD / website
2. Record it – using voice recorder / computer program
3. Convert to MP3 – Import your files into I-Tunes and convert them on this or type in "MP3 convertor" into Google and there are free downloads
4. Incorporate into your

(a) CD – using i-Tunes or similar

(b) web page – with a hyperlink (in Dreamweaver or Front Page or Microsoft Word).

(c) student drive

Use "Windows Explorer" for filing.

i-Tunes – A program put out by Apple. You can pay to download songs and pay per track. You can also download some things for free. It is very clear on the site what is free and what costs and extra dialogue boxes come up so you confirm any subscription or payment.

Podcasts – A podcast is like a radio program, but you have to download it in i-Tunes before you can listen to it. They are already in MP3 format. i-Tunes is free to download

<http://www.apple.com/itunes/overview/> and you don't need a Mac!

Subscribing to a Podcast – Either go to the website of the podcast and hit the subscribe button or on the menu go to "Advanced" and "subscribe to podcast" and type in the address or go to the i-Tunes. Store and search for Podcasts and then by Education category. Most are languages! Spanish, Chinese, French, Italian and Japanese.

Once you have downloaded these and if there is one of interest to your students if you go to "My Music" and the "iTunes" folder look for the "Podcast" folder and the album's name and select the track and you can copy it to your student drive or put it on your CD

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