

Recommended Microphones



Entry Level: Be heard and understood (\$50-100)

Want your students to be able to make out what you're saying, and limit the amount of background noise picked up in your Zoom sessions? We recommend a USB headset mic over earbuds or the in-built microphone on a laptop. Most products put out by Logitech, Sennheiser or Microsoft in the last 2-3 years should be fine for your purposes.

HEADSETS:

- [Logitech H390](#) (\$50-60)
- [Logitech H540](#) (\$70)
- [Microsoft Lifechat LX-3000](#) (\$90)
- [Sennheiser SC 165](#) (\$90)
- [Sennheiser GSP 300](#) Gaming Headset (\$99)

Headsets are great for video/web conferencing, but for recording the audio for video or podcasts we would generally recommend a separate microphone (with earbuds or headphones to monitor the sound).

MICROPHONES:

- [Fifine K669b](#) (\$60 often found for less) We haven't tested this mic but it has decent reviews. The USB cable is fixed to the mic, however, and is very short. Flimsy stand.
- [Blue Snowball iCE](#) (\$70) Easy to set up, good-looking basic mic with ok sound. Lacks headphone socket for monitoring output.
- [Blue Snowball](#) (\$100) Used to be the 'go-to' mic for those starting out in podcasting/audio recording. Has an extra condenser capsule and an extra pattern over the iCE version. Still widely used but there are mics with better sound at a similar price (e.g Samson Q2U, ATR 2100). As a Condenser mic be careful if you are recording in a noisy environment.
- [Samson Q2U](#) (\$90) An excellent entry-level dynamic mic (i.e great with noisy environments) with USB and XLR connections and a headphone port for monitoring sound output. Downside: very often backordered or out of stock.

Mid-Level: Step it up a bit (\$100-150)

Want noticeably improved sound quality on the above? Try a higher-end headset mic, or a set of separate headphones paired with one of the external microphones below.

WEBCAM WITH BUILT-IN MIC:

- [Logitech C925e](#) (\$130) 1080p HD video quality with a decent microphone built-in for video calls

HEADSETS:

- [Logitech H650e](#) (\$129) Excellent for Zoom or Teams but we would recommend a separate microphone and headphones for recording audio or video.

- Apple AirPods/Samsung Galaxy Buds/Microsoft Surface Earbuds (\$varies) Great for video calls but we wouldn't recommend these for recording audio for video or podcasts.

MICROPHONES:

- [Shure MV5](#) (\$140) Great looking and very good sound from this USB mic. Also works well with mobile devices e.g iPad/iPhone with the ShurePlus Motiv iOS App/
- [Rode Podmic](#) (\$139) (XLR output only so needs an audio interface)
- [Rode NT-USB Mini](#) (\$139) Compact, excellent sound and an in-built pop filter from this plug and play mic. Also works well with mobile devices.
- [Blue Yeti Nano](#) (\$140) Excellent design and great sound quality from this USB Condenser mic. As with its big sister use in a quiet environment and beware picking up keyboard or desk sounds.
- [Audio-Technica ATR2100](#) (\$149 or \$99 refurbished at Best Buy) A dynamic mic very similar to the Samson Q2U (XLR and USB inputs plus a headphone jack for monitoring). Excellent sound quality but you will need to speak very closely to the mic. Use a pop filter! [A new 'X' version](#) uses a USB-C connector.

Higher Level: Go (almost) pro (\$150+)

Want to sound like a real pro? Separate headphones and an external microphone are recommended. We like these mics:

- [Blue Yeti](#) (\$180-200) The mic that launched a million podcasts is still an excellent choice. Four different polar patterns, USB plug and play, headphone jack and volume control/gain for monitoring and a lovely warm sound. Downside: it's very sensitive so use in a quiet environment and ideally with a boom arm/shock mount even though the stand is very sturdy.
- [Audio-Technica ATR2020 USB+](#) (\$220) Crisp and professional sound from the USB version of this popular studio mic. The non-USB versions of the ATR2020 can be found for cheaper but you will need to use them with an audio interface.
- [Rode Podcaster USB](#) A dynamic microphone that gives you that warm, radio-quality sound. Plug and play but you'll need a stand or boom arm as it doesn't come with one. Comes with Rode's 10 year warranty. An XLR-only version is also available.
- Zoom H6 A pro-level portable 6-track recording device that can also act as an audio interface for XLR microphones.

n.b. Most of the above recommendations are for home or office use and may not be suited to classroom use. Also note that many of the microphones and headsets listed may be currently back ordered or low on stock at popular retailers such as Amazon or Best Buy.

Microphone icon by Amethyst Studio from the Noun Project

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