

Recording and submitting audio recordings using mobile phones

A simple, fast & free way for students to:
record their voices
send the audio files to the teacher
listen to other students' recordings



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Not needed
language lab computers a room LMS money
tech skills computer-literate students effort

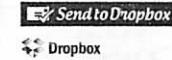
A simple, fast & free way for students to:
record their voices
send the audio files to the teacher
listen to other students' recordings

Needed
mobile devices & earphones audio recording app
Teacher: Dropbox & Send to Dropbox accounts

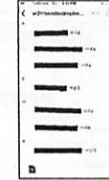
Students
Record voice
& rename file



Students
Send file to teacher's
Send to Dropbox
email address



Teacher
Gets public link to
Dropbox folder &
informs students



Students
Click on files
& listen



Students Listening tasks, self & peer-assessment,
follow-up speaking tasks

Teacher Grading, feedback on pronunciation &
language, etc

Recording & listening tasks
picture dictation: describe a picture > listen & draw
intonation practice podcasting
role-plays pronunciation practice
story telling: narrative & tenses fluency practice
book reports self-assessment peer-assessment
recording a chain story discussion prompts
movie reports presentation practice

I won't focus much on specific recording & listening tasks, as it's really the workflow I want to share with you.

I will:

- explain the web services you need, & how to configure them
- explain audio-recording app requirements, & suggest some apps
- explain the process step-by-step
- describe some example recording tasks



Free account is OK, as audio files are small



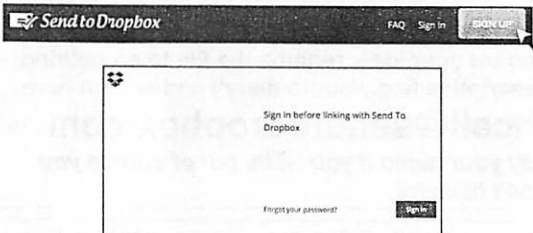
Free account

One slightly tricky email address:
richard_f18c@sendtodropbox.com

Pro account (\$3 month / \$29 year)

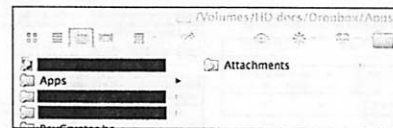
Unlimited, changeable, email addresses:
rhcall@sendtodropbox.com

sendtodropbox.com



Enter your **Dropbox** login info:
- creates a **Send to Dropbox** account
- links it to your **Dropbox** account
- creates folders in your **Dropbox**

Creates 'Apps' folder (if it's not already there)

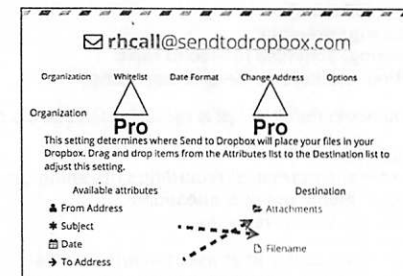


Creates 'Attachments' folder

Files sent as email attachments to your **Send to Dropbox** email address appear here

You don't receive the email, just the attachment (but you can configure to receive any text in the email as a text file)

Settings are made at sendtodropbox.com (sign in using your Dropbox login info)



Pro account

Available attributes: From Address, Subject, Date. Destination: Attachments, To Address, Filename.

Attachments: rhcall@sendtodropbox.com Richard Hawking CALL test.m4a

Free account

Available attributes: From Address, To Address, Date. Destination: Attachments, Subject, Filename.

Attachments: CALL test Richard Hawking CALL test.m4a

Text in email subjects is not case-sensitive

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Audio recording app requirements

- Free (or already on device)
- Able to rename files
- Records in a suitable file format

.m4a .mp3 .mp4 *small files, compatible*

.wav .aiff *large files*

Obscure Android formats
.3ga .amr .3gp *incompatible*

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Recording app recommendations

iPhone iOS 7 **Voice Memos .m4a**

iPhone iOS 6 **Recordium Free .mp4 'good'**
selectable format & quality store 3 files only in-app

iPad

Android **Hi-Q MP3 Free .mp3**
selectable bit rate: default is OK 10 min max per recording

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Top tips

Become confident with the process before setting a task.

If you plan for students to listen to recordings in a PC room, first check how the files play.

Make sure all students have a suitable device & recording app (or are able to share with others).

In the *Send to Dropbox* settings, uncheck 'Overwrite the file'.

When there's already a file at the specified path...
Overwrite the file
Index the file, for example text.txt => text (1).txt

Tell students to start every recording by saying their name.

Do a test-run with your students, there *will* be mistakes ...

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Tips for successful voice recordings

Voice

- Speak loudly (not too loudly!) and clearly.
- Don't speak too quickly, or too slowly.
- Don't speak with a flat reading voice.
- Make sure your voice goes up and down, and sounds interesting.
- Take care with pronunciation, especially take care to avoid 'katakana' sounds.
- Remember to pause often.

Recording

- Record in a quiet place.
- Record it many times, and then choose the best recording.
- Check the length is OK.
- Rename the file correctly.
- Send it to the correct email address.
- Go to the link the teacher gave you, and make sure your file is there.

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Flexible

Record in-class or as homework

Files accessed in Dropbox folder, or uploaded to L.M.S.

Listen in-class, in PC room, or as homework

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Example tasks

Self-introduction speech - Story about an unlucky day

Class 1 (90 mins)

- Listening: exemplars
- Speaking: activities related to topic
- Writing: brainstorm ideas & start script

- Homework: finish script & record + send audio file

Class 2 (90 mins)

- Listening: classmates' recordings (listening groups)
- Writing: memo notes & questions
- Speaking: Q&A & reporting

- Homework: Self & peer-assessment activities

Class 3 (20 mins)

- Feedback

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Self & peer-assessment

For homework, go to the link the teacher gave you and listen to your voice recording. While you are listening, complete this form. Please think deeply, and write carefully.

Please also listen to the voice recordings of two other students - but not the students whose recordings you listened to in class today. While you are listening, complete these forms.

Keep this paper to class next week.

Voice Recording 2 Self-assessment

Name: _____

Length of audio	1	How many times did you record yourself?	Yes	Maybe	No
Did your story have enough information?	Yes	No			
How was your voice?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
Loud enough? speed OK? speaking smoothly?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
How was your intonation? (did your voice go up & down, & sound interesting?)	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
How was your pronunciation?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	

Write 3 words you think you pronounced poorly here:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

How was your vocabulary?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor
How was your grammar?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor

Write 2 sentences you used which you think show your grammar here:

1. _____ 2. _____

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Voice Recording 2 Peer-assessment

Student's name (not your name): _____

Length of audio	1	How easy was it to understand them?	Easy	A little difficult	Difficult
How was their voice?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
Loud enough? speed OK? speaking smoothly?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
How was their intonation? (did their voice go up & down, & sound interesting?)	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
How was their pronunciation?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
How was their vocabulary?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
How was their grammar?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	

Voice Recording 2 Peer-assessment

Student's name (not your name): _____

Length of audio	1	How easy was it to understand them?	Easy	A little difficult	Difficult
How was their voice?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
Loud enough? speed OK? speaking smoothly?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
How was their intonation? (did their voice go up & down, & sound interesting?)	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
How was their pronunciation?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
How was their vocabulary?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	
How was their grammar?	Very good	Good	OK	Poor	

How could you use this process with your students?

Record your idea, rename the file to something descriptive (e.g., 'audio diary') and send it here:

rhcall@sendtodropbox.com

Say your name if you wish, but of course you don't have to!

Then go to this link & listen to other people's ideas:

goo.gl/z4ktzj

There's no rush to record or listen, as the link will be active for a few weeks.

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