

Zoom

Setting up for your online voice lesson

Zoom is the most familiar option, and it works on just about anything you already own. These steps take about ten minutes the first time, and about thirty seconds every lesson after that.

Works on: Mac, Windows, iPad and Android tablets, iPhone and Android phones.

Before your first lesson

- **Headphones with a cord**

This one matters more than everything else on this page. With headphones on, my voice goes straight into your ears. Without them, my voice comes out of your speakers, goes back into your microphone, and I hear myself again a moment later. Wireless earbuds such as AirPods look tidy and add a small lag of their own, so reach for a pair with a cord.

- **A room where you can sing out**

A door you can close helps. Bare walls and floors bounce your voice around, so a rug, a curtain or even a bed nearby soaks that up and makes you easier to hear.

- **Your device plugged in**

Video calls drain a battery quickly.

Setting up, once

1. **Install Zoom ahead of time**

Go to zoom.us/download on a computer, or install Zoom Workplace from the App Store or Google Play. Installing during the lesson costs us singing time.

2. **Open Zoom and sign in**

A free account is all you need. You can also join straight from the lesson link without an account.

3. **Check your microphone**

Open Settings, then Audio. Speak at your normal volume and watch the input bar move. Sing a comfortable note and watch it again.

4. **Turn off audio processing**

In Settings, then Audio, choose Original Sound for Musicians and turn on High Fidelity Music Mode. Zoom smooths out background noise by default, and that smoothing also flattens a singing voice.

5. **Turn off Automatically adjust microphone volume**

It sits in the same Audio panel. With it off, your loud notes stay loud and your quiet notes stay quiet.

Joining your lesson

1. Click the link I send you

It opens Zoom and takes you straight to the lesson.

2. Allow the microphone and camera

Your device asks once. Say yes to both.

3. Turn on Original Sound

Look for the Original Sound button at the top left of the meeting window and switch it on. This is worth doing every lesson.

4. Put your headphones on

Then sing a few notes so we can both hear how you are coming through.

If something is not working

- **I hear an echo**

Someone is not wearing headphones. It is nearly always that.

- **My voice cuts out on long notes**

Original Sound is off. Switch it on at the top left.

- **The picture keeps freezing**

Turn your camera off for a few minutes. Audio matters more than video in a voice lesson.

- **Nobody can hear me**

Check the microphone icon at the bottom left, and check Settings, then Audio, to confirm the right microphone is chosen.

Zoom's own guide, with steps for every device

https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/article?id=zm_kb&sysparm_article=KB0060732