

Tips for recording interviews with smartphones:

### **LISTEN TO YOUR ROOM**

1. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Check the acoustics in the room where you are recording. Is there an echo? An echo will make your recording sound bad. Clap your hands or call out to check for an echo. Smaller rooms are better than large rooms. A room with lots of fabric, carpets and soft furnishings is better than a room with lots of tiles or mirrors or hard surfaces. Opening a window can also help to reduce an echo. (But make sure the outside noise isn't too distracting.)
2. Can you hear background noises like a computer fan or air conditioning? Ask to switch them off. A constant hum is very distracting.
3. A café or a conference room with lots of talking in the background can often be a better place to record than an echoey room. But beware music. That can be very distracting and make editing very difficult. Make sure any background music is switched off, or choose a different space.
4. Put your phone into AIRPLANE MODE. This will prevent the recording being interrupted by phone calls or messages or notifications. And ask your interview partner to put their phone into AIRPLANE MODE as well. (It isn't enough to put the phone on silent, as the vibrations from an incoming notification, message or phone call will disturb the recording.)

### **LISTEN TO YOUR VOICES**

5. Who has the loudest voice? You or your interview partner? The smartphone should be closer to the person with the quietest voice. If necessary, you can move the phone back and forth between yourself and your interview partner. But try to avoid moving the phone too much as this can distort the audio. If you do need to move it, pause and make sure the phone is still before you or your interview partner starts speaking again.
6. Ideally if you are recording an interview, you could think about doing it on two phones. Record your voice on one phone and your interview partner's voice on the second phone.
7. Check where the microphone is on your phone. Don't talk directly into the microphone. Ideally it should be placed it about 15 cm from the side of your head.

8. If you are using two phones, you could each use the microphone on a set of earphones. Put the microphone into a buttonhole on a jacket, or hold the cable in your fingers.



(Make sure you don't touch the microphone itself, as that will distort the sound.) You could also place phones in breast pockets.

9. Try not to talk at the same time as your interview partner. If necessary, repeat the question or ask them to repeat their answer. If a loud noise disturbs your interview, repeat the question and the answer.
10. When you have finished your recording, please record 2 minutes of the room atmosphere. This sound will help during the edit.

#### **GEEK TIPS**

11. For the adventurous: you can use a Bluetooth or USB microphone to enhance recordings or use apps such as Ferrite or Voice Record Pro