

## Digital Storytelling tutorials

### 6. Recording your voiceover

The quality of your narration will depend on the quality of your equipment. For high quality recordings it is best to use a good quality microphone and to purchase a pre-amp which takes a low-level mic signal and amplifies it to line level.

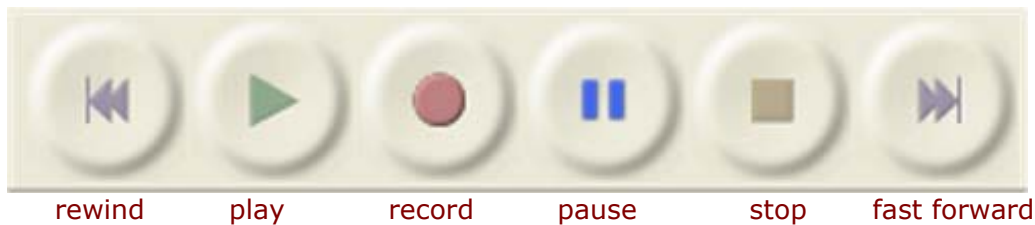
For general projects however I recommend using Audacity (sound editor). Record into Audacity and amplify the sound file before saving. This maximises the volume without losing quality.

While you can also record directly into the timeline of Moviemaker or use a digital voice recorder and upload the files to your PC you are likely to find that the volume and quality is compromised.

By using Audacity, you are also able to blend your voiceover with music or sound effects so that they play at the same time. Refer to the **Mixing voice and music files using Audacity** information sheet.

#### Using Audacity

Open Audacity and plug your microphone into the computer. The recording buttons are much like a cassette player...

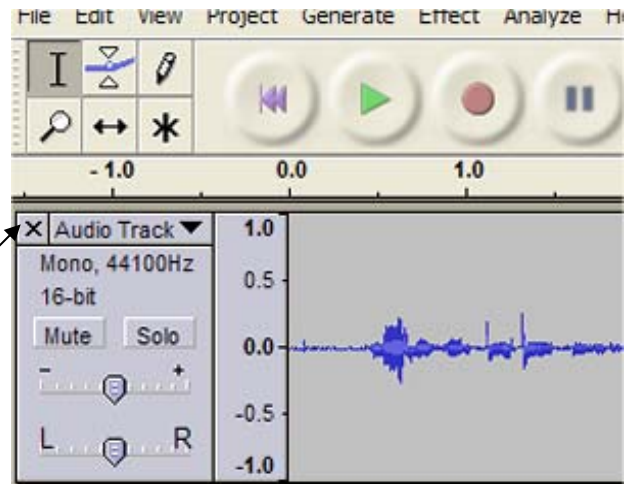


Take time to test the positioning of the microphone and the volume of your voice.

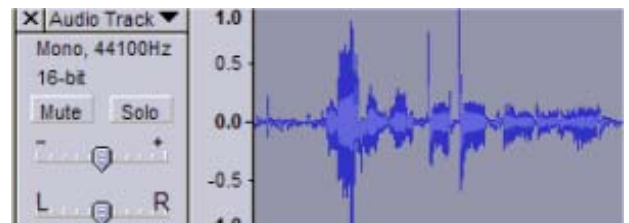
The sound wave produced should be clearly visible within the upper and lower reaches of the wave band.

Delete unwanted recordings by clicking the small **X** located in the top left corner of the recording.

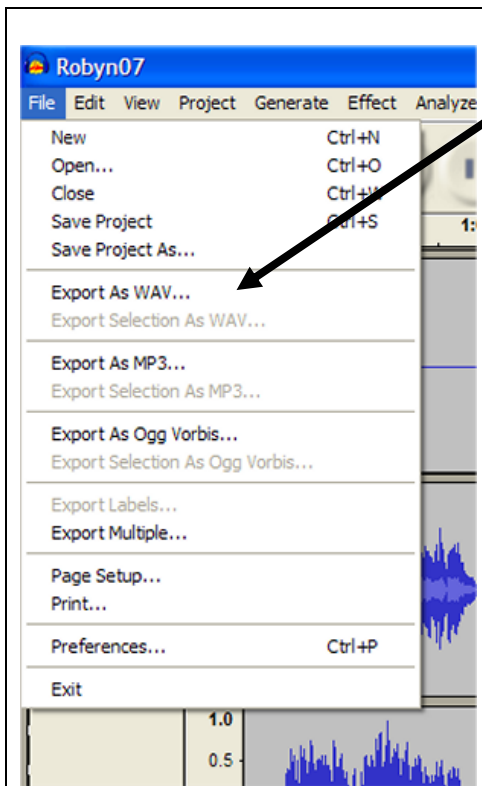
When you are happy with the recording select the file ( **EDIT - SELECT - ALL** ) and then amplify the recording... ( **EFFECT - AMPLIFY** ) This maximises the volume without losing quality.



BEFORE AMPLIFYING



AFTER AMPLIFYING SAME FILE



Finally **EXPORT AS WAV** from the FILE pulldown menu

Save your new file onto your computer in the folder with your other project files and close Audacity.

Import into your Moviemaker project by clicking on IMPORT AUDIO or MUSIC in the Moviemaker Tasks Pane, locating the file and clicking IMPORT (or by double clicking on the file).

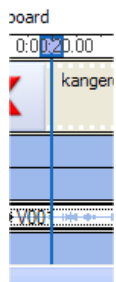
*NOTE - If you want music to play at the same time as your voiceover you will need to mix the 2 first using AUDACITY and then import as a merged file.*

**See *Mixing voice and music files using Audacity information sheet.***

*You may decide to import the voice file first to develop your project and then replace it with a mixed file at a later time when you have a better idea of what music you want to include.*

## Adjusting the volume

Once you have recorded your voiceover (or imported your voice files into the timeline) you can adjust the volume by right clicking on the file. Some options will pop up. Select VOLUME and adjust.



## Editing the file

If you made a mistake in the voice recording or if you want to adjust the order in which things are said you can edit the file using the SPLIT function. Select the voice file by clicking on it (it will turn whiter) and click the play button.

Zoom in to provide more control.

Click the pause button at the point you want to cut so the blue line stops at that point.

Select SPLIT from the CLIP pulldown menu.

The file will split into 2 parts.

To delete one of those parts select the portion to discard by clicking on it in the timeline and then click DELETE on your computer keyboard.

If you are removing a segment from the middle of a voice file you will first need to make another SPLIT at the end of the segment to be deleted.

