

Tab 1



*If you're thinking of working with us,
let us help BEFORE you start trying things
you saw on the internet or heard from friends.*

Free "Get Started in VO" Course

[Demo standards](#) • Free [Audition \(scripts\)](#) • Free [Consulting \(testimonials\)](#) •
Thousands of [Practice Scripts](#)

How to Start FREE

Who Should Take Training?

You can and should start by [scrolling down](#) to the free resources below.

You cannot sign up for School of Voiceover training online, as we do not accept everyone. You must first [pass an audition](#) and do a [consulting call](#) about your goals and expectations. [Other training requirements are here.](#)

The school offers a variety of paid options from as few as three sessions, to full curriculum training, to lifetime training and support. With larger package discounts, training sessions can cost as low as \$29 each.

Find Work

Become familiar with the online marketplaces where voiceover talent are hired. There are three types of marketplace. In the first two, buyers can hire you through the marketplace, and the marketplace spends money to attract buyers to find you.

1. **Audition** (usually P2P)
Audition for work. Usually requires paying a fee to audition (P2P means "Pay to Play")
2. **Freelance**
List yourself as available for work. Some let you apply for listed jobs, others require buyers to find you
3. **Listing Only**
Watch out for scams (e.g. pay us to update your demo and we'll list you) or unhelpful listings (e.g. training companies listing students, no promotion to buyers) or paying to be listed with no evidence of buyers seeing listings.

Check these resources:

1. [Where to find work online](#)
2. Gig aggregators: [Google](#) • [Backstage](#)
3. [How much to charge?](#)
4. [Find casting companies](#) (or scroll down to learn more)

Find Character Auditions:

1. CCC: [Discord](#) – [Website](#) (Casting Call Club) • [Gigs page](#)
2. VAC: [Discord](#) – [Forum](#) (Voice Acting Club)
3. [Voice Acting Casting on X](#) (other keywords work as well)
4. [Bluesky social network](#) (apps: [Google](#) • [Apple](#)) search for #castingcall, or check [VA casting calls](#)
5. [X Casting Aggregator](#)
6. [Amino voice acting community](#)
7. Voice Acting Guild [Discord](#) (primarily networking)
8. Search Reddit Forums [One](#) • [Two](#) • [Three](#) (build a little karma—[here are some tips](#)— before engaging)

Acting and Speech Skills

1. [Steps to learning performance skills](#)
2. [What is Voiceover?](#)
3. [How does Dubbing Work?](#)
4. [Map your Imagination](#)
5. [Improve your Speech](#)
6. [Scripts](#)

The Three Pillars of Acting:

1. Facts and Truth (Information "Duty to Truth")
2. Caring and Connection (People "Duty to Others")
3. Personal Desire (Self-interest and Feelings "Duty to Self")

This is sometimes expressed as what you say must include:

1. TRUTH: It must matter, be true, not be optional or vague.
2. CONNECTION: Be shared person to person, not sold, lectured or announced.
3. FEELING: What you believe comes from your personal feelings, needs, and desires.

A short sentence that is an example of all three:

"I love to do what I want (personal desire), because that's the best way to live your life (truth) ... and so do you (connection)."

All 3 pillars in one approach:

Make it matter by speaking as if someone is right, someone is wrong, and being wrong is disastrous. Choose:

YOU'RE RIGHT (I was wrong)

"Thank you for helping me see what a mistake I was making..."

WE'RE RIGHT (Everyone else is wrong)

"You get it, what's wrong with everybody else?"

I'M RIGHT (You're wrong)

"How do you not see this is a disaster? What's wrong with you?"

Equipment and Home Studio

Convert low-quality audio to high-quality audio for free

For example, convert audio recorded on your phone or in a poor recording environment. This is a way to get started without spending ANY money, but realize if you audition for paid work you will need to set up a studio to provide it. Start with an inexpensive [Echo Erase Studio Stand](#).

These free tools change quickly, have limitations, and offer features that also change, so be sure to check more than one. All or most of these tools use AI to convert your audio:

1. <https://podcast.adobe.com/en/enhance>
2. <https://cleanvoice.ai/>
3. <https://podcastle.ai/tools/magic-dust>
4. <https://auphonic.com/features#denoise>

Home Studio and Production

1. [Set up an Echo Erase stand](#)
2. [Home Studio Equipment suggestions](#)
7. [Demo Standards](#)
3. [Audacity for Voiceover](#)
4. [Home studio certification](#)
5. More [Home studio tips](#)

Microphone Standards: click the arrow at left to read more—looks like this: >

We recommend equipment that exceeds all minimum standards, and includes useful features, at the lowest cost compared to whatever is reliably in stock now.

Top Priority

1. Unidirectional (NOT omnidirectional) condenser (NOT dynamic) with cardioid, super cardioid or hyper cardioid (figure 8 pattern not recommended) polar pattern

2. Overly sensitive mics do not make you sound noticeably better, but make your studio and mouth sounds noticeably worse. Best to choose a sensitivity between:
 - a. mV/Pa Low: 7 • High: 24
 - b. dBV Low: -43 • High: -32 (also called "dBV/Pa")
 - c. Diaphragm size generally 22-26mm (size influences sensitivity)

Second Priority

1. Flat-ish frequency response, esp. no big lift in low-mid frequency response (e.g RODE NT1-A not ideal for VO)
2. Self-noise: below -19dB-A, which Neumann calls "good enough".
3. Signal-to-noise ratio (S/N R) 77 dB-A or higher.

When Sensitivity is Deceptive:

The closer you are to a mic, the louder your voice is in comparison to echoes and background noise. Closer increases the quality of your studio—you sound better, studio sounds quieter, as long as mouth noise is under control.

Comparing mics that force you back with mics that don't can be very misleading. Sensitivity ratings are all taken at the same distance, but you won't be able to do voiceover at the same distance on all mics.

Getting closer to a less sensitive mic can be indistinguishable from being farther from a more sensitive mic. The farther you get from a mic, the less sensitive it is, and the less warm you will sound.

Two kinds of mics force you to get farther away:

- Overly sensitive mics picks up too much mouth noise, so you have to back off, making your studio worse
- Shotgun mics have a physical tube that forces you back.

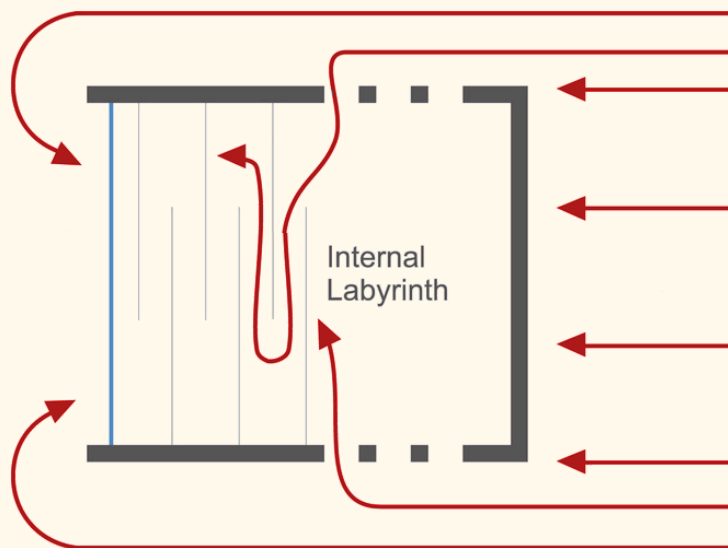
What Makes Condenser Mics Unidirectional

Most condenser microphones are pressure-gradient devices, which means their diaphragms are exposed to sound waves from both the front and the back. This arrangement allows the microphone to respond to the difference in pressure (the gradient) between the two sides of the diaphragm.

If sound comes directly from the side, the pressure is equal on both sides of the diaphragm, resulting in no output signal. For sounds arriving from front or rear,

the pressure difference creates movement of the diaphragm. By controlling how much and how quickly sound reaches the back of the diaphragm (with ports and labyrinths), manufacturers can create specific directional traits.

Designs based purely on front pressure are called pressure microphones and are omnidirectional, so the use of time-delaying labyrinths and acoustic ports is fundamental to the directional properties of most condenser microphones. Simplified version of directionally sensitive pressure gradient from ducted microphone labyrinth ([from this article](#)), where red arrows indicate the path of sound routed to interfere with itself:



Microphone directional (polar) patterns ([learn more here](#)) include Cardioid, Supercardioid, Hypercardioid, and Figure-8 (rare: Subcardioid or Boundary/PZM).

More Marketing: Find Casting Companies

More and more companies are creating public Discords. These are like forums where you can connect with employees of a company, and /or the community they serve. Companies are also engaging on public Discord servers in the areas they serve, such as online gaming. To search for a company's online Discord form that is open or partly open to the public, you can use several strategies:

Direct Search on Discord:

- Join the Official Discord Server: If the company has an official Discord server, join it. Companies often provide links to forms in dedicated channels or pinned messages.

- Use Discord's Search Functionality: Inside the Discord server, use the search bar to look for terms like "form," "survey," "application," or other relevant keywords.

Web Search:

- Google Search: Use specific search queries on Google. For example: "company name" Discord form
"company name" Discord survey
"company name" site:discord.com
"company name" application form site:discord.com
- Social Media and Company Websites: Check the company's social media profiles (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn) and official website. They often share links to forms on these platforms.

Community and Forum Search:

- Reddit: Search for the company's subreddit or related subreddits where community members might share links to Discord forms. Example search: site:reddit.com "company name" Discord form
- Other Forums: Look for gaming or tech forums where discussions about the company might occur. Members of these forums often share useful links.

By combining these methods, you can efficiently locate a company's public or semi-public Discord forms.

Networking with Game Companies

Find The Devs

See who the developers are for the game. Search for the company name or game name on:

- Discord: Look for a Dedicated Server for the company or game
- Social Media: Reddit, X (twitter), Tik-Tok, Insta, FB, etc.
- LinkedIn

Whenever you find names, search for them elsewhere. Find someone on LinkedIn? Search for them on X, etc.

Small indie teams may even have a dedicated public e-Mail address for inquiries like yours. Keep an eye out for it.

Contact them!

Say something about what you know about what they are doing when contacting (warm contact). Don't seem like a clueless person just contacting lots of random people (cold contact). If you don't know much, learn something.

Link to your Demo(s) or create a sample you think they would be interested in.

Keep Networking

Networking means never running out of people to contact. Ask who else you should contact. If contacting a referral, let them know who referred you. To build a big network, connect with the big networkers first.

Anywhere you find them, follow them, friend them, send a LinkedIn connection request, comment on their posts so they see you and learn you are an easy person to get along with, etc.

Also, keep building your LinkedIn network, because that can be a great way to see who's working inside a company. Start with Realtors and Insurance Agents in L.A., N.Y., Vancouver, Toronto, Chicago, Atlanta, Houston. They have the biggest networks and are most open to sharing them with you by accepting your connection request.

Simple Test Scripts:

Beats, Transitions and Direction-Taking

*alarm
sounds* Sora:

urgent **Damn**
it!

We've been
made.

New plan ...

Conversational Cadence, Narrative-Style Read

Walking through ...

the hospital lobby ...

these days, ...
you might think ...
you were
walking through
the United Nations.
They're proud
to be a global destination
for the best
pediatric medical care

in the world –
and for years, our
international patient
population has been
growing. The secret to
providing the best possible
care; is not just to provide
excellent medical treatment,
but to provide it in a way
that is sensitive to the

cultural needs of our
patients and their families.

Stress Pattern and Natural Speech

Ca·gri·lin·tide

Ca·**GRIL**·in·tide

Ca·gri·**LIN**·tide

CA·gri·lin·tide

CA·gri·**lin**·tide



—SCHOOL OF ACTING AND—
VOICEOVER

