

HARDWARE FOR ONLINE LEARNING

For studying online, a set of headphones with a microphone will be useful, particularly for virtual classroom sessions.

Headphones: Which are best??



Earbuds with a microphone, often used for phone calls, work very well. The microphone quality tends to be better than those built into computers. Because the microphone is not right at your mouth, it avoids loud 'pops' and unwanted noises.

Earbud and microphone sets of various brands can be ordered from computer and stationary supply stores (e.g. Apple, Amazon, Officeworks, JB Hifi, Kmart) and can even be purchased at some petrol stations. There are a variety of brands available and least expensive options begin around \$10. Many phones come with a headset included when purchased. These can be used with smart phones and tablets too.

If you prefer more substantial headphones, the Sony ZX110 are excellent value (make sure to purchase the model *with microphone*). Many other brands offer more substantial and costly headsets. Sennheiser is one reliable brand for these (search 'gaming headsets').

What about a webcam??

Smartphones, tablets and laptops all come with an inbuilt camera that will operate as your 'webcam' in online classroom sessions.

If you have a desktop computer without a camera, you can either join without video, add a profile picture instead (Zoom allows this) or purchase an inexpensive webcam to attach to your computer. You may like to seek advice from a tech-expert from an online shop and read customer reviews before purchasing.