



Headset Recommendations

Pearson automated language tests can contain several items that require audio recording and playback to assess listening and speaking skills. Headsets should follow certain specifications to ensure high quality recordings and playback. Pearson encourages test administrators work with site coordinators to ensure that a supply of quality headsets is available. Pearson also encourages spacing test-takers appropriately to further ensure ideal testing environments.

Reviews:

Pearson conducted multiple headset reviews. Headsets were assessed in test-like settings using ideal spacing to analyze their appropriateness for speaking/listening items. After completing the reviews, the following three headsets are recommended by Pearson. The summary table below includes the headset information, input style, number of suggested specifications satisfied, and the operating systems that the headset was tested on. Headset specifications are listed on page 2 of this document.

Table 1. Recommendation Table

Headset	Jack/USB	# Satisfied Specs	Operating Systems
Kidz Gear wired headphones for Kids	Jack	9 / 10	iOS 9 iOS 10 Android 6.0
Avid AE-36	Jack	9 / 10	iOS 9 iOS 10 Android 5.0
Logitech USB headsets H390	USB	7 / 7	macOS 10.9-10.12 Windows 7, 10

Jack Input Specifications:

For devices which use microphone jack inputs (e.g. tablets), the following specifications are suggested. Selected headsets should have most of these features.

- 1) Single 3.5 mm plug (TRRS)
- 2) Lightweight and durable design
- 3) Clear audio through the headphones
- 4) Clear playback (recorded audio)
- 5) Ambient noise cancellation functionality of microphone
- 6) Over-the-ear style (non-earbud)
- 7) Adjustable plastic boom microphone
- 8) Leatherette ear pads
- 9) Ambidextrous headset design
- 10) No in-line volume control or mute button

USB Input Specifications:

For devices using USB inputs (e.g. desktop computers), the following specifications are suggested. Selected headsets should have most of these features.

- 1) Stereo Sound
- 2) Double ear piece
- 3) 32 mm driver unit size (headphone)
- 4) 20 - 20000 Hz frequency response (headphone)
- 5) 32 ohms impedance (headphone)
- 6) 100-12000 Hz frequency response (microphone)
- 7) 3320 ohms impedance (microphone)