



# Headset Recommendations for Remote Testing

## Headset recommendations

LAS Links Online Speaking requires the use of a microphone to record student responses and therefore has a built in microphone check built into the subtest. The following are recommendations designed to maximize the potential for testing success:

- Make sure the browser has the proper permissions enabled to access the microphone.
- Make sure your audio is not muted and the volume is turned up.

The following chart provides DRC's headset, microphone and speaker recommendations:

Configuration	Suitability		Pros and Cons
	Reading, Listening & Writing	Speaking	
Over the ear headset with microphone	Ideal	Ideal	Comfortable when worn for a longer time period by students of different ages. Weight and size of headphones can be selected based on students' age. Portable headphones are smaller and lighter and hence may be suitable for younger students. Deluxe headphones are larger and heavier but have the advantage of canceling out more noise.
Noise Cancellation headphones	Acceptable	Not Applicable – there is no microphone	Noise cancellation often does not cancel out the sound of human voices, so this feature provides little benefit. Most of these devices do not have an integrated microphone so they can not be used for speaking without providing a second device to capture audio responses during the speaking test.  Many headsets with a noise cancellation feature require a power source (e.g. batteries or USB connection).
Ear buds or ear headphones with microphone	Acceptable	Acceptable	Sound volume can vary based on the positioning of the buds in the ear, resulting in inconsistent audio playback. Many ear buds come with the microphone attached to the cord, making capturing the students' voice more of a challenge.
Device Speakers and Device Microphone	Marginal	Marginal	Audio playback and audio capture built into devices generally do not offer very high fidelity which can lead to poor response capture. Speakers do not offer privacy during the test.
Bluetooth or wireless headsets	Not Recommended	Not Recommended	To ensure test security, students should not use Bluetooth or wireless headsets.

**Note:** A microphone is only needed for the Speaking domain.

## Technical support

If technical issues arise and/or if an error message is experienced during testing, parents/guardians are asked to contact the student's Test Administrator for technical support. If additional support is required, a school or district representative will reach out to DRC to determine a resolution. DRC customer service staff will not directly support issues related to each home's technology configurations.