



A checklist while auditioning

TO HELP YOU HAVE AWESOME
AUDITIONING HABITS





5 things you need to do before you start getting voiceover auditions

1. Hire a voiceover coach

Yes, that really is my recommendation for what to do first. You don't have to meet with them a million times before you start auditioning, and you don't have to spend a ton of money, but you will be shocked at how much more quickly you will be able to gain traction in the industry after having consulted with a good coach.

Here is the situation you are trying to avoid: You spend a bunch of time and energy (and money) trying to book your first job. You're submitting quality auditions, but you can't figure out why you're not getting hired. After a few months and no bites, you get frustrated, decide that the voiceover industry is oversaturated, and that it's impossible to break in, and you hang up your microphone for good. A good coach can keep you from this fate!

Even experienced, full-time voice actors still get coaching. So don't think of it as training wheels or a crutch. Think of it as the responsible thing to do. Think of it as taking your business seriously enough to invest in yourself.

And if you're thinking, "I've seen cartoons before. I watch commercials every day. I get how this works. I don't need a coach to tell me how to talk," trust me. You will be surprised by how much there is to learn about voiceover that will be invaluable to your career, and that a coach can teach you.



5 things you need to do before you start getting voiceover auditions

2. Buy a decent microphone

It is easier, cheaper, and more accessible to record quality audio today than it ever has been. But don't let this fool you into thinking that all you need is your iPhone and a quiet closet to be a working voice actor. And while you don't need to spend \$3,000 on a microphone (though you can if you want to), you do need to buy a studio-quality microphone and setup. If you don't have these, you probably aren't going to win any auditions anyway because your audition will be up against those of professional voice actors who are recording in their professional-grade home studios. And, even if you did win an audition, how would you record it if you didn't have a setup?

3. Study.

You wouldn't decide to start a cupcake business, and start telling people that you're a cupcake baker, if you knew nothing about cupcake baking. Since you're reading this blog post, you clearly aren't afraid of research, so that's awesome! Keep it up. If you attempt to win voiceover jobs without having looked into what it takes to submit a quality audition, you will end up frustrated and wondering why you aren't booking any jobs. If you aren't willing to take advantage of the many great resources out there about voice acting, and you can't bring yourself to spend the time soaking them in, that's a good sign that you're not ready to jump into the voiceover business anyway.



5 things you need to do before you start getting voiceover auditions

4. Listen

I've talked before about how listening skills are the most important skills you need to be a voice actor. But I'm not just talking about listening to be a good communicator. You also need to be listening to other voice over work. You can't expect to break into the commercial voiceover world if you never listen to commercials!

5. Know how to record

Once you have all the other steps taken care of, you still need to actually record, export, and send your audio file to your potential client. There is a great, free recording platform called Audacity that has everything you need to record voiceover auditions and jobs. There are also a good deal of programs and YouTube videos to teach you how to use it. It isn't terribly complicated, but it will take some practice to become good and efficient at it.

This is a basic run-down of things you want to have in place before you start auditioning. Of course, there are more things to consider, like how you'll get your auditions: from an agent, a casting site, or directly from clients. But following these initial steps will put you in a much better place to start booking work once you do start auditioning for voiceover work.