

## Choosing your Headset

Choosing quality headsets can be a real challenge. The quality and price of headsets varies greatly as does the quality of sound you will hear. It is also important that you choose a headset that you find comfortable and that will remain comfortable when used for periods of time while transcribing. It is very important that the headset you choose is compatible with the available input connections on your computer, we highly recommend using a headset with a USB connection.

Here are some pictures of different headset options



Things to consider when purchasing your headset

- Price. Headsets can vary from \$10 to over \$300.
- Compatibility. Ensure they are compatible with the available connections on your computer. (we highly recommend headsets with a USB connection).
- Cord Length. Nothing can be more frustrating than having too short of a cord, always check the length of the cord on the headset you choose to purchase.
- Style. Comfort and fit are very important so we suggest you try out any headsets you are looking to purchase. There are many different sizes and styles available so find what works best for you. Our tutor Cindy has found what works best for her is to use the small in ear (earbud type) headsets with a larger over ear headset (hearing protection type ear muffs) over the top to help block surrounding background noise.
- Quality. As with many things a less expensive option is not usually the best quality. Be wary of noise cancellation headsets as they often use “white noise” to cover up outside sounds and this may actually make dictations harder to hear.

Go for the best quality and most comfortable fit you can afford.

Here is a list some possible places to begin your search

- Noel Leeming
- Harvey Norman
- Warehouse Stationery
- Office Max
- <http://www.dictation.co.nz>
- <http://www.soundbusiness.co.nz>