

## Headsets and setup with Dragon

Using the software is relatively straightforward once you have your system setup. I currently use a couple of headset microphones. My desk favourite is a Samson airline 77, which is wireless, you can see the picture of one here

<http://www.knowbrainer.com/NewStore/pc/viewPrd.asp?idproduct=76&idcategory=16>

The recognition is amazing. The second headset is an Audio technica HECW, which is wired and perfect for use with my laptop on the move, see the image here

<http://www.knowbrainer.com/NewStore/pc/viewPrd.asp?idproduct=410&idcategory=17>

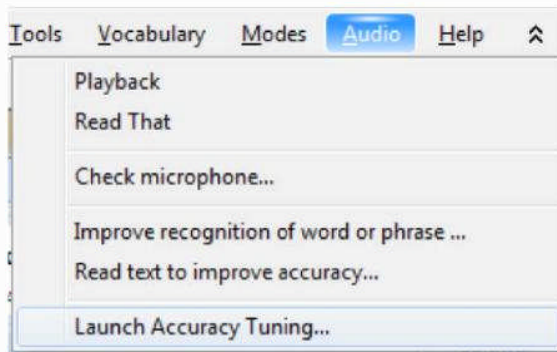
A wired headset gets round any problems with Bluetooth, you simply plug and play. Both use external sound cards which plugged into the USB port. I have used the following with some success:

<http://www.knowbrainer.com/NewStore/pc/viewPrd.asp?idproduct=461&idcategory=19>

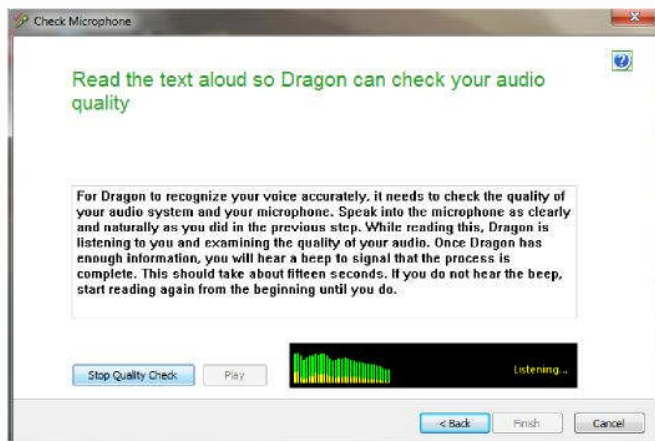
Another headset that I used is the Sennheiser BW900. This is a Bluetooth headset, which I have found problematic setting up on its own but when used with the base station works rather well.

All these headsets have good noise cancelling ability which is really important as it avoids getting ghost words added to your text. This is where the software thinks it hears particular words whether they have been said or not. Good noise cancellation is important especially if you work in an office, or have a fan running. I used a recent Sennheiser DW office, but had to return it as it was terrible. My current set up can have a vacuum cleaner and stereo playing and it does not affect the speech recognition.

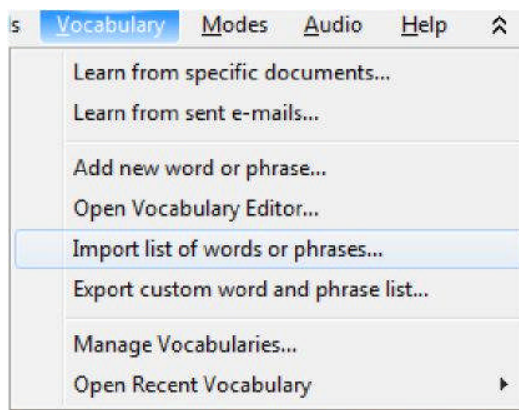
There are only a couple of things that you can do with Dragon which will keep your transcription rate high. The first is to make sure that you regularly check the microphone using the software. As a force of habit I tend to place the microphone one fingers width from the left-hand side of my mouth. You can check the microphone by going to: **Audio - check microphone** drop-down on the toolbar.



Make sure you read the text at the same sound level. Older versions of Dragon gave a score for your sound recording but Dragon 11.5 onwards does not. If you are finding you are not getting particularly good results hit the **play** button after you have checked the microphone and listen to the quality of the sound, this may give a clue as to potential problems.



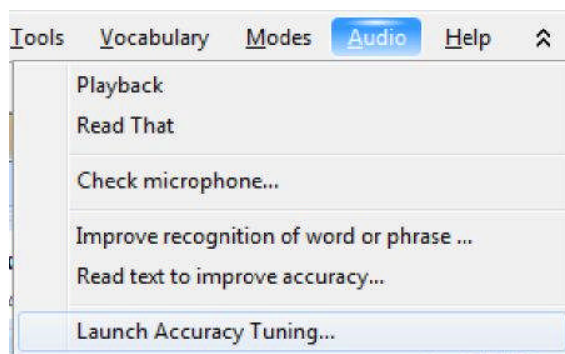
In research we tend to use words and phrases that may not be in common parlance. It is possible to import your own words using **vocabulary** – *import lists of words or phrases*



You can also get Dragon to learn from e-mails and other documents (see the **Vocabulary** drop-down).

## Accuracy Tuning

Personally I tend to do accuracy tuning every few weeks or so. Dragon takes all the words and phrases that I have been teaching and adds them to my personal profile. I tend to do a backup of my profile at the same time. Accuracy tuner can be found under the *other* dropdown. I found this important, as I have a nice broad Scottish accent, which makes the software struggle with words like 'create' and 'crate'. Dragon can also build on your vocabulary by developing an 'understanding' of the types of words you use in reports and emails if you feel that will be useful.



This can take some time so you may want to have it running in the background whilst you do something else