









Advice Regarding Headsets and Volume

 <p>If the student needs help staying on task, you will need two sets of headphones...</p>  <p>...with an audio jack...</p>  <p>...not a USB jack...</p>  <p>...so you can plug both headsets into an audio splitter.</p>	<p>For Everyone: Fast ForWord must be done wearing good quality headphones. Neuroplan does not provide headphones, so you will be responsible for purchasing your own headphones. The Sennheiser and Logitech brands are good. Headphones like this are available at Staples, Best Buy and other stores. They start at about \$30.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They should have a padded outer rim and a space in the middle for the ear in order to block out background noise. Don't use uncomfortable ear-bud headphones. • They should plug directly into the computer. Don't buy infrared or remote headphones. Avoid plugging the headphones into the monitor because the sound may be degraded. <p>If you are using Fast ForWord with someone who needs help staying on task:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will need two sets of headphones with audio jacks so an adult helper can hear the program too. If you are trying to save money, you can buy a less expensive set for the adult helper but make sure that you follow the recommendations for the student's headphones. • You will need an audio splitter so you can plug both headphones into the audio output of your computer. If you try to use two USB headsets, one will have no sound because the computer assigns the audio card to only one USB port.
	<p>For Students Using Reading Assistant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase a durable headset with a boom mike and an audio jack. It is best if the boom mike doesn't bend, because this creates a crackle during the recording. Logitech Model H540 is good. • They must have a USB jack so that the voice technology works properly. <p>You may be tempted to purchase this type of headset at the outset for a young child using Fast ForWord. Unfortunately, the boom mike and volume controls can be very distracting and fragile. The sound quality won't be as good as headphones with a padded outer rim.</p> <p>If you have a headset that has a mute button and volume controls, you can prevent problems by covering the controls with strong tape.</p>
	<p>Volume: Ask the student to set the volume on the taskbar before starting Fast ForWord, and then leave it alone. If the student likes a setting that is too loud for you, wear your headphones around your neck instead of on your ears. The student sets the volume because congestion (e.g. allergies, upper respiratory infections) can affect the student's ability to hear the difference between speech sounds. They will be more successful if you let them decide on the volume.</p>