Why is my wifi so slow? Troubleshooting for Online Music Teachers and Leaders

So, you’ve developed your skills in teaching online, remembered to turn on ‘Original Sound’ in Zoom, and maybe even invested in a microphone to make sure you always sound your best. But you’re still beset by glitchy internet speeds in your lessons.

What can you do? Here are some top tips to help you, and your pupils and participants, to achieve faster speeds.

**What is my internet speed?**

You can use services like [speedtest.net](https://speedtest.net) or [https://broadbandtest.which.co.uk/](https://broadbandtest.which.co.uk/) to check your upload (sending video and audio over the internet) and download (receiving video and audio information) speeds. The Which? tool also lets you know the latency speed too, which is useful to know for music activities!

These speeds will vary throughout the day as they will be affected by other users nearby using the same bandwidth connection as you. At peak time, the speeds will be slower.

You can use the BT Openreach checker [https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/fibre-for-home](https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/fibre-for-home) to find out what broadband options are available in your area - in some parts of the country, Ultrafast full fibre broadband is becoming available which will significantly speed up your connection. If you only have access to the slower Superfast broadband, Openreach can tell you what speeds you can expect at your property and you can contact your broadband supplier if its lower than expected.

You may notice bad weather interfering with the connection at times, too - heavy rain and thunderstorms can slow things down considerably!

**Ways to speed up your connection at home**

Try an ethernet cable plugged directly into your router - this will give you a faster and smoother connection than using wifi. This is a cheap, simple and highly effective fix!

You can also invest in microfilters that separate the phone and broadband signals and stop them interfering with each other.

Mesh systems are another way of improving speeds all over the house, especially those with multiple devices online: [https://www.bestadvisers.co.uk/mesh-wifi-systems?sa=go&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI1uSao62H7wVRbDtCh0Y7AF1EAAYASAAEgILbfD_BwE#wii](https://www.bestadvisers.co.uk/mesh-wifi-systems?sa=go&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI1uSao62H7wVRbDtCh0Y7AF1EAAYASAAEgILbfD_BwE#wii)

Ask other members of the household to stay off the internet during lessons if possible!

Switch off appliances such as cordless phones, baby monitors and microwaves to reduce interference.
Make sure your laptop is up to date with regular software updates and virus protection. Older pcs may struggle because they can’t run the latest software efficiently, or because they use older network cards.

Sometimes you may get a faster speed by switching on the WiFi Hotspot on your mobile phone (typical pathway to find this on your phone: Settings - Connections- Mobile Hotspot/Tethering) but obviously check your data packages with your provider first to avoid a hefty bill!