

# Adobe Premiere Elements – Part II

## How to Add Voice-Over Narration

Before we begin working with voice-overs, a word about Tracks in Adobe Premiere Elements. You will notice that the timeline contains both audio tracks and video tracks. When working with video, the order in which the tracks are stacked is important; whatever is on the top track will show up in the movie. However, the order of tracks is not important with audio. It is possible to have audio connected to the video you shot, a voice-over narration, and a music track, for example, in any order. It's possible, but not a good idea! Too many audio tracks will eventually detract from your video.

You can add an audio or video track at any time. For example, to add a video track, right-click anywhere in the grey area on the left side of the screen that says Video Track 1. Select "Add Tracks" and then add whatever track you like wherever you like. You can do the same thing to delete unnecessary tracks or empty tracks. The limit on the number of audio tracks is 99!!

So, let's go to work on the sound for our video.

1. The first thing we notice is that there is a lot of background hubbub in our two video clips. It's just noise and we want to get rid of it. Select the first video clip, right click, and select **Unlink Audio and Video**. Click outside the clip to clear the selection, the click again on just the audio track to select it. Hit the delete key and it's history – gone. Repeat this process for the second video clip.
2. OK, the noise is gone. Now we can record our narration. The quality of any video is based in large part on the quality of the audio. If you are working on an important project, please use the professional microphone in the faculty workroom for the best audio recording quality. For today, we'll use the headsets with microphones attached in the LRC. The process is the same in either place. Plug in the headset and microphone to the front of the computers (the mike [pink plug] goes on the left, the headset [black] on the right).
3. First, set your volume control to the Record mode. If you don't remember how to do this, please consult the tutorial entitled "How to Set Your Computer to Record" in the set of tutorials distributed earlier ("How to Digitize Almost Anything"). Remember to minimize the volume control; don't close it.
4. Launch Freecorder. Freecorder is a piece of freeware that will allow you to record up to 30 minutes and export the file as an MP3. See the tutorial on Freecorder in the "How to Digitize Almost Anything."
5. The easiest way is to bring up Freecorder on top of Premiere Elements. Press Record then immediately press Play in the monitor window. Narrate as you watch. Say whatever you like. When you have finished, import your narration into the media window (click on "Add Media," navigate to where you saved your sound file and click OK.)
6. From the media window, click on the sound file and drag it onto the timeline in Audio Track 1. Play it and adjust the volume if necessary.

## Coordinating a Voice-over with a music track

Just to make things interesting, let's add a music track along with our voice-over narration.

1. In the media window, locate the sound file called "KeurMoussaKora.mp3" Click and drag it onto Audio Track 2. You'll notice that it's not long enough to play all the way to the end of our video. So, click and drag a second instance immediately after the first. Now it's too long, so trim the end of the clip to the end of the video.
2. Starting at the beginning, play your movie. Trouble in paradise? Is the music drowning out the narration? Probably. So you will need to adjust accordingly. Lower the volume of the music track (click on the yellow horizontal line and drag it downwards). Raise the volume on the narration if necessary (click and drag the horizontal yellow line on the voice track upwards to an acceptable level). This is really a matter of experimenting to see what sounds right.
3. A final word of warning: do not put in your audio tracks until your video is finished. Adding and deleting clips or audio at this point will create havoc!!