Computer Software, Tools, and Music Sources
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1. Software for Listening to Podcasts
There are several ways to listen to podcasts. Most are downloaded and listened to through a computer. Sometimes it is possible to listen to them through a podcaster's website.

iTunes
More than 75% of all podcasts are listened to through the free iTunes software provided by the Apple Computer company. Even though the intent of the Apple Company is for you to buy music, you can take advantage of the free services available through this service. The two most popular are listening to radio stations from around the world and the other is to download podcasts. There are other ways to access podcasts in addition to iTunes, but they are not as comprehensive or user-friendly for the new user.

The iTunes software can be quickly downloaded if the computer has a fast Internet connection (*e.g., telephone DSL, computer broadband modem)*. Click on http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/ and follow the directions. The software works on Windows or Apple computers. After the software is loaded, you will be taken to your "*library*" which will be empty or it will take you to the iTunes store. If you are at the blank library page, click on the "*podcast directory*" button at the lower right hand side of the page. If you find yourself at the iTunes store page (filled with music icons), look to the left hand side of the screen. Look for the "*podcast*" link. Click on it. Either way, you will end up on a page that is focused on podcasts. Give yourself permission to wander around, click on images, and check out the options. As much as I know, all audio podcasts are free through the iTunes directory. If there is a charge, it will appear beside the "*subscribe*" button. This is a good time to find one of your children or students to sit down with you and let them guide you around this amazing directory.

Listening through Podcast Website
Some podcasters have installed "listening" software on their websites. Clicking on the button (*if it exists on that particular website*) allows a person to listen to the podcast without downloading the iTunes or other company software programs. However, it defeats part of the benefit of podcasts since they can be downloaded to your computer and listened to through it when you like. Plus, you have the ability to download it to a portable music player like an iPod that can be taken anywhere.

2. Podcast Producing Software
The following packages are helpful for creating audio podcasts.

Audicity
Audicity is a free audio recording and editing software package available for downloading. The procedures for using it are fairly straightforward and simple. Audicity will operate on Windows computers. You will also need to download the LAME mp3 encoder. These can be found on the Audacity website and are necessary in order to export your audio recording as an .mp3 file. MAC: Lame_Library_v3.98.2_for_Audacity_on_OSX.dmg with MAC instructions
Website link: http://audicity.com

Dragon Speaking *(Voice Recognition)*
Dragon Speaking software (v. 9) provides the ability for the podcaster to make a written transcript of their audio podcast. The intermediate level version of this software (list print $199) appears to be the best option for the price. According to the promotion materials, the software will recognize human voices without pre-training and produce a written transcript with about 95% accuracy. In addition to meeting the needs of podcast consumers with hearing issues, it also makes the podcast easier to find on the Internet through search engines since it can read the transcript but no reliable engines yet exist to "listen" to podcasts and then make their availability known.
Website link: http://www.nuance.com/

GarangeBand
Garange Band is the easy-to-use podcast authoring system for Apple computers only. It is provided as part of the software that accompanies all new Apple computers.

3. Sound Effects Libraries

GarageBand. As described above, the software comes with sound effects, jingles, music transitions, and music loops. Additional "jam packs" provide more music loops in different music genres.

MixCraft. http://acoustica.com/mixcraft/ $49.99 - $89.95 - $164.95 Mixcraft's enormous collection of royalty-free studio-quality loops is organized into Song Kits, so it's incredibly easy to build your own tracks — no musical training required! Build unique beat in seconds with over 650 professional drum samples, both acoustic and electric. Put the finishing touches on videos or ambient compositions with comprehensive collection of sound effects and music beds.

Audioblocks, http://www.audioblocks.com $99/annually. The online service provides unlimited downloads of free music and sound effects.

4. Podsafe Music and Spoken Word to Insert Inside of Podcasts
Copyright restrictions by musical recording artists and their publishing companies need to be carefully observed to avoid potential legal problems. There are several services that provide "Podsafe" music. Podsafe music is provided intentionally by music artists to play by podcasters to increase awareness about themselves, encourage attendance at local club appearances, and to eventually result in a recording contract from a major studio.

Derek K. Miller After creating a number of instrumental-only musical pieces for the enjoyment of his children, Miller has made his music available for the podcast community. Miller's music is among the most featured during introductions and transitions within podcasts. New songs are released through his podcast. Songs can also be downloaded through his website. An inexpensive CD or individual songs can be purchased of his top songs either through direct mail or by purchase through the iTunes music store.
Subscription link:
http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=73799388
Website link: http://www.penmachine.com/podcast/audio/audio.html

Free Music Archive, http://freemusicarchive.org Close to 90,000 audio tracks are available. The Free Music Archive offers free downloads under Creative Commons and other licenses. All

music you'll find here is free, meaning that it is available for you to download at no cost. What else you're allowed to do with the music beyond your personal use depends on the type of Creative Commons license associated with each track. You can search music in lots of ways, http://freemusicarchive.org/search Search by (1) artist, album, or song name; (2) 22 different moods (angst-ridden to spiritual); and (3) 15 music genres with many categories providing additional subcategories. Click on the Frequently Asked Questions page (http://freemusicarchive.org/faq) for more specifics on music usage rules.

Freeplaymusic.com A collection of 15,000+ music tracks that can be searched by 100 categories. Depending on how you plan to use the music, it is free or requires a fee. Use on YouTube videos is generally free for individuals. Personal use through social media of a song is $0.99 for each. The tracks are also free for use in the classroom by students and teachers. However, fees are required for playing on the Internet. Read the complicated instructions.

Royaltyfreemusic.com Somewhat similar to Freeplaymusic.com above. Read the complicated instructions on fees. While no ongoing royalties are required every time someone listens to the music in the future, the individual music tracks have to be purchased.

American Rhetoric, http://AmericanRhetoric.com   This site provides a database of and index to 5000+ full text, audio and video versions of public speeches, sermons, legal proceedings, lectures, debates, interviews, other recorded media events. These could be incorporated into an audio podcast, inserted into a class presentation, or simply linked through a website. Read carefully the copyright notices for each item whether they are approved for podcasting.

Archive.org, http://archive.org Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, and more. The Archive is a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded to build an Internet library. Its purposes include offering permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars, people with disabilities, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format.

5. Podcast Hosting Services

Libsyn, http://www.libsyn.com Libsyn is the most common paid hosting service for podcasters for the past decade.

Google By using the Google family of apps (Blogger, Sites, Drive, Feedburner). First, create a blog using Blogger. Then use Feedburner to create the RSS feed to register through iTunes. Use Google Drive to host the audio or video podcast episode files. Use Google Sites to create a website about the podcast and provide additional content. Tutorial for creating podcast through Blogger, http://google.about.com/od/googleblogging/ss/podblogger.htm

SquareSpace www.squarespace.com $8 or $16/month depending on features desired. Using the blog function on SquareSpace, a podcast can be created associated with each blog post. Then a RSS feed can be created and registered through iTunes so others can subscribe.

YouTube www.youtube.com   and tunestotube.com   (free) Audio episodes can be hosted by YouTube. While not the same as traditional podcasting where episodes are automatically downloaded to a computer if they are "subscribed" through iTunes and the iTunes software is installed on the computer. In this variation, a YouTube "channel" is created to host the audio episodes. People can subscribe to the channel to see new episodes that will appear in a

person's own YouTube account. To learn how to create a YouTube channel, do a search on YouTube or search Google. A requirement for hosting audio content on YouTube is that an image must accompany the audio content. To do this, use the free service available at http://tunestotube.com   It is a simply operation to merge the audio content with a visual image of your selection. It is recommended to NOT include music as part of the podcast since the computer filter on YouTube will probably assume it is actually commercial music and delete the entry of it. And probably receive a scolding email from YouTube telling you to never do that again or they will cancel your YouTube account.

Box.net. Free accounts available with limited storage with paid accounts providing more capacity to store the podcast episodes online and then linked to the blog to create a podcast feed.

Dropbox Same as box.net