

Editing Audio with AudioMass, Part 1: Trim and Shape a Clip

40 minutes

Following My Interests Online

Outcome 3.8

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Students load a clip into AudioMass, cut the unwanted opening, trim to exactly thirty seconds, fade both ends and export it as an MP3. This lesson counts towards outcome 3.8: students use these editing skills to build their digital montage in the montage lessons that follow.

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Outcome	What the specification asks for
3.8	create a digital montage on a specific topic of interest from images sourced online while applying learning regarding copyright, fair use, plagiarism, and intellectual property ownership

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Name the three kinds of audio and what each one does
- Read a waveform and use it to select part of a sound
- Trim a clip from both ends to an exact length
- Fade a clip in and out so it starts and stops on purpose

BEFORE THE BELL

- AudioMass runs entirely in the browser at audiomass.co. There is nothing to install and no account to make, so it works on school devices and Chromebooks. Nothing is saved when the tab closes, so remind the class at the end of the lesson to save their trimmed clip out to their own folder before they shut anything down.
- Check the site opens on your school network before the lesson. Headphones matter here: thirty devices playing the same creaking door at once is unworkable, so ask the class to bring them and keep a few spare pairs if you can.
- Steps 3, 4 and 5 each carry screenshots of the action inside the activity itself. Put the relevant step on the board before turning the class loose on it, then leave it up while they work so they can follow the pictures rather than waiting on you.
- If a student's cut goes wrong, Edit then Undo puts it back. Get them undoing rather than reloading and starting over, as reloading loses everything.

Editing Audio with AudioMass, Part 1: Trim and Shape a Clip

HOW THE LESSON RUNS

3 min	introduction	Start
5 min	content	Three kinds of audio
8 min	activity	Hands-on: Open AudioMass and load the clip
13 min	activity	Hands-on: Trim it to exactly thirty seconds
8 min	activity	Hands-on: Fade in, fade out and save
3 min	summary	What you covered

STEP BY STEP

3 min Start Devices with a browser and headphones; a microphone for Part 2.

All three passes are on this step, made from the same ten seconds of a Luas arriving in the snow on Benburb Street in Dublin: no sound, then the lesson's practice music under it, then that music with a narrator's line over it. Play all three before you open any discussion, because once the class starts talking after the first pass they stop listening for the difference. The silent pass is the one that does the work: it lets them see that the picture never changes, so anything they feel by the third pass came from the sound.

The narrator's line, about the last tram before a storm, is invented. Nothing in the picture says so, which is worth asking about once they have heard it.

5 min Three kinds of audio

Name the three on the board; they come back in Part 2 when the class balances a voice against music.

8 min Hands-on: Open AudioMass and load the clip

Headphones make this lesson. Without them, thirty devices playing the same creak is unworkable.

13 min Hands-on: Trim it to exactly thirty seconds

About eight seconds off the front, up to where the music kicks in, then thirty in total. Students who cut the end first get the arithmetic wrong every time.

8 min Hands-on: Fade in, fade out and save

Listening back is the assessment here. A student who has not played it has not finished.

3 min What you covered

Saving matters, because AudioMass keeps nothing once the tab closes. Before the class packs up, ask everyone to save their trimmed clip out of AudioMass to their own folder or drive, and give them the minute it takes to check the file is actually there. On shared devices this is the difference between having a clip to put a voice on next lesson and starting again from the original download.