

# Amira on iPads: Recommended Setup & Instructions

Amira can work well on iPads, and a quick setup routine (plus a few student habits) makes a big difference – especially for high-stakes assessments.

## iPad Readiness Checklist

Before starting, check to make sure that your device is set up correctly for use with Amira.

- Keep iPadOS updated:** Amira works on the current iPadOS version and the two previous versions – older versions of iOS are not guaranteed to work.
- Use Safari:** For iPads, only Safari is supported (not Chrome or Edge).
- Always allow the microphone:** Scroll down to **Settings for Websites > Microphone > Allow**.
- Check headphone jack:** Make sure headphones are fully plugged in (sometimes iPad cases can block the connection).

## Explicitly Teach Student Behaviors

Model and practice behaviors that help Amira hear student reading clearly.

### FOR STUDENTS USING THE IPAD MICROPHONE

(Best for quiet classrooms or daily practice)

#### Setup Recommendations

- Place the iPad on a stand, not flat on the desk.
- Tilt the iPad about 60 degrees away from the student.
- Position the iPad 6–12 inches away from the student.
- Teach students to keep their hands away from the microphone.
- If available, turn on **Mic Mode → Voice Isolation** in the Control Center to help reduce background noise (*availability varies by iPad model, iPadOS version, and app*).

#### Behaviors to Teach




#### “Hands off the mic”

Holding the iPad can cause a student’s hand to cover the microphone, which may be on the back or side of the device. This can affect how clearly reading is recorded. Teach students to read without holding or touching the iPad.

	<p><b>“Stay in the Goldilocks zone”</b></p> <p>Sitting too far from the iPad microphone can make a student’s voice too quiet. Teach students to use a “just right” reading voice—not too loud and not too soft—and to stay about 6–12 inches away from the iPad (not too close, not too far).</p>
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**FOR STUDENTS USING A HEADSET WITH A MICROPHONE**  
(Best for assessments and noisy classrooms)

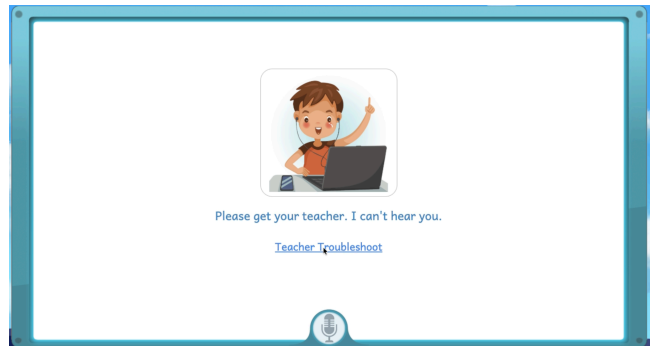
Setup Recommendations	Behaviors to Teach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use a headset for assessments whenever possible. iPad microphones may be too far away and result in quiet audio.</li> <li>● Use USB-C headsets on USB-C iPads for more reliable audio.</li> <li>● Check the Control Center to confirm the headset is selected for audio input and output.</li> <li>● Keep <b>Mic Mode</b> set to <b>Standard</b> unless there is significant background noise.</li> <li>● Keep Monitor or Listen features turned OFF when available to avoid distracting audio delay.</li> <li>● Position the microphone correctly: About one finger-width from the corner of the mouth, not directly in front.</li> </ul>	 <p><b>“Hands off the mic”</b></p> <p>Touching, covering, or turning the headset mic on or off can affect how clearly reading is recorded. Teach students to read without touching the microphone.</p> <p><b>“Mic in Corner of Mouth”</b></p> <p>Placing the mic directly in front of the mouth or on the lips can cause distorted audio. Coach students to keep the mic one finger-width from the corner of the mouth, not directly in front.</p> <p><b>“Stay in the Goldilocks zone”</b></p> <p>Reading too loudly into a headset mic can make audio sound blown out. Teach students to use a “just right” reading voice—not too loud and not too soft.</p>

## Real-Time "Dead Air" Troubleshooting

Amira now includes a built-in check to catch microphone issues right at the start of a session, during the Ready Module (the "It's time to read now" check). If no transcript is returned, the session pauses and prompts teacher intervention so audio issues don't go unnoticed for an entire assessment or tutor session.

### How it Works:

- If the system cannot hear the student or return a transcript, it will pause and display a message: "Please get your teacher. I can't hear you".
- A Teacher Troubleshoot modal automatically launches within the platform.



### Teacher Troubleshoot Capabilities:

- **Listen to the student's recording** with a visual waveform to identify issues like static, clipping, low volume, or background noise.
- **Test the microphone live**, including the ability for teachers to listen back to their own test audio.
- **Guided troubleshooting flows**, separated into:
  - **Student Use Issues** (e.g., mic too far away, speaking too softly, background noise)
  - **Device/Mic Issues** (e.g., muted device, wrong input selected, hardware problems)
- **Access to in-platform guidance** and a linked help article for further support.

