

Write, Record and Broadcast a Radio Play

Here are some simple steps to follow to create your own radio play. Then you can record it and broadcast it for others to hear. You can work in a group or even on your own if you want to perform the different characters yourself!

1. **Choose your idea** for a story. Stick to something you know well so you will know the detail and keep it simple with one big event in the middle. Use this grid to write some notes:

Characters	
Setting	
Beginning	
Middle	
End	

2. **Write the Script.** Remember on the radio no one can see anything so you have to make sure that the characters' speech gives the listener the information they need. For example:

Susan: Oh my goodness! What has the dog brought in? He's dragging it all around the kitchen and it's making a complete muddy mess of my floor!

Radio play writers also sometimes use a narrator to help with the description. You may choose to do this too.

Narrator: You join us on a Monday morning when Susan had just sat herself down at the kitchen table with a strong cup of coffee. She has just let the dog into the garden and the kitchen door is ajar. Suddenly, the dog bursts back in...

3. **When you are writing the script**, you might also include in brackets how something is said to give the actors (or yourself) direction.

Susan: [shocked] Oh my goodness! What has the dog brought in? [panicky and rushed] He's dragging it all around the kitchen and it's making a complete muddy mess of my floor!

4. **The great thing about making a radio play is the sound effects!** They really bring the situation alive for the listener and it's great fun creating them. Someone who does this job for film, TV and radio is called a Foley artist (named after Jack Foley a famous sound engineer). Make notes in your script for the sound effects using the abbreviation SFX and add music cues too:

Music:	Breakfast radio show playing quietly in background throughout this scene.
SFX:	Bang and crash of a door opening and dog rushing in
Susan:	[shocked] Oh my goodness! What has the dog brought in?
SFX:	Dog growling and scrabbling around the kitchen dragging a large object. Susan's chair moving as she stands up.
Susan:	[panicky and rushed] He's dragging it all around the kitchen and it's making a complete muddy mess of my floor!

5. **Now you are ready for performing and recording.** You may choose to record your play in front of an audience and then you might also record the reaction of the audience – especially if it is a comedy. Many plays are just recorded in a room with no audience. Use any kind of recording equipment such as a computer or tablet but make sure you are in a quiet room with no other noises going on.
6. **Post Production** is everything that happens after the performance to make it ready for broadcast. This will include editing it together, but also adding any extra sound effects or music in the background. This is easily done in a computer software package. If you don't have time for this, you may just record the performance in one go and broadcast that recording.
7. **Now it's time for broadcast!** The sharing of all your hard work. This may take place in the classroom for your classmates, at home for family and friends or even on a website or local radio!