

Help for Listening to an MP3 Audio File

Normal operation. You should be able to click on the link to the audio file and your computer will begin downloading and then playing the file without any intervention needed. Most computers are equipped with the required software to play MP3 files.

Download time. Depending on the size of the file, those with dial-up connections may have to wait a while for the file to download. Your computer will usually show you how many minutes are remaining.

Troubleshooting. If the file does not begin playing after it downloads, it could be for one of the following reasons:

1. **You need to download media software.**

Check to see if you have a media program that plays MP3 files. These software programs include, but are not limited to, those shown below. If you don't have one, use one of these links to find free downloads: [Quicktime](#), [iTunes](#), [Real](#), and [Windows Media Player](#).

2. **Your media software needs updating.**

If you have a media software program that plays MP3 files and it's still not playing the file, you probably need to update your media software. To update, open the program and look for a command for Update, usually under the Tools or Help menu. (Updating is different from upgrading.)