

Additional Headset Information for the ELPA21 Assessments

Before purchasing headsets, make sure you know what type(s) of devices your students will be using during the ELPA21 assessments. This will help to ensure that you purchase headsets that will work on the types of devices you will be using and, if necessary, Y connectors that will work with the plug types of the headsets you use. (See below for more information on Y connectors.)

Headsets come with connectors of three basic types.

1. A single 3.5 mm jack - This is the connector most often seen with earbuds that include a microphone. The connector when examined closely, has four sections separated by three black bands. **This is the only type of connector that will work with all iPads, Android and most other tablets.**



2. Two 3.5 mm jacks – This connector is used with **desktops and laptop computers** that have separate microphone and headphone outputs. In this case there is a separate jack for the microphone output and a separate jack for the headphone.



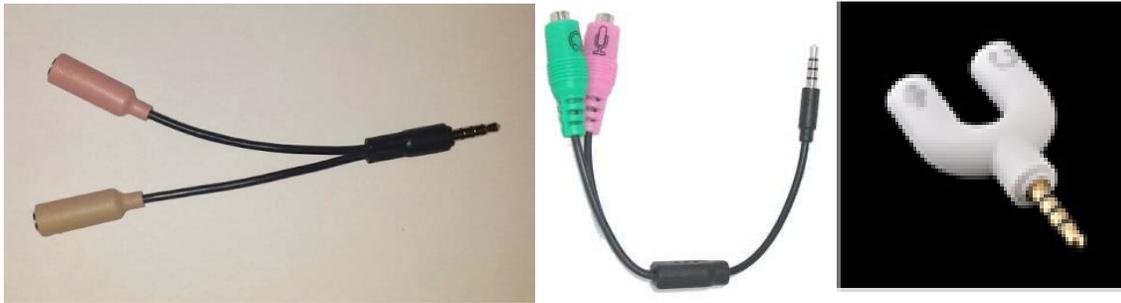
3. A USB connector - most desktops and laptops can use USB connectors, however you often need to install a driver so that the headset can be used by the test platform. USB connectors are not available on iPads or android tablets so headphones with this type of jack are not compatible with those devices.



Y connectors:

There are a variety of different configurations of Y connectors. For example, all three of the Y connectors depicted below are used to convert headsets with two 3.5 mm jacks into a single 3.5 mm jack. This would allow headsets that are compatible with desktops and laptops (headsets that have two separate outputs for audio input and output) to be used with tablet devices. If you determine that you will need to purchase Y connectors based on the configuration of your school’s computer lab (for example: you will be using the headphones with two 3.5 mm jacks on both desktops and tablets) it is important to specify that you need a “Y” adapter compatible for an iPad.

Note: These “Y” adapters are quite small and some consideration needs to be given to ensuring that they are not lost during usage.



Y connectors you do NOT want:

When considering purchasing a Y connector, it is important to note that there are many different types of Y connectors. The following are examples of Y connectors are unlikely to meet your needs.



These Y connectors convert a single plug to a dual plug. It is unlikely that this is the type of Y connector that you would want. Note the dual prong circled in red.

This type of Y connector lets you use two sets of headphones, but no microphone. The difference between this type of Y connector and the type of Y connector you will want is not always easy to see. It is important to read the specifications carefully before purchasing.

