

YouHost Training Video 2:

On Mic:

Video	Audio
<p>INT. STUDIO SPACE</p> <p>Onscreen text:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mic Technique & Etiquette2. Delivering the Question3. Dead Air <p>Deanna jumps into frame and waves.</p> <p>CLOSE-UP on him presenting her a microphone, laid out on a square pillow.</p> <p>BACK TO SCENE:</p> <p>She <i>grabs the mic</i> from the pillow.</p>	<p>Welcome back, hosting neophytes. Mike [REDACTED] here. In this video training module, we're going to talk about using the MICROPHONE.</p> <p><intense REVERB></p> <p>In particular, we'll cover mic technique and etiquette, delivering the question, and what to do about dead air.</p> <p>Joining me again is my hosting apprentice, Deanna.</p> <p>Hi everyone!</p> <p>So, my eager trainee: what do you think is a good way to kick off the trivia questions?</p> <p>Oh, I know! Um, just start asking the questions...?</p> <p>Welllll, not quite. As a trivia host, you can't just go <i>right into</i> the questions.</p> <p>Remember, the players are busy drinking and mingling—and they're not exactly at their peak cognitive levels right now. So you have to set the question up.</p> <p>To show you how to do that, I have something that I think you're ready for...</p> <p><Holy choral MUSIC plays></p> <p>Wow!</p> <p><Choral MUSIC abruptly ends></p>

Mike indicates on the computer screen the question to be read.

Deanna grips the mic and holds it sideways like a rapper.

CLOSE-UP on her hands now covering the entire microphone grille.

He takes the mic back.

Onscreen text:
Tap, Tap, Turn

CLOSE-UP on the mic resting on Mike's open hand. Deanna's hand hovers above it – and the microphone magically flies up into her hand. (achieved by reversing the footage)

BACK TO:

OK. So for argument's sake, let's pretend that we're on question 8.

(reading from screen)

"Who held the record for most career homerun—"

—Hey, Vanilla Ice - let's not hold it that way.

Oh...

<Her voice is now MUFFLED>

"Who held the record for most career—"

Uh, no. We call that hold the "Muffy 'the Microphone' Slayer".

Try it like this. I recommend holding the mic in your non-dominant hand. Then, you can use your dominate hand for "**Tap, Tap, Turn**" and navigating your computer while on mic.

"Tap, Tap, Turn"?

It's a technique you can use to transition from the current song into talking to the audience. But we'll cover that in a later video. That's "Black Belt"-level stuff, grasshopper.

Ah. I see...

(mystical-like)

Do not reach for the mic. Let the mic come to you.

Uhh. Right. 10 points?

<KA-CHING!>

Anyway...

<p>CLOSE-UP on Deanna holding the mic and demonstrating what Mike says.</p> <p>She cranes her neck left and right while still keeping the mic below mouth.</p> <p>She moves the mic to the “wrong” position</p> <p>She moves the mic to the “right” position</p>	<p>Start by putting your thumb on the on/off switch and resting the tip of the mic on your chin. Your voice will now pass over the top of the mic, keeping the volume consistent if you need to turn your head.</p> <p>Talking over the mic also eliminates plosives from "P" and "T" sounds.</p> <p><i>(overly accentuating)</i> Pee pee. Pee pee. Tee tee. Tee tee.</p> <p><i><terrible PLOSIVE sounds as Trainee demonstrates></i></p> <p>Pee pee. Pee pee. Tee tee. Tee tee.</p> <p><i><everything sounds clear></i></p>
<p>BACK TO:</p> <p>Onscreen text: • Question Number • Category • Point Value • The Question</p> <p>Onscreen text: Pauses Repeats</p> <p>Onscreen graphic:</p>	<p>Exactly. 5 points.</p> <p><i><KA-CHING!></i></p> <p>So back to setting up the question...</p> <p>There are four main parts to delivering the question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question Number • Category • Point Value • The Question <p>In addition to those, you'll also want to add in pauses and a repeat so that teams have enough time to understand and digest the question.</p> <p>Ready to give it a shot?</p> <p><i>(reads it quickly)</i> "Who held the record for most career home runs until 2006 when Barry Bonds used steroids to cheat his way to #1?"</p> <p>OK. Not... <i>bad...</i> but remember to set the question up, add pauses, and then repeat the question.</p> <p>Right. Lemme try again.</p>

<p>The entire question appears onscreen -- each word is highlighted as she reads them.</p> <p>Question Number 8. Sports. 10 Points. (PAUSE). Who held the record for most career home runs until 2006, when Barry Bonds used steroids to cheat his way to #1?</p> <p>(PAUSE)</p> <p>REPEAT</p>	<p>"Question Number 8. Sports. 10 Points. <i>(pause)</i></p> <p>Who held the record for most career home runs until 2006, when Barry Bonds used steroids to cheat his way to #1?"</p> <p><i>(she waits...)</i></p> <p><i>(Slightly faster)</i></p> <p>"Question Number 8. Sports. 10 Points. <i>(short pause)</i></p> <p>Who held the record for most career homeruns until 2006, when Barry Bonds used steroids to cheat his way to #1?"</p> <p>Well done. You get 20 points!</p> <p><KA-CHING!></p>
<p>CUT TO:</p> <p>Fullscreen text: TRIVIA TIP! Feel free to reword the question on the third pass. Cut out extra phrasing. Make it more "your own".</p> <p>BACK TO:</p>	<p>I like that you read it the second time just a little bit faster. Depending on how difficult the question is—or based on any puzzled looks from the players—you may need to slow down or even repeat the question a third time.</p> <p>What if a team just <i>really</i> doesn't understand the question?</p> <p>Sure. Sometimes people are a bit loosey goosey from the Grey Goose... but it can be annoying for the other teams who <i>do</i> understand the question if you have to repeat it four times.</p> <p>So in that case, while on mic, tell that team to come to you for further explanation.</p> <p>Trivia Tip!</p> <p>Feel free to reword the question on the third pass. Cut out extra phrasing. Make it more "your own".</p> <p>Alright let's take our delivery up a notch...</p>

She reads from the computer.

CUT TO:

Fullscreen text:

TRIVIA TIP!

Examples of where controlled pauses can be really beneficial:

- **Between giving the point value and asking the question.**
- **Right before repeating a more difficult question.**
- **Between reading the question and giving its answer.**

BACK TO:

We say *delivering* the question - and not *reading* the question - because reading is what you do at the library.

And sleeping!

Um. Right. Delivering the question means you inject personality and drama into the words.

You can do this by emphasizing certain nouns or dates, adding dramatic pauses, and switching up the pace of how you read the question.

Wanna give it a shot?

"Who became President of the United States on January 20th,

(rolling out date)

Nineteen... Eighty... One?"

Good. By drawing out the date, you build suspense and enthusiasm. It also helps players process the information.

Trivia Tip!

Here are a few examples of where controlled pauses can be really beneficial:

- Between giving the point value and asking the question. (This builds anticipation for the upcoming question)
- Right before repeating a more difficult question. (This allows the players to process the info)
- Between reading the question and giving its answer. (This builds excitement.)

ZOOM IN to CLOSE-UP

Onscreen text:
DEAD AIR

ZOOM OUT

SINGLE on Deanna

The video FREEZES/GLITCHES, like an old VHS tape.

A few seconds passes...

Returns to normal

Back to TWO-SHOT

Using controlled pauses is an essential technique for hosts to master. But there's a fine line between a controlled pause, and...

DEAD AIR!

<stock SCREAM SFX>

We'll cover more about Dead Air in a later video – but Grasshopper, what do you suppose we mean by "Dead Air"?

(matter-of-factly)

Dead Air is an unintended interruption of the video or audio signal during a television for radio broadcast...

(pause, looks around)

... or a trivia show.

Precisely. And nice use of a controlled pause. 10 points!

<KA-CHING!>

Thank..... you.

Ah, I see what you're doing there.

Yep. I'm using controlled pauses to emphasize.....

..... what I'm saying.

OK, that was weird. But you bring up a good point:

ZOOM IN to CLOSE-UP

While pauses can make your delivery more interesting, a pause at the *wrong spot* can lead to...

DEAD AIR!

<stock SCREAM SFX>

This spot of Dead Air may cause a situation where someone could yell out the answer to—

—Ronald Reagan!

...the question. Right.

In our experience, this can happen when people are just overly excited they know the answer. It's rare you'll have to deal with actual hecklers; for the most part, everyone's there just to have a good time.

Maybe what I could do is remind everyone during my announcements not to blurt out the answers.

Yes, Padawan! That's a great idea! 10 points.

<KA-CHING!>

Onscreen text:

How to Reveal the Answer

1. Play a song
2. Score answers as they come in
3. Give 30-second warning, 2–3 minutes before song ends
4. Fade down the song when time's up

5. Repeat the question
6. Set up and reveal the answer

OK, now let's talk about the process of **giving the answer**.

Once you've asked the question, four things happen next:

- Play a song
- Score the answers as they come in
- Give a thirty second warning, 2–3 minutes into the song.
- Fade down the song when time is up.

Then, once you fade the song down - two more things need to happen:

- Repeat the question
- Set up and reveal the answer

Make sense?

Yup!

Then let's see it in action!

Deanna fades the music on the computer. She speaks into the mic.

<MUSIC fades>

(into mic)

OK! The question was: "Who held the record for most career home runs until 2006, when Barry Bonds used steroids to cheat his way to #1?"

(pause)

And the correct answer is....

(pause)

Hank Aaron!

Excellent! 20 points for you!

<KA-CHING!>

She clutches the mic like an Oscar.

Oh my gosh, thank you! This means so much! I'd like to thank the Academy...

CUT TO:

Fullscreen text:

TRIVIA TIP!

Project into the microphone! Don't rely on the venue's sound system to carry your voice.

Trivia Tip!

Make sure you project into the microphone. Don't rely on the sound system to carry your voice. Most house sound systems are inadequate for the size of the venue. If you speak at "conversational level" you most likely will not be heard. So breathe in deep from your diaphragm and project that beautiful voice!

BACK TO:

OK, my young apprentice. I think you're ready for the next lesson, where we'll discuss the perfect format to an awesome trivia night.