



iTods & iPods



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The [Apple iPhone](#) (left) and it's smaller sibling the [ipod touch](#) (right) have very much taken the world by storm. Those who wish to discover the differences between the two can find out by searching the [web here](#). Otherwise, check out some of the ways that you can use an ipod touch or iPhone before, during and after lessons as a teacher of the deaf. (Note that from here on I will refer to both the ipod touch and iPhone as ipod unless I need to refer specifically to one or the other).

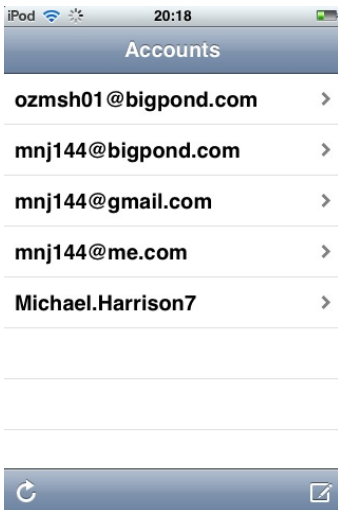
Both of the devices are effectively the same as far as user interface is concerned. In addition to this, both have the capability of downloading thousands of different applications to your device for a broad range of uses. Some of these applications are free, while others incur a small fee (usually between \$1.19 - \$5.99 although one of the applications I will talk of will set you back a still reasonable \$49.99)

When you turn your device on you will have access to your applications from the Home Screen. This is a screenshot of my own Home Screen.

You will see about 20 icons for different applications (*apparently you can have up to 9 screens worth of icons*). The four icons at bottom of screen from left to right are [Safari Web Browser](#), [Email](#), [Music](#) (and recorded stimulus materials) and [Photo Viewer](#).



Let's have a little look at some of the programs available and how you can use them as a 'TOD'.



Email - If you cannot live without having access to email while you are away from your desk - the ipod allows you access to email. You can send and receive emails just like your home or office email program can. I have 5 different email addresses that I use for different purposes. I can check any of these at same time.
For **NSW DET staff** - the email application actually allows you to send and receive emails from your @det.nsw.edu.au email address provided you have an internet connection (WiFi or through mobile data). Support for Push email is also available (which means that if your email provider offers it - emails can arrive on your device instantly without having to check for new messages. The @det.nsw.edu.au email system has Push email capabilities.

Both the [Calendar](#) and [Contacts](#) applications on your ipod can be synchronised to your PC/Mac's software (*such as MS Outlook/Entourage*) or can even be set up to Synchronise to your calendar and Contacts of your work email account. One thing that is lacking in the out-of-the box set up on the ipod is the ability to Synchronise Tasks/To Do lists. I get around this by using an application called [Toodledo](#) on my ipod touch which is synchronised to an online account of same name. This in turn is synchronised to Outlook on my laptop. Tedious to set up but it is a way around the lack of this feature out-of-the-box.

For those that are wondering - all synchronisation settings are done using iTunes software which is available for mac or pc for free from the apple.com.au website.

An often overlooked feature of my ipod touch is the fact that it is really just a glorified [mp3 player](#). I currently have 385 songs on my ipod and can probably handle twice as much as that again if I were to fill it right up with music. Not only do I have all of my CD's on there and the ability to purchase tracks off itunes directly from the ipod, I also use the 'music' part of the device to store and play back recorded stimuli material for listening sessions.

For example I have the **Romanik Auditory Skills Program CD Audio Files** all stored as an album for quick locating and playback of appropriate tracks. I have recently purchased an **ipod speaker dock** which allows me to playback audio files through speakers to use during session. Device can be powered by 6 AA batteries or by the supplied AC adaptor. More info on speaker dock found on last page.



The final application of the four at bottom of the screen is the [Photo Library](#). Here I can store, view, send via email photos or other image files as I need. I have photos of my recent trip to USA/Canada for example which I can show the world as I see fit. This application is also handy to use for flash card type work that you might do during sessions. For example, I might want a student to "Tell me all about ..." a picture to encourage speech.

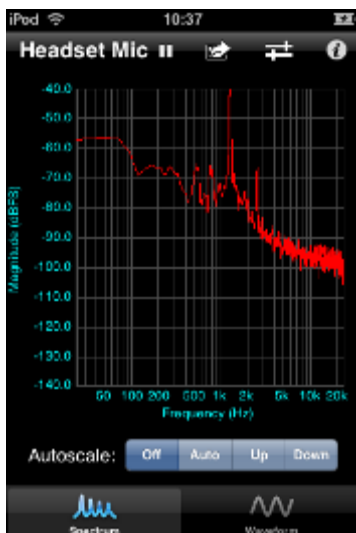


One thing I have to say at this point is that **Kids will think you are really cool** if you have one of these and tend to focus their attention just a little more than they otherwise would if you gave them a printed paper copy of the same material.

Here are some of the applications that I have found and use a fair bit. These are all available from the App Store either direct from device or via Itunes software.

[RIDBC Auslan Tutor](#) \$49.99 AUD

Had to put this one first as is one of the best! This handy little application created by the team at the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children in Sydney Australia, allows the user to search for a wide range of words which a video will show you how to 'say' the word in Auslan. At time of writing, not all words in the Auslan dictionary are included but they will be updating the application in due course. A very handy thing to have access to just in case you forget how to sign a particular word one day.



[SignalScope](#) \$29.99

This is a great tool that turns your ipod into a real time audio analyser. Note that the ipod touch does not have a built in microphone. You will need to purchase a microphone to use application. This is a handy tool which can give you a fairly accurate picture of the sound levels of various frequencies in any given sounds. I use it extensively to check that feedback is not occurring in sound field amplification systems (*I am profoundly deaf after all*).

[iPro Recorder \\$5.99](#)

This turns your ipod into a digital note taker/recording device. Very easy to use and the quality is excellent. I use this application to record speech samples of students for playback/analysis, recording of entire sessions for professional development reasons as well as being able to track progress in speech of student.

Once again, ipod touch does not have a built in microphone and as such will require an external microphone to work. You can send recordings via wifi to your computer.



[Decibel \\$1.19](#)

Ever wanted to show a class teacher that their classroom is just plain too noisy for anyone to learn effectively, let alone a hearing impaired child??

This handy little application turns your ipod into a sound level meter which enables you to see just how loud sounds are. Handy for calculating reverberation times of classrooms if you actually know how to do it.

I personally found it reasonably accurate and quite handy. Requires external microphone in order to function.

[The extras - external microphone and speaker dock](#)

As I have mentioned several times, the ipod touch DOES NOT have a microphone built into the device while the iphone DOES have one built in.

There are a range of different options available to ipod touch users - I use a [Griffin Smarttalk](#) as my microphone on the ipod touch. I have found this quite a good quality microphone and if memory serves me correctly, was able to buy this for around \$20. A must have accessory for ipod touch users wanting to use a couple of the programs I have spoken of.



Both the ipod touch and iphone have a speaker built in, but unless you like the sound of a very tinny transistor radio, I highly recommend using either headphones or some type of speaker system. Both of the devices allow you to connect your own speakers or sound systems using the built in socket on bottom of devices. My speaker system of choice for sound quality, portability and price was the [Logitech Pure-Fi Express](#) Ipod dock.



Running on 6 AA batteries or supplied AC adapter it delivers a very suitable sound quality and volume level for playback of stimulus speech materials for use during sessions. Also very handy for playing music when doing all that admin]ghfU]cb work as well.

Only suggestion I would make if you are running on batteries - take one of the batteries out when not in use as the clock stays on and drains batteries very quickly.