

Podcasts for Students




What is a podcast?

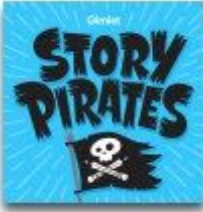



A podcast is a lot like a radio show. It has episodes like a TV show would have, and it's usually in an audio-only format, although video podcasts do exist. The length of a podcast episode can vary drastically, anywhere from two minutes to two hours, and they produce on a schedule that ranges from daily to "whenever." Listeners will typically subscribe to favorite podcasts so that new episodes are delivered to them through whatever app they use.


How does one listen to podcasts?






Although you can listen to them right through a desktop or laptop computer, many people listen to podcasts on a smartphone, on a tablet, or in their cars, using a podcast app that can grab just about any show you're interested in and update that series whenever a new episode is published.

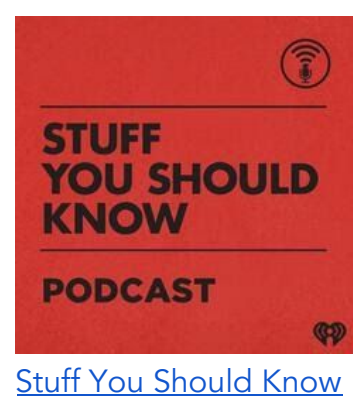
For more information on podcasts, check out the [Parents' Guide to Podcasts](#) from CommonSense Media.

| Name | Recommended Age Range | Description |
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|  Wow in the World | All ages | NPR's first show for kids is exactly the sort of engaging, well-produced content you would expect from the leaders in radio and audio series. Hosts Guy Raz and Mindy Thomas exude joy and curiosity while discussing the latest news in science and technology in a way that's enjoyable for kids and informative for grown-ups. |
|  Circle Round | Ages 3 to 8 | Circle Round is an engaging, gentle storytime podcast aimed at kids. In every episode, narrator Rebecca Sheir tells a lesser-known folktale or story from around the world, helped by a rotating voice cast of talented stage-and-screen actors. The stories are captivating and compelling and nearly always accompanied by a positive message or moral. |
|  Highlights Hangout | Ages 3 to 8 | The minds behind the kids' podcast Wow in the World have transformed the popular magazine <i>Highlights</i> into a high-energy audio series. Classic favorites from the magazine like "Goofus and Gallant," "Ask Arizona," and "Hidden Pictures" (or, in this case, "The Hidden Sounds Game") are reimaged as variety show segments, cheerfully guided along by hosts Tim and Juanita. |

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|  <p>Story Pirates</p> | <p>Ages 3 to 8</p> | <p>Nothing can really match a kid's original story in terms of absurd comedy. And that's what's at the heart of this wacky, wild, imaginative podcast. In each episode, the Story Pirates crew -- a group of talented improvisers pretending to be pirates -- read short stories written and submitted by kids, then reenact them with hilarious results. There are even original songs, famous guest stars, and interviews with the young authors about how it feels to have their work adapted.</p> |
|  <p>This Podcast Has Fleas</p> | <p>Ages 3 to 8</p> | <p>With a hilarious concept and a fantastic voice cast, This Podcast Has Fleas is a delight for all ages. The premise is that two family pets -- an exuberant dog named Waffles and a cool cat named Jones -- have dueling podcasts where they talk about what's going on in the house from their (obviously superior) perspectives. Dog people <i>and</i> cat people will be howling with laughter.</p> |
|  <p>The Show About Science</p> | <p>Best for ages 3-9, but fun for curious minds of any age!</p> | <p>This science interview show is hosted by 6-year-old Nate, and while it has some serious science chops, it's also just plain adorable. Nate talks to scientists about everything from alligators to radiation to vultures, in his distinctly original interviewing style.</p> |
|  <p>BUT WHY</p> | <p>Best for ages 5-10, but interesting to all curious minds</p> | <p>Produced by Vermont Public Radio, each episode of this podcast starts with an audio recording of a child asking a question (listeners are invited to send in their own), such as why people have different religions, why the sea is salty, and whether bumblebees have hearts. The rest of the episode goes on to answer that question by inviting experts to share their knowledge on the topic in simple language kids can understand.</p> |

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|  <p>Classics for Kids</p> | <p>Ages 5-11, but the content would be interesting to anyone wanting to learn about composers</p> | <p>The short episodes of this classical music podcast introduce listeners to different composers, often taking several episodes to study specific pieces or aspects of a composer's work. The site also offers lesson plans, games, and other activities to supplement the show.</p> |
|  <p>Tumble</p> | <p>Best for ages 6-12, appropriate for any age</p> | <p>Tumble is a science podcast that shares the stories behind science discovery. It explores how science actually works as a process. With stories ranging from reaching the deepest part of the ocean to hunting for black holes in distant galaxies, Tumble is co-hosted by a science journalist and a teacher.</p> |
|  <p>BRAINS ON!</p> | <p>Best for ages 6-12, but interesting to all curious minds</p> | <p>Each episode of this science podcast is co-hosted by a different kid, tackling their questions with interviews, fun segments, and the occasional musical number. Episodes cover a wide range of topics like carnivorous plants, interpreting dog and cat sounds, and life on other planets.</p> |
|  <p>Short & Curly</p> | <p>Best for ages 7-12, appropriate for any age</p> | <p>Short & Curly is an ethics podcast from Australia. The hosts investigate dilemmas relevant to kids, like whether you have to love your sibling or whether Pokemon Go is actually playing you.</p> |

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|  <p>SHABAM!</p> | <p>Best for ages 8-18, but entertaining for older ages as well</p> | <p>This fast-paced, quirky podcast uses fictional stories to teach listeners about science. It's hosted by an emergency medicine physician, a science journalist, and a filmmaker. Season 1 tells the story of three kids who are separated from their parents during a zombie apocalypse.</p> |
|  <p>KiDNuZ</p> | <p>Ages 8-14</p> | <p>Created by 4 Emmy winning journalists, KidNuz is a daily 5-minute news podcast made with kids in mind. The podcast provides briefings on the day's top stories that are appropriate for kids ages 8-14—which means no talk of murder, terrorism, assault, or anything else too gruesome for children. The reporting is unbiased and nonpartisan, too.</p> |
|  <p>Book Club For Kids</p> | <p>Best for ages 9-14, appropriate for any age</p> | <p>In every episode of this podcast, a different group of kids discusses a young adult book. Each episode also features a celebrity reader and an interview with the book's author.</p> |
|  <p>Science Friday</p> | <p>Ages 9-18</p> | <p>Regularly one of the most popular science podcasts out there, "SciFri" (as it's known to its fans) has been informing and entertaining listeners for more than 20 years. For curious science lovers who want to learn about the latest discoveries, Ira Flatow's weekly discussions with experts and listeners are a must-listen.</p> |
|  <p>Stuff You Missed in History Class</p> | <p>Ages 9-18</p> | <p>Little-known history comes alive three times a week in this fascinating, comprehensive podcast from the people at HowStuffWorks. You don't need to be a history buff to get hooked, but if you're not, you might become one after a few episodes. With a focus on weird events, overlooked stories, and underrepresented groups, this popular series is educational, too.</p> |

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|  | <p>Ages 13-18</p> | <p>From the people behind the award-winning website HowStuffWorks, this frequently updated podcast explains the ins and outs of everyday things from the major ("How Free Speech Works") to the mundane ("How Itching Works"). Longer episodes and occasional adult topics such as alcohol, war, and politics make this a better choice for older listeners, but hosts Josh and Chuck keep things engaging and manage to make even complex topics relatable. And with over 1,000 episodes in its archive, you might never run out of new things to learn.</p> |
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Sources:

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