

Praat handout #1**Downloading and installing Praat**

Praat [pra:t] (Dutch for ‘talk, tattle, boasting’) is a freeware program for speech analysis. It is provided by Paul Boersma and David Weenink of the Institute of Phonetic Sciences, University of Amsterdam. This handout tells you how to download and install Praat on your own computer.

The Praat software is frequently updated by its authors. The changes are usually small, but if you are using this handout with a different version of Praat from the one listed below, you may find that some of the functions and features look or act slightly differently from the way they are described here.

These instructions were updated for Praat version 6.4.40 on August 19, 2025.

1.1 Downloading and installing Praat

- (1) Go to the **Praat web site** (linked from our class web site under *Praat resources*):
<http://www.praat.org>
- (2) To **download** the version of Praat for your operating system, click on the appropriate link (i.e., “Windows”, “Macintosh”, “Linux”, etc.) at the top left of the Praat main page and follow the directions.

Windows users need to choose between 64-bit, ARM64, and 32-bit versions of the software; some explanation of this choice is given right on the download page. You probably want 64-bit, but if you have a new fast laptop you can see if you can use ARM64.
- (3) **Install** Praat on your computer—follow the directions provided on the page where you downloaded Praat.

1.2 Problems?

- If you are unfamiliar with using your computer, or with installing new software, you may be able to get some **help** from ITS [Information Technology Services] at UNC.
Walk-in: <https://its.unc.edu/service-desk/> (Student Union 1506, M–F 9–5)
Phone: 919-962-HELP
Web site: <https://help.unc.edu/> (for help requests, live chats, and more information)
- If you **can’t hear sounds** when you try to listen to a sound file (see Praat handout #3):
 - (a) Make sure your headphones are plugged into the headphone/audio jack on your computer.
 - (b) Find your computer’s control panels and make sure that the audio volume is not set too low and is not muted.
- If you have **other problems** downloading, installing, or using the Praat software or assigned sound files, please let me know!