

# HOW TO SET UP ZOOM FOR ONLINE GUITAR LESSONS

In order to ensure I can see and hear you properly, I recommend you become familiar with Zoom and make some changes to its default settings. The following post guides you through how to do this so that I can focus on helping you play guitar as quickly as possible...

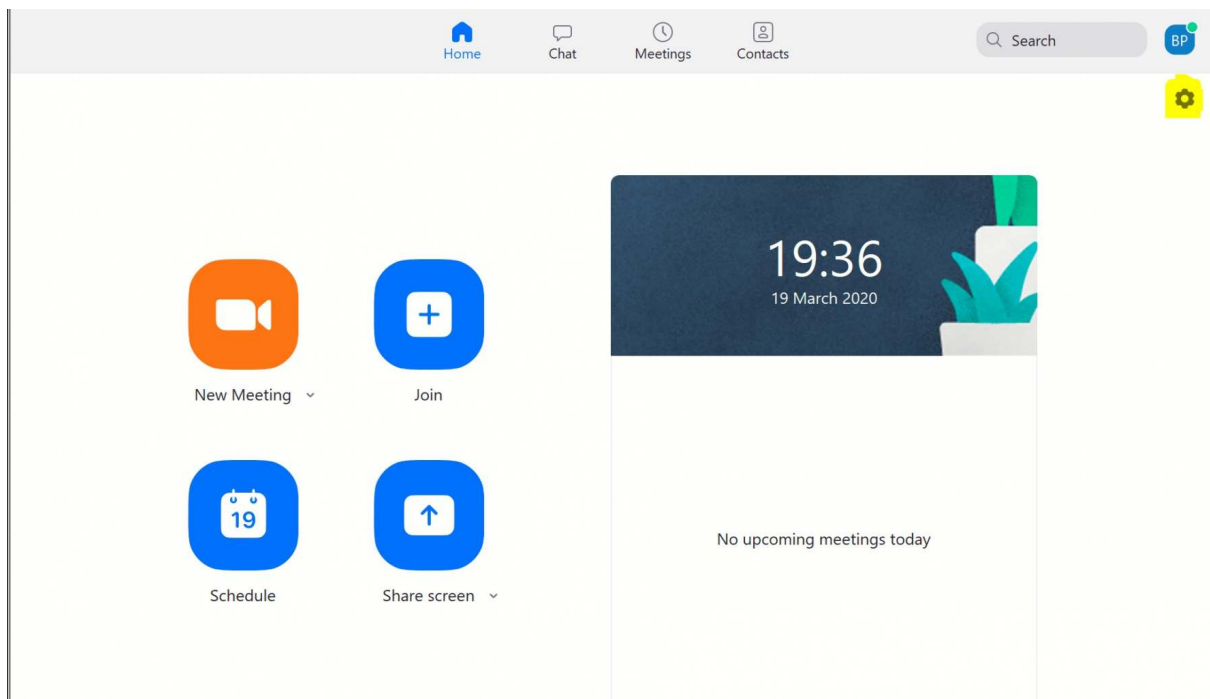
(Please note the advice below is primarily for computer/laptop users, although I have provided advice for those using a tablet or phone where appropriate).

## 1. DOWNLOAD ZOOM – IT’S FREE!

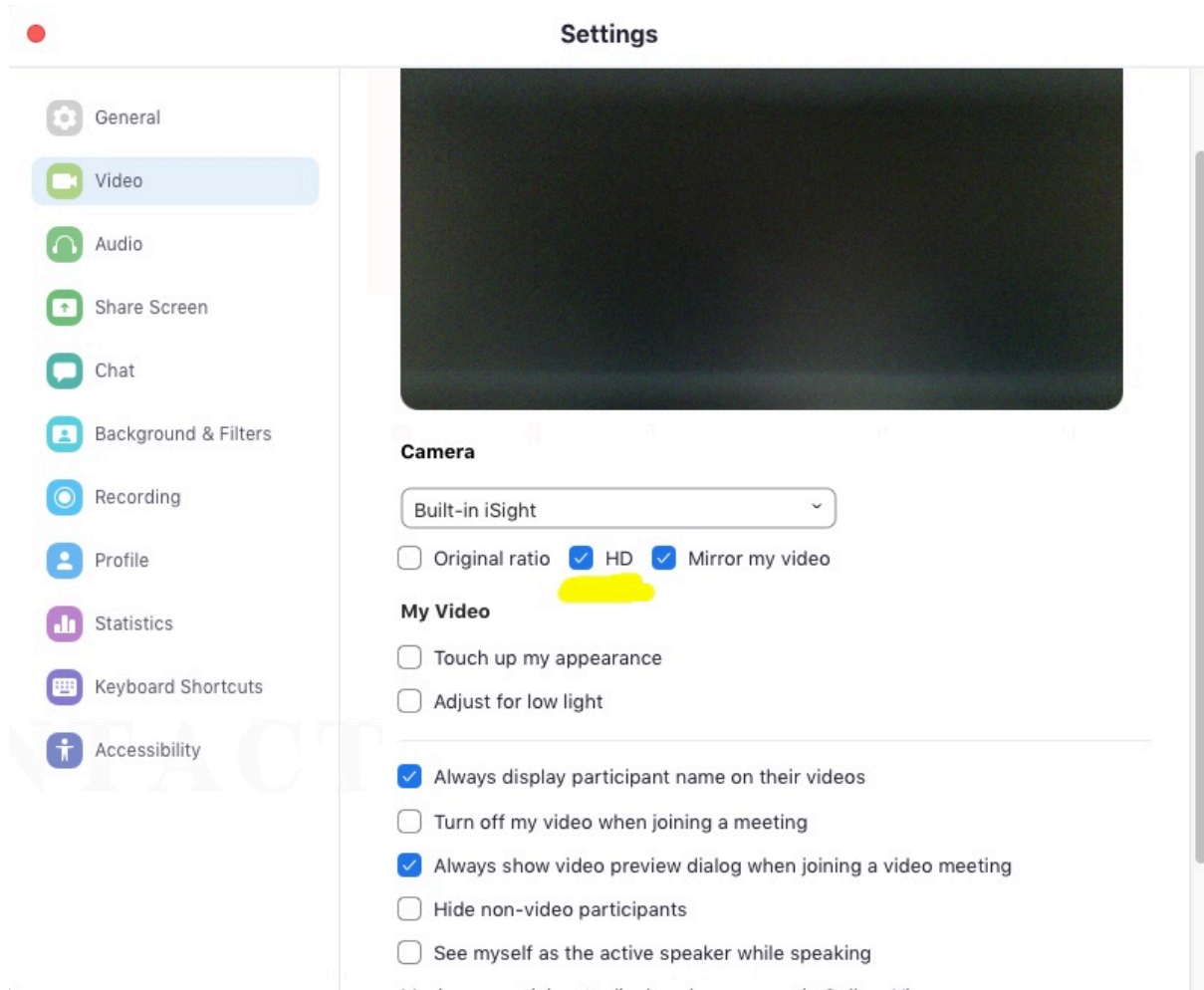
Go to <https://zoom.us/> and download the app. You should do this whether you are using a computer, tablet or mobile phone.

## 2. ADJUST YOUR VIDEO SETTINGS

On your computer or laptop, open the app and go into your settings by clicking the cog highlighted below.



Go to the Video tab on the left-hand side and tick the “HD” option highlighted below. This probably won’t be available if you don’t have an HD camera. But if you do, you’ll send me a better quality picture!



Not every computer has a built-in web camera, although every modern laptop and many all-in-one PCs do, and they will automatically be synced with Zoom. You can also use an external USB camera by first plugging it into your computer and then changing the default camera in the Camera dropdown shown above in Zoom's Settings/Video tab.

If you do not have a computer with a web camera or an external camera, I suggest you use a tablet or smartphone for your lessons.

### 3. ADJUST YOUR AUDIO SETTINGS

Zoom's default audio settings are designed to minimise background noise, which is great for business conference calls but not so good for music lessons! Your guitar will be treated like background noise, so if you don't adjust your audio settings, I will find it hard to hear what you are playing.

Thankfully, there are a few things you can do on your end to fix this.

In Settings, go to the Audio tab on the left-hand side. Ensure that that the 'Output Volume' is at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up so that it will be loud enough for you to hear properly.

## SPEAKER

Ideally you will have headphones, and if so connect them to your computer then change the dropdown under the 'Speaker' heading to 'headphones'. If you do not have any headphones you can use the 'Built-in Output (Internal Speakers)' of your computer, in which case choose this option from the dropdown.

Alternatively, if you have an audio interface connected to your computer then change the dropdown to the name of your audio interface.

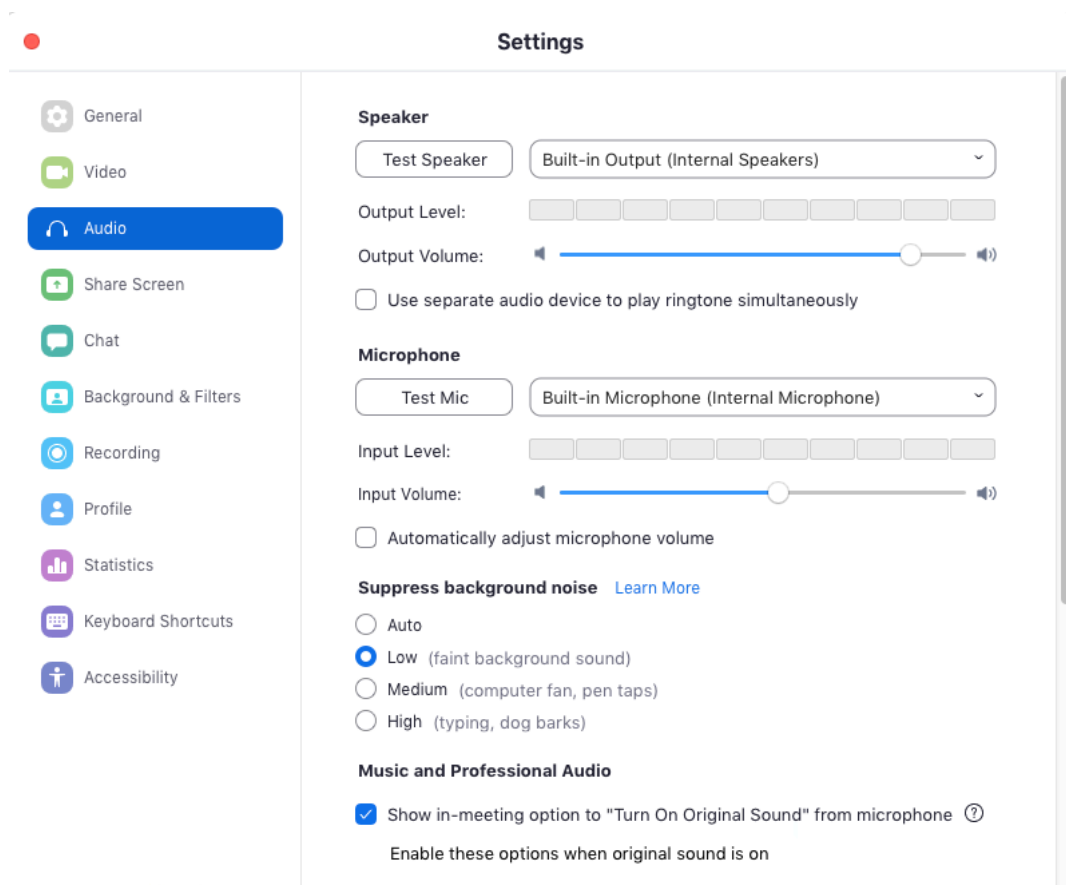
## MICROPHONE

Leave the dropdown as 'Build-In Microphone (Internal Microphone)', or if you are using an external camera which also has a microphone then choose the name of your camera from the dropdown.

**IMPORTANT** Ensure that the option that says 'Automatically adjust microphone volume' is unticked.

## SUPPRESS BACKGROUND NOISE

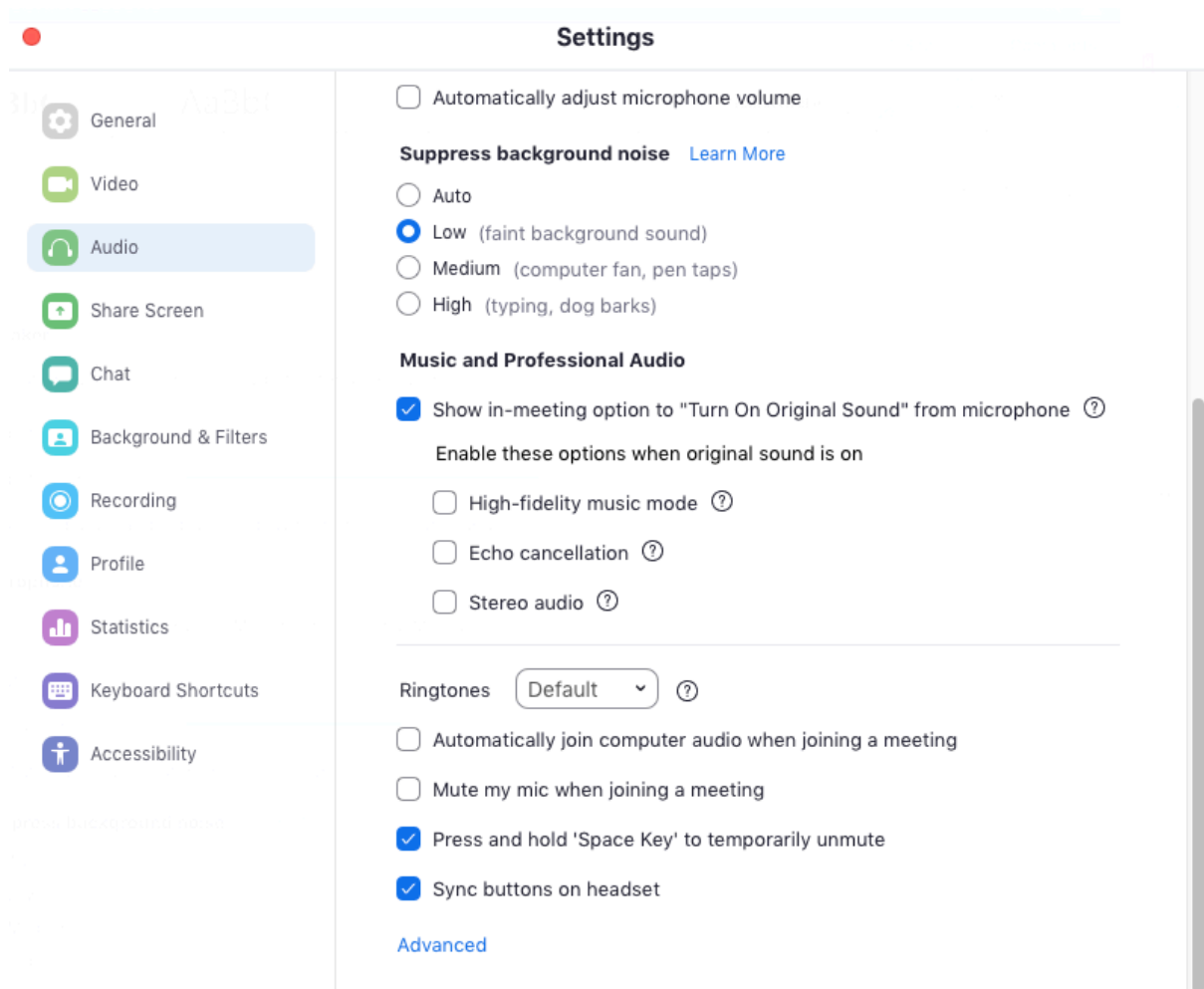
**IMPORTANT**-Change the 'Suppress background noise' option from auto to 'Low' (otherwise I won't be able to hear your guitar as the sound will not be picked up properly by your microphone).



Now scroll down...

## MUSIC & PROFESSIONAL AUDIO

**IMPORTANT** Tick the option that says 'Show in-meeting option to "Turn on Original Sound" from microphone' -see below



## 5. USING A WINDOWS COMPUTER?

If you are using a Windows computer, please click this [link](#) for information on how adjust your settings for even better sound!

## 5. TIPS FOR A GREAT ZOOM LESSON

Now that you have your settings ready to go, follow these tips to ensure you make the most out of your lessons.

- a) **Try to find a quiet area to focus on your lesson** – preferably one with no loud, persistent noises or intermittent loud noises but not a bedroom
- b) **Ensure you have a good WIFI signal**
- c) **Plug in your device** so that it will not run out of power midway through the lesson
- d) **Never have a window behind you** (unless it's dark outside). You'll be backlit and I won't be able to see you or your guitar properly. You'll get the best light if you place your phone or laptop between yourself and a window, so the light from the window is on your face.
- e) **Be prepared and ready at least 5 minutes BEFORE your lesson is scheduled to begin.** Have your [instrument tuned](#), your lesson materials to hand, a pen or pencil and computer/phone set at a good angle.
- f) **I mostly need to be able to see your hands and your guitar.** A camera angle from the front will work well.
- g) **Wear headphones if you have them** as they will GREATLY improve the sound quality and help to prevent echo and feedback.
- h) To join your lesson, **click on the link I send you or enter the Meeting ID & password.** If you already have the Zoom app downloaded, it will open automatically.
- i) **Enable your video** by clicking on the video icon at the bottom of your screen (so that I can see you)
- j) **Enable your audio** – Zoom will ask you to “Join with computer Audio” or if you are on a phone or tablet “Call using Internet Audio” (so that I can hear you)
- k) **Don't get TOO close to your device** as it will distort the audio quality. I'll test and adjust once we get started.

Please follow the above steps carefully. It will take some time, but you will only need to adjust the settings once and it will ensure you will get the best quality online lesson possible.

As always, if need any further assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch