Basic Sound Editing using Audacity 1.3

Using Effects

By the end of this worksheet I should be able to...

- **explain several sound effects**
- **add an effect to part of a sound file**
- **remove/undo an effect**
- **use fade in and fade out to alter the volume of a sound.**

Effects in Audacity

Audacity has 37 different effects that can be used to alter the sound wave.

A few of the best are explained below.

Amplify can be used to change the volume of the sound wave.

Change Pitch is used to make the wave sound higher (imagine the chipmunks singing) or lower.

Fade In and **Fade Out** can be used to make the volume of the sound gradually build or fade away.

Making a **Wahwah** sound with your own voice is the best way to understand what this effect will do to a sound.

Change Speed makes the sound play faster or slower.

Echo can create the effect of multiple voices or instruments by making the sound repeat once, after a small delay.

The **Sliding Time Scale/Pitch Shift** effect makes a sound get gradually faster or slower.

Delay is used to set up multiple echoes.

GVerb adds an effect that sounds like music is being played in a large hall.

How to Add Effects

Open the sound file called "Extra Track 2". Your teacher will tell you where to find the file.

Use Trim to keep about 30 seconds of music from the middle of the song and delete the rest.

Highlight the second half of the sound wave and select the "Pitch" effect from the "Effect" menu.

Move the slider at the bottom of the window until the Percent Change is approximately 50.

Now play the file from just before half way so that you hear the difference between the two halves (one without an effect and one with).

Select "Undo Change Pitch" from the "Edit" menu to remove the effect.

Repeat the above for all of the effects on page 1.
(Remember to undo the effect each time or you will start mixing effects together.)

Fade In and Fade Out

If a sound starts or ends suddenly it can sound awkward and badly edited.

Highlight the first few seconds of the sound wave and select "Fade In" from the "Effects" menu.

Before

After

You can see from the sound wave that the sound now starts quietly and builds up to full volume.

"Fade Out" simply has the opposite effect.