Basic Sound Editing using Audacity 1.3

2 Zoom, Cut & Trim

By the end of this worksheet I should...

- be able to zoom in, zoom out and fit the sound wave to the window
- state whether the timeline is displaying minutes or seconds
- cut and trim a section of the sound wave
- remove silence from a sound.

Viewing the Sound Wave

To edit a sound successfully you must be able to use zoom feature in Audacity.

Zooming in allows you to work in more detail.

Open the file called "Beethoven Fur Elise" that you used in the "Getting Started" worksheets.

Click on the sound wave and then click the +Zoom several times.
Note that as you zoom in the timeline stretches.

This shows **1 minute** of music in four 15 second blocks

This shows **20 seconds** of music in four 5 second blocks

This shows **2 seconds** of music in four 0.5 second blocks

This shows **0.25 seconds** of music in four 0.05 second blocks

On the timeline, a colon is used to separate minutes from seconds.
For example 2:15 = 2 minutes 15 seconds.

A full stop is used to separate seconds from fractions of seconds.
For example 2.5 = $2\frac{1}{2}$ seconds.

Use the -Zoom tool to zoom back out again.

Zoom, Cut & Trim

Cut

An important part of Sound Editing is being able to delete different sections of the sound.

Click on the "fit project" icon. This fits the whole sound file into the window.

Highlight the first 45 seconds of the sound wave.

To remove this section of sound, select "Cut" from the "Edit" menu.

Trim

Trim keeps the section of sound you have highlighted and deletes the rest of the sound wave.

Click on the "fit project" icon again and highlight the section of the sound wave shown below.

Now select "Trim" from the "Edit" menu.

As intended, trim removes the rest of the sound wave but this leaves a minute of silence before the sound starts.

Click on the "time shift" tool.

Now drag the sound wave to make it start at 0 on the timeline.

The next worksheet will teach you how to add some special effects to the sound.