

DialogCheck — Every word counts

DialogCheck is a dialog intelligibility meter, designed to provide an objective measure of speech clarity. The plug-in uses speech recognition, psychoacoustic modelling and dual neural networks to determine the “listening effort” required to understand any speech within a mix.

Poor dialog intelligibility is one of the biggest sources of complaints from film and television audiences, with studies suggesting that almost half of viewers prefer to watch with subtitles. For an audio engineer who might have been working on a scene for hours or even days, hearing the same dialog hundreds of times, it’s a challenge to predict how a mix will sound to someone hearing it for the first time.

Many of the factors that negatively impact dialog intelligibility are outside an audio engineer’s control. Speech might be in a language that the listener doesn’t understand, or might not have been enunciated clearly, the listener may be hearing impaired, or in a poor listening environment. But there are other factors we do have control over; dialog level versus music and background noise, dialog level, the quality of audio signal, and the use of reverb and effects, to name a few. DialogCheck provides an objective value that signposts where there might be room for improvement, or whether it might be time to resort to ADR!

- Based on Fraunhofer IDMT’s LE-Meter.
- Supports up to 9.1.6 channels.
- Real-time bar meter.
- Timecode-locked history graph with optional session offset.
- Realtime momentary clarity readout.
- User-configurable Upper and Lower Percentile readouts.