Headsets and Microphones
The best results from your dictation come when using headsets to dictate into your PC. The ideal headset includes an adjustable headband and a mute switch, and is foldable. If you use a portable dictation recorder, a stub microphone may be your best bet for its pocket size and convenience.

Which Headset or Portable Microphone Should I Use?
There are three types of headsets recommended for quality speech recognition. Those with…

1. A noise-canceling microphone, which registers background noise, but filters it out. TLS recommends the noise-canceling headset for use with Dragon NaturallySpeaking. For ratings on a headsets compatible with Dragon NaturallySpeaking, go to: http://support.nuance.com/compatibility/default.asp

2. A pressure gradient microphone, which receives the voice at a significantly higher level than background noise.

3. A Stub Microphones offers better recognition than built-in microphones in portable dictation recorders.

A Final Consideration…
USB Pods
Standard jack-in microphones are plenty reliable when using PCs, but if you use a laptop, you might consider purchasing a USB pod. USB pods contain their own electronics and do not depend on internal soundcards. This can be especially important with laptops, as the soundcards may be located close to the hard drive or the system fan.

Another significant advantage of using a USB pod is that they allow you to use a wide variety of microphones with any computer with a USB port.

It is best not to use a USB pod when you are using other USB devices on your computer at the same time. This is because all USB devices run on the same USB connection and consequently take power from one another, possible affecting voice recognition.