

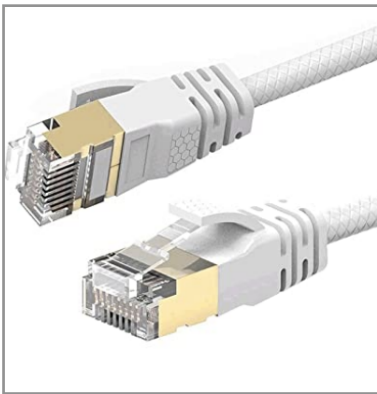
# Some Solutions for Improving Your Zoom Connection

If you are experiencing connection problems when using Zoom, or do not have a webcam there are inexpensive solutions, as well as assistance available from the *Université de Paris*, that can greatly improve your digital lives.

## CONNECT USING AN INTERNET CABLE

If you are currently using Wifi for Zoom, you will surely have a much better experience if you connect your computer to your router/internet box with a cable. Data travels much faster and more reliably over cable than it does over Wifi (particularly if you are sharing your Wifi connection with others). So when Zooming, try a cable connection for better results. This may require a small investment. For example a seven-meter, high-speed (Category 7A) cable costs about 12€.

To connect your router/internet box to your computer, you will need a cable with two “male” RJ-45 plugs.

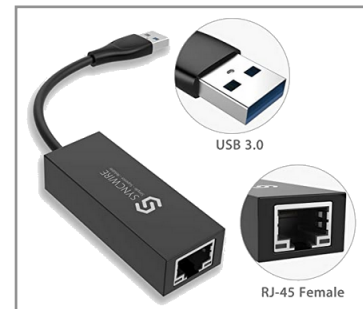


Attach the cable to the “Ethernet” or “LAN” ports on your internet box/router (“3” in this illustration).



## DO YOU NEED A CABLE ADAPTER?

Today, many computers do not have RJ-45 ports for connecting an internet cable, so you may need a USB or other adapter. The USB adapter at the right cost 14€. (Note for Mac users: although Mac offers a higher-speed connection through its Lightning/Thunderbolt port, the required adapter from Apple is 3-4 times more expensive than a generic USB adapter. And the USB offers good results.)



## USE YOUR TELEPHONE AS A WEBCAM!

If you don't have a webcam, you can probably use the camera on your smartphone or tablet/iPad instead. This [five-minute tutorial by Kevin Stratvert](#) explains how with the free application [Iriun](#), that is compatible with PC, Linux and Mac, and can be used with Android phones and iPhones. Iriun must be installed on your computer and your phone. Stratvert's tutorial shows you how to connect your phone's camera to your computer wirelessly if they are both on the same Wifi network. But you will undoubtedly have better results with Zoom if you connect your phone to your computer with a USB cable. Omar El Takkori explains how to do that using a Mac computer

and Iriun in [this YouTube tutorial](#). **Tip for Mac users:** To force Iriun to recognize your USB-connected phone, you may need to turn off Wifi on the phone.

## PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY ON ZOOM

You may not want to share the view of your home or apartment on Zoom. Did you know you can use any photo as a virtual background? [This article and video](#) explain how. In need of a photo for a virtual background? The Bibliothèque Nationale has [selected images](#) from its digital collection that can make interesting settings for your next Zoom call.



*Opera decor, sketch, Pierre-Luc Charles Cicéri. Collection Bibliothèque nationale de France - Gallica.*

## ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY

The Université de Paris offers students several kinds of assistance to improve their digital lives—internet connection, computers and more. For information, on the Université website, go to the **[Box étudiant page](#)** and select ***Aides***, then select ***Aides numériques***.

## OTHER TIPS

**Watch your bandwidth:** Every device at use on your network occupies some of the available bandwidth, which means that using multiple devices simultaneously can result in a poorer, more unstable connection. You can improve your Zoom experience if you limit internet use on your internet box/router... Perhaps your roommates or family can wait to play that online game or watch that Netflix program until *after* your Zoom meeting. Similarly, the length of the cable you use to connect to your internet box/router can impact your experience, because the internet signal weakens as it travels. Use a cable that is long enough, but not *excessively* long.

**Test your set-up before your Zoom call:** To ensure that your audio and video are working properly *before* a Zoom meeting, simply open Zoom and create your own meeting and test your camera, microphone, lighting, and virtual background if you will be using one. Also review how the Zoom interface works: how to mute your microphone and turn off your video; and how to use the chat function to send messages to other participants. Testing your equipment beforehand will save you and your colleagues/classmates valuable time.