Safety: Look out for everyone else!

1. Save battery Power by turning off mics.
2. Always bring Extra cables, batteries, and adaptors. And record lots of ambient sounds for use in edit suite.
3. Take Care with mics, because their pick-up is based on the vibrations of a fairly fragile diaphragm. Wrap cables figure-8 style.

Internal vs External Mics:

Internal Microphones are already attached on the top of the cameras. When using an internal microphone, make sure to have both audio channels set to Internal.

External microphones are attached to the camera with an XLR cable; they capture sound with better quality. When using an external mic, make sure you pick the one appropriate for your shooting purposes.

Choose the Right Microphones

1. Lavaliers are great for interviews where talent is stationary: they are small, omni-directional, and allow hand-free operation. They have small clips that can attached to the collar, ties or other clothing.
2. Shotgun mics are great for interviews, they are most sensitive directly in the front, less sensitive to the sides, and are designed to pick up sound well from a distance.
3. Cardiod mics work best when a single talent wants to hold the mic, such as a singer. They have good strong pick up of a talent in a noisy location.

Placement and Camera Settings

1. Place mics as close to sound source as possible.
2. Make sure that the talent uses the mic correctly, not touching Lavaliers, or holding hand-held mics too close or too far away.
3. When using an external microphone as the only audio source, always choose input 2. Make sure that the microphone is connected with an XLR cable to input 2.
Adjust the Audio Settings
1. Underneath your LCD screen you will be able to adjust your audio settings. Below are the desired settings for using external microphone as the only audio source as shown here.
   - Channel 1: Input II
   - Channel 2: Input II

2. Monitor sound levels on the LCD screen to make sure that there are good audio levels. Audio dials may be adjusted for recording levels on both channels. Make sure that both channels are set to the same level, unless there are different sources with different desired levels.

MIC/LINE SWITCH allows adjustment for different strengths of incoming signals. Mics put out a much weaker signal than line-level inputs. A line level signal into the camcorder’s mic input would be too strong. When using an external microphone, always use the mic input; the line input is only used for a line level feed from a mixer. The Line/Mic switch is located in the front of the camera.

Listen
1. Always use headphones (to detect changes in levels or ambient sounds, or a disconnection of equipment).
2. Monitor the audio levels on the audio meters; establish good levels ahead of time, do a test recording and listen critically
3. Monitor and maintain these levels throughout the shoot.

Breaking Down
1. Break down the microphones, take out batteries, and place back in the bag/box.
2. Coil all cables neatly before returning

Troubleshooting
1. If there is an external microphone attached properly, but there is no sound, check the audio channels to make sure they are set to the correct input.
2. If they are set to the correct input, but there is still no sound, check the audio levels.
3. Make sure that the MIC/LINE switch is set to mic.
4. If none of the above solves the problem, try a different XLR cable.