Imovie Quick tips for Mac - AUDIO

iMovie and iLife have a built in library of sound effects & royalty free music
Remember you cannot use copyrighted music without permission of copyright owner.

Background music or sound effects added to a project play behind the audio recorded with the video, so that you can hear both tracks at the same time. You can adjust the volume of the background music so that it plays more loudly or softly (called ducking) or you delete the sound portion of the original video.

command+K, to enable audio skimming/scrubbing
command+shift+M, mute clip

Import Music/Interview/ Sound Effect
    Click the Music & Sound Effects Browser button, right side of iMovie,
            OR
    Window > Music and Sound Effects

    Scroll through iLife sound effects, imovie sound effects, iTunes music

    Select and drag sound/interview/music from the Music & Sound Effects Browser
    to the project in the timeline.
        Drag to the point where audio is to be inserted
            OR
        Drag music/sound effect to dark gray area at end of timeline for sound to cover the project
        Sound will begin at the start of the project and finish at the end (even if the audio is longer
        than the video). When you add more images or video to the timeline the audio will
        automatically to cover the video.

Adjust duration of audio
    You may set the start point and endpoint of the background audio
    1. Upper left corner in project timeline, in green audio area, click on small gear wheel
    2. Choose clip trimmer
        wave form will appear top left of iMovie
            at start of audio, drag yellow clip indicator to point in audio where sound is to begin
            at end of audio, drag yellow clip indicator to point in audio where sound is to end

Eliminate original sound attached to video
    In project timeline, click on the clip with audio that is to be deleted
    Go to Clip > detach audio
    Click on audio bar (purple) and hit delete

You can also use this technique to move audio which is attached to video
    In project timeline, click on the clip with audio that is to be moved
    Clip > detach audio
    Click, hold and drag on audio bar (purple) to desired place in video.

You might do this if:
    sound quality is bad
    need a different or additional audio clip in the video -- voice over
    need to adjust a portion of sound clip

To lengthen or shorten a section of audio,
 Click on detached audio clip to select
 Drag end or beginning of the detached audio.

Adjust Audio in a clip:
 Normalize
 a. takes a piece of sound that is too soft and brings it to the loudest point without distortion
 b. can match volume from a number of clips or pieces of audio

 Select clip
 Hit letter "A"
 Click Normalize Clip Volume, and then click Done.

Ducking
 Adjusts the volume of audio clips that are playing simultaneously so that one plays more loudly or softly. *The track selected won't have its volume changed, the volume will be reduced for any other audio tracks that play simultaneously with the selected clip.*

 Select clip
 Hit letter "A"
 Click on ducking box.
 Move slider to adjust percent of reduction of *other audio tracks*.
 Hit done

Extract audio from a clip / add audio only from a clip

 In Event browser, select a frame range that has the audio you want to use
 Drag it over the clip in the project timeline, where you would like to insert the audio
 Release the mouse button when you see a green Add (+) symbol.
 Choose audio only.
OR
 Hold down the Command and Shift keys as you drag the clip to your project.

Fade In / Fade Out Sound
 Click on clip you would like to fade in or out
 Hit letter A
 Inspector palette will appear
 Click fade-in box to adjust duration of fade
 Click fade-out box to adjust duration of fade

Edit voice-over dialog track
 If you wish to close gaps in a person's interview, delete questions, or irritating small sounds such a cough:

 Click on the audio track to be edited.
 Click on waveform icon lower right corner of timeline,
 be sure adjacent slider is dragged to the far left.

 1. Place playhead at beginning of gap (or area to be cut)
 2. Right click, chose split clip
 3. A narrow vertical black line will appear in the audio track
 4. Place playhead at end of area to be cut
 5. Right click, chose split clip
 6. A narrow vertical black line will appear in the audio track
 7. Click between two black lines to highlight area to be deleted
 8. Hit delete