

CREATING SUBTITLES / CAPTIONS

WORKING WITH SUBRIP TEXT (SRT)

Subtitles, not only are they required in most educational video settings, but they make also everything great.

ACCESSIBLE
INFORMATION RETENTION
IT'S NOT THAT FUNNY...

From making your videos accessible, to increasing information retention, to watching that super funny video without disturbing anyone around you, subtitles are everywhere.

HOW ARE
THEY MADE ?

But how exactly can you make them yourself?

YOU CAN DO IT!

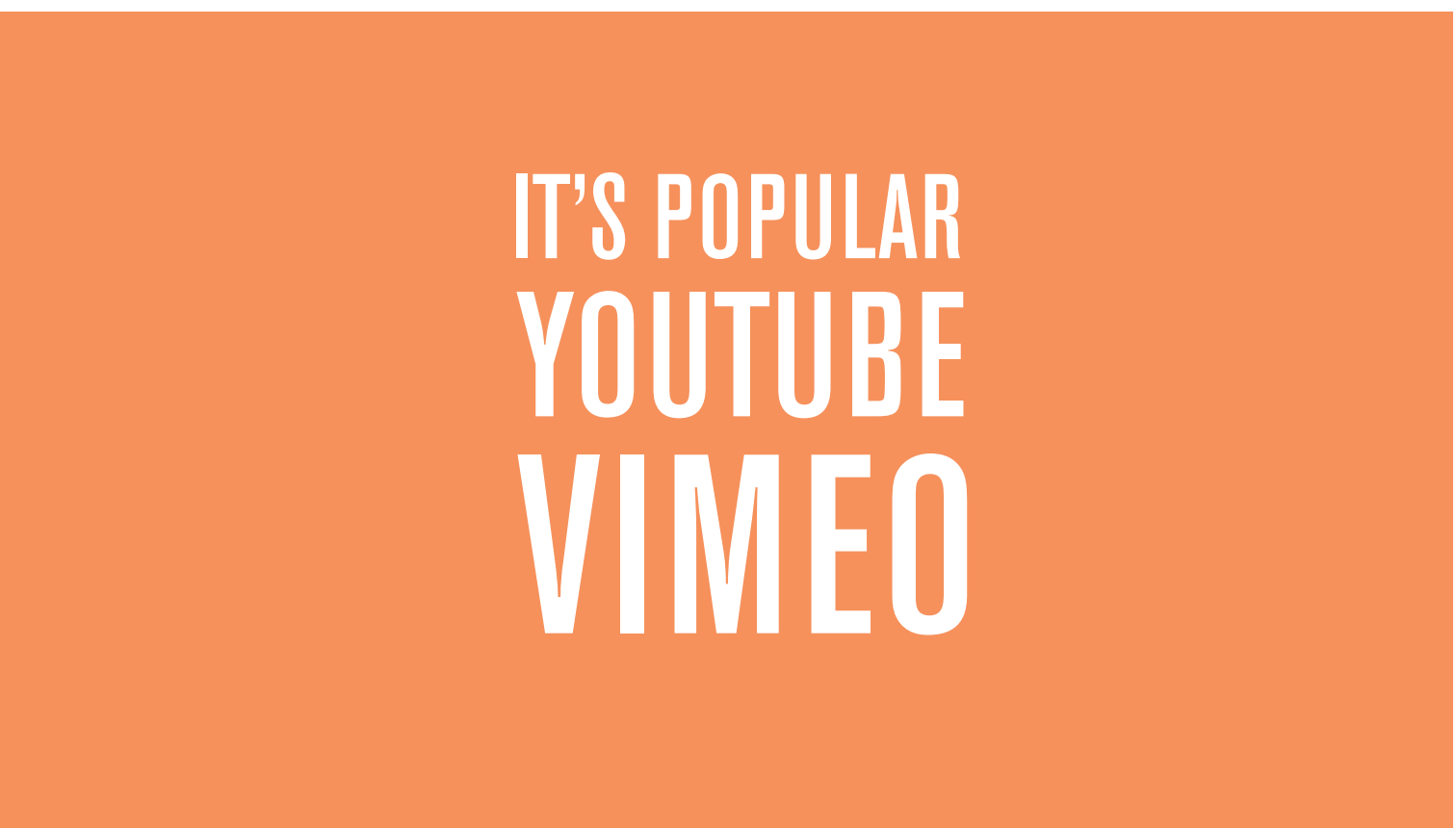
I'll let you in on a big secret: it's not that hard to do.

SUBRIP TEXT

In this lesson we will cover a very common subtitle format known as Sub Rip Text...

SRT

or SRT for short.



This format is widely utilized by most video hosting platforms,

YouTube and Vimeo being the biggest ones.

And to create or edit them you only need a simple text editor such as Notes on Windows or TextEdit on Mac.

```
1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,958
Hey guys,

2
00:00:00,958 --> 00:00:03,416
I'm going to do this a little bit differently today.

3
00:00:03,416 --> 00:00:04,625
As you can see,

4
00:00:04,625 --> 00:00:05,625
I'm a cat.

5
00:00:05,964 --> 00:00:07,541
And I'm going to be talking about

6
00:00:07,700 --> 00:00:10,583
screen recordings or screencats...

7
00:00:10,855 --> 00:00:12,458
see what I did there?
```

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CAPTION NUMBER

Lets start by dissecting an existing SRT file. Take a look at this one from the ScreenCAT video.

The SRT syntax is made up of 4 parts.

First is the caption number, starting with 1 and increasing sequentially. By the way the ScreenCat video is just over 2 minutes long and has 86 captions.

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screen recordings or screencats...

7

00:00:10,855 --> 00:00:12,458

see what I did there?

CAPTION NUMBER

TIME CODE

Second is the time code. This is probably the most complex part out of the entire syntax.

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,958

Hey guys,

2

00:00:00,958 --> 00:00:03,416

I'm going to do this a little bit differently today.

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00:00:03,416 --> 00:00:04,625

As you can see,

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And I'm going to be talking about

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00:00:07,700 --> 00:00:10,583

screen recordings or screencats...

7

00:00:10,855 --> 00:00:12,458

see what I did there?

CAPTION NUMBER

TIME CODE

START TIME, ARROW, AND END TIME.

It has the start time, an arrow, and the end time.

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,958

Hey guys,

2

00:00:00,958 --> 00:00:03,416

I'm going to do this a little bit differently today.

3

00:00:03,416 --> 00:00:04,625

As you can see,

4

00:00:04,625 --> 00:00:05,625

I'm a cat.

5

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00:00:07,700 --> 00:00:10,583

screen recordings or screencats...

7

00:00:10,855 --> 00:00:12,458

see what I did there?

CAPTION NUMBER

TIME CODE

START TIME, ARROW, AND END TIME.

SUBTITLE/CAPTION

KEEP TO TWO LINES AT MOST

Third is the caption itself. This can be on one line or multiple lines depending on your needs. But best practice is to stick with 2 lines of text at most.

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,958

Hey guys,

2

00:00:00,958 --> 00:00:03,416

I'm going to do this a little bit differently today.

3

00:00:03,416 --> 00:00:04,625

As you can see,

4

00:00:04,625 --> 00:00:05,625

I'm a cat.

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00:00:07,700 --> 00:00:10,583

screen recordings or screencats...

7

00:00:10,855 --> 00:00:12,458

see what I did there?

CAPTION NUMBER

TIME CODE

START TIME, ARROW, AND END TIME.

SUBTITLE/CAPTION

KEEP TO TWO LINES AT MOST

EMPTY LINE

And last is an empty line between the first caption and the one that follows.

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,958

Hey guys,

TIME CODE

START TIME, ARROW, AND END TIME.

As I mentioned before, the time code is the most complex out of the four so quickly lets focus on it.

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,958

Hey guys,

TIME CODE

START TIME, ARROW, AND END TIME.

HOURS:MINUTES:SECONDS,MILLISECONDS.

First up is the starting time. It is formatted like so: Hours: Minutes:Seconds,Milliseconds. Note that Milliseconds are separated from seconds by a comma while all the other values by a colon.

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,958
Hey guys,

TIME CODE

START TIME, ARROW, AND END TIME.

HOURS:MINUTES:SECONDS,MILLISECONDS.

-->

Next up is the arrow. It's to hyphens and a greater than sign.

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,958
Hey guys,

TIME CODE

START TIME, ARROW, AND END TIME.

HOURS:MINUTES:SECONDS,MILLISECONDS.

-->

HOURS:MINUTES:SECONDS,MILLISECONDS.

And last is the ending time, which has the same format as the starting time.

NOW WHAT?

Now that you know the syntax we have to ask ourselves: how on earth do we get those time codes?

Well you can get that by just looking at the time in your video player.

Here I can see that I'm at 00:00. Some media players will show you the milliseconds but if not then just think of it like this:

250
MILLISECONDS

500
MILLISECONDS

750
MILLISECONDS

1/4 SECOND

1/2 SECOND

3/4 SECOND

250 milliseconds is 1/4 second, 500 milliseconds is 1/2 a second, and 750 milliseconds is 3/4 of a second. In the screenCats example I used a professional video-editing program to pull the time codes, but for the most part I could have just estimated the milliseconds.

```
1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,000
Hey guys,
```

Take a look at the very first caption in the ScreenCats example.
It starts with caption 1.

```
1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,000
Hey guys,
```

The start time is 00:00:00 followed by the arrow, and the end time is 00:00:00,958

```
1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,000
Hey guys,
```

It may as well be 00:00:01,000

```
1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,000
Hey guys,
```

Then I have the text

```
1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,000
Hey guys,
2
00:00:01,000 --> 00:00:03,500
I'm going to do this a little bit differently today.
```

And then a blank line.

```
1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,000
Hey guys,
2
00:00:01,000 --> 00:00:03,500
I'm going to do this a little bit differently today.
```

The next caption's start time is the same as the previous caption's end time. This is perfectly fine
to do and won't cause any problems.

```
#
##:##:##,### --> ##:##:##,####
And there you have it
```

And there you have it.

```
#
##:##:##,### --> ##:##:##,####
And there you have it

#
##:##:##,### --> ##:##:##,####
With some practice and patience

#
##:##:##,### --> ##:##:##,####
you can create your own SRT file.
```

With some practice and patience you can create your own SRT file.



Below is some template code that you can use to get started. I look forward to seeing what you create.