

CAPTIONS vs SUBTITLES



What are Captions?

Transcription equivalents of all audio elements in a recorded program, prepared for FCC-compliant accessible broadcast to deaf or hard of hearing audiences. They generally convey dialogue, music, sound effects, and speaker changes, synced with a program's audio track, in a fixed visual style.

Captions can be turned off at will and are not a permanent part of video.

Captions can also be known as:

Closed captions, CC, 608, 608/708, broadcast captions, text tracks, SDH
(Subtitles for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)

What are Subtitles?

Transcription equivalents of selected audio elements in a recorded program, prepared for a given media outlet/platform and its targeted audience. The text is conveyed as a graphic image in flexible visual styles that can be customized by request, and then either burned onto a video or provided in an overlay file.

Subtitles are typically permanent and cannot be turned on and off.

There are two types of subtitles: **SDH** and **Non-SDH**

SDH

SDH is an initialism for "Subtitles for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing" and refers to transcription in the original language where important non-dialogue information has been added, such as music and sound descriptors and speaker identification.

Non-SDH

Non-SDH transcription is designed for a hearing audience and serves as more of a timed transcript of dialogue. We do not include music and sound descriptors and speaker identification in non-SDH since it's intended for an audience that will be able to hear these cues.

Subtitles can also be known as:

Open captions, open subtitles, captionbox, subs, SDH, SDH subtitles,
graphic captions/subtitles, stylized captions/subtitles, PNGs, XML/PNGs



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Do I need Captions or Subtitles?

