



Frequently Asked Questions about Captioning

What is captioning?

“Captioning” refers to the process of converting audio content — dialogue, narration, and descriptions of music and sound effects — into printed words. Captioning is used in television, webcasts, movies, videos, DVDs, or live events. Words are displayed on a screen, monitor, or other visual display system.

Who benefits from captioning?

The 36 million Americans who are deaf or have difficulty hearing benefit the most. Captioning also helps improve literacy skills of children and adults, especially for English language learners. Captioning benefits many people in noisy public venues such as airports, gyms, restaurants, and bars that offer television.

What are the different forms of captioning?

- *Closed Captions* are captions that are only visible when a viewer selects and activates them.
- *Open Captions* are captions that are permanently embedded in an audiovisual display and are always visible.
- *Real-Time Captions* are those provided live — on site — for presentations like classes, lectures, or conferences. This type of captioning is referred to as CART, Communication Access Realtime Translation.

Where can I learn more about captioning?

FCC: Captioning for Internet Programming

<http://www.fcc.gov/guides/captioning-internet-video-programming>

National Association of the Deaf

<http://nad.org/issues/technology/captioning/what-is>

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/pages/caption.aspx>

WebAIM: Captions, Transcripts, and Audio Descriptions

<http://webaim.org/techniques/captions/>