

## **UNIT 1. MEDIA ACCESSIBILITY**

### **ELEMENT 5. MEDIA ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

#### **LIVE SUBTITLING: SAMPLE 1**

#### **Other Video Transcript**

NARRATOR	Unit 1, Media accessibility; element 5, Media accessibility services; Live subtitling sample 1.
NARRATOR	This video includes a five-minute long video about live subtitling produced by ACMA (Australian Communications and Media Authority).
NARRATOR	The video illustrates how subtitles (or captions, as they are known in Australia) are made. It focuses specifically on live subtitling produced by respeaking and by stenography.
NARRATOR	<p>Captioning: Behind the Scenes</p> <p>This video has been created to show viewers how captions are made behind the scenes. Captioning makes television meaningful. At least 1 in 6 Australians is hard of hearing. Captioning is the text version of speech and other sounds. It allows viewers who are deaf and hard of hearing or who have the sound turned off the television, to read</p>



what's being said and understand when sounds occur while watching television.

Let's take a look at how captions are made. Captions are created by people. They can be prepared earlier, and added to the television program as it goes to air, or created live at the time that the program is broadcast. Or captions can be a mixture of both pre-prepared and live. The time when captions are created determines whether the captions appear in a block or scrolled across the screen.

CATE

With the advancement of live voice technology, I think a lot of people think that it's sort of more of a mechanical process, but in actual fact there's a lot of human involvement.

ADAM

There is a lot more to captioning than people realize. When you tell people you are a captioner they'll often ask if you're a really fast typist, which we all are, because that's something we do. But especially with live captioning, there's often ten or more things that we do at once.

WILLIAM

You are listening and talking and reading, all at the same time, we have to change the colour every time there's a new speaker, to indicate someone else's speaking. We also have to manually insert sound effects. The cheering of a crowd, for instance.



MELISSA                      We need to change the position of the captions, either to the top or to the bottom, depending on where important information is on the screen, and we need to insert punctuation.

CATE                         The big thing is really to provide the context. We're typing how it's being said, is it a joke, is it serious...

WILLIAM                    So there is a lot going on, it's a very dynamic environment.

NARRATOR                There are three different types of captioning: typing, respeaking or stenography. Respeaking requires the captioner to hear what's being said and then speak into the microphone connected to computer software, which then types out the words. The captioner will then need to edit the text and change colour for different speakers before the text is displayed on the screen.

A stenocaptioner uses a steno machine to type out the words being said. The machine is hooked up to a computer that translates the shorthand into readable English text. A stenocaptioner will also edit the text and change colour for different speakers, and then the text is displayed on the screen.

Captioners face challenges when there are multiple speakers, fast speakers, unfamiliar and complex words, strong accents and background noise. It's not always possible to reproduce all of



the dialogue in a timely way without some reduction or paraphrasing.

Why Can't Australian Broadcasters use Overseas Captions?

ROHAN                      Sometimes we can use the overseas caption files, but sometimes they're missing some content, or they might be in the wrong format.

ADRIAN                    Often there are rights issues, intellectual property rights issues, so the files can't be transferred between users. The cost and the time that play into acquiring those files just make it cheaper and easier to do it again.

NARRATOR              Why Are Live Captions Used On Pre-recorded Programs?

ADRIAN                    Sometimes we have to use live captions on pre-recorded shows just because they're delivered so close to the broadcast time, and there just simply isn't time to carry out the processes needed to produce the captions and deliver them to the network in time for them to use them. The actual process of captioning can take up to eight hours for an hour of program content.

NARRATOR              Can Captioners Fix Errors If They See Them?

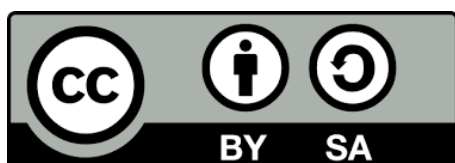
ROHAN                    Captioners can fix errors if they see them, but it does take time and can cause some delay, so the captioner needs to make sure they only fix the important errors.



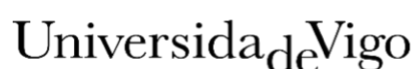
- CATE                      If there are large errors, say we put the wrong person's name out or something like that, we will correct the errors because that will affect understanding.
- ADAM                     Often, little words that won't make much difference to the understanding for the viewer, we might have to skip to keep up pace with the programming, because we don't want the viewer to miss out on anything, we'll just be mindful of what the viewer can understand, and that's the most important thing.
- NARRATOR              For further information about captioning and the captioning obligations of broadcasters and subscription television licensees in Australia, please visit [acma.gov.au](http://acma.gov.au).
- NARRATOR              Credits:  
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