Transcribe and subtitle

Turn speech into text and SRT subtitles, burn styled captions into a video, translate them, and fix the transcript before it ships.

GUIDE Step 1 · Learn

IN SHORT

- Get a transcript, an SRT file or burned-in subtitles from any recording, and fix them before they ship.
- Choose the output first; prefer an SRT over burned-in text when the platform accepts files.
- Transcription starts in Create > Text; a short transcript is one of the cheapest runs and checks any generated speech.

You need ✓ Any plan with credits ✓ An audio file or a video with speech

This lesson gets the words out of a recording: a transcript, a subtitle file, or subtitles burned into the video. You'll transcribe the lighthouse narration with Gemini 3.5 Transcribe, fix the SRT file by hand, and burn subtitles into a video with Scenario Caption Studio. It's also the fastest way to check any speech you generate.

As of November 2026

The models, settings and screens in this article are the ones Scenario offered in November 2026. New models and updates arrive often, so check the app for newer options before you choose.

Quick version

1. Open **Create** › **Text** and pick **Gemini 3.5 Transcribe**. Add your audio or video under **Audio**.
2. Add a **Language hints** entry if you know the language, and **Custom vocabulary** for names and invented words.
3. Turn on **Speaker diarization** for dialogue and **Word timestamps** for subtitles, then click **Generate**: you get a text file and an SRT.
4. Fix the SRT in any text editor: words in place, long subtitles split, numbers written one way.
5. To burn subtitles in, use **Auto Subtitles** or **Scenario Caption Studio**, then watch the result on the target device.

Before you start

Pick the output first, then the model:

You need	Model	What you get
A transcript and an SRT, with speaker labels or word timings	Gemini 3.5 Transcribe	A text asset and an SRT asset. Up to 60 minutes of audio, or 30 minutes with speaker labels or word timestamps on
A quick transcript or SRT, or an English translation	Speech to Text	Text or SRT; detects the language and can translate to English
Subtitles burned into a video, with simple styling	Auto Subtitles	The video with subtitles: font, colors, border, line length, language
Styled captions, translated, burned in or as a file	Scenario Caption Studio	Captions in one of 7 style presets or your own style, translation into 18 languages, burned in or as an SRT

Transcription lives under **Create** › **Text** ("Transcribe audio, summarize images, or run text-to-text models"), not under Audio.

From recording to subtitles

1 **Transcribe** — Gemini 3.5 Transcribe, text and SRT
2 **Fix** — names, numbers, long lines
3 **Deliver** — SRT file, or burn in
4 **Check** — on the target device

Step 1: Open the transcription model

1. Open **Create** › **Text**.
2. Pick **Gemini 3.5 Transcribe** in the model menu.
3. Under **Audio**, add your recording: drag and drop it, click **Select from Library**, or **Upload**. Here, the ElevenLabs v4 narration from Narration and speech.

Audio: lighthouse-narration-elevenlabs-v4-alice.mp3

Step 2: Help it with names and language

- **Language hints:** type a language code and click **Add**, here `en-US`. Leave it empty and the model detects the language among more than 85, even when a speaker switches mid-sentence. A hint helps most on short clips, accents and close dialects.
- **Custom vocabulary:** add names, product terms and invented words, one at a time with **Add**, so they're spelled your way. Here, `Keeper`. Keep the list to distinctive terms; everyday words weaken it.

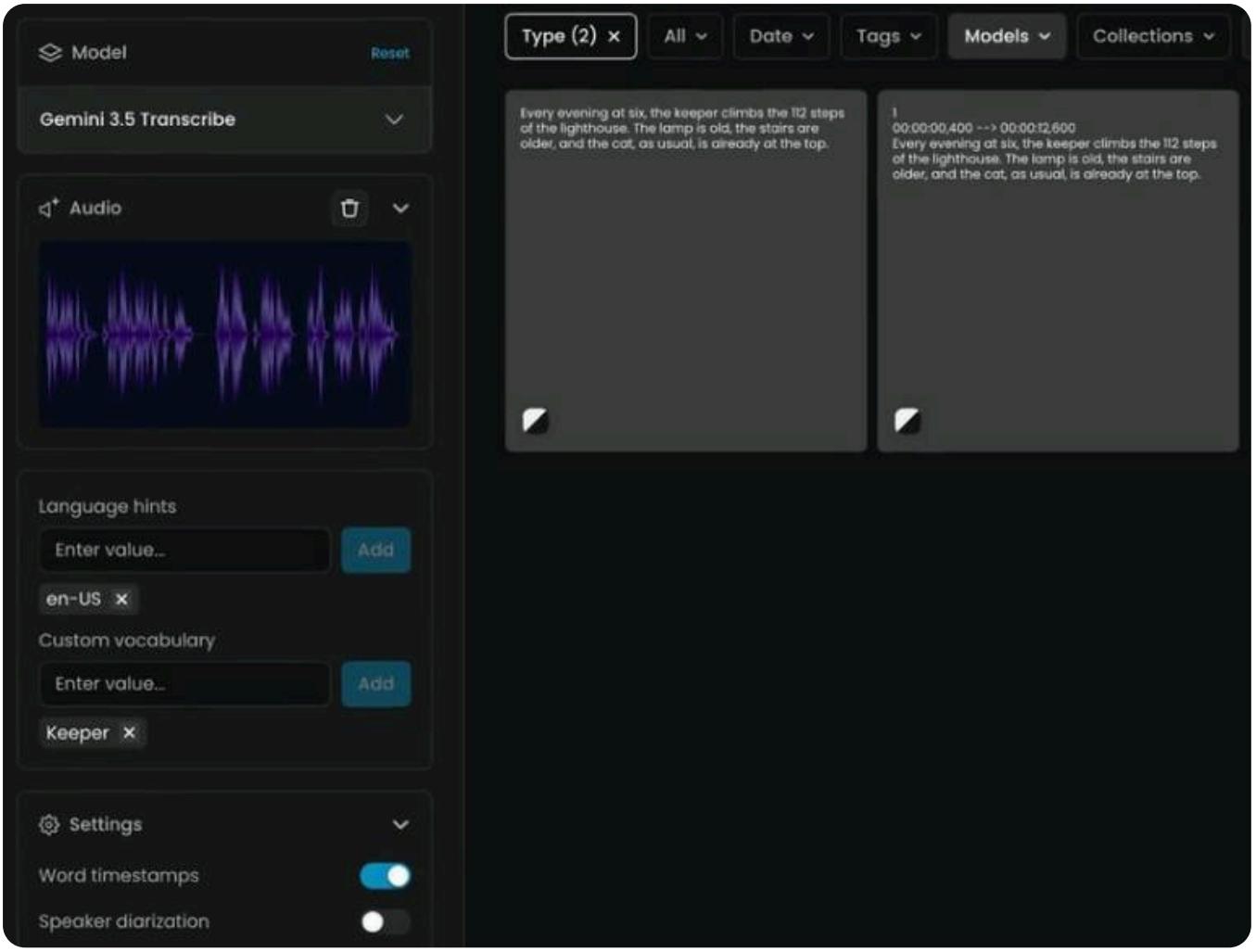
Step 3: Choose the settings and generate

Under **Settings**:

- **Speaker diarization** labels who speaks (speaker_0, speaker_1 and so on). Turn it on for interviews and dialogue.
- **Word timestamps** splits the transcript into timed, numbered segments. Turn it on if you'll fine-tune subtitles. Here it's on.

Either setting lowers the longest file the model accepts from 60 minutes to 30.

Click **Generate**. You get two files in your session: the text, and an SRT subtitle file.



Step 4: Fix the SRT by hand

An SRT is plain text: a number, a time range, and the words, then a blank line, repeated. Open it in any text editor. The narration came back as one subtitle:

```
Text

1
00:00:00,300 ⟶ 00:00:12,500
Every evening at six, the keeper climbs the 112 steps of the lighthouse. The lamp is old, the stairs are older,
and the cat, as usual, is already at the top.
```

Every word matches the script, but the subtitle is far too long to read. To fix it:

- **Fix words in place** and keep the time lines.
- **Split long subtitles** at a comma or a breath: one or two short lines each, on screen for no more than about seven seconds. Give each part its own number and time range.
- **Keep the numbering in order** after a split.

The same narration, split at a breath:

```
Text

1
00:00:00,300 ⟶ 00:00:05,900
Every evening at six, the keeper climbs
the 112 steps of the lighthouse.

2
00:00:06,300 ⟶ 00:00:12,500
The lamp is old, the stairs are older,
and the cat, as usual, is already at the top.
```

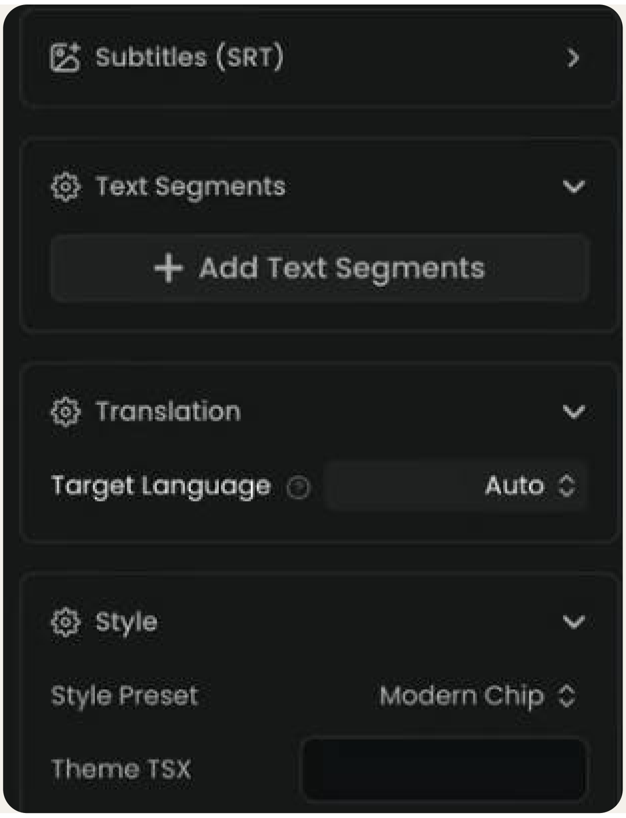
Decide how numbers are written. The narration said "a hundred and twelve"; the transcript wrote the digits. Either is fine, as long as it's the same everywhere.

Step 5: Burn subtitles into the video

When a platform can't take a subtitle file, burn the subtitles into the video with **Auto Subtitles** or **Scenario Caption Studio**. Find them by name in the model menu, and add the video under **Input Video**.

In Scenario Caption Studio:

- **Style Preset:** the look of the captions. The film uses **Modern Chip**, a rounded background behind the text. The others include TikTok Bouncy, Karaoke Fill, Karaoke Underline and Word Pop.
- **Translation** › **Target Language: Auto** keeps the spoken language; pick another to translate.
- **Text Segments: Add Text Segments** puts your own timed lines on screen instead of transcribing, for a title or a hook.
- **Subtitles (SRT):** use a fixed SRT for the text and timing, or get the SRT file out with the video.
- Segment limits: shorter segments, with fewer words on screen at once, are easier to read on a phone.



Auto Subtitles is the simpler choice: a fixed style you adjust with font, size, colors and border, the original language or a translation to English, and limits on how long a line stays on screen.

Generate, then **watch the result on the device it's made for**: a phone for vertical video, a TV or laptop for a trailer.

Step 6: Prefer a file where you can

If the platform takes an SRT, deliver the SRT. You can fix it any time, and players and platforms load it. Burned-in subtitles can't be turned off or corrected without generating the video again.

Use transcription as a quality check

Transcribe every generated speech take and every instrumental:

- **Speech:** compare the transcript with the script word by word. A changed word, such as "night house" for "lighthouse" after a voice change, is easy to read and hard to hear.
- **Music:** an instrumental should return no speech. Any text means the model sang or spoke something.

Check before you accept

Accept when

every word matches what was said, names and terms are spelled the way your project writes them, speakers are labeled correctly, numbers are written one way throughout, and each subtitle is short enough to read in the time it's on screen.

Reject when

a word is wrong or missing, a name is spelled differently between subtitles, speaker labels swap, a subtitle stays on screen for more than about seven seconds, or burned-in text covers an important part of the picture.

Common problems

What you see	What to do
Names come out wrong	Add them to **Custom vocabulary** and run again
The wrong language is detected	Add a **Language hints** entry; short clips are the most likely to be misdetected
Speaker labels are mixed up	Overlapping speech confuses labeling; clean the audio with ElevenLabs Voice Isolator first, or fix labels by hand
A long file is rejected	Split it, or turn off **Speaker diarization** and **Word timestamps**, which halve the limit
One subtitle runs for the whole clip	Turn on **Word timestamps**, or split the SRT by hand at commas and breaths
Subtitles drift after an edit	The video was trimmed after transcription; transcribe the final cut
A typo is burned into the video	Fix the SRT, then generate again from it with **Subtitles (SRT)**
The job failed or is stuck	See Failed or stuck jobs

What's next

That's the course: music, voice and sound on Scenario, and every take checked before it ships. To go back over model choice and prompts, see Audio on Scenario; to automate transcripts for a series, put Gemini 3.5 Transcribe in a workflow.

Related

Voice: narration, cloning and voice change

For All roles Page 5 of 5 in Audio

Verified in Scenario on Nov 11, 2026.