Netflix timed text field notes

A working reference for a first QC pass on English (USA) subtitles and SDH. Confirm the assignment, language and recipient’s current profile before delivery.

Event duration

The general guide sets a range from 5/6 of a second to 7 seconds. At 24 fps the minimum is 20 frames. Establish the reference rate before applying a frame count.

Lines and reading

The English (USA) guide sets a maximum of two lines with 42 characters per line. Check line breaks by phrase and watch the rendered result over the picture. A count alone cannot test comprehension.

Timing to sound and picture

Listen against the waveform and inspect the surrounding cuts. The timing guide specifies a minimum two-frame gap. Apply its shot-change rules with the actual picture and delivery rate.

Worked observation

In the Last Ferry sample, the picture cuts at 01:00:04:12. Inez begins “You left this.” at 01:00:05:00 and finishes at 01:00:06:16. At 24 fps the spoken interval spans 40 frames. Check the proposed subtitle in motion before setting its final out point.

Record the handoff

Save the subtitle version, language, frame rate, reference picture ID and unresolved findings. Judge the complete file against the actual delivery specification. A local check cannot promise acceptance.

Primary references

Netflix · General requirements
Netflix · English (USA) style guide
Netflix · Subtitle timing guidelines