Creating Basic Subtitles

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HOW TO CREATE SUBTITLES MANUALLY

1. **Transcribe** the film audio. If preparing subtitles for the hearing-impaired, also note down key sound effects and music (typewriter rattles, radio is playing a love song).

2. **Time** the original audio, if possible down to the millisecond. When does each line of dialogue or sound effect start, and when does it stop?

3. **Type up** your results. There is specialist software to do this, but the easiest way is via a basic text editor, for example _Notepad_ in Windows. **Do not** use a programme like Microsoft Word – you want text without any formatting.

Enter your subtitles into Notepad in the following format:

```
1
00:00:09,000 --> 00:00:12,600
To us, it was the best thing that could ever happen

2
00:00:15,600 --> 00:00:19,700
I could handle the earthquake every day, personally.
```

4. **Save** the file with the extension .srt and UTF-8 coding.

5. **Save** it in the same folder as the video to which it belongs.

6. **Make sure** the subtitles and video have the same file name with different extensions.
   - examplefilm.srt
   - examplefilm.mp4

7. **Play** the video back with a media player such as VLC.

earthquake - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

1
00:00:09,000 --> 00:00:12,600
To us, it was the best thing that could ever happen

2
00:00:15,600 --> 00:00:19,700
I could handle the earthquake every day, personally.

To include simple formatting, you can use basic html like <b> and <i>. When you want to start a new line, just press {ENTER}.

Each subtitle needs to be numbered.

Save As

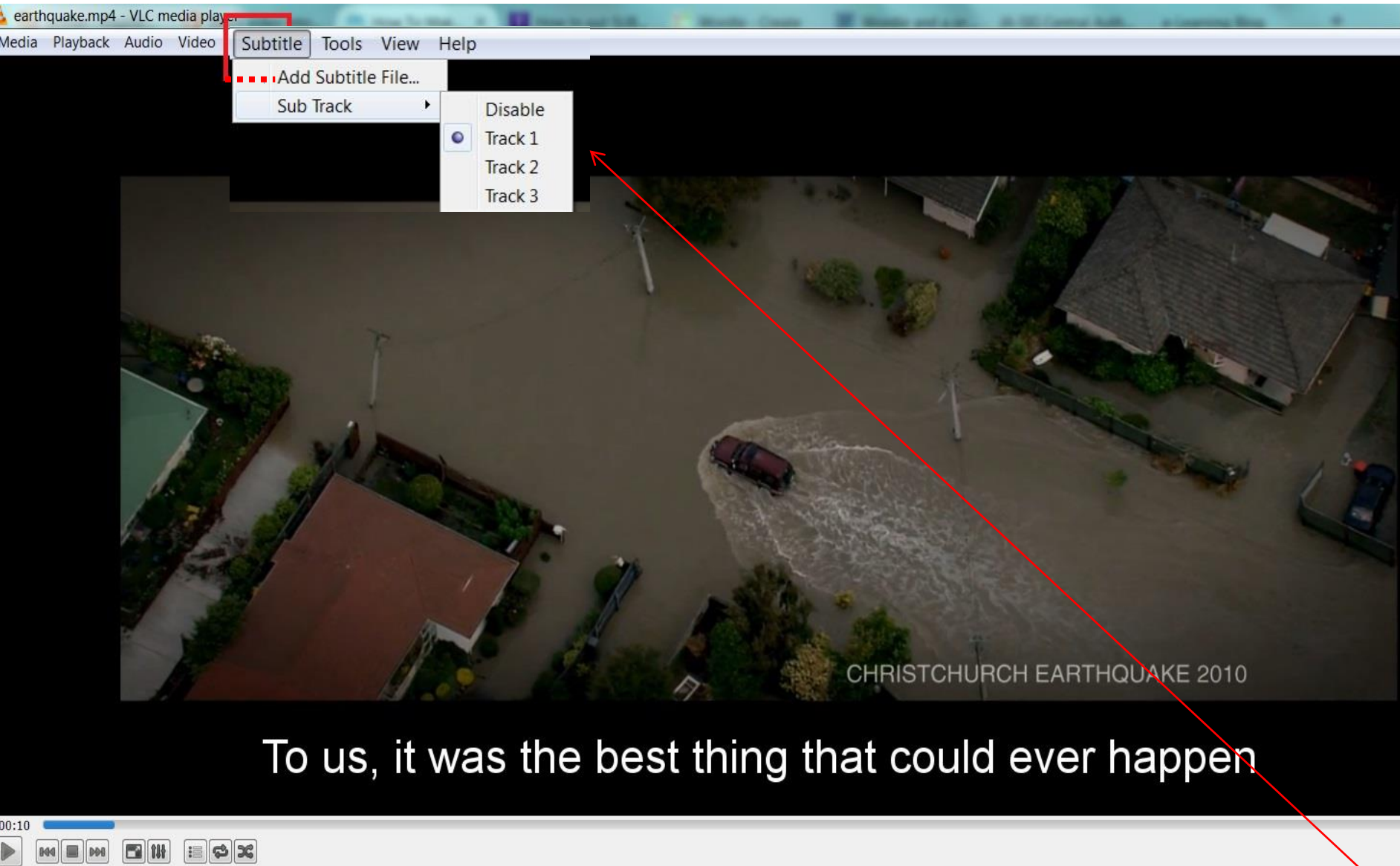« Neue Medien im Unterricht ▶ Tests   ▼ ↨ Search Tests

File name: earthquake.srt

Save as type: All Files

Make sure you include the extension (.srt) in the file name, as it is not a file type you can select in the next box.

Make sure you save the subtitle file in the same folder as the film the subtitles are for. They also need the same name. In this case, for the short documentary about the Christchurch earthquake *"Living Like Kings"*, the file names are **earthquake.srt** and **earthquake.mp4**

Encoding: UTF-8 ▼   Save   Cancel

Video and subtitles with identical names should play automatically on VLC – otherwise, it's easy to add the track directly.

HOW TO CREATE SUBTITLES - OTHER

1. **Aegisub:** free; easy to use – export is trickier. Must be downloaded. Link: http://www.aegisub.org/

2. **YouTube:** see here: https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2734796?hl=en

Note the difference between HARD and SOFT subtitles!

- <u>Hard</u> subtitles appear on the screen with the film and cannot be turned off – they are embedded in the video file.
- <u>Soft</u> subtitles must be added each time (VLC usually picks them up) from a file in the correct format stored in the same folder as the video file.