Handout:

# I’ve been asked to translate subtitles —what do I need to think about?

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| **Basics of subtitling** | **Keys to quality** | **Advanced** |
| **Correct** Accurate content idiomatic language  | **Clarity** Eliminate filler words, flubs, repetitions, false starts | **Logical units**Complete sentences, complete phrases.Wherever possible, keep full phrases on the same line\*\* (not always possible) |
| **Subtitle length**2 lines37–42 keystrokes= chars with spaces | **Condense naturally**Shorter phrases/wordsEliminate nonessentials |
| **Timing**1 short line: 1.5–2 sec1 full line: 3 sec2 full lines: 5–6 sec | **Scene change**Never let subtitlesrun across scene changes | **Timing between subtitles**2–4 frames between subtitles **unless** at least 1 sec pause in speech |

Medietextarna—subtitlers’ branch of Journalistförbudet – has published guidelines for subtitling in Sweden.

[https://www.medietextarna.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Riktlinjer-för-undertextning-i-Sverige-1-2020.pdf](https://www.medietextarna.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Riktlinjer-f%C3%B6r-undertextning-i-Sverige-1-2020.pdf)