

# SitePal Technical Note: Adding Subtitles to Your Scene

This technical note explains how to implement subtitles in your SitePal Scene.

***You do not need to be a programmer to follow the instructions in this document, no programming is involved.***

## Introduction

Your (Silver plan and higher) account supports subtitle functionality, which means that as your SitePal character speaks, it can also display text associated with the audio being spoken.

Subtitles can display a precise transcript of the audio being spoken, or they can display different information. Subtitles can be in the same language as the audio, or in a different language. This is entirely up to you.

Finally, subtitles can be displayed when playing audio via the API, or when audio is played as a result of user action (i.e. pressing the “play” button).

## Implementation

Getting subtitles to work in your SitePal Scene requires two things:

1. The audio being played must have a transcript.
2. Subtitles must be enabled for the Scene.

Let’s examine what each of these entails.

### Step 1 – Adding a Transcript to Your Audio

First, please note that a Transcript is assigned to an Audio, not to your Scene. Each and every audio you wish to play with subtitles must have a transcript.

We distinguish between *Static* and *Dynamic* audios.

Static audios are audios that are set up ahead of time in your account and appear in your audio library. This includes audios that were uploaded, recorded by microphone or added via TTS.

Dynamic audios are created in real time via API functions `sayText` or `sayAI`.

For Static audios, you must add the text transcript when you add the audio. Enter the text transcript for the new audio in the “Transcript” field.

Note that TTS audio has a built-in transcript – the text used to generate the audio is used as its own transcript if no transcript is provided. Nevertheless, the option to add a transcript for Static TTS audio is provided, for two reasons:

- a. You might want to display subtitles in a different language.
- b. You might be using phonetic spelling in your TTS text to improve pronunciation (e.g. “Vladimir Poo-tin”). This is a common & useful practice, but it necessitates having a separate transcript text for subtitle display.

For Dynamic TTS audios, the spoken text is always used as its own transcript. So there is no need or option to add separate transcript text. This also means that there is no way to display different language subtitles for Dynamic TTS.

Note that to add a transcript to an existing audio, or revise it, the audio needs to be re-added.

## **Step 2 – Enable Subtitles for Your Scene**

In your Scene List page, open the Scene Options dialog, and check “Display Subtitles”. That’s it!

### **Working Example**

A technical example of multi-lingual subtitles using the methods described above, is available in our support examples page, here -

<https://sitepal.com/api/examples/subtitles.html>

This example uses ‘sayAudio’ to play one of several previously created audios. The audios all sound the same, but display different subtitles. To do this, we uploaded the same audio file several times, each time with a different transcript, hence creating several audios.

View the source code of the page to see how it is implemented.

### **Troubleshooting**

If your subtitles do not display:

- Verify that your Scene’s “Display Subtitles” attribute is checked.
- Verify that your audio has a transcript (you can do so by clicking on the “Edit” button for your audio in your Audio List page.
- Check your plan – are you a Silver Plan subscriber or higher?

**Questions? Send us a note to: [support@sitepal.com](mailto:support@sitepal.com)**