

## WHERE CAN I FIND CAPTIONED CONTENT?

Captions are available on:

- DVD – Around 55% of new release DVDs
- The National Library of Australia provides a large listing of captioned multimedia for borrowing
- Television – All programs on ABC, SBS, Seven, Nine and Ten and regional channels between 6am-midnight, all news programs and many programs outside of prime time. Some programs screened on multichannels have captions
- Subscription TV – On most channels on FOXTEL
- Online – An increasing number of videos online have captions, including YouTube, iTunes, and catch-up TV such as iView, SBS on Demand and Plus 7
- Selected cinema and theatre performances



## HOW DO I KNOW IF CAPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

- When looking for captioned programs in your DVD store, library, in printed and electronic program guides and on the internet, look for 'CC' (closed captions) or ST (subtitles)
- Cinemas that provide closed captions sessions are listed at [mediaaccess.org.au](http://mediaaccess.org.au)

## HOW DO I TURN ON CAPTIONS?

- DVD – In 'set-up' or 'settings' on the DVD menu, look for the option to turn on captions or 'subtitles for the hearing impaired'
- Television – On your remote, press 'subtitle', 'sub-t', CC or the TV icon with a line underneath. Otherwise consult the set-up menu or manual.
- Online – Select the 'CC' button on the player or look for a 'turn on captions' option. Captioned videos can be searched for in online digital libraries such as YouTube and iTunes

## CAPTIONED RESOURCES

Our **CAP THAT!** campaign asks teachers to turn on captions for learning and literacy for all students.

You can find practical information and resources at [capthat.com.au](http://capthat.com.au) including:

- Lesson plans, worksheets and teacher notes that include captioned resources
- More information on captions, their benefits and applications

**CAP THAT!**

captioned for learning



**Media Access Australia** is Australia's only independent not-for-profit organisation devoted to increasing access to media for people with disabilities.

For more information about captions in education refer to [mediaaccess.org.au/education](http://mediaaccess.org.au/education)

# CAPTIONS: ESSENTIAL FOR LEARNING

## A MEDIA ACCESS AUSTRALIA EDUCATION RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS AND TEACHERS OF THE DEAF



## WHAT ARE CAPTIONS?

Captions are the text version of audio, including speech, sounds and music, that can be found on TV, DVDs, online videos and at the cinema and theatre.

Similar to subtitles for foreign language films, captions generally appear at the bottom of a screen.

## WHY TURN CAPTIONS ON IN CLASS?

Captions improve literacy for students by linking text, image and the spoken word.

They are essential for access to teaching and learning for students with hearing impairment, those with English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) and with diverse learning needs.

The benefits of improved student reading comprehension, incidental vocabulary acquisition and information recall, through the use of captions, is well documented in the research.

## PROVEN BENEFITS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Captions in the classroom improve:

- literacy
- vocabulary
- word recognition
- language acquisition
- comprehension
- inclusion in the learning process

## ESSENTIAL FOR STUDENTS WITH DIVERSE NEEDS

Captions especially help students:

- with hearing impairment
- with English as a Second Language/Dialect (EAL/D)
- with diverse learning needs
- with language delay
- who are visual learners
- who are struggling readers

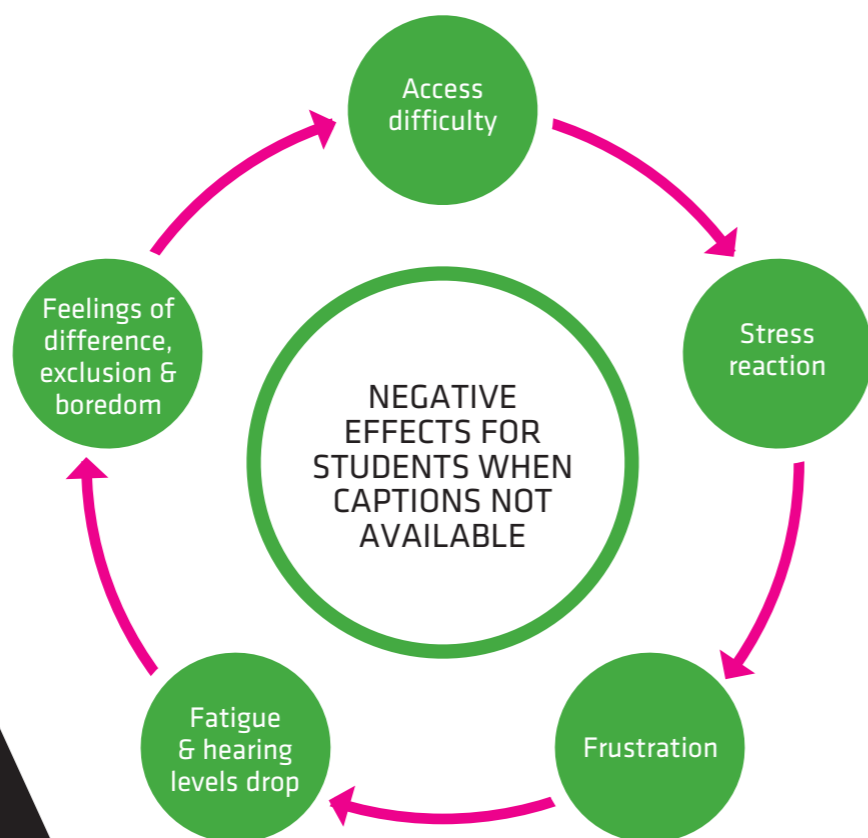


# WHY STUDENTS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT NEED CAPTIONS

For students with hearing impairment, listening with hearing aids, cochlear implants and other devices can still be difficult in classroom environments. Background noise, distance from the sound source and reverberation can reduce the clarity of the message.

## WHEN CAPTIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE

Students have reduced access to teaching and learning when captions are not available, and their self esteem can be affected.



“With captions on, I get the whole idea of what the picture is and what’s going on...it helps a lot.”

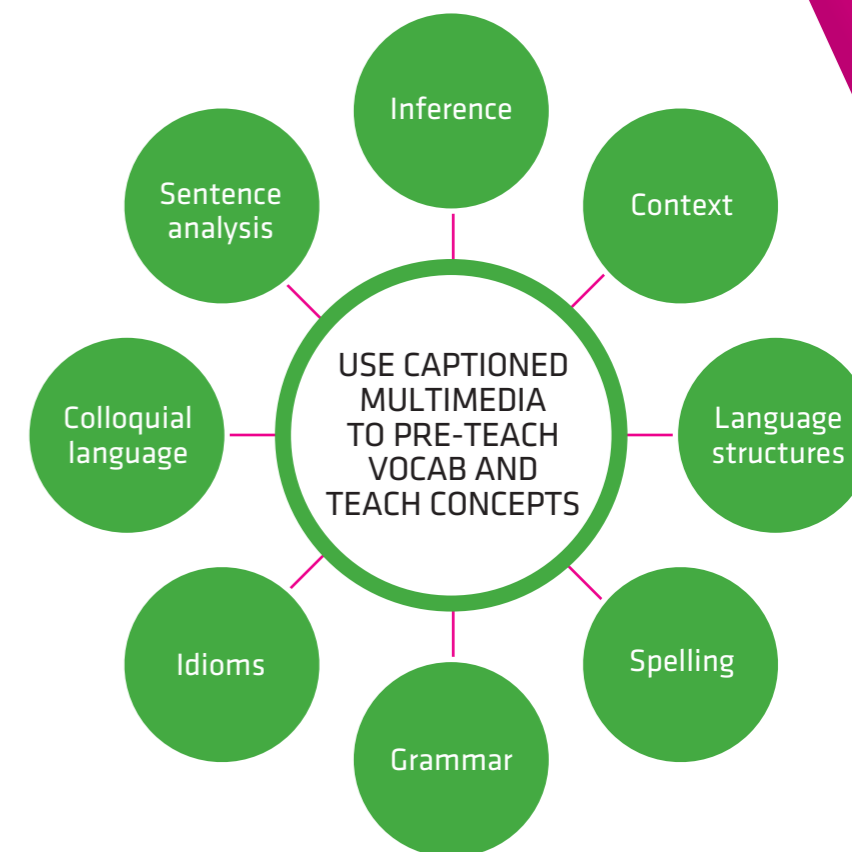
Kately - student with hearing impairment



# USING CAPTIONS IN YOUR SCHOOL

## INDIVIDUAL TEACHER APPROACH

- Turn captions on for all audiovisual resources used in the classroom.
- Plan for the use of captions in the classroom ideally one month in advance to guarantee sourcing captioned content.
- Use captions as a teaching tool. You might, for example, use captions to model specific sentence and language structures and highlight key points.



## WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH

- Facilitate collaboration and sharing of resources and ideas between teachers, librarians and learning support teachers.
- Encourage the use of captions as a teaching and learning tool, across the Australian Curriculum.
- Ensure the use and/or purchase of captioned content from the outset.

