Closed captions help make video content accessible to everyone in the Facebook community. Facebook now enables publishers to add closed captions to their Facebook Live broadcasts using the CEA-608 closed captions standard. Captions using this standard can now be ingested into Facebook Live broadcasts through the Facebook Live API.

How to enable closed captions in Facebook Live broadcasts

To enable closed captions:

1. Before you go live, set up a third-party tool or start working with a third-party caption provider to enable live captions for your broadcast. Options include Ai-Media and Telestream.

2. Along with the video footage you capture in your live broadcast, insert or pass through embedded CEA-608 captions data into the live encoder.

3. Stream your live broadcast feed via the Facebook Live API.

People can then view embedded closed captions for your broadcast in a Facebook experience on Android, iOS, or web browsers (see the Facebook Help Center for more).
Detailed instructions

Facebook supports CEA-608 closed caption ingestion through the Facebook Live API. To enable closed captions, pass embedded CEA-608 captions data into the h264 stream using the Live API. Encoding this information in h264 requires creating SEI Type 4 messages, which are then injected as NAL unit Type 6 messages. The protocol in order to parse the SEI Type 4 (USER_DATA_REGISTERED_ITU_T_T35) is documented in various CEA-608/708 publications. Good sample implementations include:

- [https://github.com/CCExtractor/CCExtractor](https://github.com/CCExtractor/CCExtractor)
- [https://github.com/szatmary/libcaption](https://github.com/szatmary/libcaption)

Example 1: Do-it-yourself captions using a third-party captions tool

1. Set up your live broadcast source (e.g., your camera or live production equipment).
2. In line with your video source output, install a closed caption inserter and pass the video and audio through.
   - The caption inserter sends the audio to the live captioner or auto-generation software.
   - The live captioner or auto generation software sends the closed caption data to the closed caption inserter.
3. Connect the closed caption inserter output to the live encoder input.
4. Configure the live encoder to support live closed captions on output or pass through closed captions.
5. Set the encoder output to your Facebook Live ingest point.
Example 2: Captions provided by third-party captioning service provider

1. Contact a third-party captioning service to book a live captioner for your broadcast.
2. Set up your live broadcast source (e.g., your camera or live production equipment).
3. Connect the live broadcast source with the live encoder.
4. Configure your output to your third-party captioning service provider’s specification.
5. Set up your live encoder output to your third-party provider’s destination or entry point.
6. The third-party provider publishes the live stream with closed captions to your Facebook Live API ingest point.