Words, minutes & a clear starting point

A printable speaking-time reference. Use it to budget your narration before editing, then check the actual recording.

Word budget by speaking rate

Minutes	100 wpm	120 wpm	140 wpm	160 wpm	180 wpm
1	100	120	140	160	180
3	300	360	420	480	540
5	500	600	700	800	900
8	800	960	1,120	1,280	1,440
10	1,000	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,800
15	1,500	1,800	2,100	2,400	2,700
18	1,800	2,160	2,520	2,880	3,240

How to use the table

Words = minutes x words per minute. At 140 wpm, a 3-minute script has about 420 words; a 5-minute script about 700. An 8-minute script has about 1,120.

Minutes = words / words per minute. A 1,000-word script at 150 wpm takes about 6 minutes 40 seconds before extra pauses or visual-only sections.

Planning estimates, not a recording measurement

Choose a pace that suits the speaker and subject. Names, numbers, pauses and delivery change the measured duration. This table estimates English narration only; it does not set Topicut production limits, approve sources or guarantee a finished video length.

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topicut.com/tools/words-to-minutes
topicut.com/tools/youtube-script-template