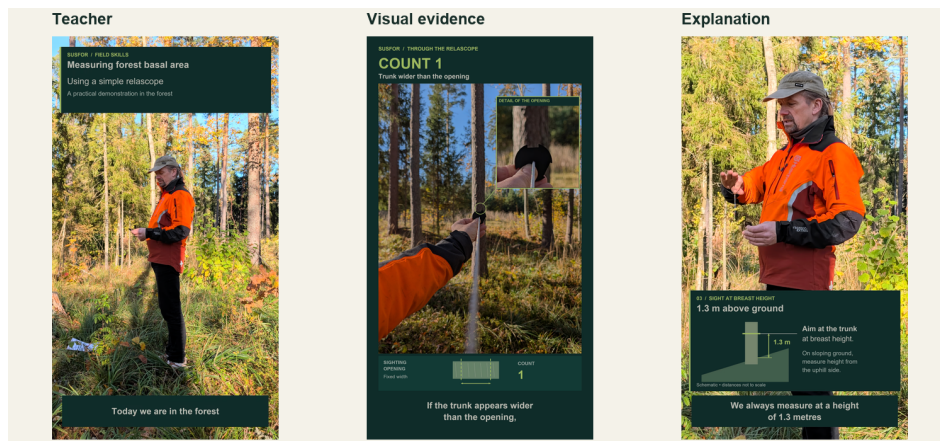


Make a teaching video with free tools

Make one short lesson. No paid AI subscription is needed.



This course is for teachers who are new to digital tools. Use a computer, a short phone recording and one photo. You do the editing in Shotcut. Free AI helps you plan, translate and solve small problems.

[Watch the finished example: Relascope measurement \(2 min 20 sec\)](#)

The forest example was made earlier with paid AI and other editing tools. It shows the learning result to aim for. This course teaches a separate free-tools method.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

Your goal: a 30-60 second MP4 video with clear speech, one photo and checked subtitles.
Pause the training video whenever you need more time.

Use two free tools

AI gives help. Shotcut makes the video.

1. Open ChatGPT and sign in with a free account. Write questions in the language you know best.
2. Download Shotcut from its official website. Choose the version for your computer and install it. [2]

[Download Shotcut from its official website](#)

Shotcut is a free video editor for Windows, Mac and Linux. Use the official installer. A phone alone is not enough for this Shotcut course.

You need internet for ChatGPT and downloads. Mobile data can still cost money. After installation and any needed speech-model download, local editing can continue without sending the video to a website.

What if ChatGPT reaches its limit?

Save the answer and continue editing in Shotcut. Return to AI later. This course does not depend on free access to Work or Codex; that access can vary during rollout. [1]

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

You can open Shotcut and send a short message in ChatGPT.

Make a safe practice folder

Keep the original. Work with a copy.

1. Create a folder called My teaching video. Copy your recording and one useful photo into it.
2. Keep another copy in a Backup folder. Keep the phone recording too.
3. Use simple names: lesson.mp4 and photo_1.jpg. Do not move these files while editing.

For a new beginner practice recording, use a short ordinary HD/SDR clip if your phone offers that option. Use a quiet place and show one real task. Keep the same phone direction throughout.

Our forest example is a large vertical HDR video. Its colour settings need extra care. Keep it as a viewing example. Use your own short recording for your first edit; ask for help before converting an HDR original. [10]

COPY AND CHANGE

I am a beginner using [Windows / Mac]. Help me copy a phone video and a photo into one folder. Give one small step at a time. Wait for me to say done.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

Open lesson.mp4. Can you see the task and hear the speech?

Plan one useful lesson

Start with what your learner should be able to do.

COPY AND CHANGE

I teach [subject]. My learner needs to [do one task]. Plan a 30-60 second video. Use simple English. Give me three things: what to show, what to say, and one question for the learner.

Replace the words in square brackets. For example: I teach forestry. My learner needs to compare a tree stem with a measuring opening.

Ask for one step, not a long list

COPY AND CHANGE

I use the free Shotcut video editor. I am a beginner. Help me [describe one action]. Give one small step at a time. If you need to see my screen, ask for a screenshot. Do not suggest paid tools.

A normal AI chat cannot see your computer folder just because you name it. Give the needed text or a relevant screenshot. Hide private information. Check advice against the buttons you can actually see.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

Finish this sentence: After watching, my learner can ...

Put your video on the timeline

A timeline shows what plays and when.

1. Open Shotcut. In New Project, choose your practice folder and enter a project name, such as First lesson. Start the project. [3]
2. For this first short practice clip, use Automatic video mode and open the video before any photos. Check the preview keeps the correct shape.
3. Click Open File and choose lesson.mp4. It opens in the Source player. [4]
4. Open View > Timeline if needed. Drag the video from the Source player into the empty timeline. It is now on video row V1. [4,5]
5. Press Play in the Project player. Check the picture and voice. Save the project with Ctrl+S on Windows, or Command+S on Mac.

The saved .mlt file remembers your edit. It is not the finished MP4. Keep the video and photos in the same folder so Shotcut can find them.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

You can play your video from the timeline and hear the teacher.

Keep the voice underneath

Use a second video row for your photo.

A PHOTO ABOVE THE VIDEO

Teaching sketch: two rows on the timeline

V2

PHOTO

V1

ORIGINAL VIDEO + CONTINUOUS VOICE

The photo covers the picture. The teacher's voice keeps playing.

1. In the Timeline menu, find Track Operations > Add Video Track. The new row V2 should be above V1.
2. Open photo_1.jpg with Open File. Drag it from the Source player onto V2 at the sentence it explains.
3. Drag the photo's left and right edges to set how long it stays. Move its centre to change when it starts. [5]

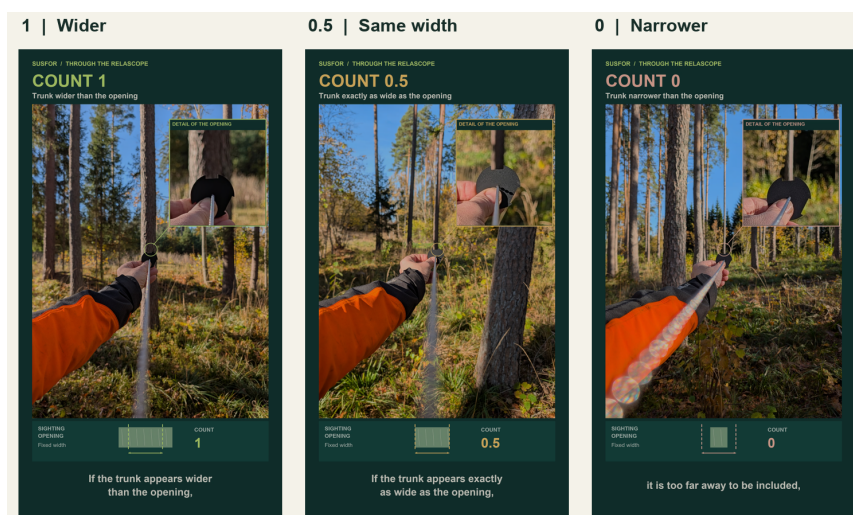
The upper row shows the photo while the lower video keeps playing. Keep V1 unmuted. Do not cut out the lower video to make room for the photo.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

Play across both photo edges. Does the right picture appear while the voice continues?

Match the photo to the words

Listen first. Do not sort photos to decide the order.



In the forest example, the teacher explains 1 first, then 0.5, then 0. The photos follow that order.

Photo	Approximate time in the forest example
1.jpg	1:01 to 1:07
0,5.jpg	1:07 to 1:16
0.jpg	1:16 to 1:23

These times belong to the 2 minute 20 second example only. In your own video, listen for the correct sentence and place the photo there.

COPY AND CHANGE

Help me check my photo plan. My video explains [rule] at [time]. Which picture would help the learner understand it? If you have not heard the video, do not invent exact times.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

The picture, spoken rule and subtitle all mean the same thing.

Let Shotcut write the speech

Then listen and correct its mistakes.

1. Keep the complete lesson on the timeline. Open View > Subtitles. [6]
2. Click Detect speech / Speech to Text. Choose the spoken language where available. If a model download is requested, use the built-in option and allow time.
3. Start detection. Wait for the audio and speech-to-text jobs to finish. The new subtitle entries appear in the panel. [6]
4. Listen to each sentence. Correct names, numbers and technical words. Adjust early or late start and end times.

If recognition does not support the language well, type a short transcript yourself or ask a speaker of that language to help. It is fine to begin with only a few subtitle lines.

Our example needed timing corrections: the first checked subtitle starts at 00:03.340, not 00:00. AI timing is not proof of correct timing.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

Each line matches the words and appears when the person speaks.

Keep the times. Change the words.

Skip translation if the checked subtitles are already English.

1. In the Subtitles panel menu, export the checked subtitles as an SRT file. Save a copy in the original language. [7]
2. Open the SRT with a text editor. Copy a small group of complete numbered entries into ChatGPT with the request below.

COPY AND CHANGE

Translate only the subtitle words into simple English. Keep every entry number and timestamp exactly unchanged. Keep numbers and technical meaning correct. Return SRT text only. Do not add or remove entries.

[Paste complete SRT entries here.]

3. Read the translation. Check all numbers and meanings. Save the full translated text as lesson_EN.srt using UTF-8 text. Check it is not named lesson_EN.srt.txt.
4. Import lesson_EN.srt in Shotcut's Subtitles panel. Check it against the same timeline. [7]

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

The English file has the same entries and times as your checked original-language file.

Make subtitles easy to read

Keep the words away from the tool and hands.

1. Add the Subtitle: Burn In filter to the timeline Output. Select your English subtitle track in the filter. [8]
2. Choose clear, large text with a dark background or outline. Check the words in the Project player.
3. Play through a photo and then return to the teacher. Make sure the subtitle stays readable.

Burn in means the words become part of the picture. Learners will see them without loading a separate subtitle file. They cannot turn those words off.

If you cannot find the control

COPY AND CHANGE

Here is my Shotcut screenshot. I want English subtitles always visible in the exported video. Show me the next step for the Subtitle: Burn In filter on Output. Explain one click at a time.

Keep your separate English SRT as well. Do not add the same words twice with another text filter.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

Read the preview on a phone-sized screen. Can you read every line comfortably?

Export a new MP4

Save keeps the project. Export makes the playable video.

1. Save the Shotcut project. Then click Export.
2. Set From to Timeline. For the short ordinary practice clip, use the Default preset. Check the picture shape and frame rate match your project. [9]
3. Click Export File. Name it teaching_video_v01.mp4 in your practice folder.
4. Wait until the export job has finished. Open the saved MP4 outside Shotcut. [9]

Watch it from start to finish. Listen during the photo. Read every subtitle. Check the image shape and colours on the device your learners use.

If you see two sets of subtitles, turn off the player's optional subtitle track. Keep the version with the intended burned-in words. If colours look wrong, stop and check the source and colour settings before exporting again.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

You have three things: your unchanged source, the editable .mlt project and the finished MP4. Keep the English SRT too.

Ask for help with one problem

Save your work before you try a change.

Problem	Try this
Voice stops at photo	Keep the video on V1. Check that V1 is not muted. Put the photo on V2.
Wrong photo time	Listen again. Move the photo edge to the correct spoken sentence.
No subtitles in preview	Check Subtitle: Burn In on Output and the selected subtitle track.
AI limit reached	Save the answer. Continue local editing and return to AI later.
Computer is slow	Use a shorter practice clip. Close unneeded apps. Ask for help with proxy editing.
Words are wrong	Correct them by listening. Ask a subject teacher or language speaker to check.

COPY AND CHANGE

I expected [result], but I see [problem]. I am using Shotcut on [Windows / Mac / Linux]. Here is a screenshot of the problem. Give me one safe step to try. Keep my original video unchanged.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

Make one change, play the result and decide whether it helped.

Make your own short lesson

Work at your own pace. Return to any step.

1. Choose one task you teach: reading a scale, checking a seedling or using a tool.
2. Record 30-60 seconds and take one useful photo.
3. Add the photo above the video so your voice continues.
4. Create and check subtitles. Translate if needed. Export and watch the MP4.

Check your understanding

- A. Where should the photo go?
- B. AI gives a wrong technical word. Who checks it?
- C. You saved an .mlt file. Is that the video to share?

Answers

- A. On a video row above the original clip, at the correct spoken explanation.
- B. You, with a subject or language expert if needed.
- C. No. Export a separate MP4 and test it.

[Return to the finished forest example](#)

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

Ask one learner to watch your video and do the task. Their attempt shows whether the explanation helps.

Find help and return later

Menu names may change. These official pages help you find them.

[\[1\] ChatGPT plans and current access](#)

[\[2\] Download Shotcut from its official website](#)

[\[3\] Shotcut: Quick Start Guide](#)

[\[4\] Shotcut: Adding Media](#)

[\[5\] Shotcut: About the Timeline](#)

[\[6\] Shotcut: Speech to Text](#)

[\[7\] Shotcut: Subtitles, import and export](#)

[\[8\] Shotcut: Subtitle Burn-In filter](#)

[\[9\] Shotcut: Export Basics](#)

[\[10\] Shotcut: Editing HDR clips](#)

Sources checked 20 October 2026. The timeline drawing is a teaching sketch, not a screenshot. The course demonstrates the free workflow with the SUSFOR forest example; the original example was not edited in Shotcut.

The training video uses a computer-generated English voice and English subtitles. The forest excerpt keeps the teacher's original Estonian voice with English subtitles.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

Keep this guide, your project folder and a short note about the step you reached.