# Creating an animated video from audio with Claude

A short narrated video on why Claude can't create natural-sounding narration, and two ways to add your own. A text version of the video, for anyone who cannot watch it.

## About this document

The video lasts 52 seconds and is narrated. Captions are available on the video. This version gives the narration word for word, the key words and labels that appear on screen, and a description of what you see. It follows the video in order, with approximate timings. In each section, "Narration" gives the spoken words, "On screen" gives the words shown, and "What you see" describes the picture and its movement.

The video has a dark green-blue background with a soft light behind the active area, off-white text and line icons, and headings in a wide, bold sans-serif typeface. Amber marks the voice, and is used for nothing else. Instead of separate slides, a single camera glides between scenes laid out across a large canvas, returning several times to a simplified video-editing timeline.

The only sound is the narration. There is no music and there are no sound effects.

If you find any problems with this document or the video, please contact Steven Williams at s.williams10@lse.ac.uk.

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## The video

### 1. Claude can't create good-quality narration

0:00 to 0:04

*Narration*

> Unfortunately, Claude can't create videos with good quality narration.

*On screen*

"Claude can't create good-quality narration"

*What you see*

A microphone icon with a line through it, in the middle of the screen, with the words below it.

### 2. The timeline

0:04 to 0:08

*Narration*

> This is a limitation of videos that are created using code alone.

*On screen*

Track labels: “Animation”, “Narration” and “Sound”. The narration track reads “Empty”. Times along the bottom run from “0:00” to “0:49”.

*What you see*

The camera glides across to a simplified video-editing timeline with three tracks. The Animation track holds a row of small icons for the scenes of this video. The Narration track is an empty dashed box. The Sound track shows a regular square wave, the kind of sound code can make. A playhead with a time counter moves along the timeline.

### 3. Code alone

0:08 to 0:13

*Narration*

> Code can only produce synthesised sounds, not natural sounding speech.

*On screen*

The heading “Code alone”, with a tick beside “Synthesised sounds” and a cross beside “Natural-sounding speech”.

*What you see*

A code window types out lines of code, and an arrow leads from it to a speaker sending out a square wave. The tick and cross appear one after the other, below the heading. The scene then fades, and the camera returns to the timeline.

### 4. Add narration manually

0:13 to 0:18

*Narration*

> However, if you are willing to invest more time, you can add narration manually in a few ways.

*On screen*

The heading “Add narration manually”.

*What you see*

Back on the timeline, the empty Narration track fills with an amber waveform, and its label turns amber. Amber is used only for the voice throughout the video.

### 5. Way one: your existing video

0:18 to 0:28

*Narration*

> You can give Claude an existing video you've made, along with a transcript that shows the timings of the voiceover, and ask it to create new animations for parts or all of the video and edit them in.

*On screen*

The heading "Your existing video", numbered 1. Track labels: "Your video", "Voiceover", "Transcript" and "Animation". Times along the transcript: "0:00", "0:07", "0:16", "0:25" and "0:34". Blocks reading "New animation", then "or all of it", then "Edited in".

*What you see*

A new timeline for an existing video: a row of frames showing a presenter beside slides, an amber voiceover waveform below it, and a transcript track of blocks. A "New animation" block appears on an Animation track above. A dashed outline labelled "or all of it" then stretches across the whole video. Finally the new animation block drops down into the video track, labelled "Edited in".

### 6. Way two: record your own

0:28 to 0:37

*Narration*

> You could also write a script, then record audio of yourself speaking it out, for example, using the voice recorder app on your phone, which should also be able to transcribe it.

*On screen*

The heading "Record your own", numbered 2. Labels: "Write a script", "Record yourself, for example, on your phone" and "Transcribe it".

*What you see*

Three steps appear from left to right, joined by arrows. First a page of script. Then a phone recording, with a timer counting up, an amber waveform growing as it records, and an amber record button. Finally a transcript page.

### 7. Give Claude both

0:37 to 0:46

*Narration*

> Then give Claude both the audio file and the transcript, and ask it to create an entirely new animated video that syncs up perfectly with the timings in the transcript.

*On screen*

The heading "Give Claude both". Labels: "your audio file", "your transcript" and "a new animated video", which changes to "a new animated video in sync".

*What you see*

An audio file icon, with an amber waveform on it, appears, then a plus sign and a transcript icon. An arrow leads to a clapperboard, which claps, and the label below it changes to say the new video is in sync.

### 8. How this video was made

0:46 to 0:52

*Narration*

> That's exactly what I did to create this video.

*On screen*

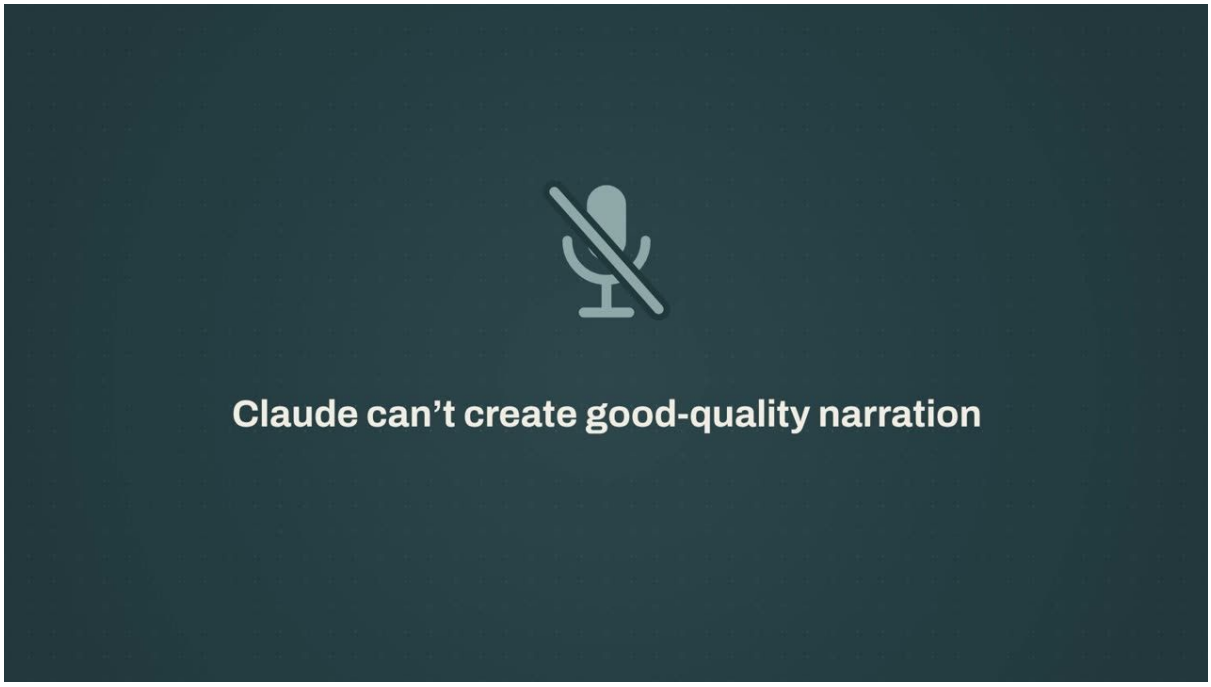
The heading "How this video was made". Track labels: "Animation", "Transcript" and "Narration". Times from "0:00" to "0:49".

*What you see*

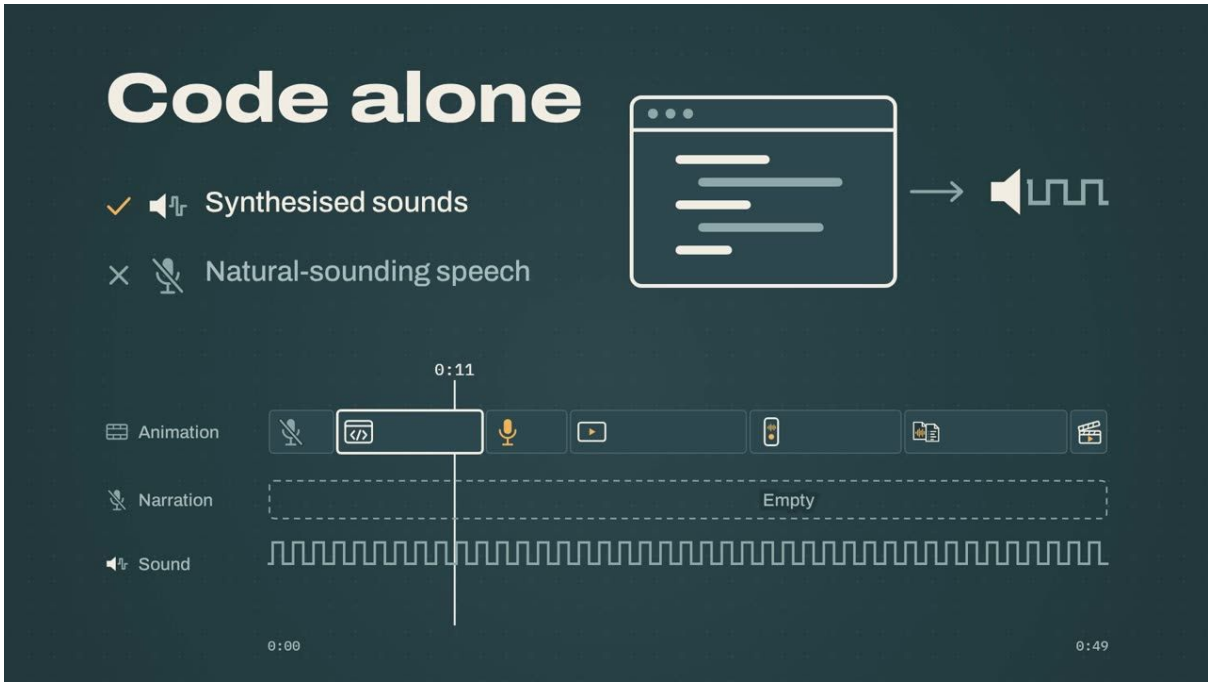
The timeline of this video itself. The Narration track shows the amber waveform of this narration, and the Transcript track shows one block for each caption. The scene icons on the Animation track turn into real frames from the video. The playhead runs to the end, at 0:49, and the finished timeline holds on screen for three seconds.

## Key frames

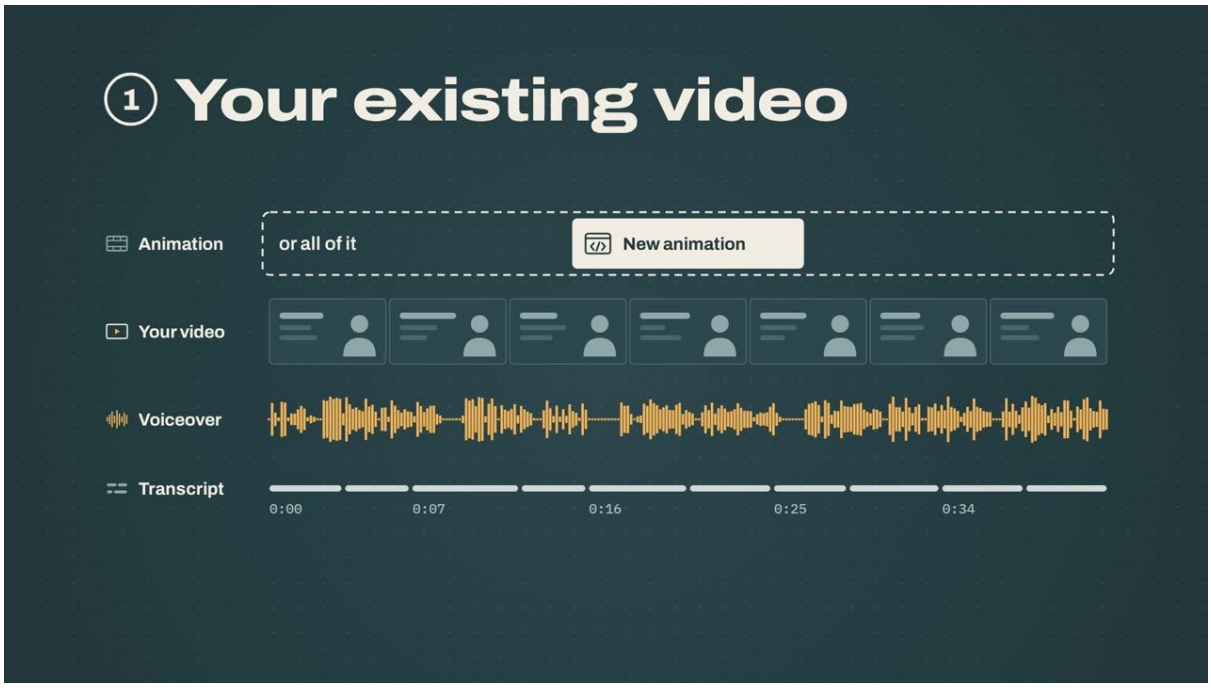
These are stills from the video.



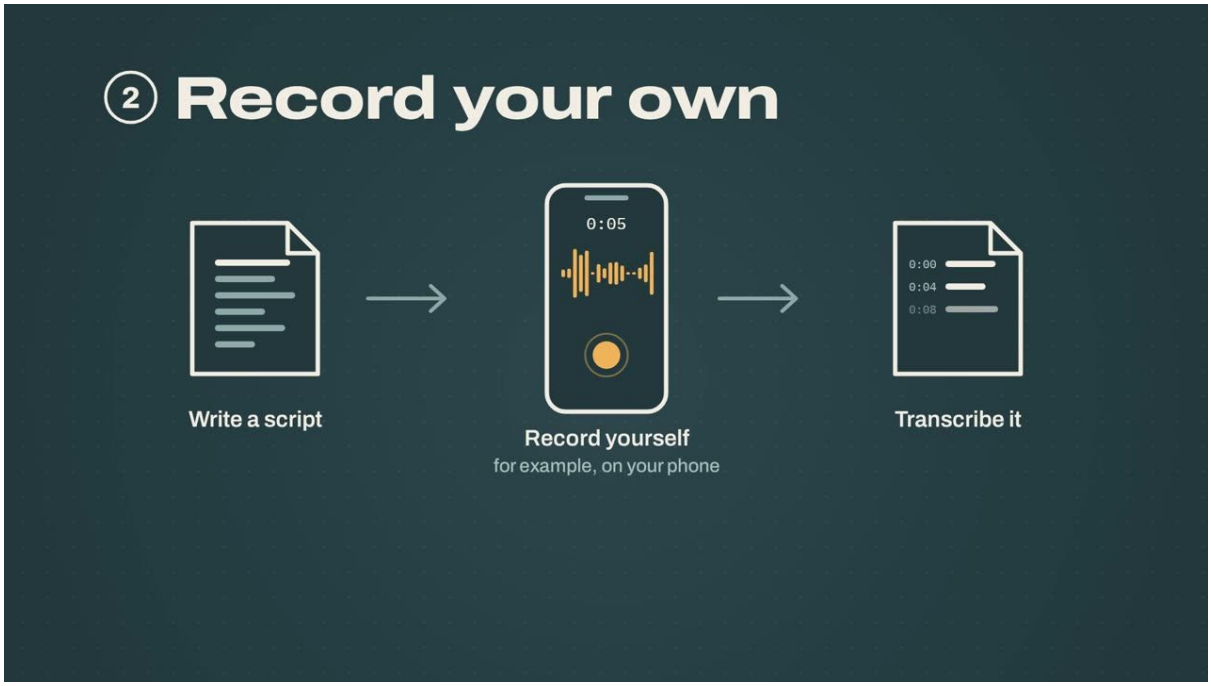

*Claude can't create good-quality narration.*



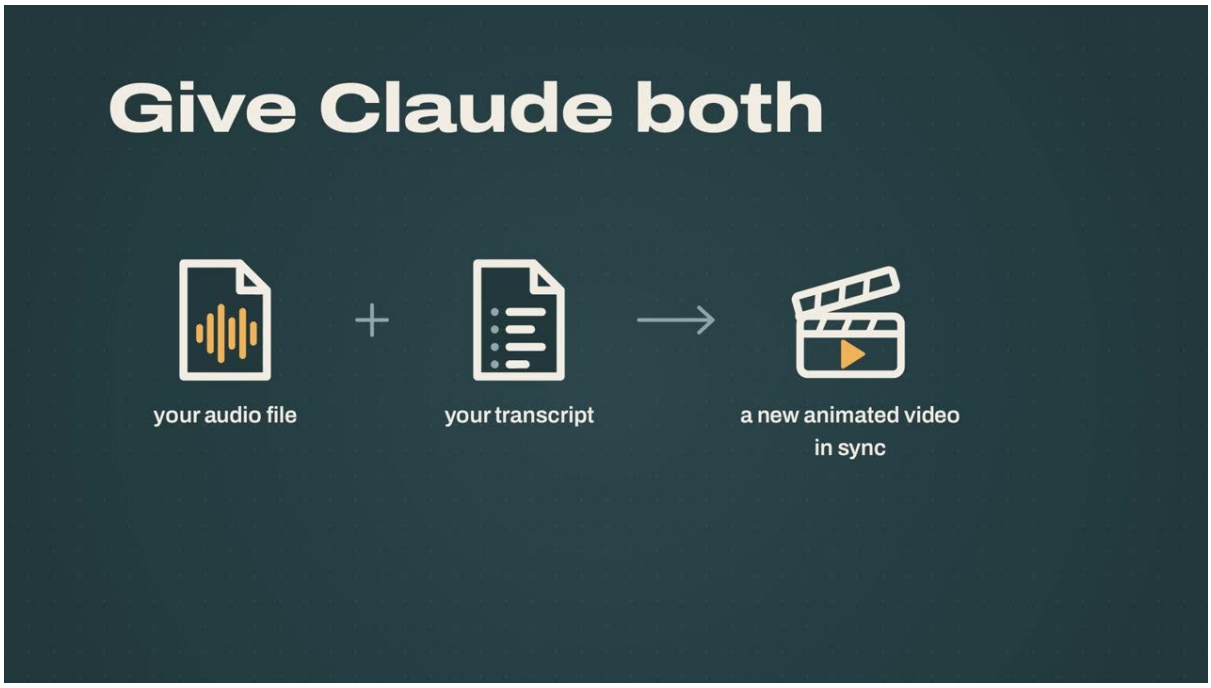

*Code alone: synthesised sounds, but not natural-sounding speech.*




*Way one: new animations for part or all of your existing video.*




*Way two: write a script, record it and transcribe it.*




*Give Claude the audio file and the transcript.*




*How this video was made: its own timeline.*