

	<b>TRANSCRIPTION WORK</b>	<b>TRANSLATION WORK</b>	<b>SUBTITLING WORK</b>
<b>SALARY</b>	Transcription rates tend to be quite standard across the board. Medical transcription rates are typically higher, but still comparable.	Translation rates fluctuate depending on subject matter and translation style, e.g. document, contract, brochure, audio, video, etc.	Subtitler salaries differ between companies, often depending on the use of automations, voice recognition or in-house subtitling software solutions.
<b>HOURS</b>	Transcription can be time consuming. On average, one hour of audio will take three to four hours to type.	Translation can be labour intensive. Many linguists use software as an aid to translation, which can speed things up a lot.	Subtitling involves transcription, time syncing, formatting and editing. It's time consuming, requiring patience.
<b>SKILL</b>	Transcription has a reputation for being easy, but this often isn't the case. Poor quality audio and over speaking can be very difficult to transcribe. Excellent writing skills are also required, especially in terms of punctuation and grammar.	Translation is an art form. Different languages use different syntax and structure. Sayings and abbreviations can't always be translated simply and localisation is key to quality translation. Knowledge, fluency and creativity are essential.	Subtitling has its ups and downs in terms of difficulty. Subtitled videos usually have good quality sound for transcription. However, formatting, solving timing conflicts, over speaking and fast dialogue require initiative and creativity.
<b>EXPENSE</b>	Setting up to start working as a freelance transcriptionist doesn't take much of a cost layout. Transcription pedals are a must, and generally cost between £40-£100. Software is also reasonably priced, coming in well below £100 for a permanent license. Capital Captions recommend using NCH Express Scribe.	Translation doesn't necessarily require any significant initial expenses. Transcription software can be useful but is not essential. Similarly, professional translation software can be handy, but is not a requirement and can actually be a distraction to a good translator.	Free subtitling software is available online for creating simple .srt or .vtt subtitles. However, for complex formats or broadcast subtitling, professional software is a must, usually costing £500-£1000 per year. Alternatively, some online subtitling companies provide subtitlers with log-in facilities and in-house software.
<b>PROSPECTS</b>	Find work as an online freelance transcriptionist shouldn't be too difficult. Most companies ask for typists to complete a test before commencing work, and provide references. If you're experienced and reliable, you should be able to find work relatively easily.	Translation is a highly competitive sector. Reliability, accuracy and adaptability will go a long way to securing you ongoing working relationships. Many online translators work independently as well as for agencies, and it can be a dog-eat-dog world out there.	The subtitling sector can be very elusive. However, whilst it may be hard to find that first job, working relationships develop quickly as there is a genuine subtitler shortage. This can mostly be chalked down to the use of automation software in order to keep costs down.