Styling and positioning the captions/subtitles

ONLINE EXAMPLE USED IN THIS SECTION

In this section, we will look at different possibilities for positioning and styling the text displayed as captions/subtitles while playing a video.

This video example shows each use case. We also "cooked" an easier version to study on JS Bin (look at the HTML in JS Bin).

The screenshots below are taken from this video.

And here is the WebVTT file. Notice the new attributes that have been added on the right end of the duration values:

```
     WEBVTT
     00:00:01.000 --> 00:00:05.000
     These captions test some features of theWebVTT formats
     00:00:06.000 --> 00:00:10.000 line:5%
     This cue is positioned at the top of the video
     00:00:11.000 --> 00:00:15.000 position:5%align:start
10.  This cue is positioned at the left side of the video.
     00:00:16.000 --> 00:00:20.000position:95% align:end
     And this one ate the right side.
     00:00:21.000 --> 00:00:25.000 size:33%
     This cue is only a third of the width of the video, hence the multiple line breaks.
     00:00:26.000 --> 00:00:30.000
     This cue contains <b>bold</b> text.
20.
     00:00:31.000 --> 00:00:35.000
     This cue contains <i>italic</i> text.
     00:00:36.000 --> 00:00:40.000
     This cue contains <u>underlined</u> text.
     00:00:41.000 --> 00:00:45.000
     This cue contains <b><i><u>bold, italic,underlined</u></i></b> text.
30.  00:00:46.000 --> 00:00:50.000
     <c.myclass>This cue contains the class"myclass".
     Browsers that support ::cue CSS should make it red.</c>
     00:00:51.000 --> 00:00:55.000
     The following cue contains two voices.
     Tarzan should be blue and Jane green.
     00:00:56.000 --> 00:01:00.000
     <v Tarzan>Me Tarzan...
40.  <v Jane>That would make me Jane!
     bigtext
     00:01:01.000 --> 00:01:05.000
     This cue has a unique id.
```

```
      Using CSS, its font size should be 150%.
      00:01:06.000 --> 00:01:10.000
      The <00:01:06.333>text <00:01:06.666>in<00:01:07.000>this <00:01:07.333>cue<00:01:07.666>should <00:01:08.00
      <00:01:08.333>one <00:01:08.666>word<00:01:09.000>at <00:01:09.333>a<00:01:09.666>time
50.
      00:01:11.000 --> 00:01:15.000
      That's it! For now...
```

HOW TO POSITION THE SUBTITLES

The video example tests nearly all the possibilities for positioning subtitles/captions, styling (using HTML element wrapping with <b>, <i>, etc.), voicing (subtitles corresponding to different characters will be displayed in different colors) and CSS styling.

It is possible to locate the cues in the video viewport using absolute or relative values. The attributes that position the text are located on the same line as the cue definition, like at line 9 of the previous WebVTT example file:

```
      00:00:11.000 --> 00:00:15.000 position:5%align:start
      This cue is positioned at the left side of the video.
```

There are several possible values:

- `line:5%` means "vertical position at a line 5% of the height of the video viewport (it will be located at the top of the video, proportional to its vertical size).

- `position:5% align:start` means "regular location at the bottom of the video, the start of the sentence will be located at 5% of the width of the video", i.e., near the left side.

- `position:95% align:end` means "regular location at the bottom of the video, the end of the sentence will be at 95% of the horizontal width of the video".

- `size:33%` The size of each line will be one third of the size of the video. Since the sentence won't fit, it will be displayed in multiple lines.

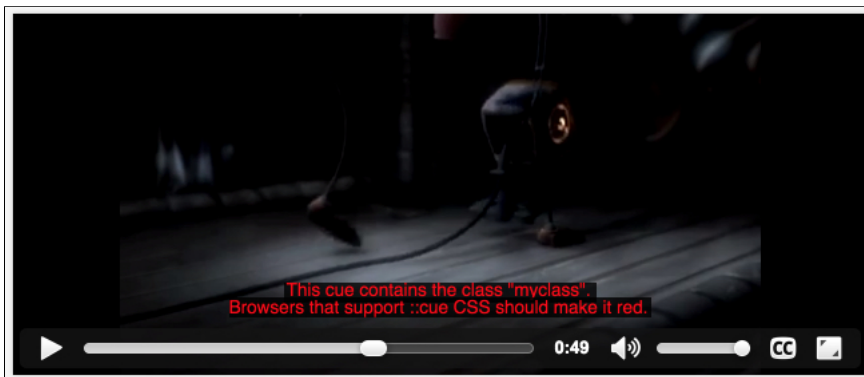And so on. Please look at the video as it is self-explanatory.

USE OF `<B>`, `<I>`, `<U>` FOR STYLING SUBTITLES / CAPTIONS

USING CSS CLASSES FOR STYLING

It is possible to style using CSS classes as part of a cue value, using the `<c>` element. You can specify the CSS class that should be applied by adding "." followed by the name of your CSS class. Here is an example:

```
<c.myclass>This cue contains the class "myclass".
Browsers that support ::cue CSS should make it red.</c>
```


CSS rules used in this example:

```
<style type="text/css">
    ::cue(.myclass) { color: red; }
    ::cue(v[voice="Tarzan"]) { color:blue; }
    ::cue(v[voice="Jane"]) { color:green; }
    ::cue(#bigtext) { font-size: 150%; }
</style>
```

The `::cue` pseudo element selector is used to match "cues" in the webVTT file. You add parenthesis and a secondary CSS selector to match cues that have a particular id, or a particular CSS class, etc. Look at the CSS above and at the extract from the webVTT file, play the video, you will understand how this works...

Support differs from one browser to another, see this compatibility table for more info. Notice that most of the enhanced players presented further on in the course will provide full support.

USING VOICING FOR STYLING: THE <V>ELEMENT

Screenshot taken at 1:02 of this example online:

Using the <v> tag, you will distinguish different voices that should be displayed in different colors (depending on the HTML5 video player implementation). See the CSS presented in the previous section to see how to specify the colors for the different voices.

Extract from the source code:

```
00:00:56.000 --> 00:01:04.000
<v Tarzan>Me Tarzan...
<v Jane>That would make me Jane!
```

EXTERNAL RESOURCE

- Article from Mozilla Developer Network that details all the options you can use in webVTT cues.

KNOWLEDGE CHECK 2.3.4 (NOT GRADED)

Is it possible to use CSS for styling subtitles or captions?

- ○ Yes

- ○ No

CHECK