



# Quick Start Guide - Transcribe RO

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## For Beginners

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This guide will help you get started with Transcribe RO in just a few minutes!

### Step 1: Check Requirements

Before you begin, make sure you have:

- ☒ Python 3.8 or newer installed
- ☒ Internet connection (for initial setup)
- ☒ An audio file to transcribe (MP3, WAV, etc.)

### Step 2: Install (Choose One Method)

#### Method A: Quick Install (Recommended)

##### Windows:

1. Open Command Prompt in the transcribe\_ro folder
2. Run: `setup_portable.bat`
3. Wait for installation to complete

##### Mac/Linux:

1. Open Terminal in the transcribe\_ro folder
2. Run: `chmod +x setup_portable.sh && ./setup_portable.sh`
3. Wait for installation to complete

#### Method B: Manual Install

```
# Create virtual environment
python -m venv venv

# Activate it
# Windows: venv\Scripts\activate
# Mac/Linux: source venv/bin/activate

# Install dependencies
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

### Step 3: Transcribe Your First Audio File

#### Easy Way (Using Helper Scripts):

##### Windows:

```
run_transcribe.bat your_audio.mp3
```

##### Mac/Linux:

```
./run_transcribe.sh your_audio.mp3
```

##### Manual Way:

```
# Activate virtual environment first
# Windows: venv\Scripts\activate
# Mac/Linux: source venv/bin/activate

python transcribe_ro.py your_audio.mp3
```

## Step 4: Find Your Transcription

Look for a file named `your_audio_transcription.txt` in the same folder as your audio file!

## Common Use Cases

### 1. Quick Transcription (Fastest)

```
python transcribe_ro.py audio.mp3 --model tiny
```

### 2. High Quality Transcription

```
python transcribe_ro.py audio.mp3 --model medium
```

### 3. Transcribe Only (No Translation)

```
python transcribe_ro.py audio.mp3 --no-translate
```

### 4. Create Subtitles for Video

```
python transcribe_ro.py audio.mp3 --format srt
```

### 5. Export as JSON (For Developers)

```
python transcribe_ro.py audio.mp3 --format json
```

## Troubleshooting

### “FFmpeg not found”

**Solution:** Install FFmpeg

- **Windows:** Download from [ffmpeg.org](https://ffmpeg.org/download.html) (<https://ffmpeg.org/download.html>)
- **Mac:** Run `brew install ffmpeg`
- **Linux:** Run `sudo apt install ffmpeg`

### “Module not found” or Import Errors

**Solution:** Make sure you activated the virtual environment:

- **Windows:** `venv\Scripts\activate`
- **Mac/Linux:** `source venv/bin/activate`

### Slow Processing

**Solution:** Use a smaller model:

```
python transcribe_ro.py audio.mp3 --model tiny
```

## Out of Memory

### Solution:

1. Use smaller model: `--model tiny`
2. Close other programs
3. Split long audio into shorter segments

## Tips for Best Results

- ✓ **Use good quality audio** - Clear audio = better transcription
- ✓ **Start with 'base' model** - Good balance of speed and accuracy
- ✓ **Use 'medium' for important work** - Better accuracy for professional use
- ✓ **Check your output file** - Always review the transcription
- ✓ **Keep files under 1 hour** - Faster processing, easier to manage

## What Happens on First Run?

On your first transcription:

1. 📦 Whisper model will be downloaded (300MB-3GB depending on model)
2. 🔄 This only happens once - models are cached
3. ⌚ First run may take 2-10 minutes depending on your internet speed
4. ⚡ Subsequent runs will be much faster!

## Getting Help

If you need help:

1. Read the full [README.md](#) (README.md)
2. Check error messages carefully
3. Try with a different audio file
4. Make sure FFmpeg is installed
5. Open an issue on GitHub with:
  - Your operating system
  - The error message
  - The command you ran

## Next Steps

Once you're comfortable with the basics:

- 📖 Read the full [README.md](#) (README.md) for advanced features
- 🎯 Experiment with different models and output formats
- 💾 Set up portable installation on a USB drive
- 🔧 Customize the output format for your needs

**Happy Transcribing!** 🎉