yt-dlp Video downloader

Extract read page, list formats → `-f / -S` → **Download** video + audio streams → `ffmpeg` → **Merge** into one container → `-x, --embed-*` → **Post-process** audio, subs, metadata → `-o` → **Output file** named by template

CONCEPTS

Only download what you may: respect the site's terms of service and copyright.

Merging, audio extraction and embedding need ffmpeg (and ffprobe) on your PATH.

Sites change often; if a download breaks, run yt-dlp -U first.

DOWNLOAD

`yt-dlp <url>`
Download best video and audio

`yt-dlp -a <file>`
Download all URLs listed in a file

`yt-dlp -P <dir> <url>`
Save into a directory

`yt-dlp -s <url>`
Simulate: do not download

`yt-dlp -r 2M <url>`
Limit download speed

`yt-dlp --download-sections "*10:00-12:30" <url>`
Download only a time range

FORMATS

`yt-dlp -F <url>`
List available formats

`yt-dlp -f <id> <url>`
Download a specific format ID

`yt-dlp -f "bv*+ba/b" <url>`
Best video plus best audio (default)

`yt-dlp -f "bv*[height⩽720]+ba/b[height⩽720]" <url>`
Cap resolution at 720p

`yt-dlp -S res:1080 <url>`
Prefer up to 1080p when sorting

`yt-dlp -t mp4 <url>`
Prefer widely playable mp4 codecs

`yt-dlp --merge-output-format mkv <url>`
Choose the merged container

AUDIO

`yt-dlp -x <url>`
Extract audio, keep source codec

`yt-dlp -x --audio-format mp3 <url>`
Extract audio as mp3

AUDIO (cont.)

`yt-dlp -t mp3 <url>`
Preset for mp3 audio

`yt-dlp -x --audio-quality 0 <url>`
Best quality (0) to worst (10)

`yt-dlp -f ba <url>`
Download best audio stream only

PLAYLISTS

`yt-dlp --yes-playlist <url>`
Download the whole playlist

`yt-dlp --no-playlist <url>`
Only the single video from a mixed link

`yt-dlp -I 1:5 <url>`
Items 1 to 5 of a playlist

`yt-dlp --flat-playlist -j <url>`
List entries without resolving each

`yt-dlp --dateafter 20260101 <url>`
Only videos from this date on

`yt-dlp --download-archive <file> <url>`
Skip IDs already recorded in a file

PLAYLISTS (cont.)

`yt-dlp --break-on-existing <url>`
Stop at the first archived video

OUTPUT NAMES

`yt-dlp -o "%(title)s.%(ext)s" <url>`
Name the file by title

`yt-dlp -o "%(uploader)s/%(title)s [%(id)s].%(ext)s" <url>`
Folder per uploader

`yt-dlp -o "%(playlist_index)03d - %(title)s.%(ext)s" <url>`
Number playlist items

`yt-dlp --restrict-filenames <url>`
Use only safe ASCII characters

`yt-dlp -O "%(title)s" <url>`
Print a field instead of downloading

`yt-dlp -j <url>`
Dump metadata as JSON

SUBTITLES

`yt-dlp --list-subs <url>`
List available subtitle languages

SUBTITLES (cont.)

`yt-dlp --write-subs --sub-langs en <url>`
Download English subtitles

`yt-dlp --write-auto-subs <url>`
Include auto-generated subtitles

`yt-dlp --embed-subs <url>`
Embed subtitles into the video

METADATA

`yt-dlp --embed-metadata <url>`
Write title, artist and more into the file

`yt-dlp --embed-thumbnail <url>`
Embed the thumbnail as cover art

LOGIN AND NETWORK

`yt-dlp --cookies-from-browser firefox <url>`
Use your browser's login cookies

TOOL

`yt-dlp -U`
Update to the latest release