

Create Cinematic AI Video in Sora: Full Tutorial & Review

This tutorial provides a hands-on guide to using OpenAI's Sora for AI video generation, including practical tips, feature demonstrations, and a comparison with other AI video tools.

Introduction to Sora

- Sora is presented as the most advanced and intelligent AI video generator currently available.
- The tutorial uses a version called "Sora Turn Turbo."
- The tutorial shows some community examples, like: Lighthouse, monkey, chick, horse, sushi, and squirrel.

Pricing

- **Plus Tier:** \$20/month (with a ChatGPT Plus subscription). Allows generating up to 50 videos at 480p.
- **Pro Plan:** \$200/month. Provides "unlimited" generations on a relaxed plan (similar to Runway's unlimited plan) and 10x the credits of the Plus plan for faster generations. Allows generating 500 480p video clips, or fewer clips at higher resolutions/longer durations.
- **Cost Breakdown (Pro Plan):**
 - 50 cents per 5-second clip at 480p.
 - \$1.25 per 5-second clip at 720p.
 - \$4 per 5-second clip at 1080p.
- **Pro Plan Advantages:** Generate up to five videos simultaneously and remove the watermark.
- The servers can be slow.

Accessing Sora

1. Go to sora.com.
2. Click "Log In."
3. Log in with your ChatGPT account.

Interface Overview

- **Featured Page:** Displays community-generated videos, similar to Midjourney's showcase.
- **Recent Tab:** Shows more recent, and often more experimental, community generations.
- **Save Icon:** Save videos you like to a "Saved" section.
- **Prompt Display:** Selecting a video reveals the prompt used to generate it.

Creating a Video (Text-to-Video)

1. **Prompt Box:** Enter a text prompt describing the desired video.
2. **Presets:** (Optional) Select pre-defined settings (not recommended in the tutorial).
3. **Aspect Ratio:** Choose from 16x9, Square (1:1), or 9x16.

4. **Resolution:** Select a resolution up to 1080p (higher resolutions are slower).
5. **Video Duration:** Set the video duration up to 20 seconds.
6. **Multiple Generations:** Generate multiple versions of the video simultaneously (availability depends on resolution; up to four at 480p).
7. **Storyboard:** (Covered later)
8. **Generate.**

Iteration and Prompting

- Sora, like other AI generators, requires iteration. Multiple generations and prompt adjustments are usually needed to achieve the desired result.
- Free pdf guide, on creating prompts.
- The subject is a huge deal.

Cinematic Test (Comparison with Other Tools)

- The tutorial creates a three-shot scene (establishing shot of a coffee shop, medium shot of a barista, close-up of coffee) to compare Sora with other AI video tools (Runway, Luma, Kling, MiniMax).
- **Sora:** Generally good results, but the shots don't feel like they were shot on the same camera.
- **Runway:** Synthetic-looking, with warping. The final coffee shot is decent.
- **Luma:** Static shots, significant problems.
- **Kling:** First shot good, second shot okay, third shot (coffee) good, but with a similar issue of shots not feeling cohesive.
- **MiniMax:** First two shots good, the final coffee shot is very unrealistic.

Image-to-Video

1. **Plus Icon:** Click the "+" icon.
2. **Upload Image:** Upload an image (generated in Midjourney in the tutorial).
3. **Prompt (Optional but Recommended):** Describe the desired animation.
4. **Generate:** *Provides more consistent and better results.*

Storyboard Feature

1. **Plus Icon:** Click the "+" icon.
2. **Upload Image:** Upload a starting image.
3. **Storyboard Button:** Click the "Storyboard" button.
4. **Timeline:** A timeline is created, allowing you to define actions at specific points.
5. **Add Cells:** Add new cells to the timeline.
6. **Upload Images/Videos:** Upload images or videos for specific points in the timeline.
7. **Add Prompts:** Add text prompts to each cell, describing the desired action or scene at that point.
 - *The tutorial demonstrates creating a scene where a caterpillar looks up, and the camera pans to a "lazy bug" on a leaf.*

Other Features

- **Recut:** Trim a video clip to remove unwanted sections or extend a desired portion.
- **Remix:** Change the content of a video while preserving its composition and movement. The tutorial demonstrates adding a boat to a river scene.
- **Loop:** Create a seamlessly looping video.
- **Extend Clips:** A hack to extend a clip by adding content before or after. This involves using the storyboard feature, adding a blank image at the beginning or end, and then adding the original video clip, effectively extending the duration.

Practical Use Cases (Suggested by the Tutorial)

- **VFX:** Creating particle dynamics, magical effects, etc., without needing complex software like Houdini.
- **Music Videos/Abstract Content:** Sora excels at generating novel and visually striking content.
- **Replacing Live-Action Shots:** Particularly useful for establishing shots or world-building. Sora is considered better at live-action style than animation.

Conclusion

Sora is presented as a powerful and intelligent AI video generator, especially strong in creating realistic visuals. The tutorial highlights its unique features like Storyboard and Extend, while acknowledging some limitations and the need for iteration. The high cost is a significant factor to consider.