The Loop Checklist

24 checks for a Short that replays with no seam, in any niche.

makeshortform
makeshortform.com

Shorts replay the instant they end. A clipped word, a gap or a jump at that moment and viewers swipe. These are the checks we run on every video before it goes up, learned the hard way across 30+ Shorts.

1 Script

- [ ] The last words run straight into the first line, as one sentence. ("...and that's why you'll never see" → "a woodpecker with a concussion.")
- [ ] The most surprising claim is in the first 5–8 words.
- [ ] The first sentence ends at a full stop or comma (that pause is where the only cut goes).
- [ ] No sign-off, no "thanks for watching", no spoken "subscribe". It breaks the loop.

2 Voice

- [ ] Record ONE take: the script, then the first line and second sentence again.
- [ ] Open the video on the *repeated* first line, so the seam is speech spoken in one breath.
- [ ] Trim pauses between sentences to about 0.28 s. Dead air costs retention.
- [ ] Never hide a seam with a fade. If it stutters, make a new take.

3 Picture

- [ ] The last frame is the frame right before frame 0: same camera, pose and set.
- [ ] Repeating motion runs on one clock (t % period), and the length is a whole number of periods.
- [ ] Anything mid-air at the end (sparks, smoke) is also mid-air at frame 0.
- [ ] Everything in the opening shot is back in its frame-0 state in the end shot.

4 Sound

- [ ] Music and ambience are at the same level at the end and the start: no fade-out, no fade-in.
- [ ] The music bed loops, and its seam sits where the bed stays loud.
- [ ] No big hit (boom, pop) right on the seam.
- [ ] Keep beds well under the voice (around -45 dBFS RMS under speech at -17).

5 Hook & picture rhythm

- [ ] The subject is BIG and high-contrast at frame 0, not a character next to a prop that explains it.
- [ ] The title, the cover headline and the on-screen hook are the same ≤5 words.
- [ ] A new picture every 1.5–2.5 s, and a slow push-in so no frame is ever static.
- [ ] No strobing: never flash something big 3–30 times a second.

6 Captions & safe zones

- [ ] No caption page spans the seam: the last page ends on the last word.
- [ ] Labels stay left of x 900 between y 850–1520 (TikTok's buttons), on a 1080×1920 frame.
- [ ] Everything important sits above y 1520, and progress meters below y ~290 and ≥130 px from the sides.
- [ ] Text never touches the sides: keep a 60 px margin.

The 10-second test: play the last 5 seconds into the first 5 with your eyes closed, then with the sound off. If you can point to the seam either way, it isn't done.

The full method (scripts, voice loop tools, 3D scenes, checks) is in the course at **makeshortform.com**

© 2026 Make Short Form