

Voice Interpreting Fundamentals

Strategies for Strong Voicing

- **Read:** magazines, dictionaries, technical dictionaries, novels, etc...
- **Proper English:** grammatical structure, pronunciation, enunciation, accurate, intelligible
- **Take Classes:** public speaking, acting, English
- **Transcripts:** review and practice from transcripts of your own work
- **Other Interpreters:** mentor, practice
- **Word Choices:** learn synonyms and match proper register
- **Reference Books:** Dictionary of Problem Words and Uses, Vocabulary of Success (Webster's)
- **Word Games:** crossword puzzles, word games
- **Projection and Diction:** breathe deeply
- **Read out Loud**
- Listen to **Books on Tape**
- Get a **Non-Interpreter** to listen and critique you
- **Predicting Skills-** preparation time, during an assignment
- **Goal to Detail Model-** match the intent of the presenter, focus on the main emphasis then add the details, general to specific
- **Cloze Skills-** have enough context to fill in the gaps
- **Back to Back Summarization-** immediately summarize your work
- **Main Idea-** expect to be thrown off but focus on the main idea
- **Analyze Your Own Errors-** if there is missed information, why was it missed, etc...
- **Repetition-** practice, watch videos, etc...
- **Compression-** fewer words in a linear language, used in a higher register with adults more than children, Ex. "jewelry"
- **Expansion-** culturally related information, explanation into the target language for equivalent meaning
- **Conservation-** preservation of elements and content of the source language including all pauses, self corrections, emotion, tone of voice, inflection, etc...

Non-Manual Markers

- **Descriptors-** adjectives, adverbs, "cha"
- **Lexical-** part of the sign itself

- **Grammar**- facial expressions
- **Emotive**
- **Prosodic**- Intensity, repetition, movement of signs
- **Discourse Markers**- transitions in conversations, eye gaze, turn taking
- **Reciprocity**- checking for understanding
- **Grammatical Sound Markers**- sound being produced by the object
- **Mouth Movements**- wrinkling of the nose (no words to describe)
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Different Types of Speech

- **Direct Speech**- first person, used for: medical, legal, etc...
- **Recorded Speech**- he said she said, rarely used
- **Summarization Interpretation**- used in arrest, interrogation, summarizing for the hearing person to keep the hearing informed, also used with those not familiar with using an interpreter and in mental health
- **Narration**- what you see, used in mental health when things are not making sense, parameter error

Strategies for Improving Memory

AIR-A=Attention- Observation, listening

I=Interest- Find source material to practice

R=Repetition- Required for short term and long term memory, review materials

Men

Voice and Volume
Fewer words
Show not tell
Little emotion
Direct and to the point
Less apologetic
Examples from profession
Strong language
Consultative
Interjections
Slang/Jargon
Ok with silence

vs.

Women

Wordy, more description
More detail
Show
Emotional
Euphemisms, careful
Apologetic
Ex. From experience
Uses “seems, tends, etc.”
Polite
Fewer interjections
Less slang/jargon
Tries to fill void

Shifting/Constructive Dialogue

- **Role/Body**- demonstrate who is speaking
- **Inner/Self**- show you are thinking
- **Narrator**- role play characters and talk to audience
- **Gesture Shift**- act out surroundings or objects
- **Plural/Quantity**- more than 2 people or characters
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Types of Interpreting Errors

- **Miscue**- deviation from the original text (source message)
- **Omissions**- information contained in the source language message that is left out of the target language message
- **Substitutions**- information in the source language message is replaced by information in the interpretation that varies from the original speaker's intent (word or phrase in target language that changes the meaning of an entire sentence)
- **Additions**- information that has no corollary in the source language message that is added to the target language message (Examples: interpreter's insertion of new information, false starts, irrelevant repetitions, vocalized pauses, I.E. "fillers")
- **Intrusions**- inappropriate, unacceptable source language syntactic structures or lexical items used in the target language message that results in a transliteration rather than a true interpretation. Identified by their adherence to the source language semantics and syntax. The utterance has no meaning in the target language.
- **Anomalies**- target language utterances that are meaningless or confused and that cannot be accounted for by another miscue type

Types of Register

- **Frozen**- Ritualistic reading that does not change. Meaning found in actions accompanying recitation of text, rather than in the message itself. (Pledge of Allegiance, Poetry, Lord's Prayer, Bible Verses, Quotations, Literature, Public Speeches, Scripted Performance)
- **Formal**- Usually one speaker in front of an audience with very little interaction. Customarily speaker is physically separated from listeners by platform, podium or stage. Characterized by complex sentence structure. Generally slower rate of speaking than in other registers. (Large Conventions, Presentations, Bureaucracies, Benedictions)

- **Consultative-** Usually one speaker or person of higher status addresses a small audience with some interaction permitted. Turn-taking occurs, but only when the leader or expert presenting pauses or asks for listener response. Tendency to use complete sentences and jargon. (Lecture by instructor, Doctor and Patient, Attorney Consultation, Business Meeting)
- **Informal-** Casual exchange between participants of equal status. Informal use of language, including slang and sentence fragments. Rapid pace of turn-taking and rate of speech. Some interrupting and overlapping conversation acceptable. (Coworkers, Friends, Peers, Recreations Activities)
- **Intimate-** Communication between individuals who have common experiences of history together. Can comment without setting up context or statements and other person will understand. Can complete each other's sentences. Often speak quickly using incomplete sentences. Share inside jokes or special "code" among themselves. May communicate with just a look; no words necessary. (Spouses, Children, Pets, Best Friends, Long-term Relationships)

Prep Before the Assignment

- **What type of setting is it?** (wedding, funeral, worship service, counseling, class, doctor's appointment, courtroom, etc.)
- **Will there be music involved?** Get the lyrics ahead of time.
- **Meet the presenter(s).** What is his/her preferred signing method? Note any regional sign differences and any physical characteristics that may make him/her hard to "read". Is the presenter known to the audience?
- **What is the speaker's intent?** (to teach, to preach, to inform, to solve a problem, etc.)
- **What background knowledge does the audience have?** Is this all new material?
- **Who is/are the audience/consumer(s)?** (age, education, hearing/deaf/hard of hearing) What is their purpose for being there? (paid registrants, mandatory training, health or emotional need, etc.)
- **Will any specialized terms be used?** (names, name signs, dates, places, technical terms, jargon, etc.)
- **Use environmental and contextual clues to determine register.**
- **Will AV equipment be used? Will lighting change during the event? Will the speaker be moving around?** Check all microphones, wires, batteries, sight-lines, seating, etc. beforehand!

- **Does the speaker want audience questions, comments, ambient noise, or interruptions signed during the presentation? Or is the interpreter there strictly to voice?**
- **How does the presenter want to handle interpreter needing clarification or repetition?**
- **How long is the presentation? Will there be audience participation or Q&A?** Work out logistics of interpreting for audience members. Will you need a team or teams? If so, discuss switching, feeds, positioning, etc.
- **Get copies of frozen text in advance. Get a list of names that will be used. In a religious context, know which version of the Bible/holy readings will be used.** Read the passages ALOUD to yourself in advance to practice pronunciation. Ditto for names, especially ones with unusual spellings.

Useful Resources:

- **Sign Language Dissertation Series *Interpretation: A Sociolinguistic Model* Dennis Cokely, PhD 1992**
- ***So You Want to Be an Interpreter*, Humphrey & Alcorn**
- **“Improving Interpretation: Your Formal English skills”, Elizabeth Shuey**
- **www.urbandictionary.com**
- **www.visualthesaurus.com**
- **Historical Dictionary of American Slang, J.E. Lighter**
- **The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English, Tom Dalzell**
- **Cassell’s Dictionary of Slang, Jonathon Green**
- **The Oxford English Dictionary**
- **The Official Dictionary of Unofficial English, Grant Barrett**
- **www.doubletongued.org**
- **English Skills Development, Carol Patrie**
- **Cognitive Processing English Skills, Carol Patrie**

VOCABULARY

<u>Computer</u>	<u>Finance</u>	<u>Legal</u>	<u>Religious</u>	<u>Science</u>
Populate	Per Diem	Allocute	Serenity	Cestodes
Field	Line of Credit	Dispositive	Sanctified	Kit
Dithering	Maturity	Legislation	Minotaur	Habitat
Default	Installments	Redacted	Paradise	Cosmonaut
Pixels	Fiduciary	Malfeasance	Muslim	Corona
Intranet	Bankrupt	Arraignment	Buddha	Mitosis
Phish	Amortization	Corrections	Penitent	Diurnal
Zombie	Actuary	Forensic	Hindi	Geology
Blog	Collateral	Hearing	Orthodox	Joey
Spam	Unsecured	Indigent	Doxology	Forage
Virus	Assess	Grand Jury	Invocation	Substrate
Query	Advance	Magistrate	Gospel	Cell
Domain	Mortgage	Prosecution	Denomination	Jet Stream

<u>Automotive</u>	<u>Mental Health</u>	<u>Politics</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Business</u>
Re-true	Restrain	Party	Discourse	Seminar
Carburetor	Disorder	Lobby	Syntax	Facilitator
CV Joints	Psychiatrist	Bill	Grammar	Telecommute
Exhaust	ADHD	House	Translation	Conference Call
Calipers	Psychotic	Liberal	Enunciation	Teamwork
Bucket Seats	Neurotic	Conservative	Lexical	Brainstorm
All Wheel Drive	Clanging	Independent	Idiomatic	Document
Gasket	Pharmacological	Candidate	Disfluency	Train Behind
Fuel Injectors	Organic	Bipartisan	Semantic	Marketing
Transmission	Schizophrenia	Democracy	Linguistics	Corporate

<u>Electronics</u>	<u>Deafness</u>	<u>Performing Arts</u>
Impedance	Core Culture	House Lights
Components	Audiogram	Artist
Insulation	Interpreter	Shadowing
Alternating Current	CODA	Curtain Call
Chip	ASL	Ovation
Amps	PSE	Dress Rehearsal
Volts	Gallaudet	Cameo
Hertz	Deaf President Now	Stage Left
Semi-Conductor	MSSD	Stage Right

Laryngophobia: the irrational fear of Sign to Voice interpreting

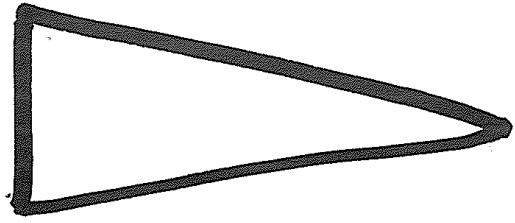
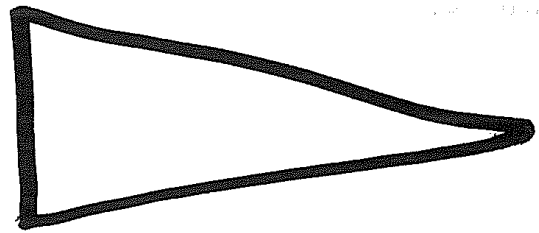
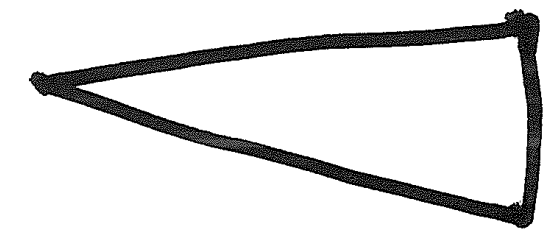
Frozen

Formal

Consultative

Casual/Informal

Intimate



Meaning per Sign

Number of Signs

Number of Users

Roger Williams, L.M.S.W., C.T.