

# 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.
- **Anomolies**- 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](http://www.urbandictionary.com)**
- **[www.visualthesaurus.com](http://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](http://www.doubletongued.org)**
- **English Skills Development, Carol Patrie**
- **Cognitive Processing English Skills, Carol Patrie**

## VOCABULARY

### Computer

Populate  
Field  
Dithering  
Default  
Pixels  
Intranet  
Phish  
Zombie  
Blog  
Spam  
Virus  
Query  
Domain

### Finance

Per Diem  
Line of Credit  
Maturity  
Installments  
Fiduciary  
Bankrupt  
Amortization  
Actuary  
Collateral  
Unsecured  
Assess  
Advance  
Mortgage

### Legal

Allocute  
Dispositive  
Legislation  
Redacted  
Malfeasance  
Arraignment  
Corrections  
Forensic  
Hearing  
Indigent  
Grand Jury  
Magistrate  
Prosecution

### Religious

Serenity  
Sanctified  
Minotaur  
Paradise  
Muslim  
Buddha  
Penitent  
Hindi  
Orthodox  
Doxology  
Invocation  
Gospel  
Denomination

### Science

Cestodes  
Kit  
Habitat  
Cosmonaut  
Corona  
Mitosis  
Diurnal  
Geology  
Joey  
Forage  
Substrate  
Cell  
Jet Stream

### Automotive

Re-true  
Carburetor  
CV Joints  
Exhaust  
Calipers  
Bucket Seats  
All Wheel Drive  
Gasket  
Fuel Injectors  
Transmission

### Mental Health

Restrain  
Disorder  
Psychiatrist  
ADHD  
Psychotic  
Neurotic  
Clanging  
Pharmacological  
Organic  
Schizophrenia

### Politics

Party  
Lobby  
Bill  
House  
Liberal  
Conservative  
Independent  
Candidate  
Bipartisan  
Democracy

### Language

Discourse  
Syntax  
Grammar  
Translation  
Enunciation  
Lexical  
Idiomatic  
Disfluency  
Semantic  
Linguistics

### Business

Seminar  
Facilitator  
Telecommute  
Conference Call  
Teamwork  
Brainstorm  
Document  
Train Behind  
Marketing  
Corporate

### Electronics

Impedance  
Components  
Insulation  
Alternating Current  
Chip  
Amps  
Volts  
Hertz  
Semi-Conductor

### Deafness

Core Culture  
Audiogram  
Interpreter  
CODA  
ASL  
PSE  
Gallaudet  
Deaf President Now  
MSSD

### Performing Arts

House Lights  
Artist  
Shadowing  
Curtain Call  
Ovation  
Dress Rehearsal  
Cameo  
Stage Left  
Stage Right

# Laryngophobia: the irrational fear of Sign to Voice interpreting

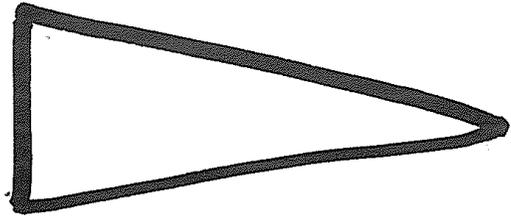
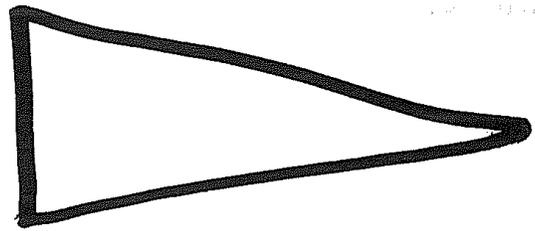
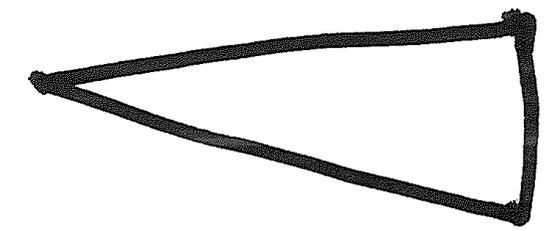
Frozen

Formal

Consultative

Casual/Informal

Intimate



Meaning per Sign

Number of Signs

Number of Users

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