

# Working with Interpreters

## Introduction:

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Interpreter since 2012,  
languages: Spanish and English  
Originally from: Mex/US border.

Why did I become an Interpreter?

Vocabulary:

**LEP:** (Limited English Proficiency), to refer to the client.

**Provider:** is the attorney or individual imparting the service.

**Register:** is the level of vocabulary understood by the LEP.

Feedback: What are some...

Questions

Complaints

Observation .... you would like to share before we begin?

Ethics: Over the years, professional associations and language services agencies have developed codes of conduct and ethics to guide their work.

Accuracy

Impartiality

Honesty

Confidentiality

Cultural Sensitivity

Continual Education.

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## Interpreter vs. Translator

<sup>1</sup>Interpreters mediate languages orally while translators work with written material. When it comes to language skills, translators need to have solid reading comprehension, transfer, and target language production skills.

Translating is done in the cores of time with multiple resources and knowledge of tone of the written material.

<sup>2</sup>Interpreters convert information from one spoken language into another. The interpreter's goal is for people to experience the target language as seamlessly as if it were the source language. Interpreting is done in an instant in the moment.

Site interpretation is done by reading, translating, and interpreting a written document. This skill is rare and takes time to realize and therefore it is not recommended. Mistakes and misunderstandings may occur.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.kent.edu/appling/matranslationonline/blog/translationvsinterpretation#:~:text=Interpreters%20mediate%20languages%20orally%20while,and%20target%20language%20production%20skills>.

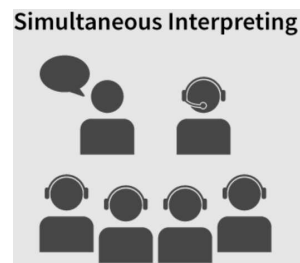
<sup>2</sup><https://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/interpreters-and-translators.htm#:~:text=Interpreters%20convert%20information%20from%20one,it%20were%20the%20source%20language>.

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## Types and styles of interpretation

We have two types/styles for spoken language Interpretation, the consecutive and the simultaneous:

**Consecutive** interpretation is the method most commonly known because it is used in a one-on-one setting or office setting. This is done by taking turns between the participants and the Interpreter. Allowing the Interpreter to convey the phrase or idea to the other participants. This style usually takes a little longer but can be very reliable when considering the need to keep sentences or phrases short. It is a good idea to have a conversation with your interpreter beforehand; every interpreter works differently.



**Simultaneous** interpretation, this style requires more experience and aptitude to keep up with the faster pace. In most instances two or more interpreters are needed depending on the length and complexity of the event.

Simultaneous interpretation is suited for group interpretation, meetings, conferences, and group therapy. During this style of interpretation, the interpreter is seated at the back of the auditorium; at the side of a stage; or a soundproof booth with headphones and generally not seen and only heard by the people using a receiver.

There is also a style called Chuchotage or whisper interpretation. This is more commonly used in meetings where there will only be one to two people needing interpretation. During Chuchotage, the Interpreter needs to be seated right behind and in between the LEP(s) (or person in need of the services), to whisper in their ear. A hearing device could also be used to facilitate the interpretation.



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## Impartiality & seating

In a perfect world, the Interpreter would be able to introduce themselves and give a spiel that would go something like this:

*-I am Jane Doe and I will be your interpreter for today. I am obligated to interpret everything that is said in the room. Everything that is said will remain confidential and private, nothing will be kept or remembered at the end of this session.-*

*-You and/or your provider have the right to ask for a different interpreter at any time.-*

Unfortunately this does not always happen, although it is an important part of reassuring the LEP that their information will not be divulged to their community. This helps your client to relax and have a better time opening up.

An important part of the interpreters ethics is to not have a personal relationship with the LEP or the Provider in order to be impartial and honest. This being the reason why family members and close friends should not interpret for either party.

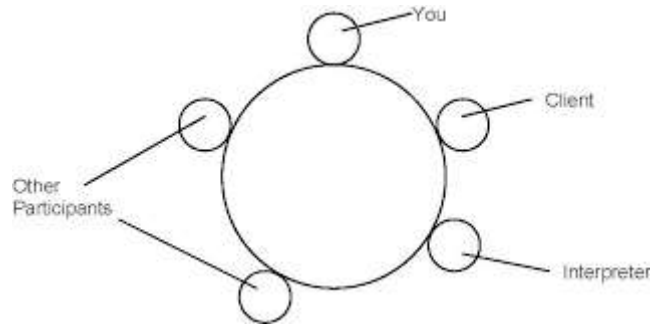
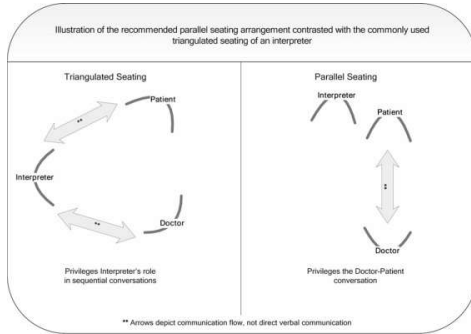
## Eye contact and sitting

During the session the Interpreter is an invisible conduit and eye contact should be between the LEP and Provider. This helps both participants from saying "Tell them..." and speaking directly with each other. This may be the reason an interpreter may stop making eye contact with you or the LEP.

Finding the best sitting arrangement for you could help prevent the dreaded "Tell them...", phrase.

How would I do that? You may ask and that is a fair question. I am not sure who decided or why it was decided that the main sitting arrangement should be a triangle. This could be a sitting arrangement but it usually is not the best. The triangle puts the interpreter in the center and in plain view. This will make it impossible not to turn to the interpreter, it is a natural reflex. The best way to minimis this reflex is by placing the interpreter next to the LEP or the Provider in a parallel setting.

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## Pace and length

The last, but by no means the least, is the pace. We all speak and think at different speeds and lengths. While it may seem more comfortable for one person to speak in a runoff sentences or ideas, or even speak fast, it is very important to remember that the interpreter needs to hear what you said, process it and say it back to the other person in their target language. Especially when the topic has lists or figures.

It is important to know that you may be asked to repeat a list, a word, or a figure, this is normal. In many instances the Interpreter me uses a notepad to jot down some shorthand notes.

It is important that you have a conversation with the Interpreter, beforehand, to establish the pace and length of the sentences or ideas to be interpreted and work more efficiently.