



YOUR PERFORMANCE!

Presented by:

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PAVING THE WAY - JUNE 2025

Eliana Lobo is a Portuguese court and healthcare interpreter, a trainer of trainers for language access professionals in healthcare and human services, and an adjunct professor of healthcare interpreting at Highline College.

Formerly a Spanish/Portuguese translation supervisor, medical trauma center interpreter services Supervisor and Trainer,
 National Director of interpreter quality for an LSP, and a Portuguese and ESL language teacher

Nationally certified CoreCHITM Portuguese healthcare interpreter, Washington State DSHS medical interpreter. Certified Trainer of Trainers (ToT) of medical interpreters.

- CCHI Commissioner 2015-2021
- Currently serving a second term as an NCIHC Board member, Chairing the Standards & Training Committee, member and voice host of the "Home for Trainers" webinar group of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care.

Since 2013, via the NCIHC's "Home for Trainers" webinar workgroup, helping to create and host over 50 national webinars on effective medical interpreter training



Eliana Lobo,
M.A., CoreCHITM
Trainer of Trainers
of Healthcare Interpreters (ToT)

THIS TRAINING IS FOR:

Experienced
Interpreters

and

Novice Interpreters



DAY 1 AGENDA

- > Your Brain
- Cognitive Processes
 - > Speech
 - > Interpreting
- Your Emotions
- Amygdala
 - Attention Hijacks
- Vagus Nerve
 - Breathing
 - > Mindfulness
- Your Interpreting Skills
- > Attention
- > Focus
- Listening
- Memory
- Speed
- Self-Assessment for Improvement
- Common Error Types
- Identifying Your Most Frequent Error Types
- Exercises and Drills for Improvement

DAY 2 AGENDA

Your Brain

- Cognitive Processes
 - > Speech
 - Interpreting

Your Emotions

- Amygdala
 - ▶ Attention Hijacks
- Vagus Nerve
 - Breathing
 - ▶ Mindfulness

Your Interpreting Skills

- Attention
- ▶ Focus
- Listening
- Memory
- Speed

Self-Assessment for Improvement

- Common Error Types
- Identifying Your Most Frequent Error Types
- Exercises and Drills for Improvement

PUSH YOUR PERFORMANCE

DAY 1 - Improve Overall Accuracy by Sharpening:

- > Listening skills
- > Focus
- > Attention
- > Memory
- Speed
- > Flow
- > Error Tracking

WHAT 15 THE STANDARD?

- According to the National Council (NCIHC) http://www.ncihc.org/assets/documents/publications/ NCIHC%20National%20Standards%20of%20Practice.pdf
- > The very first standard is **ACCURACY**, and the first two criteria determining accuracy are:
 - The interpreter renders all messages accurately and completely, without adding, omitting, or substituting
 - > The interpreter replicates the register, style, and tone of the speaker



NATIONAL MEDICAL INTERPRETER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

> NCIHC

- > National Council on Interpreting in Healthcare
- https://www.ncihc.org

> IMIA

- > International Medical Interpreter Association
- https://www.imiaweb.org

WHO **CERTIFIES** MEDICAL INTERPRETERS?

- > CCHI
 - > https://cchicertification.org
- > NBCMI
 - https://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org

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WA STATE JOB DESCRIPTION - CAREER DETAILS

Word processing software
Web platform development software
Presentation software
Office suite software
Foreign language software

https://seeker.worksourcewa.com/OccupationSearch/CareerDetails.aspx?code=27309100 https://seeker.worksourcewa.com/OccupationSearch/CareerDetails.aspx?code=27309100 Interpreters and Translators Interpret oral or sign language, or translate written text from one language into another. Related: Executive Secretaries & Executive Administrative Assistants Park Naturalists Preschool Teachers Self-Enrichment Education Teachers Teacher Assistants Industries: Professional, Science, & Technical Education Health & Counseling Details Summary Skills Pav Washington Annual Salary Active Listening \$56,040/yr Speaking Washington Hourly Wage Reading Comprehension Washington Employment Trends **Abilities** Currently Employed 2,000 Oral Comprehension Yearly Projected Openings Oral Expression Speech Recognition **Personality** Knowledge Artistic: People interested in this work like activities that include creating, designing, and making your own rules. They do well at jobs English Language that need: Foreign Language Integrity Customer and Personal Service Dependability Attention to Detail Self Control Education Stress Tolerance Adaptability/Flexibility Education Tools Bachelor's degree Work Experience Radio frequency transmitters or receivers Training Personal computers Education and Training Opportunities Notebook computers Desktop computers Binoculars Technology

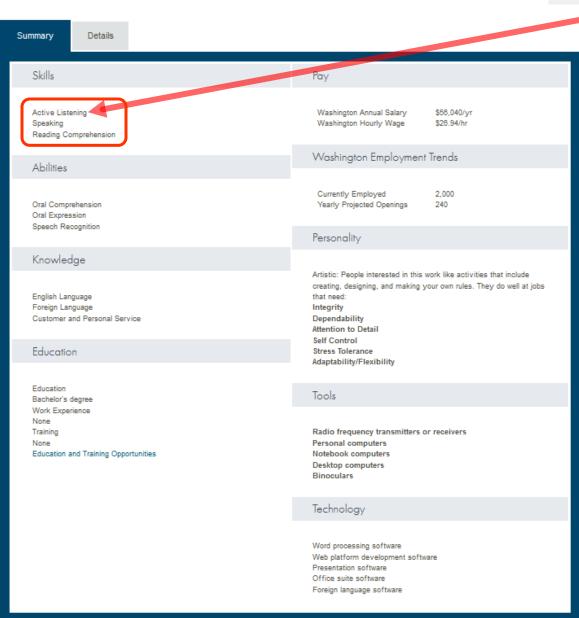
Interpreters and Translators



Interpret oral or sign language, or translate written text from one language into another.

Related: Executive Secretaries & Executive Administrative Assistants Park Naturalists Preschool Teachers Self-Enrichment Education Teachers Teacher Assistants Industries: Professional. Science. & Technical Education Health & Counseling

Save

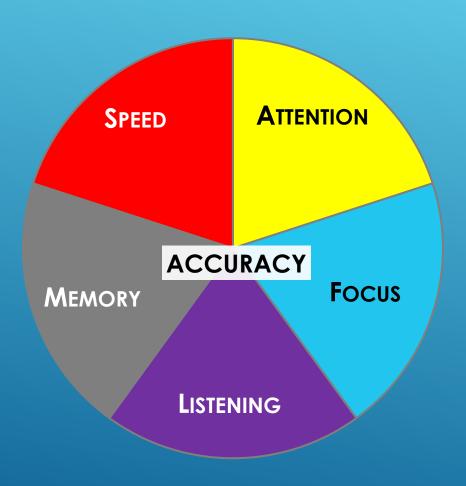


Active Listening is listed first, among skills needed for the job

Why?

Because, if you don't hear it, you won't interpret it!

MECHANICAL COMPONENTS OF ACCURACY



YOUR BRAIN

Cognitive Processes Involved in Speech & Interpreting

THE EIGHT STEPS OF SPEECH PRODUCTION

(**Single** Language)

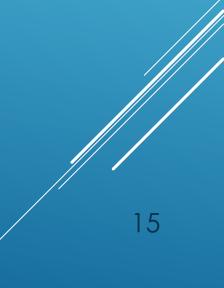
When speaking a single language, looks like this:

- Speech sounds or other stimuli are received by your ear/hearing aid.
- 2. These sounds are **converted** to bioelectric signals within the human ear, or within the hearing aid device.
- 3. These electric impulses are then **transported** through specific ganglial structures, ending up in the primary auditory cortex, on both hemispheres of the brain. Interestingly, each hemisphere treats this input differently
- 4. The left side **recognizes** distinctive parts such as phonemes or basic sounds of speech, whereas the right side takes over prosodic* characteristics and melodic information
- 5. The input then moves through areas in the brain that process;
- 6. Speech perception
- 7. Semantic association, or accessing stored meaning, and only then does it move to
- 8. Speech production--Only EIGHT steps!

WHAT ARE SOME SYNONYMS FOR PROSODY?

> Prosody

- > Intonation
- > Emphasis
- > Speech rhythm
- > Rhythm
- > Enjambment
- Modulation
- Caesura
- > Pitch contour
- > Stress
- > Accent



WHAT IS PROSODY?

Prosody

- The patterns of rhythm and sound used in poetry
- The rhythmic patterns of stress and intonation in a language

HOW DOES PROSODY MATTER?

- Spoken language involves more than the use of words; we vary our pitch, loudness, tempo, and rhythm in our speech in order to convey different meanings.
- These changes are called "prosody," and people with autism often find prosody difficult to hear, understand, or reproduce.
- Al consistently fails to detect nuance in speech, which includes prosody

WHAT ARE SOME SYNONYMS FOR PROSODY?

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ATTRIBUTES OF PROSODY

- > Pitch of the voice
 - (varying between low and high)
- > **Length** of sounds
 - (varying between short and long)
- > Loudness, or prominence
 - (varying between soft and loud)
- > Timbre or voice quality
 - > (quality of sound)

PROSODY & GESTURES

- > Prosodic cues such as
 - > speech rate
 - > pitch level
 - > direction, or voice quality
- > Gestures such as
 - > eyebrow furrowing
 - > head tilt
 - > shoulder shrug



PROSODY VIDEO

HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/TYK6TWFFICI

ALL THESE FEATURES REVEAL SOMETHING ABOUT THE SPEAKER

- > Register
 - > Helps determine level of education
 - > Helps determine Age
- > Prosody
 - Helps is assessing degree of comfort or distress
- > All help with context

STRESS AND YOUR BRAIN

- > To understand how stress can impact your ability to interpret, we need to understand how the brain processes interpreting in non-stressful situations first
- > What does the brain actually do, while we interpret?
 - > To understand that, we first need to look at cognitive function during speech



COGNITIVE FUNCTION DURING SPEECH

- Language processing refers to the way humans use words to communicate ideas and feelings, and how such communications are processed and understood
- Cognitive function during interpreted speech involves all the areas in the brain and body that receive and process input in order to
 - > hear it
 - understand it
 - > convert it
 - > be able to reproduce it in a 2nd language



11 STEPS TO SPEECH PRODUCTION

(FOR TWO LANGUAGES)

- When we move from communicating in a single language to interpreting between TWO languages, we add the following tasks to the mix:
 - Memory
 - > Conversion
 - > Iteration
 - Your brain is now handling ALL of the 8 prior tasks, plus 3 brand new tasks! Essentially, you are adding 3 balls to the 8 balls you're already juggling!
- Adding stress to this groups of 11 steps, pretty much ensures you will drop some, if not all, of those balls at some point
 - > It will probably happen more than once in a day.
- What can you do in these situations?





INTERPRETERS: LANGUAGE SUPERHEROES!

YOUR EMOTIONS

The **Amygdala**

How it Can Hijack Your Attention

The Vagus Nerve

How Breathing & Mindfulness Training Can Calm the Amygdala

STRESS AND YOUR BRAIN WHILE INTERPRETING

- > Did you ever "freeze" while interpreting?
 - > It happens to us all
- Did you ever get "choked up" during an interpretation?
 - > Again, it happens to us all at one time or another
- > How do you "unfreeze" and get back to the job?



AMYGDALA VS. VAGUS NERVE

Amygdala

- The amygdala is recognized as a component of the limbic system. It is thought to play important roles in emotion and behavior.
- The amygdala helps coordinate responses to things in your environment, especially those that trigger an emotional response
 - > This structure plays an important role in **fear** and **anger**.

Vagus Nerve

The vagus (Latin for wandering) nerve is far reaching, extending from the brainstem down into your stomach and intestines, innervating your heart and lungs, and connecting your throat and facial muscles.

TECHNIQUES TO MASTER

Making use of scientifically proven techniques to activate the Vagus nerve. This IMMEDIATELY calms the nervous system and reduces the heart rate.

Using the Diver's Reflex to Regulate Emotional Intensity

- Did you know that when you splash cold water on your face, it triggers an immediate decrease in heart rate?
 - Scientists dubbed this the mammalian diving response, more commonly known as the "diver's reflex"

AMYGDALA

> Amygdala

- a) the part of the limbic system that assesses the **emotional** value of stimuli;
- b) the part of the brain associated with fear reactions
 - "Fight, Flight or Freeze"
 - Being "triggered" (heart rate goes up, breathing becomes shallower, muscles quiver, throat constricts, neck tightens)
 - > Feels like an anxiety attack
 - A person who has a seizure in the temporal lobe the location of the Amygdala sometimes reports an intense feeling of fear or danger, -Fiori

VAGUS NERVE

- > Activating Vagus Nerve
 - Increasing activity in the vagus nerve activates the parasympathetic nervous system which means your body is able to relax faster after stress

UNDERSTANDING THESE PROCESSES IS THE FIRST STEP TO BEING ABLE TO CONTROL THESE SAME PROCESSES

- > What triggers my fight or flight response?
- How can I rein in my spontaneous reaction and regain control?

AMYGDALA VS. VAGUS NERVE

- Calming the Amygdala
 - Realize you've been triggered
 - Metacognition, the ability to think about your thinking, is a higher-level skill that top performers master
 - > **LET GO** of the story
 - > Release the tension
 - > Remember who you are
 - DO SOMETHING--just a small physical movement pushes away the "deer in the headlights moment"
 - Wiggle your toes inside your shoes
 - Make a fist
 - > Take a deep breath and let it out slowly

TECHNIQUES TO ACTIVATE THE VAGUS NERVE

Mindful Breathing to Activate Vagus Nerve

- Increasing activity in your vagus nerve helps your body relax faster after stress
 - > Deep, slow breathing stimulates your vagus nerve
 - > Most people take about 10-14 breaths each minute
 - > Take about 6 breaths per minute to relieve stress mindfully
 - Breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth
 - Try and exhale longer breaths than you inhale

1. Run water over your hands

Start by running cold water over your hands. Focus on how the temperature feels on each part of your hand, from your wrist to your nails. Switch to warm water and focus on how the sensation on your hands changes. Do this for a few minutes until you calm down

- 2. Move your body in ways that feel most comfortable to you This can include jumping up and down, dancing, jogging in place, or stretching. As you move, focus on how your body feels
- 3. Focus on your breathing while you control how you inhale and exhale. You can start by inhaling to the count of 4, holding for 3 seconds, and then exhaling for another count of 4. You could also repeat what you consider a happy word after each inhalation. For example, safe, peace, easy, or gone.

4. Tense and relax different parts of your body

For example, press your feet to the ground as hard as you can for a few seconds. Release the pressure and notice how your feet feel now. You can also squeeze the arms of your chair as tightly as you can and the slowly relax and let go.

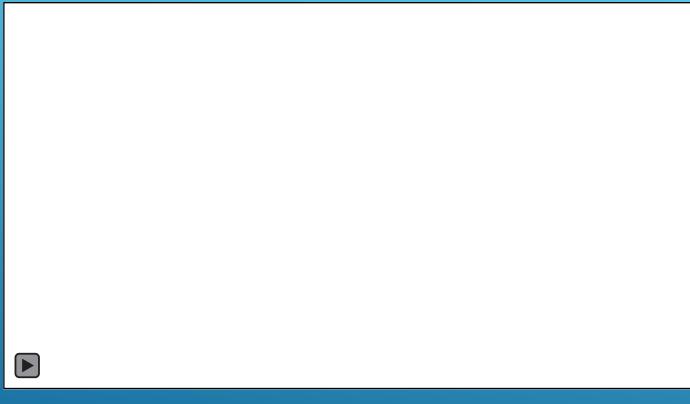
GROUNDING TECHNIQUES

WHAT IS MINDFULNESS?

IT'S ABOUT PAYING ATTENTION
TO THE PRESENT MOMENT
WITH AWARENESS
AND
WITHOUT EMOTIONAL REACTIVITY

POLL #1 DO YOU PRACTICE MINDFULNESS?

LET'S TRY IT FOR 30 SECONDS!

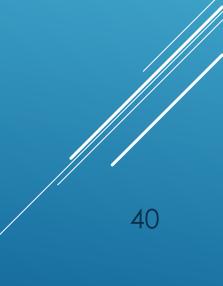


Try to focus only on the sights and sounds of this video while breathing mindfully, slowly, (in through your nose, and out through your mouth).

FREE MINDFULNESS APPS

Available for iOS and Android

- Insight Timer
- Smiling Mind
- > Stop, Breathe & Think
- > UCLA Mindful
- > 10% Happier
- > Headspace
- > CALM
- > Aura



BREATHE BEFORE EACH ENCOUNTER

At least **SIX** deep, slow, breaths

make the exhalation last longer than the inhalation

- Do this before each client comes up on your video screen
- Do this before each client comes on your telephone line
- Do this before you walk into each examination room with a patient

"NEVER TRUST THE TRANSLATION OR INTERPRETATION OF SOMETHING WITHOUT FIRST TRUSTING ITS INTERPRETER."

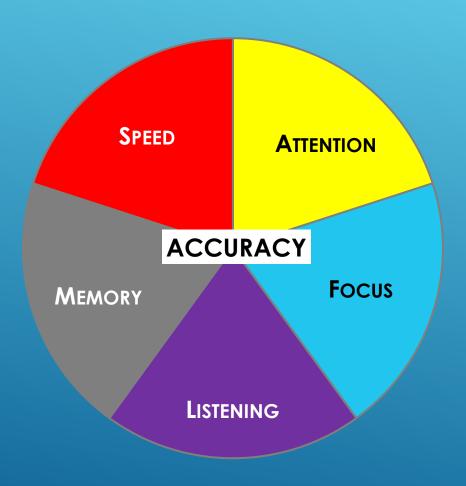
~Suzy Kassem

How do WE live up to the standard?

- Learning how to lower your stress and anxiety while interpreting, is a great skill that improves your performance
- Working on developing your interpreting mechanics also improves performance
 - > Focus
 - > Attention
 - Short-term Memory
 - > Conversion
 - > Speed
 - Managing the Flow

WORK ON BOTH!

MECHANICAL COMPONENTS OF ACCURACY



LISTENING VS HEARING

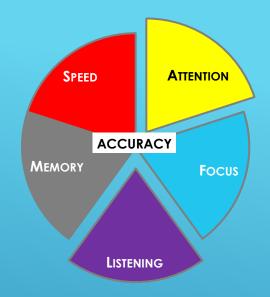


- > Hearing is passive
 - simply acknowledging an input of sound
- Listening is active!
 - > it means being able to **focus** one's attention on the speaker
 - It means being engaged

ATTENTIVE LISTENING

5 Steps to Listening

- 1. Receiving
- 2. Understanding
- 3. Remembering
- 4. Evaluation
- 5. Responding



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STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE LISTENING

The Three A's of Active Listening

(Effective listening is about self-awareness)

You must pay attention to whether or not you are only hearing, or passively listening, or if you are actively engaging.

Effective listening requires concentration and a focused effort that is known as *active listening*

- Active listening can be broken down into three main elements
 - > Attention
 - > Attitude
 - Adjustment

MAINTAINING ATTENTION

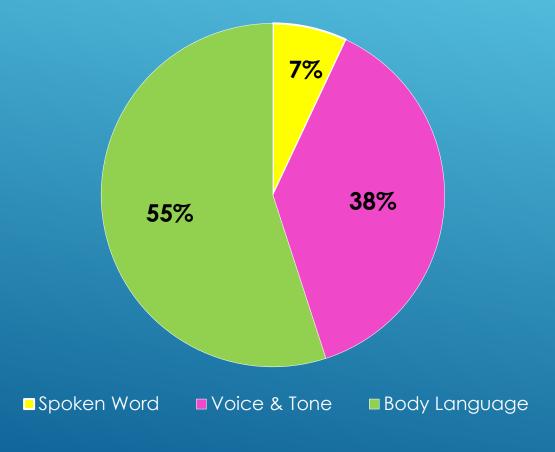
We know now that attention is the fundamental difference between hearing and listening.

- Paying attention to what a speaker is saying requires intentional effort on your part
 - Nichols, credited with first researching the field of listening, observed, "listening is hard work. It is characterized by faster heart action, quicker circulation of the blood, a small rise in bodily temperature."
- Consider that we can process information four times faster than a person speaks. Yet, tests of listening comprehension show the average person listening at only 25% efficiency

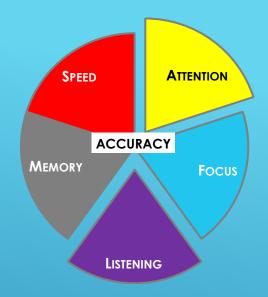
THE 7% RULE

ELEMENTS OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Personal Communication



ATTENTIVE LISTENING



5 Barriers to attentive listening:

- Information overload
- > Personal concerns or issues
- Outside Distractions
- Rates of speech and thought
- Reactions/Opinions/Prejudice

CHALLENGES TO ATTENTION

Stress and Distraction hijack attention

- A typical person can speak 125 words-per-minute, yet we can process up to three times faster, reaching as much as 500 words-per-minute
- > The poor listener grows impatient
- The effective listener uses the extra processing time to process the speaker's words, distinguish key points, and mentally summarize them

ATTENTION IS FRAGILE!

Research indicates our mind wanders over 50% of our waking hours!

- > There are ways one can gain control over distraction
- > It requires mindfulness training
 - In effect, you develop a personalized, portable, brain fitness routine to keep your attention strong

THE ATTENTION OF SOMEONE WHO

HASN'T HAD MINDFULNESS

TRAINING DECLINES WHEN THEY'RE

UNDER INTENSE STRESS,

BUT FOR PEOPLE WHO'VE HAD
TRAINING, THEIR ATTENTION
REMAINS STABLE AND CAN EVEN
IMPROVE AND BE SUSTAINED FOR
LONGER PERIODS, OVER TIME

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS WHEN YOU MINDFULLY TRAIN YOUR ATTENTION

- Researchers have started to uncover additional benefits associated with mindfulness, including
 - > reduced anxiety
 - > protection from depression relapse

and,

> improved working memory!

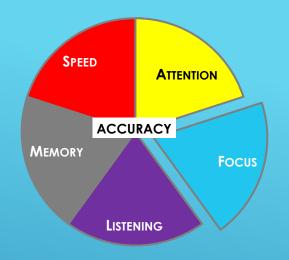
ANOTHER WAY TO LOOK AT MINDFULNESS

IT'S ABOUT PAYING ATTENTION
TO THE PRESENT MOMENT
WITH AWARENESS
AND
WITHOUT EMOTIONAL REACTIVITY

MINDFULNESS TRAINING

- Mindfulness training can be broken down into two major categories:
 - > Focused attention and
 - > Open monitoring
- Two very different, yet complementary, practices
- > Let's look at how to improve both

STRENGTHENING FOCUS & ATTENTION



- If our mind wanders over 50% of our waking hours what can we do to change that?
 - Practice mindfulness as your first step
- > How do I strengthen my focus?

EXERCISES TO STRENGTHEN YOUR FOCUS AND ATTENTION

Focused attention exercises cultivate your brain's ability to focus on one single thing, for example, breathing

- Practice mindful breathing
 - > Sit in a comfortable, upright position and
 - > Focus all your attention on the sensations of breathing
 - Breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth
- When your mind wanders away from the sensations to internal mental content or any external distraction, gently return it to the breath-related object
 - Don't be surprised or disappointed if you find yourself retrieving your mind hundreds of times during a 15-minute session.
 - > Think of your brain like a puppy you're training to walk on a leash. Gently redirect it every time it darts away.

GENTLY REDIRECT YOUR FOCUS, EVERY TIME OTHER THOUGHTS INTRUDE



https://youtu.be/B9EJ2-Lctgs

EXERCISES TO STRENGTHEN FOCUSED ATTENTION

Focused attention exercise: the body scan

Imagine your attention as being like a flashlight. The body scan exercise is essentially taking that flashlight and directing it systematically over your entire body.

- Start by focusing your attention on your toes, taking note of whatever sensations might be there
 - > Tightness?
 - > Tingling?
 - > Warmth?
 - > Cold \(\)
- Next, move on to the soles of your feet, your heels, then your legs, stomach, and so on, slowly moving the flashlight up your body
- After you have developed regular practice focusing your attention, you may progress to the practice of
 - Open Monitoring

ONCE YOU HAVE PRACTICED QUIETING YOUR MIND, MOVE TO THE OPEN MONITORING EXERCISE

IN THIS ORDER:

- > First, practice reducing your internal chatter
- Second, work towards extending the number of minutes where you can keep your mind still and quiet
 - Start with 1-5 and then move to longer intervals
- > Third, work on developing open monitoring

EXERCISES TO DEVELOP OPEN MONITORING

This practice, unlike like the breathing exercise, is not about paying attention to a specific object or objects

- It's about remaining open to any experience (internal or external) that arises, and allowing it to wash over you
 - Don't process it,
 - Don't think about it,
 - > Just notice its occurrence and allow it to pass and dissipate
- > To do this, sit in a comfortable, upright position and
- Try to be aware of any sensations, thoughts or emotions that emerge without holding on to them
- > It might help you to label what comes up by using words like "planning," "worrying," "judging," "remembering."
- You can do this silently or out loud
- > After you name it, let it go!

EXERCISES TO DEVELOP OPEN MONITORING

Think of this exercise as if you were watching clouds move in the sky while observing their different shapes

- ➤ In this practice, you're watching your thoughts as they travel through your mind
 - > Like watching leaves floating by on the river's surface
- > There will be times when you feel like you keep getting hooked on a particular thought or sensation and can't seem to let it go
 - If you find yourself prone to internal chatter or distraction, so that you can't do the open monitoring practice, go back to practicing your focused attention

OPEN MONITORING HELPS YOU LEARN TO PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND YOU WITHOUT BECOMING ATTACHED TO IT

"LET IT GO" EXERCISE

Practice Clearing Your Mind

- When you have a thought,
 - > Identify it, and, immediately let it go!
 - Often, this is harder to do than you'd think!
 - > Try to be aware of any sensations, thoughts or emotions that emerge, without holding on to them
 - Label what comes up using words like "planning," "worrying," or "remembering"
 - Remember, we are learning to detach
- Helps to have a neutral, pleasant view or something basic to focus on when you first begin, so let's try this while viewing a colorful shape
 - Ready? We'll try it for 2 minutes...

CLEAR YOUR MIND

WHEN YOU HAVE A THOUGHT, IDENTIFY IT AND IMMEDIATELY LET IT GO!



1 minute

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POLL #2 WAS THAT EASIER OR HARDER THAN YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE?

CLEAR YOUR MIND

NOW, TRY FOCUSING AND FOLLOWING ONE COLOR



2 minutes

Lobo Language Access

POLL #3 WAS IT EASIER TO STAY FOCUSED?

HOW LONG SHOULD I PRACTICE?

MINDFULNESS EXERCISES

WHEN CAN I EXPECT TO SEE THE BENEFITS OF THIS PRACTICE?

- People generally start to see benefits when they practice for about 15 minutes a day, 5 days a week, for around 4 weeks
 - If you practice more, you will benefit more--but if you do less than 12 minutes a day, you won't really see any benefits
- If you try any of these exercises and have trouble keeping your mind still, know that that's a common experience!
 - Don't be discouraged, as with any new activity or sport, you need to practice
- > The mind will wander, and that's completely fine
- > It's not about *not* letting the mind wander
 - It's about learning how to gently return your attention to your focus, when that happens

THAT IS PRECISELY THE SKILL YOU ARE DEVELOPING!

START SMALL!

- Choose a reasonable goal, and then start with HALF of that, the very first time you try these exercises
- Choose to commit to a month of practice in order to see measurable results
- > Gradually increase your practice time
 - > Aim for 15 minutes per day, five days a week
 - > Start with 1 minute per day, five days a week

LET'S TRY OPEN MONITORING FOR ONE MINUTE



POLL #4 WAS THAT EASIER OR HARDER THIS TIME?

AFTER FOCUS & ATTENTION COMES ATTITUDE

Acquiring Emotional Vitality & Stamina

- > Don't dwell on the negatives
- > Focus on what is most important, right now
- > Practice mindfulness
- > Keep a sense of purpose

ATTITUDE

Even if you are paying close attention, you could be doing so with the wrong kind of attitude

- Getting frustrated with delays or protocols, or by having appointments that run long, engaging in negative self-talk none of this will help you to listen effectively
 - Remember to hydrate and carry a snack with you!
- You'll be better off determining an internal motivation to be attentive to the person speaking
- Approaching the task of listening with a positive attitude and an open-mind will make the act of listening much easier
 - Bad listeners make snap judgments that justify the decision to be inattentive. Yet, since you're already there, why not listen to see what you can learn?

ATTITUDE

Watch out for **psychological deaf spots** which impair one's ability to perceive and understand things counter to our convictions.

- It can be a description of an event, or even a word or phrase that may trigger you and cause "an internal emotional eruption"
 - > Causing communication efficiency to drop rapidly
- Interpreting errors increase when we interpret speech we strongly disagree with, so staying detached is fundamental!
 - Go back to your Open Monitoring exercise if you find yourself getting triggered by attitudes coming from others

ADJUSTMENT

- When we hear someone speak, we don't know in advance what he is going to be saying
- > This requires us to remain flexible
 - Often, we follow a speaker along what seems like a verbal detour that goes down a rabbit hole, until we are rewarded by the speaker finally reaching his or her destination, and often, only partially answering the provider's question

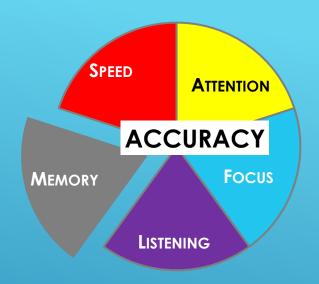
FRIDAY: Skills-based Boot Camp for Interpreters



PUSH YOUR PERFORMANCE

DAY 2 - Improve Overall Accuracy by Sharpening:

- > Listening skills
- > Focus
- > Attention
- > Memory
- > Speed
- > Flow
- > Error Tracking



MEMORY

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MEMORY AND THE INTERPRETER

- Working Memory is considered part of the most basic executive functions that are essential to higher level cognitive processing, including language processing
- Interpreting is one of the most difficult language tasks, and its performance relies heavily on Working Memory

MEMORY AND THE INTERPRETER

- ➤ Short-Term Memory
 - Short-term memory is important for the interpreter to retain what he/she has just heard
 - > Improves with PRACTICE
- ➤ Long-Term Memory
 - Good long-term memory helps with understanding and an accurately conveying of the message
 - Improves with STUDY

BUS DRIVER LISTENING EXERCISE





Lobo Language Access

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> LIVE silent observation for 90 seconds



> EXPANDED SEQUENCE EXERCISE

Instructor or partner alternates reading off items from two lists

- > Item is read from list 1
 - > Listen and remember
- > Item is read from list 2
 - Repeat item from list 1
- > Item is read from list 1
 - Repeat item from list 2

TOP TEN MOST COMMON CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES, TOP TEN MOST PRESCRIBED DRUGS IN THE U.S.

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- Common Cold
- Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
- Stomach Flu (Gastroenteritis)
- Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)
- Febrile Seizures
- Chickenpox
- Eczema
- Asthma
- Allergic Rhinitis (Allergies)
- Constipation

- Lisinopril (Zestril)
- Levothyroxine (Synthroid)
- Atorvastatin (Lipitor)
- Metformin (Glucophage)
- Simvastatin (Zocor)
- Omeprazole (Prilosec)
- Amlodipine (Norvasc)
- Metoprolol (Lopressor)
- Acetaminophen plus hydrocodone
- Albuterol (Ventolin)

TOP TEN MOST COMMON CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES, TOP TEN MOST PRESCRIBED DRUGS IN THE U.S.

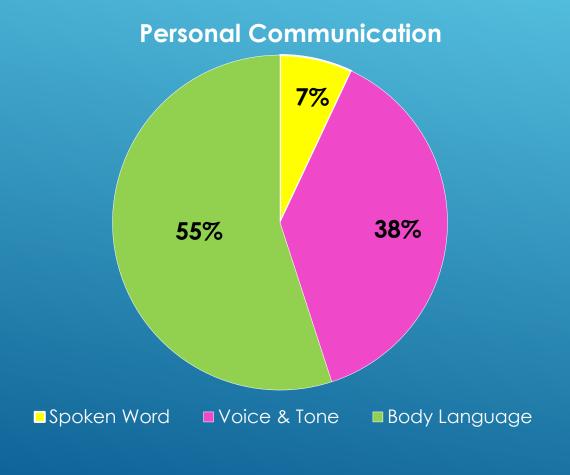
INPUT VS. OUTPUT

We've looked at

- Attentive listening
- > Focus
- > Attention
- Memory
- We'll look at Speed in the final section
- Remember to include PROSODY in your output and analyze PROSODY in your listening

THE 7% RULE

ELEMENTS OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

- Focused attention
 - > If you don't hear it, you will never interpret it
- Attentive listening
 - > Attention hijacks and how to defuse them
- Memory
 - > Know your limitations and manage the flow
- > Speed
 - Know your limitations and manage the flow

ASSESSING YOUR INTERPRETING PERFORMANCE FOR ALL OF THIS...

How do I do this in a way that works?



INPUT VS. OUTPUT

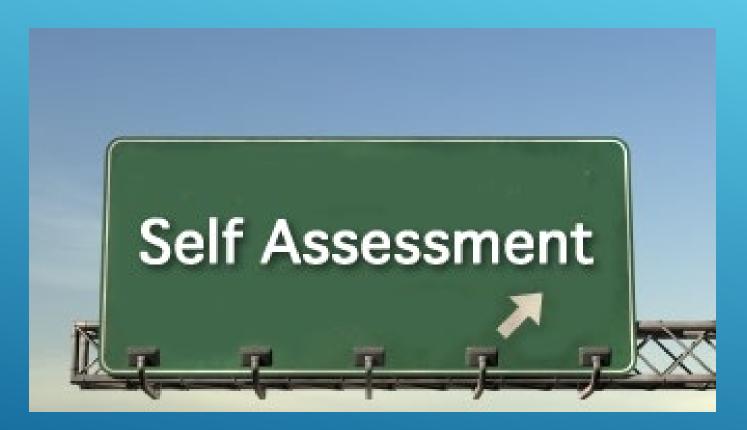
We've looked at

- Attentive listening
- > Focus
- Attention
- Memory
- We'll look at Speed in the last section
- > How do we apply this to our skillset?
- > How do we analyze our skillset in order to decide on self-improvement, additional training or continuing education choices?

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL



THE SECRET IS...



WHICH ERROR TYPES OCCUR MOST OFTEN?

- > Adding something that wasn't present in the original
- Omitting something from the original utterance
- > Distorting the meaning/changing the meaning
 - False cognate?
- Summarizing the content
 - > Editorializing by adding your opinion

WHAT'S MY NEXT MOVE?

- How do I pinpoint errors in my performance?
- How do I improve specific parts of my skills?
 - How do I go about maintaining and improving my skills without spending a lot of money?

HOW DO I ASSESS MY SKILLS?

We are quite often, our own harshest critics.

In order to choose the best exercises to maximize improvement within our skill set, we need to take a good hard look at how we are doing the job in the present moment.

What's the best way to get an accurate snapshot of our current performance level when it comes to accuracy, fluency and delivery?

YOUR SECRET WEAPON?



THROUGH SELF-RECORDING

POLL #5 HOW OFTEN DO YOU RECORD YOURSELF?

YES, RECORD YOURSELF!

Where can I find quality training materials?

- For FREE Skill Drills, organized by topic, please visit Eliana Lobo's InterpreterTrainer page on YouTube:
 - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJc3-Nq6hClSXnB8-ONihJQ/playlists?view=1&shelf_id=0&sort=dd
- > For concepts and great training resources, again for FREE, visit NCIHC's webinar landing page
 - http://www.ncihc.org/home-for-trainers
- For Spanish /English interpreters
 - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChOp3asnuNBYctTqMp-3Bew/videos?app=desktop

HOW DO I UTILIZE SELF-RECORDING TO IMPROVE MY SKILLS? LISTEN TO RECORDINGS OF YOURSELF AND ANALYZE THEM

- Once you have assembled a handful of self recordings, say five or six, (although ten to twelve would be better), you can begin to see and track your errors cumulatively
 - > See if any noticeable patterns emerge
- Your predominant error types will determine the types of exercises you would need to choose, in order to shift your performance to a higher standard

WHAT DO I LISTEN FOR?

(WHEN I LISTEN TO MY RECORDINGS)

Speed

- Can I keep up with the speaker's flow?
 - > In English?
 - In the language I interpret for?

Fluidity

> Am I struggling to find equivalent words and expressions?

Pronunciation

- Can the provider understand me well?
- Can I understand the patient, even if they are speaking the target language differently than what I'm used to?

Accuracy

Have I used the best equivalents, included everything without omitting anything?

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SELF-ASSESSMENT: WHAT ARE THE STEPS?

STEP 1

- Record yourself shadowing an English speaker, then, record your self shadowing content in your 2nd language
- > Can you keep up with the speaker?
 - > If yes, proceed to next section
 - > If no, you need to practice shadowing FIRST!

FREE PHONE APPS: SO YOU CAN RECORD YOURSELF EASILY

These voice recording apps for smart phones, also allow you to alter the speed of the recording. You should know what speed is too fast for you sounds like, to be able to render accurately, and to better manage the flow of the encounter in the moment.



iPhone

- Best voice recording apps for iPhone and iPad - iDownloadBlog
- www.idownloadblog.com/2016/05/22/bes t-voice-recording-apps-iphone-ipad/
- Audio Speed Changer Free on the App Store - iTunes - Apple
- https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/audiospeed-changer-free/id680523422?mt=8

Android

- How to Change the Speed of Audio Playback
 With these 4 Android Apps
- https://www.guidingtech.com/56100/alterspeed-audio-playback-android-apps/
- Speed Changer Android Apps on Google Play
- https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=j p.ne.sakura.ccice.audipo&hl=en

STEP 2

ALWAYS RECORD YOURSELF WHEN DOING DRILLS

- Record yourself when you practice your interpreting
 - > Listen to the playback
 - Note mistakes in your delivery
- Common aspects of performance where interpreters need to improve are:



- Speed
- Accuracy
- Memory

With continued practice, this exercise of listening to the playback with a critical ear will strengthen your confidence when you interpret, as you will have been able to track improvements over time

Lobo Language Access

CHANGE THE PLAYBACK SPEED ON YOUTUBE VIDEOS



https://youtu.be/t3Jgt59llps

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CHANGE THE PLAYBACK SPEED OF ANY ONLINE VIDEO ON YOUR IPAD



HOW DO I SELF-ASSESS MY RECORDING?

- > Choose a recording to shadow or interpret
 - Pick something (a YouTube video for example), that you can replay as often as you want, so you can compare your rendering into the 2nd language with the original
- Listen closely to your rendering. Note any instances of the following error types by making a tick mark for each one of these:
 - > Additions
 - Deletions/omissions
 - Incorrect word used



SAMPLE TRACKING TABLE FOR WHEN YOU RECORD YOURSELF



DATE	Additions	Omissions	Wrong Word
1/1/25	777777	7777	Gun instead of rifle
1/5/25	$\sqrt{}$	111	Vehicle instead of van
1/9/25	7777	1111111	Him instead of here
1/12/25	$\sqrt{\sqrt{N}}$	1111	Headache instead of migraine
1/14/25	VVVV	111	Nurse instead of Nurse Practitioner
1/17/25	$\sqrt{}$	1111	Skull instead of cranium
1/21/25	111111	7777777	Headache instead of migraine
1/25/25	111	1111	Constipated instead of congested
2/2/25	$\sqrt{}$	11	Funny walk instead of limp

NOW THAT YOU'VE RECORDED YOURSELF 5 TIMES

(10 WOULD BE BETTER)

Track your errors during your review and, record the number for each error type along with the date

- > Score your recordings at the end of each practice session
- > Keep a running tally on excel or word, adding to it each week
 - Choose skill drills to strengthen weak areas
 (categories with the most tick marks) of your performance
 - Nothing matches the feeling you get, when you see your numbers improving over time



STEP 3: ASSESS & IDENTIFY YOUR ERRORS BY TYPE

Pinpoint your most frequently occurring error types

- Identify all additions and omissions
- > For the final category of incorrect, count as an error, any error that wasn't an addition or omission
- > Try and determine the source of your error's sub-type
 - > False cognate?
 - Lack of specific vocabulary?
 - Lack of target language equivalent?
 - Couldn't keep up?
 - Due to speed?
 - Due to memory?



Lobo Language Access 112

STEP 4: NOW THAT I KNOW WHICH AREAS I NEED TO IMPROVE, WHAT DO I DO? HOW DO I DO THAT?

- > If most of your errors fall within additions
 - > You need to work with conversion exercises
- > If most of your errors fall within deletions
 - You need to work with listening exercises
- > If most of your errors fall within omissions
 - You need to work with listening and speed exercises
- If most of your errors fall within incorrect or wrong word, bad conversion
 - Work with exercises for that specific error type

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EXERCISES TO IMPROVE CONVERSION SKILLS

Staying within the same language:

- Practice re-stating a simple sentence using different words. Avoid using the words used in the first sentence, (as much as possible) while retaining the same meaning
- > -for example-
 - > I was late to work this morning because my car had a flat tire.
 - > The interpreter was delayed at the beginning of the day, due to a wheel puncture on her vehicle.
- Practice re-stating simple sentences in differing registers (academic, medical, plain language and slang)

Repeat these two exercises,
convert from English to your target language
then repeat,
going from your target language into English

EXERCISES TO IMPROVE LISTENING SKILLS

- Practice listening to detailed statements while taking notes
 - http://webtv.un.org
- Listen to recordings of speakers of all ages, levels of education and regions for your target language
 - > www.YouTube.com
- Practice listening to spoken speech at different rates of speed

EXERCISES TO IMPROVE YOUR LISTENING SPEED

- Practice listening to detailed statements while taking notes
 - http://webtv.un.org
 - https://www.ted.com/talks
 - > https://www.tedmed.com
- Listen to recordings of speakers of all ages, levels of education and regions for your target language
 - www.YouTube.com
- Practice listening to spoken speech at different rates of speed
 - Here is a link to a sample audio clip
 - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJc3-Nq6hCISXnB8-ONihJQ

SHADOWING

- > Practice shadowing speakers on the radio while driving or commuting on public transit
- Choose different rates of speed depending on the programming
- Shadow content you enjoy or want to learn about
 - Shadow content you strongly disagree with, to challenge yourself (this is much harder)

WHAT IS SHADOWING AGAIN?

- Shadowing is an advanced language learning technique, which can be used by learners independently to improve their intonation and pronunciation
- > It's quite a simple concept you listen to a model, (for example, a video or audio of someone speaking), and you repeat what is said in real time
 - Helps non-native speakers' flow
 - > Helps interpreters develop their decalage

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 ROOMS OF TWO

- Read one sentence aloud to your partner
- Partner rephrases sentence, using different words, while conveying same meaning back to reader
- Alternate reading and reformulating sentences with each other

26th May, 2010

Dear Evie.

I am in Paris which is a place in France. I have been eating some of the yummy food. They have the best cakes and pastries here. My favourite are the chocolate croissants.

Today I went to the Louvre Museum. It is enormous! I saw some very famous paintings and some big sculptures there.

What painting might you like you like to see if you visited the Louvre?

Yours truly,

Gaby x x x

LOW register

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BREAKOUT SESSION 2 ROOMS OF TWO

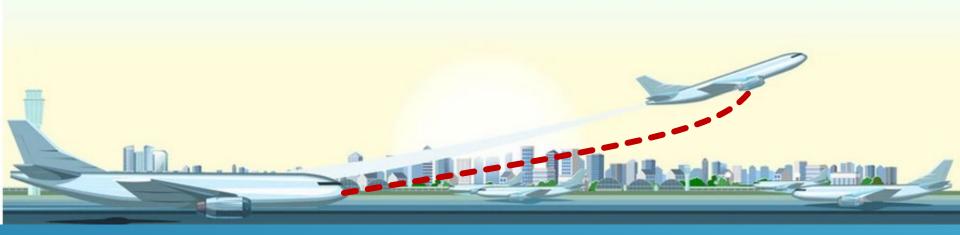
- Read each phrase aloud to your partner
- Partner rephrases, using different words, but conveying same meaning back to reader

Air Bag Warning Label -Harness Slots (3 sets) -----Harness Chest Clip ----5 Pt. Harness System (contacting child at shoulders, hips and groin) -Harness Release Button (red) -----Belt Path (not pictured) See page 6 for an illustration. Harness Release Mechanism Pull Strap To Tighten Harness -

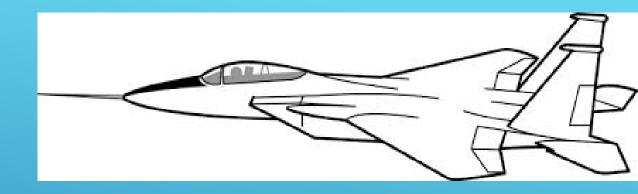
WHAT IS DECALAGE?

- A decalage is the length of time between the start of the speech and the beginning of your interpretation
- A longer **decalage** allows for higher accuracy because you get more context before **interpreting**.
 - In your training, challenge yourself to increase your decalage

DECALAGE



- Decalage is the length of time between the start of the speech and the start of your interpretation
 - A longer decalage allows for a greater degree of accuracy, since you will have more information for context and nuancé



SHADOWING AT 1.5 SPEED

In-Flight Announcement



POLL #5 HOW DID THIS FEEL?

WHAT DID I NOTICE ABOUT MYSELF?

- > Was it too fast for me?
 - > Did I hear and understand everything?
 - > Was I able to reproduce the same words?
 - Did I get stressed? Anxious?
- How long did I last before I was no longer able to keep up?
 - > 5 seconds?
 - > 15 seconds?
 - > 30 seconds?



In-Flight Announcement





POLL #6 HOW DID THIS FEEL?

HOW DIFFERENT DID THAT FEEL??

- > How did it FEEL this time?
 - Could I keep up?
 - Was I able to reproduce the same words and shadow?
 - > Did it even feel too slow?
- Was I able to keep up with the speaker throughout the entire announcement?

LET'S DO ONE MORE!

- > Track how it FEELS this time
 - Could I keep up?
 - Was I able to reproduce the same words and shadow?
 - > Did it even feel too slow?
- Was I able to keep up with the speaker throughout the entire announcement?

SHADOWING AT 1.5 SPEED





Traffic Report

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POLL #7 HOW DID THIS FEEL?



SHADOWINGAT 1.0, OR NORMAL SPEED

Traffic Report



POLL #8 HOW DID THIS FEEL?

EXERCISES TO ENHANCE YOUR INTERPRETING SPEED

- When you practice, interpret using recordings played at different speeds, (preferably faster ones).
 - Practicing your shadowing & interpreting at faster speeds makes normal speed feel easier!
 - Not only will this help you interpret for fast speakers,
 - It will help you immediately recognize what "too fast for me to interpret well" sounds like, so you can manage the flow
 - You may ask the speaker to slow down by saying, "The interpreter asks you to please slow down, so that I may capture everything without omitting anything."
 - You can hold up your hand palm facing the speaker
 - You may ask for a pause to interpret what has been said https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJc3-Nq6hClSXnB8-ONihJQ

MEMORY, FOCUS & ATTENTION EXERCISES

- Practice listening to detailed statements while taking notes
 - > http://webtv.un.org
 - https://www.senate.gov
- > Practice observing detail with memory games
 - Online games via Brain Training Games at
 - http://www.lumosity.com and
 - http://www.memory-improvement-tips.com/brain-games.html
- > Practice Focus and Attention with
 - Listening to 2 things at the same time and then writing down a detailed summary about each scenario https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJc3-Nq6hClSXnB8-ONihJQ
 - Online games via Games for the Brain http://www.gamesforthebrain.com



GOING FORWARD: PRACTICE

Repeat Steps 1-4 Compare/contrast your results over time

- 1. Record yourself
- 2. ALWAYS Record Yourself When Doing Drills
- 3. Assess and Identify Your ERRORS by Type
- 4. Select exercises for your specific error type or area chosen for improvement
- > Incorporate practice into your daily life. Makes it easier to do regularly
 - During your commute
 - Waiting in line
 - In the Waiting Room
 - While stuck in traffic
 - During your daily run or walk
 - While vacuuming or sweeping

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IMPLEMENT REGULAR PRACTICE

- Listening to content in your second language and interpreting it into your first and strongest language
- As you progress, flip back and forth between languages when practicing your exercises
- > Find ways to work in practice while doing other tasks
 - During your commute
 - > Waiting in line
 - > In the Waiting Room
 - > While stuck in traffic
 - > During your daily run or walk
 - > While vacuuming or sweeping

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FIND A RECORDING OF A FAMOUS SPEECH: RECORD YOURSELF AS YOU INTERPRET IT

- > Print the Speech you selected
- Record your interpretation of the speech, (while listening to the original on headphones)
- Check your interpretation by listening to it as you replay it against the original
 - Listen for accuracy and completeness
 - http://speechpool.net is a great resource, with content in over a dozen languages, SPECIFICALLY FOR INTERPRETERS TO PRACTICE!

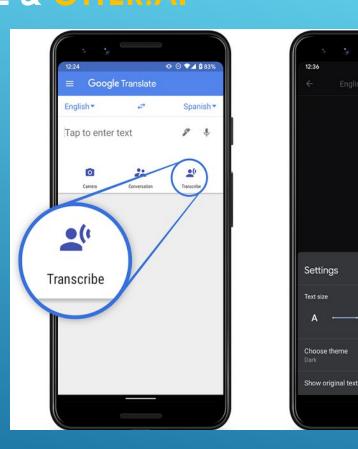
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

You can easily find public service announcements and audio recordings, issued by hospitals, city hall, schools and the courts. Again, **record yourself** as you render it into the other language!

- Print the Speech you selected
- Record your interpretation of the speech, (while listening to the original on headphones)
- Check your interpretation by listening to it as you replay it against the original
 - Listen for accuracy and completeness
 - https://www.tedmed.com has a wide selection of medical topics

CAPTIONING CONVERSATIONS WITH LIVE TRANSCRIBE & OTTER.AI

- Live Transcribe is available in over 70 languages and dialects.
- Enables two-way conversation via a type-back keyboard for users who are unable, or don't want, to speak.
- Connects with external microphones to improve transcription accuracy.
- Up to 600 minutes per month for FREE!



USE TRANSCRIPTION APPS TO RECORD LECTURES OR TEDTALK PRESENTATIONS

- When you have a text version of the talk available, it is much easier to check your shadowing recording against the original text for errors
- With a written version of the lecture, it's easier to look up words that are new to you
 - Keep a list!

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRE-SESSION

- Until you've reached your performance stretch goals, it is important to be able to manage expectations on both sides!
 - > pre-session helps establish boundaries and constraints.
 - It's also good customer service!
- It is important that the interpreter feels comfortable managing the flow of the encounter, so establishing that pre-arranged signal or word to do so upfront is always helpful
- Now that you know what too fast or too long for YOU sounds like, you can step in before you exceed your limits, with the help of that pre-arranged hand signal or word
- The Pre-Session is a great place to establish the hand signal or method you will use to interrupt the flow in order to ensure accuracy

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRE-SESSION

Even with providers who do not customarily use the Pre-Session, you can establish many essentials in a few short sentences:

- "Hi, I'm Eliana, your Portuguese interpreter" (Greeting, Introduction and confirmation of Language)
- "I encourage you to speak directly to each other in first person. I will interpret everything said and keep it confidential"
 - (1st person, all utterances will be interpreted, and a reminder of confidentiality/HIPAA)
- "This is the hand signal I will use if I need clarification" (How you as the interpreter, will interrupt and manage the flow as needed)

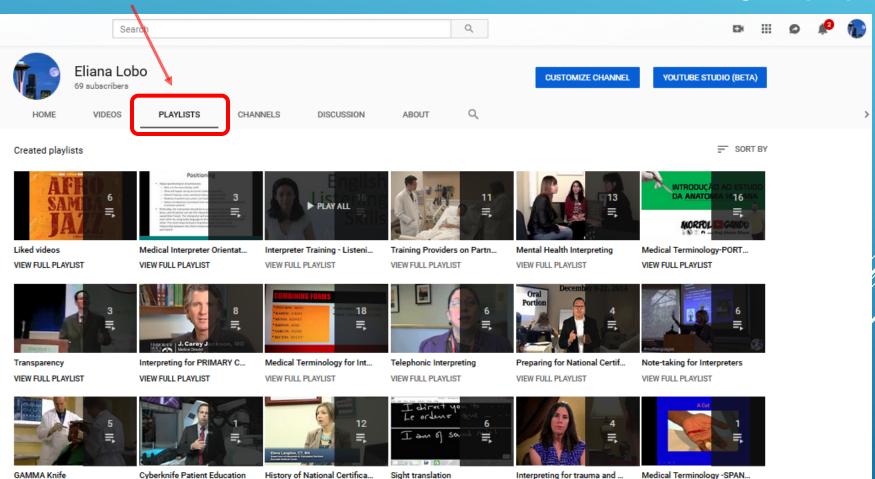
RESOURCES

GAMMA Knife

VIEW FULL PLAYLIST

I have a page on YouTube called, InterpreterTrainer:

- > Click on PLAYLISTS to see all the folders of material arranged by topic



Sight translation

VIEW FULL PLAYLIST

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

USED TO CREATE THIS TRAINING

- 1. How the brain processes speech
- https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-do-our-brains-process-speech-gareth-gaskell#review
- 2. How the human brain works during simultaneous interpretation
- https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-01-human-brain-simultaneous.html
- 3. How to Calm Down the Overactive Amygdala
- https://www.mattnorman.com/how-to-calm-down-the-overactive-amygdala/
- 4. Natural Vagus Nerve Stimulation, Dr. Arielle Schwartz
- https://drarielleschwartz.com/natural-vagus-nerve-stimulation-dr-arielle-schwartz/#.X4UMw4tlBEZ
- 5. 4 Somatic Therapy Exercises for Healing from Trauma https://psychcentral.com/lib/somatic-therapy-exercises-for-trauma
- 6. What are some effective strategies to deal with interpreting fatigue & stress: https://www.linkedin.com/advice/0/what-some-effective-strategies-deal-interpreting.ndf
- 7. Using the Diver's Reflex to Regulate Emotional Intensity
 https://www.kindmindpsych.com/using-the-divers-reflex-to-regulate-emotional-intensity/
- 8. How to Manage Your Anxiety

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

USED TO CREATE THIS TRAINING

- 9. Three A's of Active Listening
 - https://courses.lumenlearning.com/vccs-cst100-17fa/chapter/chapter-4-three-as-of-active-listening
- 10. Methods for Practicing Simultaneous Interpreting http://translationexcellence.com/methods-practicing-simultaneous-interpretation
- 11. The elements of public speaking, DeVito, J. A. (2000). https://open.lib.umn.edu/publicspeaking/chapter/4-4-stages-of-listening/
- 12. Active Listening

 https://blog.udemy.com/listening-skills-exercises
- 13. 4 simple exercises to strengthen your attention and reduce distractibility
 - https://ideas-ted-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/ideas.ted.com/4-simple-exercises-to-strengthen-your-attention-and-reduce-distractibility/amp
- 14. The Importance of Memory Training in Interpretation
 http://www.cls.upt.ro/files/conferinte/proceedings/vol%205%20din%202012/10%20Kriston%20final.pdf
- 15. How your attitudes affect your health

WHERE ELSE CAN I FIND FREE PRACTICE MATERIAL?

Clinic bulletin boards

Look for written materials in different areas within the clinic or hospital, sometimes you can find them on the back of the exam room door!



WHERE ELSE CAN I FIND FREE PRACTICE MATERIAL?

Public health clinics are a great, and often overlooked resource. Patient education and community resources materials offer texts covering a wide range of subjects. These are often available in several languages--FREE to the public!





SATURDAY: Skills-based Boot Camp for Interpreters



QUESTIONS?



Feel free to contact me!

InterpreterTrainer@outlook.com

Eliana Lobo

Director, Lobo Language Access 💯



MEMORY EXERCISE

Top ten most prescribed drugs in the U.S.

PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS:





\$10.9 MILLION Lantus Solostar (insulin glargine)



Diabetes Vyvanse





\$10.0 MILLION Lyrica (pregabalin)



Nerve pain

- \$9.6 MILLION Spiriva Handihaler (tiotropium)
- Pulmonary disease

\$9.1 MILLION Januvia (sitagliptin)



TOP 10 MOST

UNITED STATES

- **\$21.5 MILLION** Synthrold (levothyroxine)
 - **\$21.4 MILLION** Crestor (rosuvasatin)
- **\$18.2 MILLION** Ventolin HFA (albuterol)
- \$15.2 MILLION Nexium (esomeprazole)



Thyroid replacement



Cholesterol



Asthma and Pulmonary



Acid Reflex