

How to make use of an interpreter

- Speak directly to the deaf/ hearing impaired person at a reasonable pace. Keep in mind the person looks at the interpreter.
- The interpreter has to stand next to the speaker.
- An interpreter should not stand with his/her back facing light or colour designs that may attract visual attention.
- Do not ask an interpreter for advice or opinions on what is discussed.
- Interpreters are used at meetings, conferences, social events etc. to inform and include the deaf/ hearing impaired staff on what is being discussed.
- It is important to have an interpreter present when having job interviews with people who are deaf or hearing impaired to give the candidate a fair chance.



SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING



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What does a Sign Language interpreter do?

Sign language interpreters convey spoken language so that it is understood by Deaf people. They do this by means of hand signs, facial expressions, and movements of the body. Sign language interpreters do not relay the message word-for-word, they transfer the meaning and basis of what is meant so that it is understood by Deaf and hearing impaired people.

What role does the interpreter play?

An interpreter's role is to act as a communication tool between deaf and hearing people. Interpreters are not meant to participate or give their own opinions on what is said. They are trained professionals who only sign what is spoken and vice versa and must be qualified to do so.



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Working with a interpreter

What can you do to assist the interpreter in accomplishing the task of interpreting? It is important that you give them all the needed information about the task such as:

- Topic
- Setting
- Expectations
- Duration

TOPIC:

It is vital that you inform the interpreter of the topic/s that you will be discussing. Textbooks, class syllabus, handouts, notes are all important materials that can assist the interpreter. These materials help the interpreter to become familiar with the topics that will be discussed, and it will help the interpreter when spelling key vocabulary words.

SETTING:

The setting of the event at which the interpreter will be interpreting is important information that needs to be communicated with the interpreter beforehand. The setting has an impact on the quality and clarity of the message. Keep in mind that poor lighting/visibility and visual "noise" will affect the clarity of the interpreter.

EXPECTATIONS:

Communicate clearly what is expected of the interpreter, what you require the interpreter to do, interpret, relay, transcribe. Knowing what is expected helps the interpreter to be prepared and ready for the assignment.

DURATION:

The duration of the assignment will determine how many interpreters are needed. Interpreters cannot interpret for long periods of time without a break, otherwise vital information is lost due to fatigue. Thus interpreters take turns interpreting at intervals. Times such as the start and end of the event as well as breaks in between must be conveyed to the interpreter/s beforehand.

