

**Listen to an interview with an interpreter. Have you ever thought of being an interpreter? What do you know about the profession?**

**Optional exercise** Listen to the interview and choose the best answer.

1. The interviewer
    - a. has been also been a translator
    - b. has met a translator before
    - c. is very critical of interpreters
  
  2. Consecutive interpreting
    - a. puts pressure on the interpreter's memory
    - b. is easier than simultaneous interpreting
    - c. involves translating every word
  
  3. Interpreting the words of a conference speaker is usually done
    - a. consecutively
    - b. in advance
    - c. simultaneously
  
  4. What should speakers do to help an interpreter?
    - a. speak more loudly
    - b. speak in turn
    - c. use long sentences
  
  5. Which type of job is **not** mentioned in the interview?
    - a. conference speaking
    - b. financial negotiations
    - c. telephone interpreting
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*Interviewer:* Today's programme is devoted to people employed in international settings. My first guest is Dana Ivanovich who has worked for the last twenty years as an interpreter. Dana, welcome.

*Dana:* Thank you

*Interviewer:* Now I'd like to begin by saying that I have on occasions used an interpreter myself, as a foreign correspondent, so I am full of admiration for what you do. But I think your profession is sometimes underrated, it's something of an unknown quantity. Many people think that anyone who speaks more than one language can do it...

*Dana:* There aren't any interpreters I know who don't have professional qualifications and training. You only really get proficient after many years in the job.

*Interviewer:* And am I right in saying you can divide what you do into two distinct methods, simultaneous and consecutive interpreting?

*Dana:* That's right. The techniques you use are different, and a lot of interpreters will say one is easier than the other, less stressful.

*Interviewer:* Simultaneous interpreting, putting someone's words into another language more or less as they speak, sounds to me like the more difficult.

*Dana:* Well, actually no, most people in the business I think would agree that consecutive interpreting is the more stressful. You have to wait for the speaker to deliver quite a chunk of language, before you then put it into the second language, which puts your short term memory under intense stress.

*Interviewer:* You make notes, I presume

*Dana:* Absolutely, anything like numbers, names, places, have to be noted down, but the rest is never translated verbatim- you have to find a way of summarising it so that the message is there, without repeating word for word. That would put too much strain on the listener, and slow down the whole process too much.

*Interviewer:* But with simultaneous interpreting, you start translating almost as soon as the other person starts speaking. You must have some preparation before the event, I presume.

*Dana:* Well, hopefully the speakers will let you have an outline of the topic a day or two in advance. Conference speeches are an obvious example. You have a little time to do research, prepare terminology and so on

*Interviewer:* Can you give us an example of when you would do consecutive interpreting?

*Dana:* Well, something I am involved in a lot is financial negotiations, where representatives are discussing the fine details of a business deal for example.

*Interviewer:* And how do you stop everyone speaking at once? These things are rarely choreographed.

*Dana:* This is where you as a professional have to assert yourself, to orchestrate things so that the communication flows. You let the participants know how you want them to speak-to respect the conventions of turn-taking, to get used to pausing frequently to let the interpreter translate, to use short sentences, not to speak too fast.

*Interviewer:* And be prepared to interrupt if the speaker forgets you're there?

*Dana:* Absolutely

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**Answers:** 1b, 2a, 3c, 4b, 5c