

A Career as a Translator or Interpreter

Summary: There are many different types of interpreters and translators for those that are bilingual and want to capitalize on the opportunity of a growing career field.



The translation and interpretation services area is expected to grow 36 percent from now until 2019, making it one of the hottest career options. What does a translator or interpreter do? They are responsible for listening to, understanding, and translating spoken, signed or written statements from one language to another. A translator converts written materials from language to another. An interpreter converts oral dialogue from one language to another.

Some of the typical job duties include converting concepts from the source language to equivalent concepts in the target language; compiling information; being able to speak, read, and write fluently in at least two languages; relaying the same style and tone of the original statement; keeping deadlines and work meetings; and being able to translate quickly, clearly, and accurately.

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Here are different types of interpreters and translators:

- A simultaneous interpreter is able to translate at the same time someone is speaking. They usually work in pairs since this kind of work is extremely difficult.
- Consecutive interpreters will translate after the person has said a phrase or a few sentences. Taking notes is an essential part of this kind of interpreter.
- Whispered interpreters sit next to the listeners and quietly provide simultaneous interpretation.
- Conference interpreters generally work in the field of international business or diplomacy. They will



listen to a part of the talk and translate a little bit at a time.

- Guide interpreters work with U.S. visitors or visitors to the U.S. in formal and informal settings to make sure they can communicate during their stays requiring frequent travel.
- Health/medical translators and interpreters help patients communicate with medical staff and vice versa so they must be knowledgeable with medical terms in both languages. They must maintain confidentiality and trust with both parties.
- Legal interpreters and translators will usually work in courts with people that have limited English proficiency. They must have a knowledge of legal terminology and be able to sight translate, or speak a language other than what is written on the document.
- Literary translators convert books, poetry and other literary works into another language by still keeping the original tone, style and meaning of the original work.
- Localizers change text for a product or service to make it seem like the product originated from the country where it will be sold.
- Sign language interpreters communicate for deaf or hard of hearing people with those that can hear.
- Trilingual interpreters communicate between people who use English, another language, and sign language.

Photo: languagereach.com