



## 5 Types of Interpretation Services

What kind of interpretation service do you need? It depends on your budget and the nature of your event. Do you need an interpreter for a small meeting, or for a large conference event with a speaker? Maybe you have clients that you'd like to take on a tour of your factory. Your business need will determine the kind of interpretation service that will work best for you. Below are descriptions of the 5 most common types of interpretation services.

### 1. Simultaneous Interpretation

In this form of interpretation, the interpreter talks at nearly the same time as the speaker, with just a short delay. The interpreter speaks quietly into a microphone which transmits wirelessly to audience headsets. Because the interpreter works at the same speed and time as the speaker, re-organizing the sentence structure to fit the new language, a small amount of information may be dropped in an effort to ensure the most critical information is shared. However, there is no interruption of the speaker, and audience members hear the content at the same time as they see the speaker's facial expressions and gestures, which helps them feel more involved. Because simultaneous interpretation entails intense concentration, engagements normally require a minimum of two interpreters who work in 15-30 minute shifts.

### 2. Consecutive Interpretation

For consecutive interpretation, the speaker pauses at the end of a paragraph or a complete thought, so that the interpreter can interpret what the speaker has just said into the target language.

Consecutive interpreters usually take notes to aid memory and the interpretation accuracy

approaches 100% of the speaker's content. However, the process is inherently slower than for simultaneous interpretation, because the speaker and interpreter speak in alternating exchanges.

### 3. Escort Interpretation

With escort interpretation, the interpreter travels with a tour group providing either simultaneous or consecutive interpretation as needed.

### 4. Sight Interpretation

In sight interpretation, the interpreter orally relates the content of written documents, sometimes with little or no preparation. This is usually to relay key information that will allow a meeting or other session to proceed or to sort through a large volume of documents.

### 5. Phone Interpretation

Phone interpretation can be two-way or a conference call with multiple people. The interpreter listens to the conversation and interprets consecutively or simultaneously. Often the interpreter is at a different location from the primary callers.