

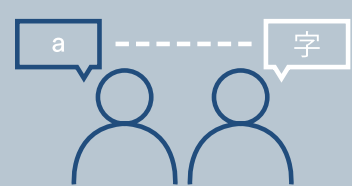
A Guide to Interpreting Modes

Interpreting is a powerful tool. It brings down language barriers between organisations, businesses and individuals around the world, helping them to connect and communicate effectively, no matter what language they speak.

It is also highly versatile, easily adapted to fit a range of contexts and channels. But how do you know which interpreting method is the right one for your needs?

Below, we share a breakdown of the various interpreting modes and channels that will help you bridge the language gap and empower your communications globally.

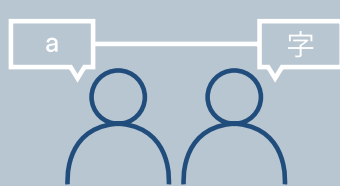
Interpreting Modes



Consecutive

Through consecutive interpreting, the interpreter will wait for a natural break in communications before relaying the speaker's words for the audience or individual.

Works best for: small formal and informal meetings, medical appointments, court and tribunal hearings.



Simultaneous

Simultaneous interpreting provides a constant stream of communication, with the interpreter speaking while also listening to and comprehending the next sentence.

Works best for: online events, large conferences, media launches and live TV broadcasts where the interpretation can be relayed in real time via audio equipment.



Asynchronous

Asynchronous interpreting is used for pre-recorded pieces. The interpreter will record their own voice to match the original content.

Works best for: whenever an interpreter isn't needed in real time, for example, events or focus group recordings.



Whispered (Chuchotage)

Similar to simultaneous interpreting, in chuchotage the interpreter relays communications in real time, but rather than to a wider audience, they translate just for an individual sat next to them, using a low tone of voice.

Works best for: smaller surroundings, such as courtrooms, where audio equipment isn't available.



Non-Spoken

Interpreters use sign language and lipspeaking to communicate what is being said to Deaf and hearing-impaired audiences. It can be done in an asynchronous, simultaneous or consecutive manner, depending on the needs of the situation, event or persons involved.

Works best for: any communication, be it live or pre-recorded, large or small scale.

In the same way interpreting can be carried out in different modes, it can also be delivered through a range of channels.

Face-to-face interpreting is the most well-known and has historically been the most widely used channel.



Face-to-face



Telephone



Video

Yet, with advances in technology and the rise of remote communications — particularly in the Covid era —, video and phone interpreting are being increasingly used across industries.

Ready to communicate on a global scale? We're here to help you reach audiences in 160+ languages.

