

Skill Development Activity: IMPROVING SENTENCE BOUNDARIES

Activities:

1. Record yourself telling a 4-minute story in English of a selected topic (ex: relationships, travels, and details of a hobby.) Create a transcription of your text and highlight all the language behaviors you used to create the end of one thought and the beginning of the next thought. Indicate in a different color the places where a sentence should have been denoted, but was not because of an inappropriate filler, or run-on sentence. Re-record the story eliminating fillers and run-on sentences.
2. View ASL and English narrative texts and stop the recording each time a complete thought is conveyed, and a sentence boundary is indicated. Make a list of all the behaviors used to denote sentence boundaries. Then, transcribe the narrative texts and highlight all the behaviors that indicate sentence boundaries (ex: dropped or folded hands, head nods, vocal inflection, and pauses). Generate a recorded interpretation of each of the texts and then transcribe your work. Highlight your sentence boundaries and compare your boundaries with the boundaries you highlighted on the transcripts of the original texts.

Resources

Free Online Materials

ASL Storytime from the Department of Sign Language and Interpretation at Gallaudet University

- This series includes three volumes, each containing stories with a broad variety of ASL features.
- Available on YouTube.
 - Volume 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLxddLdxbOw>
 - Volume 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAGx5CXgmTU>
 - Volume 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xqx4wCZoCMU>

NOTE: These stories are good for practice of many ASL features so use them with other instructional sheets in addition to this one!

TerpTalks from the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC)

- This series includes diverse ASL and English texts available for practice interpreting.
- There is no charge for accessing these materials, although you may be required to register to access.
- Available on NCIEC's website: <http://www.interpretereducation.org/tim/terptalks/browse/>

Purchasable Materials

The following resources may be available for use from your local interpreter education program or through your public library. If the library does not have them, request that they purchase them for community use.

American Sign Language: A Teacher's Resource Text on Grammar and Culture from Sign Media (www.signmedia.com)

- The most comprehensive explanation of ASL grammar currently available. The text is written for those with little or no background in linguistics. The companion DVD features a deaf person illustrating each of the more than 300 examples in the text.
- This resource can be used by an individual or with a group.

Interpreter Practice Materials from Sign Media (www.signmedia.com)

- Set of 33 DVDs includes 12 simultaneous texts, 12 consecutive texts, 7 one-to-one situations, 2 small groups, 6 ASL texts and 6 English texts.
- Excellent for individual, study group, or classroom skill development exercises.

The "Green Books" Texts and DVDs from Sign Media (www.signmedia.com)

- This set includes 6 one-hour DVDs and five textbooks. The videos explain and demonstrate difficult concepts in ASL and offer practice situations to improve your sign language abilities. Several lessons relate to pronouns and prolocatives. The resource may be ordered as a complete set or as individual books and DVDs.
- This resource can be used by an individual or with a group.