

## Chapter 9: MAST Process—Drafting Steps

**Objective:** *Participants will be ready to try the four drafting steps so they can personally experience the results.*

**Core Concepts:**

- MAST is an 8-step process for producing meaning-based translations that sound natural and clear in the target language.
- The first four steps of MAST are Consume, Verbalize, Chunk, and Blind Draft.
- These steps must be done in order and within a set amount of time in order to produce a natural-sounding translation.

Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of the LORD which He had spoken to him (Jer. 36:4).

**Intro:**

**MAST is a process to create meaning-based translations. It first focuses the translator on natural wording of the meaning, then applies careful checking to assure accuracy and completeness.**

MAST is short for Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation:

- Mobilized—training church partners, translators, and facilitators around the world

**Time:** 60 minutes

**Materials:**

- ✓ *Slide Deck: T3. Slides\_09\_MAST. Drafting Steps*
- ✓ *Copies of MAST Steps Handout, pp. 200-201*
- ✓ *Copies of bookmarks (p. 208), if desired*
- ✓ *Bible with place markers*

**Teacher's Notes:**



**MAST  
Drafting  
Steps**

Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of the LORD which he had spoken to him (Jer. 36:4).

All Scripture is taken from the New King James Version®. © 2002 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**MAST**

Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation

- M** • Mobilized—many people working together to advance Bible translation globally
- A** • Assistance—assisting the local church worldwide
- S** • Supporting—providing training to the local church—processes, resources, and tools
- T** • Translation—partnering to get a Bible in Every Language

- Assistance—assisting the local church worldwide
- Supporting—providing training, materials, and tools for the local church
- Translation—partnering to get a Bible in Every Language

**The first four steps are drafting steps. TIMING is very important with these steps.**

**From this point, I’m going to lead this session as if you’re a group of translators.**

## **Step 1: Consume**

On your own, read the whole portion of text for understanding. Each of you will read your passage of Scripture to yourself, trying to understand the meaning and details to get a general overview of the text.

This step should take no more than 5–7 minutes (first reading, then thinking about the passage). If the passage is longer and needs more time, it’s best to split it into 2 or more passages.

If you struggle to understand something in the passage, it’s also OK to pause and ask team members a question. **HOWEVER**, you should then read the passage again from the beginning and restart the time.

## **Notes:**



## **Step 1: Psalm 119:103**

If time allows, teach hand gestures (or have participants make up hand gestures) for each step. Have participants name each step in their heart language.

The time frames given in these steps reflect research on memory capacity, which will be discussed in Ch. 22.

## **Step 2: Verbalize**

Speak out loud to a partner in your own language, telling them what you've just read.

Try to include:

- What are the big ideas?
- What events and people were in the passage and what did they do?
- What key words and key terms are in this passage? (You may mark them in the source text as you go.)

The important thing in this step is that you express the passage out loud to help you remember and understand what it was about. This should take about 2–3 minutes.

## **Step 3: Chunk**

On your own, look at the passage of Scripture and break it into smaller parts (complete thoughts) that you can remember and rewrite. This will usually be about 1–4 verses, but push for the maximum amount of text that you can remember, **without** being able to memorize. This step should take about 5-7 minutes.

## **Step 4: Blind Draft**

On your own, look over the first chunk in your passage. Then, hide the source text

### **Notes:**

Step 2: Psalm 119:13

Some translators are tempted to look back at the text during this step. Remind them that this is to be done only from memory.

Step 3: Psalm 119:18

There is NO minimum or maximum SIZE of the “chunks”. The length will depend entirely on the ability and culture of each individual translator.

Step 4: Psalm 119:11–12

from your view, and write that chunk in your mother-tongue.

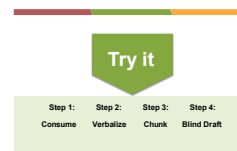
Read and then blind draft each chunk, one at a time, until all the chunks of Scripture in that passage are written.

The goal is to express the meaning in natural language. Do not expect the blind draft to be perfect! Remember, this is your first draft—it will be checked and refined.

### Exercise: MAST Drafting Steps Practice

Let's practice these first four drafting steps on pages 43-44 in your workbook. Leave a blank line between each line you write to allow room for checking steps.

### Notes:



Assign each participant a different passage of less than 10 verses.

Ideas include:

Luke 17:11-19

Titus 3:1-8

Mark 6:1-6

Mark 6:7-13

Mark 6:45-52

Luke 18:1-8

If time allows and it would be helpful for the team to have the MAST Steps in their heart language, have

## Discuss:

- **What do you think will happen if you skip any of these steps?**

## **Examples of consequences when skipping drafting steps:**

### **1. Without Consume**

- Flow and connectors are lost.

### **2. Without Verbalize**

- You won't remember it as well.
- Chunking will be more difficult because this is a building element of chunking.
- You will lose the benefits of combining input and output.
- Skipping this will also result in "cheating" (looking at text during blind draft).

## Notes, continued:

the team translate "MAST Steps for Workshops". Use Workbook pages 45-50, or make extra copies from Trainer Guide pp. 202-207.

**Participants should complete the Exercise before moving on.**

Be ready to give other examples for reinforcement.

Input/output benefits: this refers to lateralization, the process of engaging both sides of the brain. This dramatically enhances both memory and the ability to understand the passage. We'll cover this in Chapter 22

## 3. Without Chunk

- If the chunks are too small, you'll lose connectors.
- The story is lost.

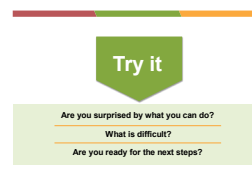
## 4. Without Blind Draft

- You will lose naturalness.
- The translation will sound choppy.
- There will be too many borrowed words.

### Discuss:

- Did you follow the first four steps carefully?
- How do you feel about your draft?
- What steps of the process did you wrestle with most?
  - Why?
- Are you eager to check your work and improve it?

### Notes:



**Confirm:** Participants understand that the 8 steps of MAST are designed to create a meaning-based translation. They have tried the first four drafting steps and understand the importance of maintaining order and timing for these steps.