

Chapter 9: MAST Process—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).

YOUR NOTES:

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:

- Mobilized** -- Many people working together to advance Bible translation globally
- Assistance** --partnering with the local church worldwide
- Supporting** -- Providing training to the local church – processes, resources, and tools
- Translation** --to get a Bible in Every Language

The first four steps are drafting steps. TIMING is very important with these steps! They also must be done within one sitting.

Step 1: _____

On your own, read the whole portion of text for understanding. Try to understand the **meaning** and **details** to get a general **overview** of the text.

This step should take no more than _____ 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.

Step 2: _____

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 _____ minutes.

YOUR NOTES:

Step 3: _____

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 memorizing.

This should take about _____ minutes.

Step 4: _____

On your own, re-read the first chunk in your passage. Then, hide the source text from your view, and write what you remember in your mother-tongue **without looking**.

Read and then blind draft each chunk, one at a time, until all the chunks in that passage are written. (There is no time limit.)

The goal is to express the **meaning** in **natural** language.

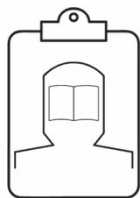
Do not expect the blind draft to be perfect! Remember, this is your first draft --it will be checked and refined.

YOUR NOTES:

[illegible]

MAST Steps

M.A.S.T.—Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation



Step 1: Consume – (On your own) Read the whole portion of text for understanding. Everyone will privately read their passage of scripture, trying to understand both the meaning and details of the text to get a general overview of the text. (This step should take no more than 5—7 minutes. If the passage is longer and needs more time, that is okay, but in this situation the translator should stop at the 10-minute time, reflect on what has been read so far, and then continue reading.)



Step 2: Verbalize - (With a partner) – In your mother tongue speak out loud to a partner some brief thoughts on the scripture that you have just read. This is not a discussion or analysis, but a summary of the main people, events, and ideas.

- What are the big ideas?
- What events and people were in the passage and what did they do?
- The important thing with 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 quickly. This will usually be about 1—4 verses but push for the maximum amount of text that you can remember. Mark lines on your source text to show where you have chosen to separate the chapter into chunks.



Step 4: Blind Draft – (On your own) Look over the first chunk in your passage. Then, hide the source text from your view, and write that chunk in your mother tongue. Express the meaning of the chunk in natural language. Repeat this process for 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 refined.

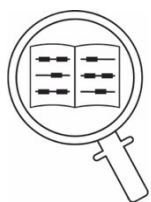


Step 5: Self-Check – (On your own) Open the source text and look at it again. Compare what you have written to the source text and make appropriate changes. Make sure that all the key elements are included – check details, key words, and key terms. You may use any resources such as translation notes, translation questions, and translation words. If you are uncertain on any part of your translation, make a note to ask others.



Step 6: Peer-Check – (With a partner) Switch papers and have another member of your team edit what you wrote while you edit theirs.

- Read the translation and compare it to the source text. You are not looking for word-for-word or even verse-to-verse translation; you are looking to make sure the **AUTHOR'S INTENDED MEANING** is communicated. Is anything missing? Is it natural and smooth? Does it sound good in your language? Is it pleasing to your ear? Is it clear and understandable? Is it accurate? Are all the details there?
- Ask questions and make suggestions of ways the writer can improve the translation.



Step 7: Key Word Check – (With a partner) There are three parts to completing a key word check.

- First: Using BTT Writer or the source text locate the key terms for the passage. Your team may also choose additional words to check. (*Note: a key term is any term that is important for communicating the theology of the passage: Holy Spirit, glory, or sanctification. A key word is any word of meaning-based importance. In other words, if that word were left out, the verse would not be the same. For example: Therefore, so, because.*)
- Second: With a partner compare the source text to the translated text checking that each key term and word is included. If a key term or word is missing redraft the chunk to be sure it is included. If several are missing, the translator should return to step 5.
- Third: Once all the key words and terms are present, work with your partner to check the accuracy of each key term asking, “What is the definition of the key term in the source text? Is the original meaning of this key term accurately translated?”

This whole process usually takes about 7-10 minutes for each chunk: a few minutes to identify terms and then time to define each word.

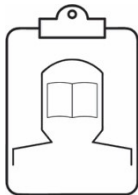


Step 8: Verse-by-Verse Check – (This step requires three people.) The translator will read their translation chunk by chunk, out loud, in the mother tongue. Without using any resources, one partner will listen to the mother tongue translation and, chunk by chunk, will verbally translate the mother tongue to the source language. A second partner will listen to the first partner's verbal back-translation and compare it to the source text. The two partners will suggest edits where appropriate.

The wording will not be exactly the same between the source text and the back-translation, but it is important that (1) the meaning in the translation is the same as the meaning in the source text and (2) that all of the events and important details found in the source text are present in the translation. If the meaning is not the same or all of the events and important details are not present, the text should be edited. The group should remember that resources and translation helps are available for use in this step, too.

Try to involve many different members at different steps so many people are adding suggestions for improving the quality of the translation. If the team is not satisfied at any point, pray about it and ask God for guidance. Also ask others for input. Some things may not be resolved within one sitting or even one event and may require further involvement of others for improvement.

M.A.S.T.: Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation



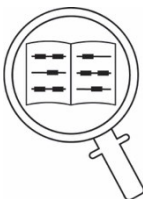














- **What do you think will happen if you skip any of these steps?**

1. Without Consume:

2. Without Verbalize:

3. Without Chunk:

YOUR NOTES:

4. Without Blind Draft:

YOUR NOTES:

- 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?

Review of 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.