

06b MAST: Drafting Steps – Walkthrough

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

(Slide deck, “MAST Steps for Workshops” and Luke 17:11-19 as handouts, – 60 min.)

Intro: MAST is designed to create meaning-based translations. The process focuses the translator on meaningful natural wording first, then applies careful checking to assure accuracy and completeness.

The first four steps are drafting steps: TIMING is very important with these steps.
(We will explain these steps as if talking directly to the translator.)

Step 1: Consume – (On your own) Read the whole portion of text for understanding. Every translator 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 OK, but it’s good to stop and reflect on portions according to the time and then continue reading the next section. If you struggle to understand something in the passage, it is also OK to pause and seek clarification from other team members. Then you should begin reading the passage again at the beginning and restart the time.)

Psalm 119:103

Step 2: Verbalize – (With a partner) In your own language, speak out loud to a partner some brief thoughts on the scripture that you have just read.

Psalm 119:13

- 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 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 can be remembered.

Psalm 119:18

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.

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.

Psalm 119:11–12

Exercise Session

(Appendix B plus ongoing practice session – 60 min.)

1. Have the team practice the four drafting steps with a passage of scripture (Luke 17:11–19). (A printable of the ULB text is available in the module folder. You will need one copy per person.)
2. If time allows and it would be helpful for the team to have the MAST Steps in their language, have the team translate “MAST Steps for Workshops.”

***Important: Ask: What do you think will happen if you skip any of these steps?** *(Be ready to give examples for reinforcement.)*

Examples of consequences when skipping steps:

1. **Consume**—Flow and connectors are lost.
2. **Verbalize**—No input/output benefits; this is a building element of chunking; skipping this will also result in “cheating” (looking at text during blind draft).
3. **Chunk**—Too small chunks —> lose connectors; story is lost.
4. **Blind Draft**—No blind draft —> lose naturalness, sounds choppy, too many borrowed words.

Ask: Did you follow the first four steps carefully? How do you feel about your draft?

Ask: What steps of the process did you wrestle with most? Why?

Ask: Are you eager to check your work and improve it?

Confirm: The translators have tried the first four drafting steps and understand the importance of maintaining timing for these steps.