

## 06 MAST: Checking Steps – Walkthrough

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

*(Slides, “MAST Steps for Workshops,” and Luke 17:11–19 as handouts – multiple sessions recommended – 30 min. training, 60 min. practice, 30 min. review)*

**Intro:** MAST is designed to create meaning-based translations. The process focuses the translator on meaningful natural wording first, then applies careful checking to ensure accuracy and completeness. You have just learned about the drafting steps.

The second four steps are checking steps: Timing does NOT matter in these steps. Translators can take as long as they need to make changes. *(We will explain these steps as if talking directly to the translator.)*

**Step 5: Self-edit** – (On your own) Open the source text and look at it again. Compare what you have written to the source text and make any needed changes. Make sure that everything is included and correct—check details, key words, and key terms. Check for correct and consistent spelling, and correct punctuation. There are also resources to help you to check your own work. You will learn about those in another session. Finally, make sure any handwritten work is easy to read.

**Step 6: Peer-edit** – (With a partner) Ask another member of the team to edit your work. *(See Ecclesiastes 4:9 on the benefits of working with a partner and 1 Corinthians 12:12–14 on God having given the body many parts.)*

You should do the following:

- Sit together while your partner reads your translation and offers suggestions. Your partner should compare the translation to the source text to make sure nothing is missing or incorrect. You as the translator should make changes as needed to your own text.

Your partner should remember the following:

- Peer editors (or peer checkers) are not looking for a word-for-word translation; they are looking to make sure that the AUTHOR’S INTENDED MEANING is communicated. Peer editors should remember to use the Quality Assessment Guide. Some things they are looking for might be:
  - Is anything missing?
  - Is it natural and smooth?
  - Does it sound good in your language? Is it pleasing to hear?
  - Is it clear and understandable?
  - Is it accurate?
  - Are all the details there?
  - Are the spelling and punctuation correct?

- Your partner (peer editor) should ask questions and make suggestions about your work. However, you as the translator are the one who will make changes in your own translation. The peer editor should not change things for you.
- If the two of you cannot agree on changes, you should get help from your other team members.

Remember that each person will be a peer editor for others on the team.

**Step 7: Key Word Check** – (With a new partner) There are two parts to this check:

- First have your partner read the passage in the source text and mark key words or terms. Next, your partner should ask you if these words are included in your text. You will answer “yes” or “no.” If there are several “no” answers, do not move forward. Instead, return to the self-edit and peer-edit steps.
- Secondly, if all the key words and terms are in the translated text (or only one or two are missing, and they can be added easily), then move on by verifying each key word with these questions: “Was the original meaning of this word accurately communicated?” “What is the definition of the word?” A resource called Translation Words will help with this step. We will talk about it in another session.

***Note:*** A key term is a word that has spiritual meaning (examples: Holy Spirit [e.g., in Luke 3:22], glory, or sanctification), while a key word is a word that is important to the meaning of the sentence (examples: therefore, because, so [e.g., in Luke 6:7]).

**Step 8: Verse-by-Verse Check** – (With two new partners as checkers)

- Read your translation aloud to both checkers, one verse at a time. The first checker will translate each verse aloud back into the source language, while the second checker looks at the source text and listens to make sure that the translation is accurate and complete, marking any differences. Discuss these differences and determine if changes need to be made. Use all available resources.
- This is the last check, so if anything is missing, incorrect, or unclear, work together so you know what to edit or add. Work until everyone is satisfied that the translation meets the Quality Assessment Guide that the translators agreed upon. (NOTE—if many mistakes are found, you as the translator should start by going back to step 5, and the team will redo all the checking steps.)

Involve as many different team members at different steps as possible, and be involved yourself, so that many translators are making suggestions for improving the quality of each other’s translations. Make changes as needed. If at any point you are stuck, pray and ask God for guidance. Ask others for help. Some things may not be fixed in one conversation or at one event and may require involving others for improvement.

## Exercise Session

*(Printout and Blind drafts of Luke 17:11–19 and possibly of “MAST Steps for Workshops”— 60 min.)*

Have the team members check their translation of Luke 17:11–19 (and, if there was time to do it, their translation of “MAST Steps for Workshops”). They should work through steps 5–8 together.

### \*Important – After practice session –

**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” (having to look 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.
5. **Self-edit**—Lose ownership, responsibility for error correction is pushed on to others who may be hesitant to correct; more work in steps 6–8 that will make the process take longer.
6. **Peer-edit**—Key words and phrases lost, causing others in later steps to question quality; naturalness not affirmed; opportunity to build partnership and camaraderie for future steps lost.
7. **Key Word Check**—Lack of consistency in key terms and key words; theological misunderstandings because key terms or key words were not translated properly.
8. **Verse-by-Verse Check**—This step is a catch-all for anything that was missed; clarity, accuracy, naturalness, flow, conciseness, key words, and understanding are all confirmed at this check. If skipped, whole verses may be missing, or the meaning may be unclear.

*(It is important for them to understand that skipping steps will actually result in more work.)*

**Practice:** Have students practice “teaching” one step each while the other students ask questions.

**Confirm:** The participants will have practiced translating a scripture portion using the steps. The translation of Luke 17:11–19 will be used in future modules for practice with the Checking Resources and the Reviewers’ Guide. If they also translated “MAST Steps

for Workshops,” it will be available as a helpful reference in their own language throughout the translation process.