

# Video Script Chapter 10: MAST Process: Checking Steps

## Video 10.1

We've mentioned that MAST is designed to create meaning-based translations. The process focuses the translator on meaningful content and natural wording first. Then it applies careful checking to ensure accuracy and completeness. So far, you've learned about the drafting steps.

The next four steps are checking steps.

Timing does NOT matter in these steps. Translators can take as long as they need to make changes.

I'm going to again lead this session as if you're a group of translators.

### Step 5 is Self-edit

On your own, open the source text and look at it again. Compare what you've written to the source text. Make any needed changes. Make sure 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'll learn about those in another session. Finally, make sure your handwritten work is easy to read.

### Step 6 is Peer-edit

Have another member of the team compare your translation to the source text and check for mistakes.

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're 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're looking for:
  - 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.

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- 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 is Key Word Check**

With a new partner, check key words.

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. 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’ll talk about it in another session.

### **Step 8 is Verse-by-Verse Check**

With two new partners as checkers, read your translation out loud to them one verse at a time.

The first checker will translate each verse out loud back into the source language, while the second checker looks at the source text and listens to make sure that the back-translation is accurate and complete.

**The wording of the back-translation will not be exactly the same as the source text, but it’s important that the meaning is the same as the meaning of the source text and that all of the events and important details are there.**

**This is the last check, so if anything is missing, incorrect, awkward, or unclear, work together to decide what to edit or add.** Work until everyone is satisfied that the translation meets the Quality Assessment Guide that the translators agreed upon.

**If more than just a few mistakes are found, you as the translator should go 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 many translators are making suggestions. This improves 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 time and may require involving others for improvement.

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## Video 10.2

Here are some examples of consequences when skipping drafting steps:

### 5. Without Self-edit

- Ownership is lost.
- Responsibility for error correction is pushed on to others.
- Others may not want to point out mistakes.
- Steps 6–8 will take more work, making the process take longer.

### 6. Without Peer-edit

- Key words and phrases may be lost.
- Quality may be lost.
- Naturalness is not affirmed.
- Awkward phrasing is not corrected.
- Opportunity to build partnership and camaraderie for future steps lost.

### 7. Without Key Word Check

- There may be a lack of consistency in key terms and key words.
- Theological misunderstandings can happen because key terms or key words were not translated properly.

### 8. Without Verse-by-Verse Check

- Whole verses may be missing.
- Meaning may be unclear.

**Notice that Step 8 is a catch-all for anything that was missed; clarity, accuracy, naturalness, flow, conciseness, key words, and understanding are all confirmed at this check.**

Consider raising a crop. There are steps that must be followed, such as:

- Preparing the ground
- Planting at the correct time
- Planting at the correct depth
- Watering regularly
- Weeding regularly

If any steps are missed, you will get a crop, **but** it won't be as good as when every step is taken.

**Care with each MAST step will result in a quality translation.**