

Action Plan – Contrastive Structure

Goal - Skill to improve:

Use space in ASL in order to compare and contrast concepts

Source: English

Target: ASL

Related terms: comparing

Root cause - What is causing the error in your work?

- Did you have a clear mental picture of what the hearing person meant? (visualization)
- Do you usually recognize good opportunities to use contrastive structure? (analysis)
- Do you know how to use contrastive structure? (reformulation)

Knowledge Resources:

1) Read this resource: “Interpretation Skills: English to American Sign Language” skills #29-35 about Structuring Space by Marty Taylor (available for purchase at <http://www.aslinterpreting.com>)

2) Read this resource: “Interpreting with your whole body: Expanding the concept of non-manual behavior” by David Bar-Tzur at <http://www.theinterpretersfriend.org/pd/ws/holbody/text.html>.

Activities:

1) Analyze the concepts below. Make up an English sentence that compares each set.

Translate the sentences into ASL and be sure to use contrastive structure in the translation.

- bicycle/motorcycle
- fast food/restaurant
- walk/drive
- mother/father
- Summer/Winter

2) Keep a journal of how contrastive structure is used by Deaf people and interpreters. Which concepts are easy for you to show with contrastive structure? Journal about why some sentence types/concepts are more of a challenge for you in your work.

3) Using the Sorenson VRS Interpreter Training Kit training DVD, record your interpretation of the “Baby Pictures” scenario, focusing specifically on using contrastive structure. Afterwards, journal your thoughts on effective and less effective uses within the work. Review your interpretation – specifically marking effective incorporation of and overlooked opportunities for contrastive structure.