

Action Plan – Word Order

Skill to improve:

Interpret using effective word order within an English sentence

Source: ASL

Target: English

Related terms: syntax, grammar

What is causing the error in your work?

- Did you have problems understanding exactly what the Deaf person said in ASL? (comprehension)
- Was the source information unfamiliar to you? (background knowledge)
- Did you have a clear mental picture of what the Deaf person meant? (visualization)
- Did you know how to say what the Deaf person meant, using effective English vocabulary and grammar? (reformulation)
- Did you prepare to interpret a concept, but then forget it? (memory)

Knowledge Resources:

1) Read this resource from your center library: “ASL to English Interpretation: Say it Like They Mean It” by Jean Kelly. Pay particular attention to chapter three – “Literal vs. Idiomatic Interpretation” and chapter five – “Grammatical English Sentences”.

2) Read this resource: “Speaking versus Writing” at <http://www.englishclub.com/esl-articles/200108.htm>. It is important to use appropriate English word order, but remember that spoken English is less formal than academic, written English.

Activities:

1) Film yourself consecutively interpreting “Around the News on October 8, 2010” at <http://www.clipfolders.com/2010/october/2010oct08.swf> (or another text from www.deafnewspaper.com). Listen to the video of your interpretation without watching the Deaf signers. Transcribe your English interpretation and listen carefully to the word order of the sentences. Did you make effective or ineffective choices? Why did this happen? Reinterpret the same text simultaneously and check for errors again.

2) Film yourself simultaneously interpreting “Asthma” at <http://www.deafmd.org/pub/topic/Asthma/What-is-it>. Analyze the best three minutes of your interpretation. Analyze the word order and sentences types. Did you make effective or ineffective choices? Why did this happen? Reinterpret the same text and check for errors again.