

Profile Bio:

Neil Glen Zanella was born to an Italian father from Belluno and a Maltese mother from San Gwann. As a result of this Neil had an early start at speaking both Italian and English through daily conversations in both languages with both of his parents as well as with other family members. Neil attended kindergarten, elementary, and middle school in Padua, Italy, and throughout middle school, Neil was comfortable enough with the material taught throughout his English classes that he never felt the need to consult his English textbooks. Along with English Neil also had the opportunity to practice his Maltese during his summer visits to Malta which would take place on a yearly basis. When Neil turned thirteen Neil attended the Liceo Scientifico for a few months but then at the age of fourteen decided to take on the challenge of attending an International American school in Malta where he went on to study a variety of subjects with English being used as the sole language of instruction. At such school Neil had to compete with kids coming from various countries across the world and several of these had been receiving their education in English since their kindergarten years. As part of his study programme Neil was able to enrol into a nice mixture of humanistic and scientific subjects including English and world literature, world history, language courses such as French and Spanish, various scientific subjects including advanced mathematics, chemistry, physics, and biology, as well as economics, psychology, and other subjects. As a result of all his practice, when at the age of seventeen Neil went on to attend university in Canada, students thought of him as a native speaker, not realizing he had received a large portion of his education in Italian, and within just a few months his English became indistinguishable from that of other students, almost all of which were English-speaking locals. At university, Neil took some language and literature classes but decided to focus on the sciences with particular focus on mathematics, statistics, and computer science thus completing a first-class Bachelor of Science degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland in Mathematics and a Master of Science from the University of Alberta also in Mathematics. After graduation, Neil worked mainly as a computer programmer at various companies and institutions scattered throughout the world while at the same time in his spare time deepening his knowledge of various subjects such as even more advanced mathematics and statistics, finance, economics, engineering, medicine with particular focus on the brain, intellectual property, and others, thus becoming even more fluent with the language adopted by such disciplines while also retaining a strong interest in other languages such as Chinese. After a few years of working in the computer software industry Neil changed his career focus and started running a business offering professional, highly specialized, accurate, high-quality translations from Italian to English and vice-versa. Neil currently lives in Padua, Italy.