

How you may work as a „Tandem-Team“¹

Prerequisites for working together as a tandem in the same place:

- 1.) The two (or more) interpreters joining forces to help and support one another are native speakers of the other's B- or C-language.
- 2.) The interpreters need
 - at least **one PC or laptop** with internet access and several interfaces for headphones and possibly loudspeakers
 - one **headset with microphone** per interpreter or at least **earphones**
 - since most laptops only have one connection for headset/earphones an **adapter** to connect 2 or more headsets/earphones to the same computer for listening is helpful.
 - a **device or software to record and play** back the recorded interpretation and/or original speech. When using the software „[Audacity](#)“ it is possible to record the original and the interpretation on two different tracks and to later on play them separately or at the same time. If you are using Windows XP your computer will have a tool under Accessories > Entertainment > Sound Recorder, a simple recording software. Modern dictaphones, smartphones and MP3-Players can also be used for recording.
 - possibly a **DVD-player**
 - **Internet access**

Prerequisites for working together as a tandem over the Internet:

The interpreters each need:

- An **internet-ready computer or laptop** with a **stable internet connection**
- The same **chat software** (e.g. Skype, Messenger)
- A **headset with microphone** (possibly also a webcam, but it is not essential)
- A **recording device or recording software** (e.g. Audacity) for recording and play-back of the interpreting practice

How to proceed

Before the tandem session, agree on the time available, your learning needs, ideas and possible questions that you would like to cover in your joint work.

Try to find speeches or texts in advance which fit in with your tandem partner's interests.

Check that your computer and the accessories work perfectly together.

Discuss how much time you would like to dedicate to which subject or which exercises.

¹ A „Tandem-Team“ means 2 conference interpreters joining forces in order to support each other in their training who meet or work together online. Ideally, both interpreters are native speakers of the other's B- or C-language

Examples of possible ways of working together

Interpreter A has expressed a desire to work on interpreting very fast English speakers into German, without sounding stressed or cutting too much out.

Interpreter B has found suitable speeches on the internet (covering a subject agreed upon), which Interpreter A shall interpret in his presence. The interpretation shall be recorded and Interpreter B shall take notes whilst Interpreter A interprets. Speeches with existing written texts (and possibly even translations) which can be found on the internet are particularly helpful. The Interpreter who is listening to his/her colleague can make notes of mistakes or omissions on the printed text.

At the end of the practiced speech, the colleagues shall discuss the main difficulties in the chosen speech, how Interpreter A thinks he/she coped with them and where the difficulties lay. Then Interpreter B shall comment on the interpretation with the assistance of the notes taken (a note format can be used for this) and shall also provide hints and suggestions. Finally, the two interpreters can listen together to the recorded interpretation, pausing to discuss possible ways of improving the interpretation.

Then Interpreter B shall interpret and receive feedback from Interpreter A.

Comments for ways to proceed with a tandem session over the internet.

In this case, it is recommended that speeches available on the internet are interpreted, so that both colleagues can play the speech, starting it simultaneously, possibly on the count of three.

Possible subjects on which 2 interpreters can work together:

- Improving pronunciation
- Dealing with elocution problems
- Voice control
- Training to cope with speed
- Typical mistakes of non-native speakers
- How to handle specialist subjects
- Discussion of current affairs
- Information exchange on useful links

You can find suitable original speeches for practice on the following websites

<http://interpreting.info/questions/507>

ENGLISH

- [Open Yale Courses](#): Free and open access to a selection of introductory courses taught by distinguished teachers and scholars at Yale University
- [TED Conferences](#): TED is a nonprofit devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Fields: technology, entertainment and design.
- [Academic Earth](#): Online courses from the world's top scholars. Many subjects.
- [Free Online Courses](#): 800+ online courses, 19,000+ videos from Top 30+ universities on 35+ categories
- [Khan Academy](#): library of over 2,800 videos covering everything from arithmetic to physics, finance, and history
- [MedlinePlus](#): this page provides links to prerecorded webcasts of surgical procedures. These are actual operations performed at medical centers in the United States. The videos last an hour. The best thing: with transcripts!

SPANISH

- [Instituto de Disciplinas y Estudios Ambientales \(IDEA\)](#): Conferencias y ponencias sobre materias medioambientales: cambio climático, agua, eficiencia energética...
- [MedlinePlus](#): Esta página proporciona enlaces a videos en Internet (webcasts) de procedimientos quirúrgicos. Estos muestran cirugías reales llevadas a cabo en centros médicos de los Estados Unidos. Los videos duran una hora y muchos tienen transcripciones.

ALL LANGUAGES

- [dotSUB](#): Browser based, one-stop, self contained system for creating and viewing subtitles for videos in multiple languages across all platforms.
- [Video Lectures](#): Free and open access educational video lectures repository. Lectures are given by distinguished scholars and scientists at the most important and prominent events like conferences, summer schools, workshops and science promotional events from many fields of Science. Mostly in English and Slovenian, but also other languages.

In case you are interested in Tandem-work and your name is not yet on the Tandem-List, please contact me and let me know your name, mail address and language combinations as well as the language(s) or subjects you are most interest to work on.

I would be delighted to receive reports of tandem work and further information on good websites for practice material.

Kind regards

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