

## An Interpreter's Work

*An activity of "Her language skills help people understand one another".*

At international events, interpreters work behind the scenes to translate messages and bridge the gap between languages. Read about Ms Nguyen's journey as an interpreter in "Her language skills help people understand one another" (page 13, *What's Up* September 2024).

A. Tick (✓) "True" for the correct statements and "False" for the incorrect ones. Write a correction statement for those that are false. The first one has been done for you.

1. Ms Nguyen started learning English while working in marketing.  
 True     False

*Ms Nguyen started learning English when she was six.*

2. Ms Nguyen was introduced to the work of simultaneous interpretation while assisting a simultaneous interpreter.     True     False

3. A consecutive interpreter listens to what the speaker says, and after the speaker has paused after one or a few sentences, interprets the message.  
 True     False

4. A simultaneous interpreter interprets the speaker's message as it is being said.  
 True     False

5. Simultaneous interpreters always work alone to stay focused while on the job.  
 True     False

6. Interpreters need not practice cultural sensitivity because they are unfamiliar with cultures that are not their own.     True     False

7. When Ms Nguyen makes a mistake while interpreting, she smiles and carries on so as not to distract the audience.     True     False

8. In her job as an interpreter, Ms Nguyen gets to travel as well as meet people from all over the world.    ___ True    ___ False
9. Ms Nguyen interprets from Vietnamese to English and from English to Vietnamese.    ___ True    ___ False
10. Simultaneous interpreters are in demand in Singapore due to the many international meetings it hosts.    ___ True    ___ False

B. What does it take to be a good interpreter? Using the story, look for at least four requirements and list them below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

C. Practice being an interpreter. In the space below, write a short story of a funny or interesting incident that happened to you. Read it to a classmate and get him or her to consecutively interpret your story in another language. Remember to pause after every sentence or two to allow your classmate to interpret. Repeat this activity with you being the interpreter for your classmate's story. After sufficient practice, both of you may choose to present your stories (with interpretation) to your class.

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