



Court Interpreter Oral Exam

Judicial Council of California

Administrative Office of the Courts

Performance Dimensions - Glossary of Terms

This glossary is provided to assist candidates in identifying the types of test performance behaviors that constitute certain types of errors. This glossary contains frequently made errors and may not include the exact error made by the candidate.

Performance Dimensions	Glossary of Terms
Accent	Mode of pronunciation characteristic of a speaker or group which is recognized as being regional or of foreign origin
Accuracy	Complete, exact, precise preservation of source text meaning in target language rendition
Adverbs	Words that modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs to convey meanings involving relations of time, place, degree of intensity, and manner
Agreement	The marking of a word to indicate a grammatical relationship to another word, such as a verb that shows the same person and number as its subject
Appropriately compensates for lack of an exact equivalent	Compensatory strategy to preserve meaning when no equivalent exists
Articles	Words placed before nouns or noun phrases, specifying them in some way (such as specific or nonspecific)
Backtracking	Reversal or restatement of rendition already given
Coherence	Aspect of a text which causes it to make sense; conceptual structure of a text as determined by the relevance of the ideas and relationships expressed in it
Cohesion	Internal structure of a text as determined by linguistic links that bind it together
Collocation	Words that tend to occur together in predictable groups or phrases
Comprehension of source	Decoding or reconstruction of meaning based on knowledge and understanding of source language
Connotative	Signifying or implying certain meanings, ideas, etc. in addition to the explicit or literal meaning
Contextualize	To use in accordance with the situation, to place in context
Cultural nuance	Subtle connotation of word meaning based on region, community, and/or cultural background
Delivery rate/Fluency	Speed of effective delivery; smooth, effortless expression
Denotative	Explicit or referential meaning of words or sentences
Discourse	Any continuous stretch of speech that constitutes a unity, such as a conversation or interview

Embellishment	Addition of words related to text but not present in source language.
False cognates	Pairs of words similar or identical in form in both the source and target languages but which have different meanings
Grammatical error	Morphological and syntactical errors that compromise meaning
Hedges/Hesitation	Filler words or paralinguistic features indicating uncertainty, indecisiveness or indefiniteness
Honorifics	Terms of address or set of grammatical contrasts in which different levels of politeness or respect are expressed according to the participants' mutual status (such as social position, age, gender, and/or familiarity)
Hypercorrection	Inappropriate substitution of a pronunciation, grammatical form, or usage typically resulting from a speaker over-generalizing a linguistic rule in an effort to replace seemingly incorrect forms with correct ones
Inappropriate language mixing	Renditions contain un-interpreted portions of source text
Idiom	An expression whose meaning is not a function of its individual component words
Intonation	The pattern or melody of pitch changes in connected speech, used to express a wide range of meanings
Invention	Making up text that was not present in the source
Lag time	Degree of lapse between the source speech and the candidate's rendition (specific to the Simultaneous component)
Language mixing	Alternating from one language to another in the course of a sentence or other stretch of discourse
Lengthy pause	Pauses of such a duration that it would interfere with the flow of court proceedings
Lexical precision	Accuracy using a word or phrase according to its dictionary definition or meaning in common usage
Literal syntax	Inappropriate use of the syntactic patterns of source language to express meaning in target language
Literal translation	Word-for-word or direct-translation rendition without adequate regard to conveying the sense of source text
Modals	Auxiliary verbs (such as "can," "will" or "must") used with a main verb to express such notions as ability, permission, possibility, probability, necessity, obligation, conjecture, and habitual action
Mood (Subjunctive)	Indicates speaker's view or attitude toward the state or action of the verb. Verbs in the subjunctive mood are used in English in frozen expressions and on a limited basis to express wishes, requests, recommendations, or contrary to fact conditions
Morphology	Form and structure of words

Multiple synonym	Rendition contains multiple alternatives of single source-word or utterance when only one is appropriate
Omission	Leaving out words, phrases, sentences or portions of discourse present in source language
Paraphrasing	Restating the source text using words that preserve basic meaning and details but forfeit complete accuracy and precision
Pausing	Temporary break or rest in the course of a speaker's discourse
Phrasal verb	A verb unit consisting of a verb and one or more particles (adverb, preposition) that conveys a single meaning
Prepositions	Relation-words placed before a noun, pronoun or noun phrase to indicate location, direction, position, time, source, destination, instrument, agency, and many other notions. Prepositions are usually short words, but some are more than one word long
Pronouns	Words used in place of nouns or noun phrases
Pronunciation	Conventional patterns of speaking the sounds of a language
Proverbs	Brief, traditional sayings which offer wisdom or advice or express a general truth
Register	Level or style of language associated with a particular situation of use; often influenced by degree of formality
Retention	Accurate recall of source text; memory
Sayings	Short, everyday expressions of common or general truth (see Proverbs)
Self-monitoring	Candidate is aware of personal performance and corrects when appropriate
Social discourse	Communication according to the social norms of a speech community
Sociocultural	Involving social and cultural factors
Sociolinguistics	Language use as it relates to the cultural norms of a speech community/society
Speech rendition	Quality of speaking with respect to accuracy, clarity and comprehensibility
Stress	Relative loudness of syllables as a result of emphasis, used to convey linguistic meaning
Structural control	Command of the language's grammar (syntax and morphology)
Summarizing	Rendering general meaning of source text but leaving out important details
Syntax	Structure and ordering of components within a sentence
Tense	Time reference expressed through verbs, such as past or present
Tone	Pitch level of a syllable that conveys grammatical or lexical information (for tonal languages)

Utterance	Any speech sequence produced in a particular context which is preceded and followed by silence or a change in speaker
Vocabulary	The words of a language
Voice (grammar)	Property of a verb that shows whether the subject acts or is acted upon
Voice level	Voice volume and tone
Word Distortion/Invention	Inappropriate morphological change
Word Order	The sequencing of words in a sentence according to the rules of the language
Word Use/Selection	Appropriateness of construction or word choice in target language; most accurate word selection from among possible variants