

# | Consecutive Interpretation

Boost your memory and increase interpretation accuracy

Short-term memory plays a very important role in consecutive interpretation. You will use your short-term memory often to recall and convey information, and it's critical that you learn how to tap into that skill.

One technique that enhances your short-term memory is visualization. Visualization is when you see everything in your mind, like a mental movie. This enables you to recall what you heard as you "play back" those images.

Another technique that enhances your short-term memory is chunking. Chunking allows you to use your short-term memory more effectively by breaking up the information you receive into smaller segments (i.e. chunks) of related concepts. For example, if you are interpreting a phone number, it may be helpful to group the phone number into three sections: the area code, the first set of three numbers, and then the last four numbers.

## Chunking Exercise

For this exercise, look at the letters below for about 15 seconds and try to write them down without looking at them a second time.

ASATMINPHDMACZ

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Are you able to recall all the letters without mistake? Now try again with the letters below.

**A SAT MIN PHD MAC Z**

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Are you able to recall more letters when they are grouped into fewer segments? Since 14 letters may exceed the capacity of your short-term memory, chunking can be applied in this exercise to increase your short-term memory recall. By chunking, you reduced memorizing 14 individual items down to 6 "chunked" items!