

A dictionary app: a practical tool for trainees and professional interpreters

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One of the major demands made on interpreters is to keep 'ahead of the game', that is, to be sufficiently organised and prepared for whatever might arise during one's time in the booth. Clearly, to have what you need at your fingertips is paramount. This presentation will outline the benefits of an app. developed with organisation and structure in mind. The app. should enable the trainee or professional to train the memory in an effective way.

Beyond the conventional role of a dictionary, i.e. rendering terms in the four languages available (English, French, German and Greek), this app. has the crucial advantage of providing plans, drawings, symbols, formulas, charts and diagrams. A trainee or fully-fledged interpreter relies to some extent on his/her memory, and, as cognitive science has shown, it is often visual images which trigger one's verbal memory. Indeed, in a profession where speed of delivery is vital, an interpreter will find specific visual representation especially helpful in that it not only permits immediate association with the word that accompanies it, but also effectively 'trains' the memory, allowing it to develop image-word connections in a more systematic way, thus consolidating memory function. Thus the app. will be shown to perform a training role at the same time as being highly practical.