ABOUT ORCIT

ORCIT is a European Commission-funded open access online resource for conference interpreter training. We have endeavoured to take a consensus from international best practice in conference interpreter training and isolate the different skills involved. Wherever you are, physically or geographically, as long as you have an internet connection, you can access the modules from the bookshelf that take you through the skills you need in order to become a conference interpreter.
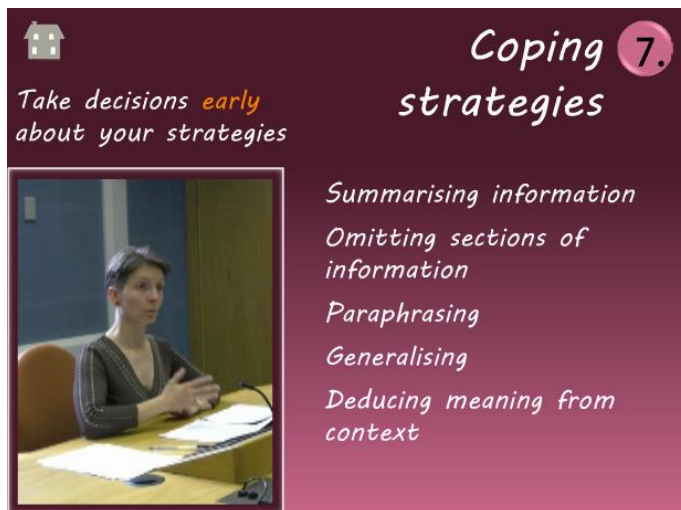
Guiding principles

Interpreting is a complex process, and training interpreters even more so. This is why our approach consists in breaking the process down into different skills and offering freely accessible online resources based on a clear pedagogical structure, to help people who are engaged in interpreter training.

ORCIT for students

ORCIT can be used in a variety of ways and at different times under the control of a student. For example, students can:

- explore different skills in different languages, following their curiosity
- look up new ideas as background preparation for training sessions

However, students can also go away and reinforce ideas or refresh them after class, taking ownership of their own practice and pace of learning.

Getting 9. stuck

Try the following techniques:

•paraphrasing something you've just said

•moving on to something that you do remember

If all else fails: say "thank you" and sit down!

ORCIT for trainers

ORCIT can be a valuable tool to supplement 'live' lectures. Trainers can suggest modules on the bookshelf for students to consult before introducing a new skill in class (the "flipped classroom"), set them an exercise drawn from one of the resources as homework, or ask them to view a particular section as a form of revision. Some of the clips could be watched together in class, and used as material for discussion.

ORCIT for professional interpreters

Professional interpreters can come back to ORCIT, for instance **when adding a language or preparing for a test**. This allows them to refresh some of their skills.
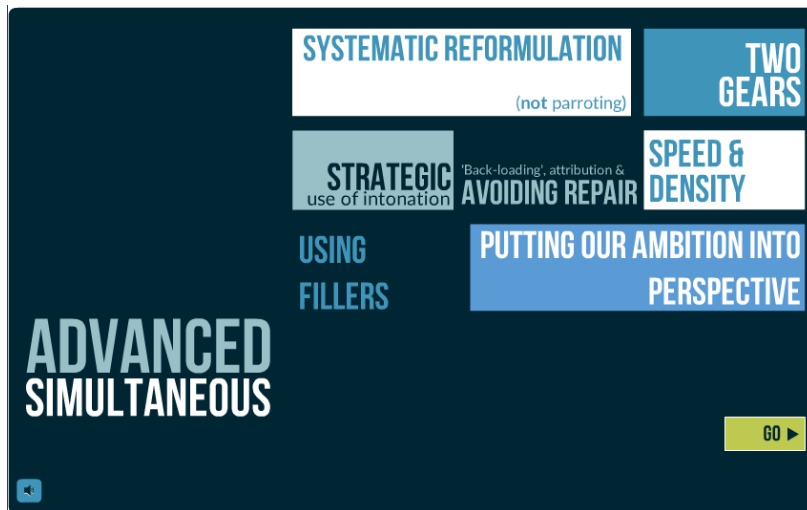
ORCIT for course designers

Those involved in designing new interpreting courses can draw on the clear, sequential, pedagogical structure to help them with their curriculum design.

The skills

ORCIT takes students through the various skills that they need, by breaking the complex process of interpreting down into its constituent parts.

ORCIT covers:

- active listening and analysis
- the importance of one's mother tongue
- public speaking skills
- keeping calm under pressure
- doing consecutive without notes before moving on to an introduction to note-taking
- various stages of simultaneous skills
- research skills
- how to give good feedback.
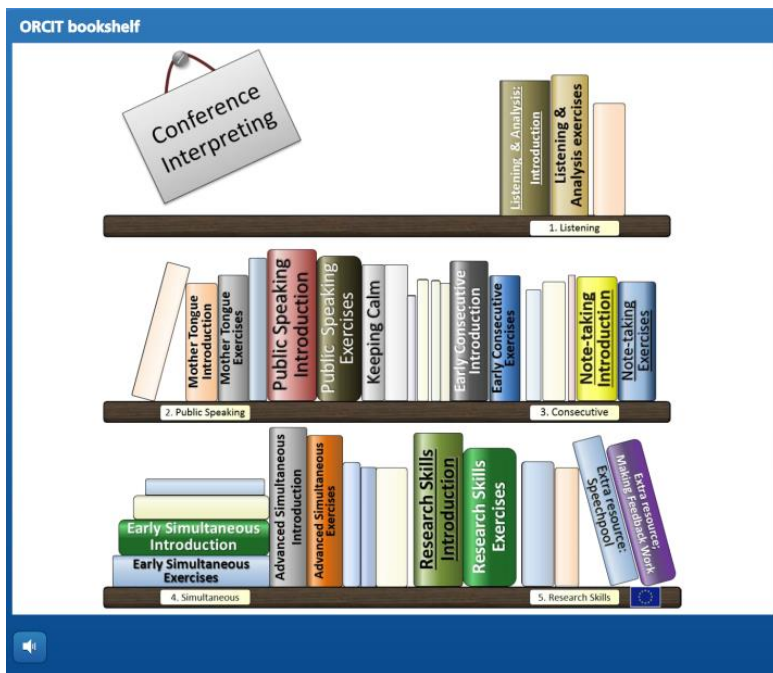
ORCIT does not replace classroom work!

None of the above can replace what students do in the classroom. Taking "feedback" as an example, ORCIT won't be commenting on how students are doing as you go along! They need to work with other people and with a skilled trainer who can advise what online resources to use at any particular stage. But ORCIT will hopefully make a useful contribution to training.

ORCIT in a variety of languages

ORCIT materials are available in a variety of languages: English, Czech, French, German, Greek, Lithuanian, Slovenian and Spanish. Each resource is designed initially in English at the University of Leeds, UK. Localised versions are then produced by our network of European partner universities.

Red herring?!

ORCIT resources cannot simply be translated from English into another language; rather, they must be adapted by a team of linguists, trainers and e-learning technologists and intelligently tailored to a different linguistic and cultural content. This process of localisation can be eye-opening: at one point the English version refers to a 'red herring', and a picture of a red herring appears on the screen. But in other languages the fish has no figurative meaning.

So the concept had to be explained in different figurative language, and an appropriate replacement image found! Challenges such as these require teamwork between linguists and technologists to ensure that the explanations and examples work in each language, but the end result can be at least as good as the original.

Who are we?

The ORCIT project team consists of experienced EU conference interpreter trainers and e-learning technologists. The team has created and array of e-learning resources based on 16 English templates designed at the University of Leeds (UK). The partner universities currently contributing are Vilnius (Lithuania), Aristotle, Thessaloniki (Greece), Charles, Prague (Czech Republic), ISIT, Paris (France), Heidelberg (Germany), Ljubljana (Slovenia), La Laguna, Tenerife (Spain) and to 2015 Comillas, Madrid (Spain).

The target audience and language pairs

Do remember each bookshelf is monolingual, for the sake of illustration, so all users will need to adapt the resources and apply them to their own source and target pairs!

Clearly trainee interpreters working between 2 of our network's languages can derive direct benefit from ORCIT.

But you can apply ORCIT to any combination (e.g. English into Italian, or Arabic into French), provided you understand one of our 8 languages.

ORCIT is primarily aimed at postgraduate trainees, trainers, and practising conference interpreters with European languages.

But if you have an interest in language and communication anywhere in the world, we hope that ORCIT will have something to offer you!

www.orcit.eu