

Careers in Language





This student is interviewing an astronaut for her school newspaper.

Writing and Editing

Many people have careers in language. Two popular language careers are writing and editing. Writers work on many different types of materials. They create books, magazine articles, newspaper stories, and ads. They also create content for Websites and scripts for films and TV shows.

Some editors determine what ideas or articles will appear in magazines or books. They assign articles or book ideas to writers, then they determine if the writer's work meets their needs. Other editors work with writers as they write and help them revise their work.

Most readers think they are reading only a writer's words. However, they are also reading the work of an editor who has worked with the writer to make sure the writer's ideas are presented clearly. People who enjoy working with language might consider a career in writing or editing.

Key Notes:

Describe what writers and editors do.



Translation is the process of saying or writing the words from one language into another language.

Translating

Suppose the leaders of two countries are meeting, and neither one speaks the other's language. When they communicate with each other, they need an interpreter who can translate their words into their own language.

Translating is the process of putting words into another language. Translators' careers involve reading books, articles, and scientific and political papers, and changing the words into another language. Translating is especially important in helping countries understand and do business with one another.

Translation that happens while people talk is called interpreting. Interpreting is very important in places like the United Nations, where people from many different countries gather. When someone speaks at the United Nations, people who don't understand that language can hear a translation through headphones. In that way, with only a few seconds' delay, people can quickly discuss and solve problems that arise around the world.

Key Notes:

What do translators do?



Teaching English

Being an English teacher requires several skills, but the most important is that the person must be able to communicate with others. In college, people who want to become English teachers study English literature, grammar, writing, and education.

Some English teachers specialize, or focus on one area of teaching. One specialty in the United States is teaching English as a Second Language, or ESL. ESL teachers help people learn to speak, read, and write English. They teach students English sounds and words, and how to use English grammar.

Today, people around the world are learning English. That is because many countries do business in several countries and need to communicate easily. In addition, some jobs, such as flying an airplane, require that people speak English. As people travel and do business in more countries, the demand for English teachers grows.

Key Notes:

What does ESL mean?

Good communication
skills are needed to
teach English.



A speech therapist
finds ways for people to
communicate better.

Speech Therapy

One career in language has to do with helping people with language problems. Speech therapists help people who have speech and language disorders. Some of these disorders make it difficult for people to communicate with others.

Some people are born with a condition that leads to a speech disorder. Others develop speech disorders during childhood. Speech disorders can also be caused by diseases or accidents.

First, speech therapists find the cause of the problem. Then, they figure out the best way to help the person. There are many kinds of jobs for speech therapists. Speech therapists work in schools, laboratories, hospitals, and speech centers. In a way, speech therapists are like doctors. People go to them with problems, and speech therapists find a way to help them either solve their problem or find a way to make it better.

Key Notes:

What is a speech therapist?

Photo Credits

Cover: Photo by Alliance for Excellent Education, 2017,
in Flickr. CC BY-NC 2.0

Page 2: Photo by NASA HQ PHOTO, 2014, in Flickr.
CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Page 4: Photo by Xurxo Martinez, 2011, in Flickr.
CC BY NC-SA 2.0

Page 6: Photo by Susan Smith, 2010, in Flickr.
CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Page 8: Photo by Ranken Jordan, 2009, in Flickr.
CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

©2022 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved.
ISBN: xxx-x-xxxxxx-xx-x



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

"TextProject" and TextProject and TopicReads logos are trademarks of TextProject, Inc.