

General Interpreting Skill Development: Improving Use of Topic Shifts / Message Cohesion

Exercises

Sequence of Topic Shifts

View an ASL text to determine where topic shifts/markers occur and create a list of all the behaviors that were used by the speaker to convey a shift in topic (examples: head nods, hands down, RHQ form, specific discourse marker like Now, Next, the third thing, etc.). Create an outline or map of the text that reflects the logical sequence of topics - indicates the main ideas and clusters the supporting details with the corresponding main idea. Watch the text again, specifically stopping to label each of the topic markers. Then go through the text again, and shadow each of the markers used by the signer. Then re-tell the story yourself, placing all the topic markers in the appropriate location. Use as many different

- Volume 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLxddLdxbOw>
- Volume 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAGx5CXgmTU>
- Volume 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xqx4wCZoCMU>