

# What is the difference between a translator and an interpreter?

Even though they both work with languages, a translator and an interpreter need different skills, work in different ways, and in different places.



Of course there are some similarities, such as being highly proficient in various languages, having in-depth knowledge of different cultures, and a deep understanding of the given subject matter.

Here are some of the key differences.

## Translator

## Interpreter



Works with the written word



Works with the spoken word or with sign language



Can have different specialisms: legal, medical, literary, etc.



There are different types, relating to how the interpreting is done: simultaneous, consecutive, remote



Works in an office or at home, translating books, contracts, websites, manuals, brochures, and more



Doesn't usually have a fixed workplace and can work in conferences, courts, hospitals, business meetings or remotely



Needs time to research and find the perfect term



Needs to be fast and think on their feet



Usually knows the content of what they'll be working on before accepting a job



Often only knows the subject matter, and don't see the content until they are interpreting

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