

## When working with an interpreter...

# DO



**NBSLI**  
a branch of Unite



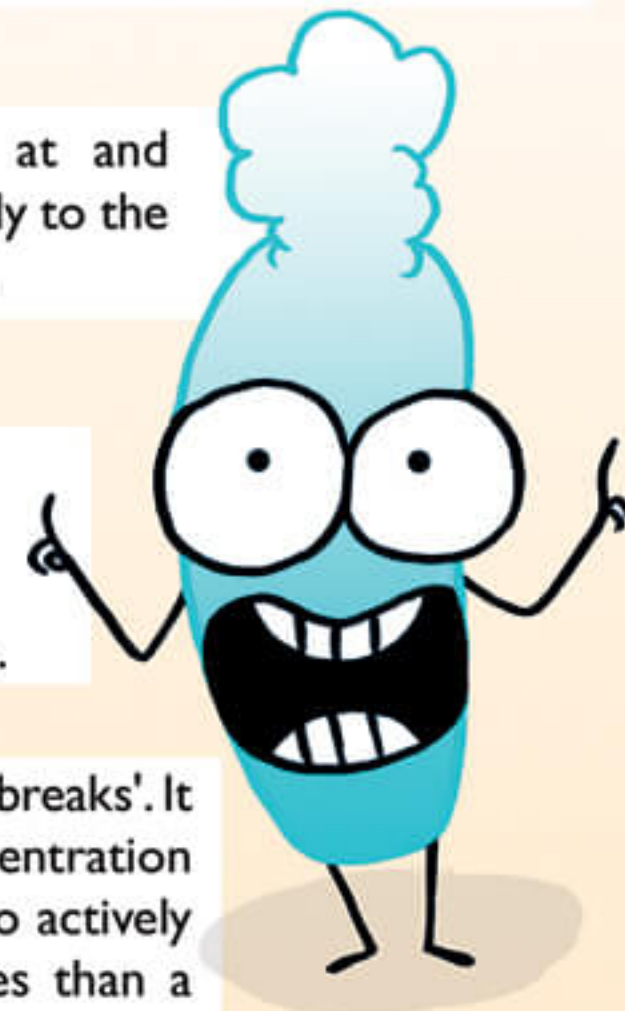
**DO:** Send any handouts or preparation to the deaf person and interpreter ahead of the session. Answer any questions asked in advance.

**DO:** Be flexible and make sure the deaf person is able to see the interpreter and speakers clearly, usually sitting opposite the interpreter.



**DO:** Look at and speak directly to the deaf person.

**DO:** Include the deaf person in all conversations.



**DO:** Ask the deaf person if you have any questions about interpreting or how the session will work.

**DO:** Speak as you normally would (pace, content etc).

**DO:** Ask the deaf person to explain something if you do not understand it.



**DO:** Allow for 'eye breaks'. It takes a lot more concentration for the deaf person to actively 'listen' with their eyes than a hearing person.

**DO:** Give the deaf person extra time to look at overheads or handouts - remember they can't listen when they aren't watching the interpreter!

## When working with an interpreter...

# DON'T

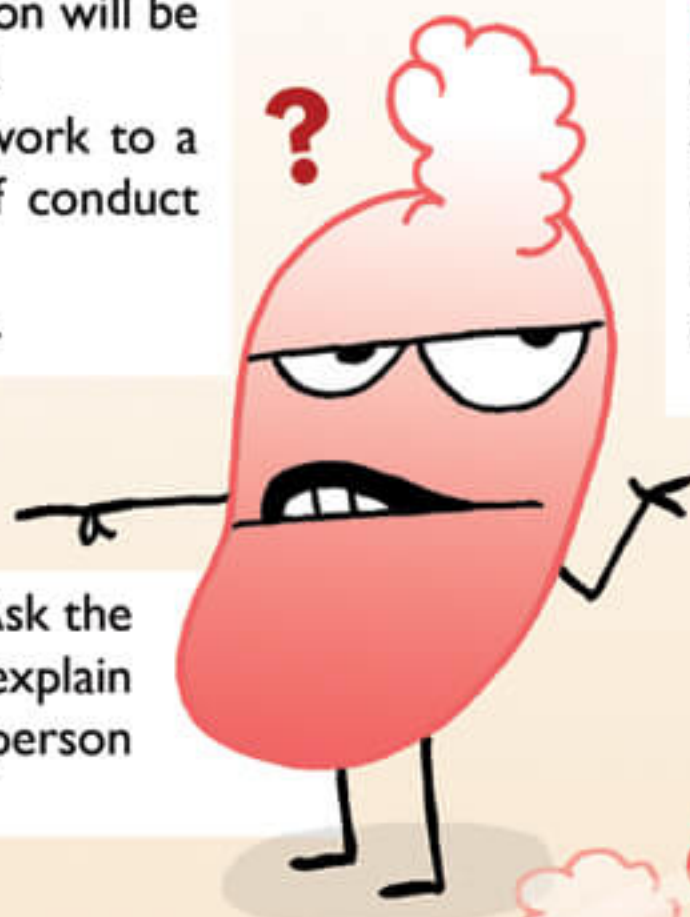


**DON'T:** Be concerned that information will be leaked/shared. Interpreters work to a strict code of conduct that includes confidentiality.

**DON'T:** Ask the interpreter to explain what the deaf person means.

**DON'T:** Speak slowly, over pronounce or try to think of simple sentences.

**DON'T:** Ask the interpreter about their job whilst they are working.



**DON'T:** Place either the deaf person or interpreter in front of a window, or too far away, as they won't be able to see clearly.

**DON'T:** Ask interpreters for their personal opinions, ask them not to interpret something you said.

**DON'T:** Ask the interpreter to "tell him/her..."

**DON'T:** Distract the interpreter and/or deaf person by moving around too much.

