

These are twelve practices that speakers in general (and interpreters specifically) often do. If they can be prevented or eliminated, the performers can be much more effective, and they will stand out from their competition.

1. **Dropping ends of phrases and sentences**
(A good exercise to correct this problem is to pretend to throw a ball on the last word of each sentence or phrase.)

2. **Emphasizing the wrong words**
(Nouns and verbs are usually the key words in sentences; less often are adjectives and adverbs important; conjunctions and prepositions are rarely emphasized. Emphasis can be gained by **coloring** words rather than **punching** them.)

3. **Overplaying or "milking" a selection**
(Base your performances on what happens in real life. Observe people)

4. **Rushing**
(Take time with lines.)

5. **Misusing Pauses**
(Although you can do your best interpreting during pauses, if pauses are used too much, they lose their impact.)

6. **Bringing down the curtain before the performance is over**
(Keep your concentration on the scene; avoid phoney bowing in performance.)

7. **Failing to finish beats**
(Be sure important business is complete; be sure important lines "land.")

8. **Playing cartoons and stereotypes**
(The best interpretation is based on believable characters; observe life.)

9. **Forcing an interpretation onto a selection**
(Decisions on interpretations must come directly from the script; leave the playwrighting to the authors.)

10. **Playing an attitude or emotion**
(Play the character's objectives and commitments; the emotion is a by-product.)

11. **Neglecting to study the entire script from which the cutting comes**
(Study the full text over and over and over.)

12. **Interfering with others' rehearsals**
(When others need to work, leave them alone and let them practice.)

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