



UNIT 5

Element 3 – Learning Outcome 1

TRANSCRIPT: USE BREATHING TO SUPPORT DICTATION AND ENDURANCE



Table of contents

1	Slide 1	4
2	Slide 2	4
3	Slide 3	4
4	Slide 4	4
5	Slide 5	4
6	Slide 6	4
7	Slide 7	4
8	Slide 8	5
9	Slide 9	5
10	Slide 10	5
11	Slide 11	5
12	Slide 12	6
13	Slide 13	6
14	Slide 14	6
15	Slide 15	6
16	Slide 16	7
17	Slide 17	7
18	Slide 18	7
19	Slide 19	7
20	Slide 20	7
21	Slide 21	7
22	Slide 22	8
23	Slide 23	8
24	Slide 24	8
25	Slide 25	8
26	Slide 26	9
27	Slide 27	9

28	Slide 28	9
29	Slide 29	9
30	Slide 30	9
31	Slide 31	9
32	Slide 32	10
33	Additional metadata	11

1 Slide 1

Live Text Access. Training for real-time intralingual subtitles.

2 Slide 2

Unit 5. Respeaking. Element 3. Dictation skills.

3 Slide 3

This video lecture explains how to use breathing to support dictation and endurance and has been created by SSML and Velotype.

4 Slide 4

On completion of this training sequence, you will be able to learn how to breathe with your belly, how to manage one's oxygen intake to support dictation, and how to use breathing to support endurance, or the capacity to subtitle for long periods of time.

5 Slide 5

This is the agenda of this presentation.

6 Slide 6

Section 1 – Breathing.

7 Slide 7

As you have seen, a respeaker has to do many things at the same time. In this video lecture, we are going to deal with dictation skills.

8 Slide 8

Dictation skills is the first set of skills a respeaker has to learn, as dictation is the main tool the respeaker possesses to do their job as professionally as possible. Like one's hands for a typist, a respeaker has to train dictation skills every day in order to automate them. In this Element we will deal with three main dictation skills, namely breathing to support dictation and endurance; enunciation to support accuracy, and the third one is aimed at reaching MARS, the capacity of a respeaker to speak as rapidly and accurately as possible. Let's get started with Breathing. The other two skills will be dealt with in the remaining two video lectures of this element.

9 Slide 9

All living creatures breathe. As humans we breathe in two main manners, depending on habits and position. These are chest breathing and belly breathing. Chest breathing is the normal way of breathing when standing or sitting in an upright position. It is relatively shallow and as you can learn from the many sources available on the web, it does not use the full capacity of your lungs. Belly breathing is also quite natural among humans, especially when in a horizontal position, as gravitation does not force the diaphragm down. Belly breathing is characterized by the capacity of the lungs to make the most of oxygen intake. Professional singers, runners, and also respeakers use belly breathing. In particular, this is needed to always have enough oxygen in the lungs to avoid two opposite situations: holding one's breath for too long and breathing too repetitively. In this section 1 I will try to teach you some tips to learn how to belly breathe so as to increase the efficiency of your lungs.

10 Slide 10

To begin with, it is important you understand if you already breathe with your belly or not. To understand this, sit in an upright position, similarly to the one you are going to adopt when respeaking.

11 Slide 11

Then, put one hand on your belly just below your ribs, and the other one on your chest. Now, start breathing and see what happens. If the hand on your belly moves, you can jump to section 2 of this video lecture, Dictation. If it doesn't move, then you need to learn how to breathe with your belly only.

12 Slide 12

Take a deep breath in through your nose, and let your belly push your hand out. Then, breathe out through pursed lips as if you were whistling, like this. Feel the hand on your belly go in, and use it to push all the air out. While inhaling and exhaling, your chest should not move. If it does, you need to repeat the exercise by putting some pressure on the hand on your belly. It may happen that the hand on your belly keeps not moving. Keep trying until it does move. Each time put more pressure if necessary. If it doesn't move in the next 15 minutes, stop trying, as you may start stressing too much for this exercise. You can try later. In a week you should be able to make it. Online there are many websites that can help you with this.

13 Slide 13

Once you have learnt how to breathe with your belly, you need to automate it, as you should not spend energy on breathing. To do so, move to advanced breathing exercises. In particular, you need to find a part of the day, preferably at the very beginning, which you are going to use to daily practice breathing for 5 minutes.

14 Slide 14

Then, you need to start holding your breath. Pay attention, you don't have to wait until it becomes unbearable. You need to always feel comfortable with it. To do this, take a deep, slow breath from your belly, and silently count to 4.

Then, hold your breath, and silently count from 1 to 7. And finally, you can breathe out completely as you silently count from 1 to 8. It is enough you Repeat this exercise for five minutes. Every week try to set the bar higher than the week before until you reach your maximum.

15 Slide 15

Finally, you can practice what is called breath walking, or the capacity to synchronise your steps with your breathing. Find a place where you can walk freely, without having to stop too often or to change direction too often. For 10 minutes, try and match each step with a fraction of your breathing pattern. Personally, I am very comfortable with inhaling completely for 4 steps, holding my breath for the next 4 steps and use the following 4 steps to completely exhale. This is a very a good exercise to automate your breathing.

16 Slide 16

Section 2 – Dictation.

17 Slide 17

To be able and use breathing to support dictation, you first need to automate belly breathing. If you need to think about belly breathing, you will spend too much of your processing capacity.

18 Slide 18

Once belly breathing is automated, you can start with dictation exercises. Start by reading a written text, preferably an essay or an editorial. You should notice an improvement in terms of how easy and accurate the final result is.

19 Slide 19

Then, you can move to verbatim and sensatim shadowing exercises. Again, you should notice an improvement in terms of how easy the process is. If you feel awkward, it means you have to invest a little more in automating your belly breathing.

20 Slide 20

Finally, you can go with both verbatim and sensatim respeaking. Here, you should not just notice an improvement in terms of how easy the process is but also in terms of how good the final result is. This, however, should not be your priority now. What is important here is that you are feeling better with the exercise. Don't be worried if you still feel a little awkward. It may mean you are either tired, or that your breathing skills have not been fully automated.

21 Slide 21

Section 3 – Endurance.

22 Slide 22

In this last section, we will deal with some practical exercises that you need to do to support endurance through breathing. As you may know at this stage of your training, respeaking is a challenging profession. The breathing exercises we have done so far are meant to facilitate the process of respeaking. However, we need to also use breathing to keep the high quality of your product in the long run, as if you are good respeaking 5 minutes, you may find it harder to work for 30 minutes or a whole day.

23 Slide 23

To use your breathing to support endurance, you can start by a very simple exercise. Remember the breath-walk I have mentioned in the previous section? Imagine your lungs are divided into 4 equal parts of oxygen. Now, fill them in. Your lungs should be full of oxygen. Start reading the same text as before while exhaling. When you have no more oxygen in your lungs, stop reading and count how many words and characters you managed to read.

24 Slide 24

Now, fill 2 of the four parts of oxygen in your lungs. Pay attention not to cheat, though unintentionally. Your lungs should be half full. Your goal is to read the same amount of text as before. Once again, before inhaling again, put a mark after the last word you managed to comfortably read and see how many words and characters you managed to read. If you have read more than a half of the text you read with your lungs full, this means you have started managing your breathing properly.

25 Slide 25

Now, fill only 1 of the four parts of oxygen in your lungs. Again, pay attention not to cheat, though unintentionally. Only one quarter of your lungs should be full of oxygen. Your goal is to read the same amount of text you read the first time, when your lungs were full of oxygen. Once again, before inhaling again, put a mark after the last word you managed to comfortably read and see how many words and characters you managed to dictate. If you have read more than a half of the text you read with your lungs half full, this means you are keeping improving.

26 Slide 26

Repeat this exercise until you manage to comfortably read 20 words, accounting for around 100 characters, with one quarter of oxygen intake only. A sentence in the real world is normally not longer than that. Once you have reached this stage, it means that you can read a sentence with a minimum oxygen intake.

27 Slide 27

Repeat this exercise by first shadowing a speech and then respeaking a speech. The aim is always the same: to manage to comfortably shadow or respeak 20 words, accounting for 100 characters, with one quarter of oxygen intake only.

28 Slide 28

Once you are comfortable with this, you will be able to find your pace in respeaking by managing your breathing according to the number of pauses in the speech to subtitle. In the next video lecture, we will see how to improve quality of recognition.

29 Slide 29

Summary.

30 Slide 30

In this video lecture, we have seen how important it is to breathe with your belly. Then, we have seen how to manage your oxygen intake to support dictation. Finally, we have seen how to use breathing to support endurance, or the capacity to subtitle for long periods of time thanks to gradual breathing exercises.

31 Slide 31

Exercises.

32 Slide 32

Exercises. The exercises for this video lecture are in the Trainer's Guide and the PowerPoint file.

Authors: Silvia Velardi and Carlo Eugeni

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Disclaimer: This project has been co-funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

33 Additional metadata¹

Title or file name of resource	U5_E3_LO1_Use-breathing-to-support-dictation-and-endurance_TRANSCRIPT.docx
Version	Final
Description of resource	Audio transcripts for the video-lecture about using breathing to support dictation and endurance
Keywords	Breathing, endurance, dictation, respeaking
Author/Contributor	SSML and Velotype
File type	Text
Length (pages, actual length of audio or video)	11 pages
Copyright holder	SSML, Velotype
Other related pedagogical assets	PowerPoint Presentation and other video lectures in the YouTube playlist of the Unit
Related subject or skill area	Unit 5. Respeaking.
Publisher	LiveTextAccess
Format	PDF file
Issued	21 July 2021
Language	English
Licence	CC BY-SA 4.0
Accessibility	PDF checked with TingTun
Certified by	ECQA: http://ecqa.org/

¹ The scheme used is an adaptation of the format provided by the EU project 2014-1-DE01-KA203-000679