



Mini ETOE™ Drill: Chronic Pain Encounter

About the ETOE™ Exam

The English-to-English (ETOE™) Exam, administered by CCHI, assesses critical interpreting skills such as listening comprehension, memory retention, shadowing, reading comprehension, and paraphrasing. The 'Restate the Meaning' section challenges interpreters to listen to short utterances and rephrase them in their own words, preserving the complete meaning and register.

What is Paraphrasing?

Paraphrasing is the skill of expressing the same idea using different words and sentence structures. For interpreters, strong paraphrasing skills are essential to ensure accurate and culturally appropriate communication, especially when direct translation is not possible or would hinder understanding.

Context of the Activity

This paraphrasing activity is based on a recorded medical encounter involving chronic pain management. It is designed to help credentialed medical interpreters practice restating messages in English, as required by the ETOE™ exam. The video features a realistic healthcare dialogue between a patient and provider.

How to Use This Guide

1. Do NOT watch the entire video straight through. Instead, play only one segment at a time based on the timestamps below.
2. After each segment, pause the video and paraphrase the main ideas in your own words.
3. Focus on keeping all key details and the original meaning while using different wording and sentence structure.
4. Avoid copying the speaker's exact phrasing—this is about demonstrating your ability to restate meaning, not memorize.
5. Reflect on your response. Did you change the words but preserve the meaning and tone?
6. Repeat the segment if needed, then move on to the next.



Video Segments and Prompts

Time Range	Segment Focus	Paraphrasing Prompt
0:00–1:15	Patient explains symptoms	What is the patient’s main concern? Paraphrase their explanation using your own words.
1:15–2:30	Provider discusses treatment options	Restate the provider’s explanation of the treatment approach. Focus on terminology related to pain management.
2:30–4:00	Patient shares previous experiences	How does the patient describe their response to medication? Paraphrase without omitting key qualifiers.
4:00–5:41	Provider summarizes and plans next steps	Summarize the provider’s plan moving forward. Use different wording while keeping all important elements.

Self-Check for Accuracy

After paraphrasing each segment, go back and replay the original audio. Compare your response to what was actually said.

Ask yourself:

- Did I include all the key details?
- Did I change the wording without changing the meaning?
- Did I keep the same tone and register?

You can do this immediately after each segment or at the end of the full video for a more comprehensive review. This step is essential to strengthening your paraphrasing skills and preparing for the demands of the ETOE™ exam.

References

Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters. (2023). *ETOE™ (English-to-English) interpreting exam specifications*. <https://cchicertification.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-ETOE-Examination-Outline.pdf>

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