

# Dream Jobs: Interpreter

By Graham Snowdon, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff on 11.03.16

Word Count **350**



Pedro Quezada swears to tell the truth through an interpreter during his appearance in state Superior Court in Paterson, New Jersey, April 1, 2013. AP/Mel Evans

Neetu Mahandru will always remember her first day at work.

**She is a translator.** Her job is to listen to people who speak other languages. Then Ms. Mahandru says their words in English.

On that first day, she was called into a courtroom. Some men had been arrested. They broke the law in England. The men only spoke Punjabi. This is a language from the countries of Pakistan and India. It was Ms. Mahandru's job to put in English what the men were saying.

## **Speaks Several Languages**

**Ms. Mahandru speaks Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu and English.** She knows all these languages. She uses her skills to help others. **She speaks English for people who cannot.**

**Most of her work is in courtrooms, police stations and law offices.** She must give the true meaning of people's words, even if she does not like the people.

"I have to be careful I do not add any words," Ms. Mahandru says. She can only say what they are saying.

Ms. Mahandru is from India. She moved to England when she was 19 years old.

## **Helping People With Languages**

She needed a job. First, she worked in stores. Then one day, she was talking to a man on the bus. He was reading a German book. He was moving to Germany. He said it is important to know a country's language. She thought he was right. She wanted to help people do this. She could help with languages.

Soon, Ms. Mahandru was a teacher. And she was working as an interpreter. She did good work. People noticed. Now Ms. Mahandru has a lot of work.

She knows her life might have been different. **She sees other Indian women in England. Many of them do not know English. They need help, too.**

Ms. Mahandru is worried that their lives will be hard.

She is thankful for her happy ending.

## **Job Stats**

**Pay:** It can be about £35,000 (\$43,000) a year.

**Hours:** Sometimes work is busy. Other times it is slow.

**Highs:** Going from place to place and meeting different people.

**Lows:** Sometimes their stories are sad.