

INTRODUCTION

I began working as a freelance translator in 1997, after having done some translation when I was a teacher. Over the years I have received hundreds of emails, résumés, CVs and proposals from translators looking for work or requesting my help. Based on my own experiences and discussions with other translators, I thought it might be useful to some translators, especially those who are just beginning their freelance careers, to read about some of my experiences and what I have found useful. It can be very difficult to get advice or opinions when starting out in the translation business and I know I would have liked to have some of this information when I started.

I set up a Tips for Translators page on my website (www.linguabase.com) in 2000 and have been amazed at the positive feedback I have received. I am very happy to have helped my colleagues in this field, but I have especially enjoyed learning from and interacting with them, and hearing some of the interesting, unfortunate and downright bizarre experiences other translators have had.



I need someone who could tell me step-by-step what I would have to do to get started and survive in this exciting and challenging field. I assume you go through new challenges every day and I admire you and all the translators everywhere for this. You get to learn so much and you get to play with words in new ways everyday. I want to have that feeling too and I would really like you to help me out. Please, make my dream come true.

This eBook would not have been possible – or at least not nearly as interesting – if it weren't for the many people who have taken the time to write to me to thank me for the Tips page, ask me questions or share their stories. I thank each of those people for inspiring me to write this eBook.

All text in bold italics or text boxes are questions or anecdotes from readers of my tips page or quotations related to translation, while the plain text is mine. Please take what I have written in these pages to be my own personal views: I am not qualified to give nor do I in any way claim to provide legal or financial advice.

Thank you very much for buying my Tips for Translators eBook. I sincerely hope you find it useful, whether you are deciding if translation is for you or if you're looking for ways to improve your business. I would love to hear your comments, suggestions, questions and any anecdotes you'd like to share about your own experiences! Please feel free to email me at efeedback@tipsfortranslators.com

Enjoy the read!