

## QUALITIES POSSESSED BY EVERY SUCCESSFUL TRANSLATOR

(by Marise Lashley)

1. A love of words and language.
2. Broad cultural background, derived from an open mind, reading widely, and having a great deal of intellectual curiosity.
3. An excellent knowledge of your native language.
4. A rich vocabulary and a flair for writing your native language well.
5. An analytical mind.
6. A sense of when something is or sounds absurd (*l'épreuve de vraisemblance*).
7. A great deal of mental discipline. Translating is not writing, and you cannot give free rein to your imagination. You must not only render the text in the source language accurately, but seek to recreate its tone and style.
8. An excellent memory.
9. Attentiveness to detail (i.e., no omissions) and to accuracy (i.e., no mistranslations).
10. Flexibility and good time-management skills.