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Objects: La Salle Stenotype Machine

Keys on a Stenotype Machine: Part Two

Joe Strickland highlights a special key used to distinguish one homonym from another and to shorten repeated phrases.

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These asterisks are the magic key because remember I was talking about “there,” “their,” and “they’re?” So I write “T-H-R,” and it translates “T-H-E-R-E.” I write “T-H-R” and put an asterisk with it, and now it’s “T-H-E-I-R.” See what I mean? So this just is an options key that lets you do what we really, really, really, really need to do. And in the real world, let me think of an example. Like if they say “Defense Appropriations Act.” And they say “Defense Appropriations Act” over and over. And we’re talking about the “Defense Appropriations Act” and the “Defense Appropriations Act” and the, you know, they say those kinds of phrases over and over and over, you can just make up a way to write that. And like what I would probably do is “D-P” and throw an asterisk in it. So the steno that I’m writing is “D-asterisk-P,” but I define it as “Defense Appropriations Act.” And so now I can get beyond that and write the rest of what they’re saying. See what I mean?