

52. SPANISH LANGUAGE TRANSFER ERRORS

Explanation and Examples

Sometimes, you may make an error in English because you are following a rule or pattern that is correct in Spanish, but not in English.

- Look at the errors in English that happen because of transferring a pattern from Spanish.
- If you make that type of error, look at how to correct the error.
- Notice how the pattern or rule is different in English and Spanish.

| WORD ORDER AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE | | |
|--|---|---|
| Correct in Spanish | → Incorrect in English | Correct in English |
| <i>Es un punto importante.</i> | <i>Is an important point.</i> | It ^ <i>is an important point.</i> |
| <i>En la comunidad existen muchos problemas.</i> | <i>In the community exists many problems.</i> | , there are <i>In the community ^ exists many problems.</i> |
| <i>Quiero que mi profesora me explique la materia.</i> | <i>I want that my teacher explains information to me.</i> | to explain <i>I want that my teacher ^ explains information to me.</i> |

| NOUNS, PRONOUNS, ARTICLES, ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS | | |
|---|--|---|
| Correct in Spanish | → Incorrect in English | Correct in English |
| <i>Mi padre, el vive en California.</i> | <i>My father, he lives in California.</i> | <i>My father, he lives in California.</i> |
| <i>Los soldados que estan peleando en Iraq estan estresados.</i> | <i>The soldiers which are fighting in Iraq are under stress.</i> | who <i>The soldiers ^ which are fighting in Iraq are under stress.</i> |
| <i>El auto jeep que se usa en Iraq no protege a los soldados.</i> | | |
| <i>El Profesor Brackett enseña en Frankfurt.</i> | <i>The Professor Brackett teaches in Frankfurt.</i> | The <i>Professor Brackett teaches in Frankfurt.</i> |
| <i>Tengo buenos amigos.</i> | <i>I have goods friends.</i> | good <i>I have ^ goods friends.</i> |
| <i>No saben nada sobre los problemas.</i> | <i>They do not know nothing about the problems.</i> | anything <i>They do not know ^ nothing about the problems.</i> |

| VERBS AND VERBALS | | |
|--|---|---|
| Correct in Spanish | → Incorrect in English | Correct in English |
| <i>Disfruto discutir temas interesantes.</i> | <i>I enjoy to discuss interesting topics.</i> | discussing <i>I enjoy ^ to discuss interesting topics.</i> |

Adapted from: Ann Raimés, "Language Guide to Transfer Errors," *Textbook Site for Keys for Writers*, 3rd edition.
http://college.hmco.com/english/raimes/keys_writers/2e/students/eslcentr/transfer_errors.html.