

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.