

List of *false friends* (Spanish-English)

False friends: words with a common root in English and Spanish but with different meanings.

English word	Spanish translation	Spanish word	English translation
actually	de hecho, realmente	actualmente	at present, currently, now
advice	consejo	aviso	warning
caravan	remolque	caravana	convoy, traffic jam
to collapse	hundirse	colapsar	to bring to a standstill
compromise	acuerdo	compromiso	commitment
conductor	director de orquesta	conductor	driver
deception	engaño	decepción	disappointment
to demand	pedir, exigir	demandar	to sue
to disgust	dar asco	desgustar(se)	to be upset, to get upset
eventually	finalmente	eventualmente	possibly
exit	salida	éxito	success
fabric	tejido, tela	fábrica	factory
injury	herida	injuría	insult
jubilation	alegría, júbilo	jubilación	retirement
journey	viaje	jornada	day
lecture	conferencia	lectura	reading
library	biblioteca	librería	bookshop, bookstore
marmalade	mermelada de naranja	mermelada	jam
motorist	automovilista	motorista	motor cyclist
preservative	conservante	preservativo	condom
to pretend	fingir, aparentar	pretender	to claim, to intend
to rest	descansar	restar	to subtract, to take
to revise	repasar	revisar	to check
sanity	cordura, razón	sanidad	health
sensible	sensato	sensible	sensitive
sympathetic	comprensivo	simpático	nice
tremendous	enorme	tremendo	dreadful, terrible
truculent	malhumorado	truculento	horrifying

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Partial false friends: English and spanish words that share some meanings but they have different meaning in one or more senses.

Spanish word	English word	In Spanish it also means.....
asistir	assist	attend Sp: No <i>asistí</i> a la reunión En: I didn't <i>attend</i> the meeting
agenda	agenda	diary Sp: lo anotó en su <i>agenda</i> En: he wrote it down in his <i>diary</i>
aprobar	to approve	to pass Sp: <i>aprobé</i> el examen En: I <i>passed</i> the exam
dirección	direction	address Sp: ¿tienes mi <i>dirección</i> ? En: have you got my <i>address</i> ?
embarazo	embarrassment	pregnancy Sp: durante el <i>embarazo</i> En: during <i>pregnancy</i>
importante	important	considerable, significant Sp: pérdidas <i>importantes</i> En: <i>considerable</i> losses
manifestación	manifestation	demonstration Sp: una <i>manifestación</i> contra la política del gobierno En: a <i>demonstration</i> against the government's policy
nota	note	grade, mark Sp: mi <i>nota</i> de inglés En: my <i>grade</i> in English
posibilidad	possibility	opportunity Sp: tengo la <i>posibilidad</i> de trabajar en Inglaterra En: I've got the <i>opportunity</i> to work in England
professor	professor	teacher Sp: mi <i>profesor</i> de inglés En: my English <i>teacher</i>
presentar	to present	to introduce Sp: <i>me presentaron</i> al director En: I was <i>introduced</i> to the director

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Spanglish: Spanish words that look like English, but which sound strange or are uncomprehensible in English

Spanglish	Correct English word
basket	basketball
camping	campsite (BrE), camping ground (AmE)
controller	financial controller
footing	jogging, running
(la) jet	(the) jet set
mobbing	harassment, bullying
parking	car park (BrE), parking lot (AmE)
(un) piercing	(a) stud
smoking	dinner jacket (BrE), tuxedo (AmE)