Why Windows drivers don’t work on Linux and vice versa?

I did research on what exactly is a driver and found two different sources that say the following:

“For a piece of hardware to run it needs to have a driver written for the OS of the computer it is plugged into. The driver tells the OS what the hardware is, and how it should be used. Even if the same hardware can be used on several different operating systems, it needs a separate driver for each of them.” And

“A device driver enables the operation of a piece of hardware by exposing a programming interface that allows a device to be controlled externally by applications and parts of an operating system”

If the driver is supposed to tell the operating system how to handle the device, obviously the driver will need to be made to work with a different architecture depending on the OS. That is basically why a driver made for Windows won’t work in Linux and vice versa. Other than the way it communicates with the OS, the drivers work the same way.

Drivers are hardware-dependent and **operating-system-specific.**

Small Disclaimer: Most sources I found just said that the difference is “Windows drivers are made for windows and Linux drivers are made for Linux”.

**Sources:**

Melekam Tsegaye. *A Comparison of the Linux and Windows Device Driver Architectures.* Extracted fromhttp://www.cs.ru.ac.za/research/g98t4414/static/papers/oscomposr.pdf

English Course. *Operating System.* Extracted from http://www.english-online.org.uk/comp/comp31.php