

Spanish

Category	What the language does	Comments: How English differs and/or how the language will interfere with English	Example or description of errors
Phonology (the sounds that exist in the language)			
Vowels	Spanish has 'ee' sound which is spelled with 'i', but has no 'i' sound, as in 'it'.	Spanish speakers use 'this' for 'this' and 'these'. The distinction is unusually not acquired until they are advanced in their English learning.	I think all this problems are related to poverty. The word will be pronounced like 'these'.
Consonants (th)	Some speakers will have 'th' sound, and there is evidence that 'th' sound is becoming more prevalent, however not all speakers have it or use it.	The 'th' sound at the beginning or end of English words may be substituted with 't' or 'd'.	teeth = teet
Consonants (Clusters)	There is a tendency to add an 'e' sound before words starting with 's +consonant'	This is a spelling error they will not catch if reading aloud.	<u>espace</u> <u>eschool</u>
Syntax (parts of speech and rules)			
Parts of Speech	The default word order for Spanish is subject-verb-object. However, this is not a rigid standard. Spanish has constructions that allow for a freer word order. For instance, Spanish allows the object and subject to swap places with the use of a reflexive pronoun where the reflexive is not interpreted literally, but allows the object to move to the beginning of the sentence and become the topic.	English has very rigid word order and does not allow movement outside of poetics. The closest match to the Spanish case is passive construction in English. While English allows passives, they are stylistically discouraged. Academic writing in English insists on prescribed word orders.	<u>El libro lo</u> escribió Juan . (John wrote <u>the book</u> . But lit.: The book [itself/himself] wrote John. This puts the focus on the book and thus the student may write it this way.)
Pronouns (General)	Person and number is encoded on the verb for the subject of the sentence. For this reason Subject pronouns are omitted in Spanish.	Dropping the subject pronoun often carries over into English. Usually an issue with beginners.	[She] Is a woman. (Where 'she' is omitted and 'is' is the first word of the sentence.)
Pronouns (his, her, its, their, your)	The Spanish pronoun <i>su</i> represents his, her, its, their and your (formal).	A Spanish writer may use the wrong possessive pronoun in English.	She is making his bed. (Intended: She is making her bed.)

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Adjectives	In Spanish, the adjective comes after the noun.	Adjectives generally come before the noun in English (there are a handful of specific exceptions that put the adjective last). A Spanish speaker may use the Spanish word order.	He had a dog brown.
Agreement (not with verb)	In Spanish, possessive pronouns, adjectives, and nouns agree in number.	In English, a Spanish speaker may add -s/-es to adjectives and possessive pronouns as well as nouns.	The pretties girls The fats cats These crayons are mines.
Articles (indefinite)	The indefinite article is not used before a profession.	The article is omitted when English requires it.	She is [a] lawyer.
Articles (definite)	The definite article is used before place names and body parts.	English does not use articles for the names of places like New York or DC. English uses possessive pronouns for body parts.	He swam in the Lake Michigan. She brushes the hair.
Verbs (to have)	In Spanish, <i>hacer</i> means both 'make' and 'do'.	Early Spanish ELLs have trouble distinguishing 'do' and 'make.'	I make homework.
Orthography (spelling)			
Silent letters/homophones	Silent letters and homophones are minimal in Spanish.	Since English is almost unruly with spelling conventions, misspelled words will occur.	buy, by, and bye may be reduced to just one of those spellings.
Contractions	Spanish writers often omit the final 't' in negative contractions in both speech and writing.	In informal writing and in speech, words like 'don't' and 'won't' will be missing the apostrophe+t	don't → don won't → won
False cognates (words that look similar in both languages, but have different meanings; in reading and writing they may think/intend the meaning of the original language)			
	Word from the language	Meaning of the word	English word used
	actualmente	currently	actually

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	parientes	parents and extended family	parents
	aprobar	pass (as in, pass an exam)	approve
	Professions in Spanish are adjectives that are used as noun	The Spanish speaker will use the adjective form in place of the English noun.	For example: el cientifico (scientist) will be written as the scientific [one]
Style	Spanish writing is informed largely by the same sources as other Western writing. Therefore, the writing style is largely comparable to (American) English writing.		
Culture	Education practices and attitudes toward learning English is too varied to generalize.		
<p>Works Consulted</p> <p>10 Common Challenges Spanish Speakers Have When Learning English. (n.d.). Retrieved May 11, 2015, from http://blog.rev.com/articles/language/10-common-challenges-spanish-speakers-have-learning-english/</p> <p>Dryer, M., & Haspelmath, M. (Eds.). (n.d.). WALs Online - Language Spanish. Retrieved May 10, 2015, from http://wals.info/languoid/lect/wals_code_spa</p> <p>Erichsen, G. (n.d.). Word Order. Retrieved May 11, 2015, from http://spanish.about.com/od/sentencestructure/a/word-order-in-spanish.htm</p> <p>Maddieson, I. (1984). Patterns of sounds. Cambridge [Cambridgeshire: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Moore, F., & Marzano, R. (1979). Common Errors of Spanish Speakers Learning English. <i>Research in the Teaching of English</i>, 13(2), 161-167.</p> <p>Wiersema, N., Perez, L., & Dennen, S. (2006). Tips for Spanish Speakers who are Learning English. Retrieved May 11, 2015, from http://www.angelfire.com/fl/espanglishtips/</p> <p>Zadick, K. (2011). Difficulties for Spanish Speakers Learning English. Retrieved May 11, 2015, from http://fr.slideshare.net/kristenzadick/difficulties-for-spanish-speakers-learning-english</p>			