

LA FUENTE

UP CÍRCULO HISPÁNICO / AY 2012-2013 / VOLUME 1

10 Mistakes to Avoid While Learning Spanish

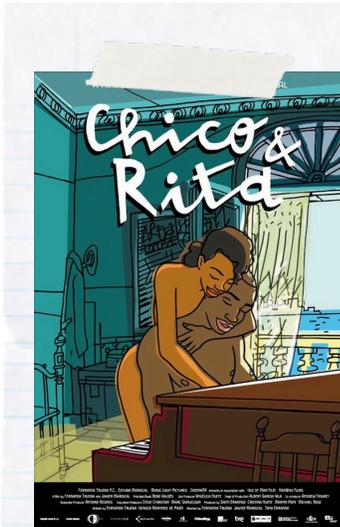
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for About.com

If you're like most people who are speaking a foreign language, you don't want to sound like an idiot. Making mistakes is a natural part of learning any language (even the one you grew up with), but chances are you don't want to make some of the easily avoidable mistakes that might make you sound less intelligent than you are.

Here, then, are 10 common mistakes that English speakers commonly make when they are learning Spanish. They aren't necessarily the most common errors, but they are ones that should studiously be avoided if you hope to get beyond a beginner's level.

1. Assuming that Spanish words that look like English words mean the same thing: Words that have the same or similar form in both languages are known as cognates. Since Spanish and English share a large vocabulary derived from Latin, more often than not words that are alike in both languages have similar meanings. But there are plenty of exceptions, and it wouldn't be a bad idea to study these lists of false cognates and partial cognates.

2. Using pronouns unnecessarily: With very few exceptions, English sentences require a subject. But in



Ciclo de cine de animación español (Spanish Animation Movies)

Animation Movies)

07-28 July 2012, 14:00 h

Instituto Cervantes Manila

In collaboration with the Film Archive of the AECI, the Instituto Cervantes is presenting a cycle of high quality level of Spanish animation films. Films include the popular Chico and Rita.

Visit http://manila.cervantes.es/FichasCultura/Ficha81999_23_2.htm for more information and to find out about other events at Instituto Cervantes.

UPCH APPLICATION PROCESS

Dates to know:

July 2-5: Booth at CAL lobby

July 13: Apps Orientation

See you all there!

Spanish, that frequently isn't true. Where it would be understood by the context, the subject of a sentence (which in English often would be a pronoun) can and usually should be omitted. It usually wouldn't be grammatically incorrect to include the pronoun, but use of the pronoun can sound clunky or give it unnecessary attention.

3. Not learning how to use prepositions properly: Prepositions can be notoriously challenging. It can be helpful to think about the

purpose of the prepositions as you learn them, rather than their translations.

4. Always following English sentence order: You can usually follow English sentence order (except for putting most adjectives after the nouns they modify) and be understood.
(continued at the back)

Looking back...



CINESPOTTING: Who's the ultimate CINE freak? -- a quiz show about movies, movies, and more movies

Spanish Week 2011: CinEspañol!



ENTABLADO. -- one night showcase of talents. From Flamenco to Dancesport and party games from the host.



MANILAKBAY II -- the UPCH Amazing Race all over Manila.

But as you're learning the language, pay attention to the many times where the subject is placed after the verb. Changing the word order can sometimes subtly change the meaning of a sentence.

5. Translating idioms word for

word: Both languages have their share of idioms, phrases whose meanings cannot readily be determined from the meanings of the individual words. Some idioms translate exactly but many don't.

6. Not learning when to use articles

(un, una, el, la, los, las): Foreigners learning English often have a hard time knowing when to use or not use "a," "an" and "the," and it's the same for English speakers trying to learn Spanish. Using them incorrectly usually won't keep you from being understood, but it will mark you as someone who's awkward with the language.

7. Not learning the subjunctive

mood: In English, we seldom make a distinction when verbs are in the subjunctive mood. But the subjunctive can't be avoided in Spanish if you wish to do more than state simple facts and ask simple questions.

8. Ignoring proper pronunciation:

Spanish pronunciation isn't all that difficult to learn, and you should make an effort to imitate native speakers whenever possible.

9. Assuming that the textbook is

always correct: Even educated people don't always talk according to the rules. Although Spanish according to the rules will almost always be understood, it can lack the texture and sincerity of Spanish as it really is spoken. Once you feel comfortable using the language, feel free to imitate the Spanish you hear in real life.

10. Being afraid to make mistakes:

Mistakes are inevitable with learning, and the worst mistake you could make would be to be fearful of using what you know. Remember that no matter how many mistakes you make, wherever you go in the Spanish-speaking world your sincere attempts to learn the language will almost always be appreciated.

For the full version of this article, please visit: <http://spanish.about.com/od/tipsforlearningspanish/a/avoidmistakes.htm>



DID YOU KNOW?

Football is a very popular sport in Spain. Spain's National Team (nicknamed La Furia Roja -- The Red Fury) just won the UEFA European Football Championship 2012. They made history by being the first back-to-back European champions.

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You can go up to any member of UPCH for more information about our organization or our activities!

TRABALENGUAS

(Tongue Twisters)

How fast can you say these Spanish tongue twisters?

Como poco coco como, poco coco compro.

(Since I don't eat much coconut, I don't buy many coconut.)

El perro de San Roque no tiene rabo, porque Ramón Ramírez se lo ha robado.

(Saint Roch's dog has no tail, because Ramón Ramírez stole it.)

ABOUT UP CÍRCULO HISPÁNICO

UP Círculo Hispánico is a non-profit academic oriented organization under the Department of European Languages, duly recognized by the College of Arts and Letters of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

The organization was founded in 1964 under the name of Círculo Cervantino. It became dormant during a couple of years. And in 1997, it was re-established as Círculo Hispánico.

UP Círculo Hispánico aims to promote the Spanish language and culture to students and other members of our academic institution. It serves as a venue and support group for students who wish to further their interest in the Spanish language and culture through different activities such as tutorials, exhibits, poetry readings, film showings, etc. It helps in strengthening ties among the Philippines and the Spanish-speaking countries. For years, the organization has been a tool in helping produce esteemed alumni who were and will always be instruments of change in our society and our country.

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ISSUE no. 1