

Non-Transferable Skills

Spanish to English

Pronunciation:

- Students may need a brief review of initial consonant sounds b, c, d, f, g, h (voiced in English), j, l, m, n, p, r (does not trill), s, t, v, x, and y.
- Keep in mind the similarity in Spanish between the pronunciation of b and v when you review the English v.
- The constant w is only found in foreign words in Spanish. Therefore, you may want to practice words like *watch, way, window, will, etc.*
- As the j in Spanish is pronounced like h and the h is silent in Spanish, you may have to practice reading words like *hot, house, hat, and job, Jell-O, just.*
- Final consonant sounds of t, d, k, g, and s are also candidates for review.
- The diagraphs th, sh, ck, kn, wr, and ph are also unique to English.
- The sounds that vowels make in English are different than Spanish.
- The rules governing the cvce and cve patterns are important as well.
- Vowel combinations (ai, ay, oo, ow, ea, oa, ew, controlled r & re, ie, oi, oy, ee, ui, au, aw, ough, and eigh) are often troublesome for students, which makes them prime candidates for review.
- Contractions using apostrophes do not exist in Spanish. Review the rules for contractions in English (n't [not], 's [is], 'll [will], 'm [am], 're [are], 've [have], 'd [had]). Distinguish them from the possessive forms (see punctuation below).
- In Spanish, there are no words that begin with "s." Instead, a word begins with an "e" and is voiced. Students would benefit from explicit practice in pronouncing English words with an initial "s."

Punctuation is mostly a transferable skill from Spanish to English. However, there are a few differences:

- One difference is that English omits the marks that begin a question (¿) or exclamation (!) in Spanish.
- Another difference is that quotation marks look different ("example") than in Spanish (<<ejemplo>> or just a dash: –ejemplo).
- Remember, there is no apostrophe (with regards to punctuation, at least) used to designate possession in Spanish. This is a very important skill that students will benefit from learning and having multiple opportunities to practice.
 - *Spanish:* <<la bicicleta del muchacho>> *English:* "the boy's bike"
- The rules for capitalization are a different, as well. Remind students that in English, the days of the week and the months are capitalized in English.
 - *Spanish:* <<miércoles>> *English:* "Wednesday"
- Likewise, in English, the names of different languages are capitalized.
 - *Spanish:* <<español>> *English:* "Spanish"
- Also, let them know that in English, all the important words in a title are capitalized.
 - *Spanish:* <<El niño y el día nublado>> *English:* "The Boy and the Cloudy Day"
- The date is written differently in Spanish than in English: day/month/year
 - *Spanish:* <<el 4 de julio de 2012>> *English:* "July 4, 2012"

Spelling/Word Usage:

- In Spanish, the –iendo and –ando endings are the equivalent of the –ing ending in English.
 - *Spanish:* <<lloviendo>> *English:* “was raining” *Spanish:* <<lloorando>> *English:* “was crying”
- In Spanish, the –ido and –ado endings are the equivalent of the –ed ending in English.
 - *Spanish:* <<vivido>> *English:* “had lived” *Spanish:* <<trabajado>> *English:* “had worked”
- Also, review the –ed with the –d and the –t sound for the past tense in English.
 - Examples:

<u>Long vowel:</u>	<u>Short vowel:</u>
played	danced
named	jumped
closed	looked
- Review the –er (“to compare”) in English. In Spanish, “más” is used before the adjective. English adds –er to the word to mean *more*: kinder, smarter, taller, sweeter, etc.
- –er can also mean *someone who does something*, similar to the –ador/a or –or ending in Spanish:
 - A *painter* is someone who paints.
 - A *writer* is someone who writes.
 - A *teacher* is someone who teaches.
- –est (the superlative) in English also needs explanation.
- Referents in English also need review: here, there, this, that, etc.
- Pronouns (him, he, her, she, they, them, us, etc.) and possessive pronouns (her, his, their) need to be reviewed carefully.
- Suffixes and prefixes (-y, -ly, -ness, -ful, un-, re-, in-, dis-) are also important keys to vocabulary in English and thus require review with students.
- Syntax differs between Spanish and English in that adjectives follow nouns.
 - Example: *Spanish:* la pelota roja *English:* the red ball
- Spanish uses double negatives, so students will benefit from explicit instruction not to use double negatives.
- Articles in Spanish differ as well. An article reflects the gender of the noun.
 - Example: *Spanish:* el coche; la tortuga *English:* the car; the turtle
Spanish: un coche; una tortuga *English:* a car; a turtle
- Statements in Spanish are often indirect whereas in English, they are more direct.
 - Example: *Spanish:* Se me olvidó el cuaderno. *English:* I forgot the notebook.
- Spanish distinguishes between items that are attributed to individuals temporarily and permanently.
 - Example: *Spanish:* Tengo 10 años. *English:* I am ten years old.
Spanish: Soy mexicano. *English:* I am Mexican.

Cultural Communication:

- Discourse and literature in Spanish differ from English. Spanish is more circular, whereas English tends to be more linear.
- Spanish distinguishes between formal (Usted) and informal (tú) forms of “you,” while English does not.
- “Teacher [“Maestro/a”]” is a term of great respect in Spanish; the teacher’s name is rarely used in addressing a teacher.