

False friends

There are many Spanish words that look like cognates, however, Beware!

False friends are words that look like English words but actually mean something different!



Spanish word	Actual meaning	Mistaken for
mayor	older	mayor
emocionante	exciting	emotional
de nuevo	new	again
el invitado	the guest	invite
molestar	to annoy	molest
parientes	relatives	parents
batería	drums	battery
caramelos	sweets	caramels
equipo	team	equipment
probar	to try	to probe
tortilla	omelette	tortilla wrap
campo	countryside	camp
fábrica	factory	fabric
librería	bookshop	library
el recibo	receipt	receive
grave	serious	grave
petróleo	oil	petrol
gasolina	petrol	gas
autocar	car	coach
instalaciones	facilities	installation
director	headteacher	director
contestar	to answer	contest
suspender	to fail	suspend
bombero	firefighter	bomber
sensible	sensitive	sensible
el horno	oven	horn
un negocio	a business	negotiate
carpeta	folder	carpet

Actual meanings:

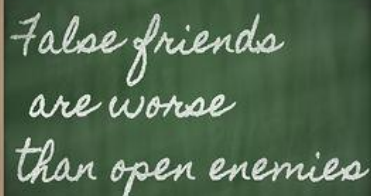
a business	to fail	facilities	bookshop	to try
omelette	relatives	drums	exciting	oil
sensitive	firefighter	receipt	folder	serious
petrol	head teacher	oven	to answer	older
guest	factory	coach	countryside	team
sweets	to annoy	again		

Mistaken for:

library	horn	director	installations	bomber	caramel
emotional	fabric	mayor	battery	car	gas
invite	camp	to probe	to suspend	receive	sensible
new	molest	negotiate	grave	carpet	contest
petrol	tortilla	equipment	parents		

Now translate the following sentences into Spanish - Beware of the false friends!

- a) My school has good facilities but the head teacher can be very strict. *Mi instituto tiene buenas instalaciones pero el director puede ser muy estricto.*
- b) I play football every week with my team. *Juego al fútbol cada semana con mi equipo.*
- c) I hate eating omelettes because they are disgusting. *Odio comer tortillas ya que son asquerosas.*
- d) My older sister eats lots of sweets. *Mi hermana mayor come muchos caramelos.*
- e) There is a new bookshop in my town. It's really exciting. *Hay una nueva librería en mi pueblo. ¡Qué emocionante!*
- f) The use of oil is a serious situation. *El uso de petróleo es una situación grave*
- g) I think I am going to fail Spanish because I lost my folder. *Pienso que voy a suspender el español porque perdí mi carpeta.*
- h) There are too many factories in my city and it's very industrial. *Hay demasiado fábricas en mi ciudad y es muy industrial.*
- i) My parents are strict, but my relatives are really fun. *Mi padres son estrictas pero mis parientes son muy divertidos.*
- j) My brother wants to be a firefighter because he is really brave. *Mi hermano quiere ser bombero porque es muy valiente.*
- k) I can be quite sensitive, in my opinion. *Puedo ser bastante sensible, en mi opinión.*
- l) I am going to go to the countryside by coach. *Voy a ir al campo en autocar.*
- m) I gave the guest the receipt. *Di el recibo al invitado.*



False friends
are worse
than open enemies