

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		
emocionante		
de nuevo		
el invitado		
molestar		
parientes		
batería		
caramelos		
equipo		
probar		
tortilla		
campo		
fábrica		
librería		
el recibo		
grave		
petróleo		
gasolina		
autocar		
instalaciones		
director		
contestar		
suspender		
bombero		
sensible		
el horno		
un negocio		
carpeta		

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.

b) I play football every week with my team.

c) I hate eating omelettes because they are disgusting.

d) My older sister eats lots of sweets.

e) There is a new bookshop in my town. It's really exciting.

f) The use of oil is a serious situation.

g) I think I am going to fail Spanish because I lost my folder.

h) There are too many factories in my city and it's very industrial.

i) My parents are strict, but my relatives are really fun.

j) My brother wants to be a firefighter because he is really brave.

k) I can be quite sensitive, in my opinion

l) I am going to go to the countryside by coach.

m) I gave the guest the receipt.

