

Welcome to

False cognates in
legal terminology and legal contexts,
Spanish/English

NATI

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Interpreting Workshop

-Introductions (certification, years interpreting)

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Interpreting Workshop

- sundry housekeeping details
 - asking questions and interruptions
 - theory/practice

Interpreting Workshop

- False cognates, false friends
- “Words do not have meanings; meanings have words”
- four groups of cognates to look at:
 - legal
 - related
 - experience
 - others
- simple/difficult (more than 200), espanglish/Spanish/U.S. use

Legal

act of God

caso fortuito

acta/act

minutes (of a meeting), certificate

adjudication/adjudicación

resolución, fallo

advocate/abogado

defensor

advocacy

argument ≠ argumento (outside of philosophy)

discusión/alegato

asalto ≠ assault

holdup, robbery, \$\$ (bank robbery)

audiencia ≠ audience

hearing (in front of judge)

brief/breve

escrito legal

casualty/casualidad

herido, víctima, baja

complaint/queja

denuncia, querella

confabulate/confabularse

convicción ≠ criminal conviction

personal belief/conviction, condena

crimen ≠ crime in general

it means a violent crime; delito = crime in general

criminal ≠ criminal always

penal

court/corte

tribunal, juzgado (corte)

delito ≠ delight

crime (deleite)

demandar ≠ demand

to sue

deposition/deposición

declaración jurada

dismiss-despedirse

sobreseer

disposition-disposición

fallo, resolución

estatuto-statute

ley

eviction-evicción

desahucio, desalojar

firm ≠ firma

bufete (firm of attorneys), firme (grasp), firma (signature)

form ≠ forma (like in document)

formulario; forma (like in style)

hijo natural ≠ natural son

born out of wedlock, illegitimate

intoxicado ≠ intoxicated in the sense of drunk

poisoned

jurisdiction-jurisdicción

competencia

juvenile (court)/juvenil

de menores

magistrate-magistrado

juez de instrucción, juez menor

material-material

importante

molestar ≠ to molest

to bother

moroso ≠ morose

delinquent (\$), in arrears

motion-moción

pedimento

offense-ofensa

delito

particular ≠ particular always
also means private (private property)
prejudice ≠ prejuicio siempre, with prejudice
con pérdida de derecho a un nuevo juicio
provision-provisión
disposición
security bond-bono
fianza
sentencia ≠ sentence
judgment (someone judgmental = alguien sentencioso)
subject ≠ sujeto always
it can also be súbdito, tema, asignatura, materia
tutor (español) ≠ tutor
legal guardian
under/bajo
de acuerdo con, según
violate/violar
pruebas/evidencia/proof/evidence

Relacionado

abortar ≠ to have an abortion always
it can also mean to have a miscarriage
abstract ≠ abstracto always;
it's abstract for chemistry, otherwise it's resumen

adecuado ≠ adequate
suitable, necessary, acceptable

adicto ≠ addict always
it can always mean to be a follower of someone

advertencia ≠ advertisement
warning (avisar-advise-inform)

alterarse ≠ to alter
to become upset

americano ≠ U.S. based person
someone from the Americas (North/South/Central, etc.)

aplicar ≠ to apply for a job, position
to apply pressure/makeup/rule/sanction, etc.

aprender ≠ apprehend
to learn (aprehender=apprehend)

arsenal ≠ arsenal always
it can also mean shipyard

asignación ≠ assignment always
it can also mean allocation, allowance, homework

asistir ≠ to help/assist
to attend

atender ≠ to attend
to tend to

atentado ≠ intent
(terrorist) attack

aventura ≠ adventure always

a veces, it can also mean a romantic affair

bachillerato ≠ bachelor / B.A.

high school degree

blanco ≠ blank

white (en blanco can mean blank)

calidad ≠ quality always

it can also mean status (immigration status = calidad migratoria)

calificar ≠ qualify (for something)

to grade (like assignments, tests)

cancelar ≠ cancel always (although that usage is becoming very common in the U.S.)

to pay off a debt/bill/invoice

carga ≠ cargo always

it can also mean load, charge (firearm, reactor, metallurgy, electrical, \$), upload, burden, blitz (sports)

cargo ≠ cargo

position/post, charge (\$), charge (law), a cargo-in charge

carpeta ≠ carpet

folder

choque ≠ choke

crash, collision

contestar ≠ contest

to answer (to contest = disputar)

cuerpo ≠ body in general

only for the living (cadáver = dead body), organismo

cuestión ≠ a simple question

issue, affair, overarching problem/question

destituido ≠ destitute

to dismiss, to remove (from office)

discusión ≠ discussion

argument

entrenamiento ≠ training for a job or for music

training for sports/military (capacitar, formar)

expiración ≠ expiration date in general

to die

fornitura ≠ furniture

ammunition belt

ganga ≠ gang

bargain

intento ≠ intention

attempt

introducir ≠ introduce (somebody)

to put something into something, e.g., key into door, etc.

parientes ≠ parents

relatives

plantear ≠ to plant plants

to suggest an idea, topic, question

position ≠ posición always

it can also be puesto, postura

rapero ≠ rapist

rap singer

soportar ≠ to support always

to put up / bear / stand

tipo ≠ type always

it can also mean guy

training ≠ entrenamiento (generally)

capacitación

votos ≠ votes always

it can also be vows

Experiencia

abertura ≠ opening of something (bank account, festival, dialogue)

physical opening/hole/slit

abismal ≠ abysmal

enormous, vast

abreviatura/abbreviation (mucho mejor que abreviación)

acomodar ≠ to accommodate exactly

to adapt, to place/put away

actual ≠ actual

current(ly)

adepto ≠ adept

follower

adverso ≠ adverse to something

it means adverse in the sense of the flip side of a coin, adverse circumstances

afluencia ≠ affluence always

influx, flow

afluente ≠ affluent/rich always

tributary, affluent

agonía ≠ agony

death throws

apertura ≠ hole/slit

opening something (like a bank account, festival, etc.)

apología ≠ apology

apologia (apologetics)

asignatura ≠ assignment

subject/course

asumir ≠ to assume always

it's suponer for assuming things about people; asumir is to take on new responsibilities, etc.

baja ≠ fall, drop always

it can also mean loss, casualty, sick leave

bizarro ≠ bizarre

dashing (good-looking)

bravo ≠ brave (not always, just at times)

it can be angry, mad, rough (water)

cambiar ≠ to change a veces

it can also mean to cash (a check)

cambiar de mente ≠ changing your mind

physically switching one brain for another

campo ≠ camp

countryside, field

capable (English) ≠ capable (Spanish)

capaz (capable = castratable)

carbón ≠ carbon

coal, charcoal

carbono ≠ coal

charcoal = carbon

casual ≠ casual/informal

chance, occasional (casual worker in English also)

casualidad ≠ casualty

chance, coincidence, happenstance

celar: careful, term difficult to translate; it means "to keep a watchful eye on"

colegio ≠ college

it means high school, institute

colorado ≠ colored

red

compadre/comadre: careful, doesn't exist in English, it means a good friend or the parent of your godchild or the godparent of your child

concuño: careful, doesn't exist in English, it's the sibling of a sibling-in-law

conference ≠ conferencia

congreso

conferencia ≠ conference

speech

consuegro/a: careful, doesn't exist in English, it's the parents of son/daughter-in-law

cruento ≠ cruel

bloody

culto ≠ cult

religious service / worship / educated / cultured

decepción ≠ deception

disappointment (deception = engaño)

educado ≠ educated (like schooling)

well/bad mannered, upbringing

embarazada ≠ embarrassed

pregnant

entrenar/capacitar/adiestrar/amaestrar = to train in general, each one has it's specific use (train in sports or military / to train at work / to train an animal [at times people] / to train an animal)

éxito ≠ exit

success

fábrica ≠ fabric

factory (cuidado, factoría no existe, es espanglish)

fabricar ≠ fabricate always

only when it's like manufacturing; for an excuse/story, use inventar

facilidades ≠ facilities

chance, opportunity, ease

facultad ≠ faculty in the sense of a group of professors

ability, power, authority, and also a group of professors like School of Nursing professors are Facultad de Enfermería (faculty in general = profesorado)

fastidiar ≠ fastidious

to bother, pester, get someone irate

fuelle ≠ fountain always

it also means source, spring, dish, font (like in letters)

fútil ≠ futile

trivial

gracioso ≠ gracious

funny

honesto ≠ honest (most times)

honorable, decent

honrado ≠ honorable (many times)

honest

humores corporales ≠ body jokes

bodily fluids (and also the physiological term humor)

idioma ≠ idiom

language

ignorar ≠ ignore

to be unaware of something, to not know

insolación ≠ insulation

sun/heat stroke

integral ≠ integral (most times)

comprehensive

íntegro ≠ integral

unabridged, (upright person)

introducir ≠ introduce in general

it's to insert (introduce = presentar)

jornada ≠ journal

day's work (also a round in sports)

largo ≠ large

long (and far away in Honduras)

librería ≠ library

bookstore

licencia ≠ license always

it can also mean permission/leave (e.g., sick leave, maternity leave)

local ≠ local always

it can be the adjective local, but it also means a place/building/premise

maneras ≠ manners (good/bad)

it means the way of doing something (modales)

mayor ≠ mayor

older

minorista ≠ minority

retail (opposite of wholesale)

miseria ≠ misery always

it also means poverty

noticia ≠ notice

news

oficio ≠ office (outside of religious settings)

trade, chores

ordinario ≠ ordinary (as something positive)

ordinary in the sense of uncouth, street-level, not refined (negative)

papel ≠ paper always

it can also be role

preciso ≠ precise always

it can also mean necessary

presumir ≠ presume

to show off

pretender ≠ to pretend

to aspire to, to hope to

privar ≠ to make private

to deprive

promotion ≠ promoción always

at work, it's un ascenso

radicar ≠ to radicate

to lie in, stems from, to settle in

recordar ≠ to record

to remember

remarcar ≠ remark

to underline/stress, or to reframe

remover ≠ remove (except in very formal use)

to stir, mix

reparar $\neq$ to repair

to notice

reunión $\neq$ reunion always

it can also be get-together, meeting

revolver $\neq$ revolve

to stir (separate from revólver)

sano $\neq$ sane

healthy (sane = cuerdo)

simpático $\neq$ sympathetic

nice

suburbio $\neq$ suburb exactly

living in suburbs in English is for middle to upper class; suburbios are where poor people live

suceso $\neq$ success

event

to appreciate $\neq$ apreciar (in a speech, "I appreciate your comments")

to thank, or to think highly of something

to change your mind $\neq$ cambiar de mente

cambiar de parecer

crispar $\neq$ crisp

to tense up, to contort, to infuriate

to realize $\neq$ realizar always

it's many times darse cuenta de

to sit up / to sit down: careful, tricky to distinguish in Spanish

último ≠ ultimate

last

Otros

¿Cómo es el tiempo? ≠ How's the weather

how is the weather doing (it's improper Spanish coming from English; should be ¿Qué tiempo hace?)

abrazar/abrasar = to hug/to burn or scald

acción ≠ action always

it also means stocks (like in the stock market)

admirarse ≠ admire always

it can also be to be amazed

constipado ≠ constipated

congested (top end, not bottom end)

criatura ≠ always mean creature

it can also mean baby, small person

crudo ≠ crude a veces (for oil, yes)

it can also mean raw, harsh, severe

dormitorio ≠ dorm (student residence hall)

bedroom

es un buen tiempo = it's a good time, better say "es un buen momento"

fastidioso ≠ fastidious

tiresome, annoying, irksome

gabinete ≠ cabinet (except for in México, where it is accepted as such)

office (doctor, dentist), study, laboraotory, department, political cabinet

gastar tiempo ≠ to spend time, it's improper Spanish and it's better to say pasar tiempo

grosería ≠ grocery (accept for some cases in Puerto Rico)

something rude, insult

hablar su mente ≠ speak your mind, it's improper Spanish and it's better to say decir lo que piensa

huésped: careful, generally means guest, but in biology it can mean host

país mediterráneo ≠ Mediterranean country (generaly)

landlocked country (generally)

refrigerio ≠ fridge

light refreshments

resorte ≠ resort

spring (leaf, coil, not water)

ropa ≠ rope

clothing

sanidad ≠ sanity

health, healing, department of public health

sensible/sensato = sensitive/sensible

sopa ≠ soap

soup

suceso ≠ success

event, happening

to peruse in the past meant to read carefully, now it means to look over quickly

to quit ≠ quitar/quitar

dejar de, renunciar

tuna ≠ tuna

prickly pear or musical group of strolling young people

-Questions

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