

Stop Translating That Literally.

LUMARA ENGLISH

FREE RESOURCE

A2-B1

English for the life you actually live.

You already know more English than you think. The problem isn't your vocabulary — it's the moments when your brain translates directly from Spanish and something comes out just a little bit... wrong. This pack fixes exactly that. No grammar charts. No boring drills. Just the real traps, explained clearly, with examples you'll actually remember.



What You'll Learn

8 common Spanish-to-English transfer mistakes — and how to say it right



How It Works

Explanation → Real examples → Dialogue → Practice → Your answers



Who It's For

Spanish-speaking adults and teens at A2-B1 level who want natural, confident English

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Wait — You Said That in Spanish First, Didn't You?

Picture this: you're in a meeting and you want to say *tengo razón*. So you say: "**I have reason.**" Your colleagues nod politely. Nobody corrects you. But nobody fully understands you either. Sound familiar? That's a **false cognate** — or a direct translation trap. This pack is your guide out of them.

Your 3 Goals for This Pack

1. **Spot the trap** — Recognize when Spanish structure doesn't work in English
2. **Replace it** — Learn the natural English version instantly
3. **Use it** — Practice with real dialogue, writing, and speaking tasks

How to Use This Pack

Work through each page in order. Read the examples out loud — your ear needs to hear natural English, not just your eyes. When you get to the practice page, try before you peek at the answers. The goal isn't perfection. The goal is **one less translation trap per week**.

The 8 Traps We Cover

- *Tengo* + [feeling/age] → **I am**, not "I have"
- *Depende de* → **It depends on**
- *Hacer una pregunta* → **Ask a question**
- *Actualmente* → **Currently**, not "actually"
- *Asistir* → **Attend**, not "assist"
- *Sensible* → **Sensitive**, not "sensible"
- *Embarazada* → **Pregnant** — never "embarrassed"!

 A **false cognate** (or "false friend") is a word that looks or sounds like a word in your language — but means something different. They're sneaky. This pack shines a light on all of them.

The First Four Traps — Explained Clearly

Let's start with the traps that come up every single day. These are the ones hiding in small talk, work conversations, and casual emails. Once you see them, you can't unsee them — in a good way.

Trap 1 — Tengo + [age / feeling / opinion]

In Spanish, *tener* (to have) does a lot of heavy lifting. It expresses age, feelings, and being right or wrong. In English, we use **to be** instead.

- ✗ "I have 25 years." → ✓ "I'm 25." (*Tengo 25 años*)
- ✗ "I have cold." → ✓ "I'm cold." (*Tengo frío*)
- ✗ "She has reason." → ✓ "She's right." (*Ella tiene razón*)

The pattern is simple: whenever Spanish uses *tener* for a state of being, English uses *to be*. Think: **I am [age/feeling/right]** — never "I have."

Trap 2 — Dependes de → It depends on

Spanish uses *depende de*. English uses **it depends on**. The critical word is **on** — English speakers always include it. Dropping it sounds incomplete.

- ✗ "It depends the price." → ✓ "It depends on the price."
- ✗ "Depends of the day." → ✓ "It depends on the day."

You can also say "that depends on..." in slightly more formal English, but **it depends on** works perfectly in all situations — casual, professional, written, spoken.

Trap 3 — Hacer una pregunta → Ask a question

In Spanish you *make* a question (*hacer una pregunta*). In English, you **ask** a question — never "make" or "do" one. This is a verb collocation: the verb and noun are a fixed team.

- ✗ "Can I make a question?" → ✓ "Can I ask a question?"
- ✗ "I want to do a question." → ✓ "I have a question." or "I'd like to ask something."

A quick way to remember: in English, questions are *asked*, not made or done.

Trap 4 — Actualmente → Currently (not "actually"!)

This is one of the most common false cognates between Spanish and English. *Actualmente* means **currently / at the moment / right now**. It does *not* mean the English word **actually** — which means *en realidad* or *de hecho*.

- ✗ "Actually, I work in Madrid." (meaning *ahora mismo*) → ✓ "Currently, I work in Madrid."
- ✓ "Actually, I prefer tea." = *En realidad, prefiero el té.* (correcting an assumption)

Memory trick: *Actualmente* = right now / at the moment. *Actually* = *en realidad*. Different words, different worlds.

The Last Four Traps — In Action

Here are the remaining traps, shown in a real conversation. Meet **Valentina** and her new colleague **James** on Valentina's first week at an international company. Read the dialogue, then notice the language notes on the right.



Valentina: James, can I ask you something? I attended the team meeting this morning, but I didn't understand everything.

James: Of course! What's up?

Valentina: The manager mentioned a new policy. Does it affect our team?

James: It depends on the project. For our team, it starts next month.

Valentina: Okay. Also — I'm a little embarrassed to say this, but I thought *sensible* meant the same as *sensato* in Spanish. My colleague called herself "very sensible" and I was confused!

James: Ha! That's a classic one. In English, *sensible* means practical and logical — like *sensato*. If someone is emotional and easily affected, we say they're *sensitive*.

Valentina: Ah, so *sensato* = sensible, and *sensible* (Spanish) = sensitive!

James: Exactly. You're right!

Valentina: Currently I keep a notebook of words like this. It really helps.

James: Smart. And hey — your English is great. Don't be embarrassed about asking questions. That's how everyone learns.

📌 Language Notes from the Dialogue

Trap 5 — Asistir → Attend

Asistir a una reunión means **to attend a meeting** — not to assist at one. "To assist" means to help someone. Valentina says: **"I attended the team meeting."** ✅

Asistir ≠ to assist / Asistir = to attend

Trap 6 — Sensible vs Sensitive

In Spanish, *sensible* = emotionally affected, tender. In English, **sensible** = practical, logical (*sensato/a*). English **sensitive** = emotionally perceptive (*sensible* in Spanish). These two swap completely!

- **Sensible** (EN) = *sensato/a* (ES) — practical
- **Sensitive** (EN) = *sensible* (ES) — emotional

Trap 7 — Embarrassed vs Pregnant

This is a famous false friend. *Embarazada* in Spanish means **pregnant**. The English word **embarrassed** means feeling ashamed or uncomfortable (*avergonzado/a*). Mixing these up is harmless and very common — so no worries. Just remember:

- **Embarrassed** = *avergonzado/a*
- **Pregnant** = *embarazada*

Valentina uses *embarrassed* correctly in the dialogue — she feels a little awkward asking. Not pregnant! 😊

Trap 8 — Actually vs Currently (recap)

Notice how Valentina says: **"Currently I keep a notebook."** She means *right now / at the moment* — so she correctly uses *currently*, not *actually*. If she'd said "Actually I keep a notebook," a native speaker would think she was correcting a misunderstanding.

Your Turn — Translate These Sentences

These sentences use the Spanish structures from this pack. Translate each one into natural English. Don't look at the answers yet — trust yourself first! Write your answers in the space below each sentence. There's no timer. There's no test. It's just you and the language.

 **Tip:** If you're stuck, go back to the "Learn It" or "See It in Real Life" pages. The clues are all there.

1

Tengo frío.

→ _____

2

Ella tiene razón.

→ _____

3

Depende del precio.

→ _____

4

¿Puedo hacer una pregunta?

→ _____

5

Actualmente trabajo desde casa.

→ _____

6

Asistí a una reunión ayer.

→ _____

 **Bonus reflection:** Which of the 8 traps in this pack do you think you'll fall into most often? Write one sentence about it below.

→ _____

→ _____

Now Use It — Speaking & Writing Tasks

Learning English isn't just about getting the grammar right. It's about using the language in moments that matter to you. These two tasks help you do exactly that — with the traps from this pack built right in.

Speaking Task — 90-Second Story

Tell a short story (real or invented) about your week. Use at least **three** of the phrases below naturally in your story. You can speak out loud, record a voice note, or say it to a friend.

Useful Phrases to Include:

- I'm [age] / I'm cold / I'm tired
- She's right / He's right / You're right
- It depends on...
- Can I ask a question?
- I currently...
- I attended... yesterday / last week

Planning Space:

What happened? → _____

Who was there? → _____

Which 3 phrases will you use? → _____

Speaking Success Checklist

- ☐ I used "I'm" for feelings/age (not "I have")
- ☐ I said "it depends *on*" — with "on"!
- ☐ I used "currently" correctly (= right now)
- ☐ I said "attend" not "assist" for meetings
- ☐ I finished my story without stopping to translate

Writing Task — Short Message (60–80 words)

Write a short WhatsApp or email message to a colleague or friend explaining what you did yesterday and what you're working on right now. Try to include at least **two** of the tricky structures from this pack.

Writing Space:

Writing Success Checklist

- ☐ I used "ask a question" (not "make/do")
- ☐ I checked my use of sensible / sensitive
- ☐ I avoided "actually" when I meant "currently"
- ☐ I re-read once before finishing

Language Meme of the Pack

[Panel 1 — Character looks panicked] *"I am embarazada to say this in English..."*

[Panel 2 — Friend stares wide-eyed] *"Wait — you're WHAT?!"*

Caption: embarazada ≠ embarrassed. Embarazada = pregnant. Avergonzado/a = embarrassed. Never forget this one. 😊

Language Note: This is one of the most famous false friends between Spanish and English. The words look almost identical but mean completely different things. Use **embarrassed** when you feel awkward, and **pregnant** when... well, you know.

Answer Key & Model Responses

Check your work below. Remember: **there is often more than one correct answer** in English. If your answer has the same meaning as the one shown, it's correct. Trust that.

1. Tengo frío.

✅ I'm cold.

Also fine: "I feel cold." — Either works naturally.

2. Ella tiene razón.

✅ She's right.

Also fine: "She is correct." — Same meaning, slightly more formal.

3. Depende del precio.

✅ It depends on the price.

Also fine: "That depends on the price." — Don't drop "on"!

4. ¿Puedo hacer una pregunta?

✅ Can I ask a question?

Also fine: "May I ask something?" / "I have a question." — All natural.

5. Actualmente trabajo desde casa.

✅ I currently work from home.

Also fine: "Right now I work from home." / "At the moment, I'm working from home."

6. Asistí a una reunión ayer.

✅ I attended a meeting yesterday.

Also fine: "I went to a meeting yesterday." — Both are natural and correct.

Model Responses

Speaking — Model Story

"Hi! I'm 32, and I currently work from home — but yesterday I attended a big team meeting at the office. It was long! Can I ask a question about the schedule? It depends on the project, so I wasn't sure. My colleague is very sensitive about deadlines, which I understand. Anyway, I'm cold just thinking about leaving the house tomorrow!"

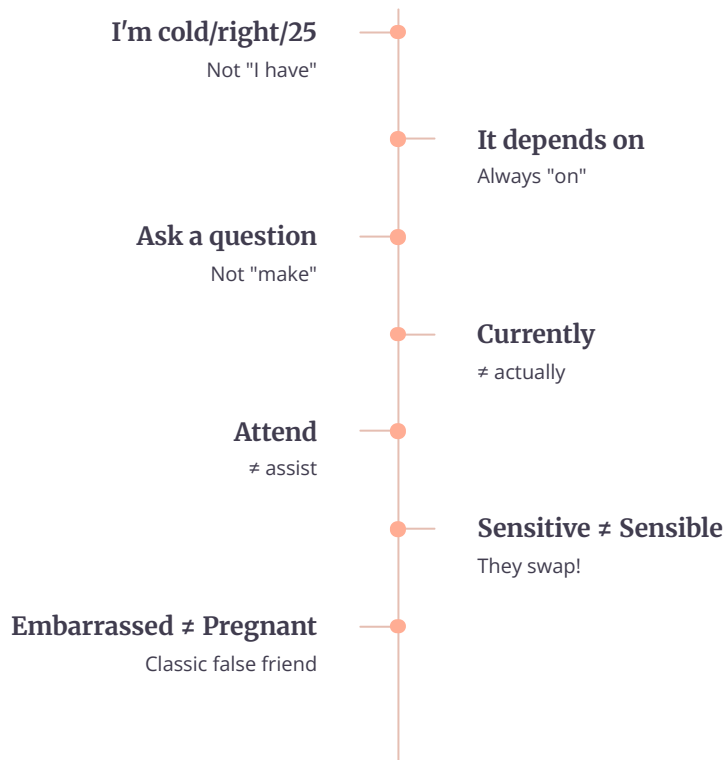
Notice: I'm (not "I have"), currently, attended, can I ask, it depends on, sensitive — all used correctly and naturally.

Writing — Model Message

"Hi Marcos, I hope you're well! I currently work from home on Fridays, so I attended yesterday's meeting online. Can I ask a question about the new schedule? It depends on the client, I think — but I wasn't sure. Let me know when you have a minute. Thanks!"

Notice: currently (not "actually"), attended (not "assisted at"), can I ask (not "make"), it depends on — all the traps avoided elegantly.

Quick Recap — The 8 Traps



Well done for completing this pack. One less translation trap. One step closer to the English you actually want.

More free resources at tms.lumarauniverse.com — LUMARA ENGLISH