



Los cognados - Beginner's 2 - The "Detective" Guide

As you move into Beginner 2, the goal is to sound more like a native speaker. When you consider words that sound identical, you must be aware of "False Friends," as there are words that aren't what they seem—they actually have a different meaning.

Nuance & Borrowed Words

Languages often "borrow" from each other. Did you know the English word **alligator** comes from the Spanish **el lagarto** (the lizard)? Or that **líder** is the Spanish adaptation of **leader**?

The "False Friend" Alert

Spanish has words that look like English but mean something entirely different. It's helpful in your learning journey to be aware of some of **these** words. For example:

- **Actual:** Means Current/Present (NOT real).
- **Carpeta:** Means Folder (NOT a rug).
- **Asistir:** Means To Attend (NOT to help).

The "Falsos Amigos" Trap Table

To avoid the trap, learn the real meaning and avoid confusion!

<i>Spanish Word</i>	<i>It looks like...</i>	<i>The REAL Meaning</i>
Embarazada	Embarrassed	Pregnant
Éxito	Exit	Success
Fábrica	Fabric (Cloth)	Factory
Librería	Library	Bookstore
Realizar	Realize (Understand)	To Perform / To Carry out
Sensible	Sensible (Logical)	Sensitive (Emotional)

Ready to test your detective skills? Visit the blog section to learn more or join our Beginner 2 class to access the full "Cognate Trap" workbook and interactive exercises.