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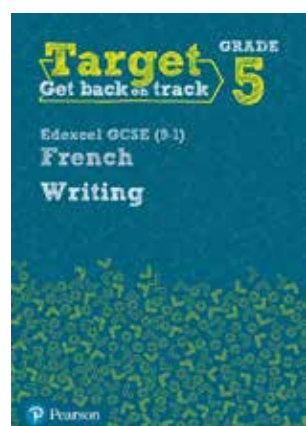
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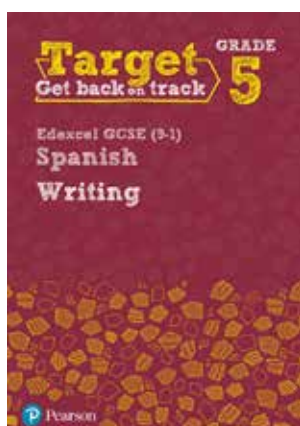
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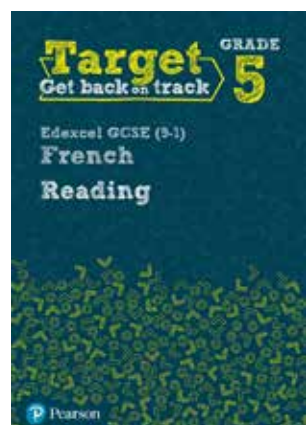
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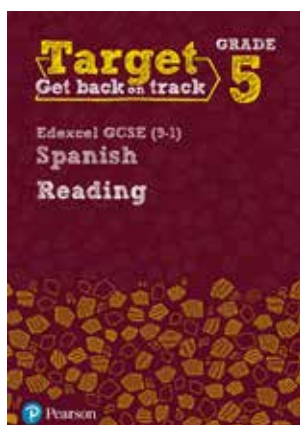
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Get started

8 Translating into Spanish

This unit will help you to be successful at translating from English into Spanish. The skills you will build are to:

- avoid translating word for word
- use the correct Spanish equivalents for certain verbs and phrases
- make sure your translation is accurate.

In the exam, you will be asked to tackle translating tasks such as the one below. This unit will prepare you to look out for potential problems and translate correctly into Spanish.

In this example a student has translated the English into Spanish correctly.

Exam-style question

El medio ambiente

Traduce las frases **al español**.

- (a) Global warming is a very serious problem.
El calentamiento global es un problema muy serio. (2)
- (b) There is a lot of traffic.
Hay mucho tráfico. (2)
- (c) I like being a volunteer.
Me gusta ser voluntario. (2)
- (d) We are going to plant trees near the school and pick up litter.
Vamos a plantar árboles cerca del instituto y a recoger basura del suelo. (3)
- (e) Last week, I went to school on my bike every day.
La semana pasada, fui al instituto en bici todos los días. (3)

(12 marks)

The three key questions in the **skills boosts** will help you translate sentences successfully from English into Spanish.

1 How do I avoid translating word for word?

2 How do I use the correct Spanish equivalents for certain verbs and phrases?

3 How do I make sure my translation is accurate?

Look at the sample student answer on the next page.

Look at a student's translations of the sentences in this exam-style question. The student does not get full marks because there are mistakes in the translations.

Exam-style question

Los problemas del planeta

Traduce las frases siguientes **al español**.

(a) Air serious problem.

-- Contaminación del aire es un problema muy serio. (2)

Word missing.

(b) There are a lot of homeless people.

Es muchos sin hogar. (2)

Wrong verb.

(c) I'm worried about global warming.

Me preocupo el calentamiento global. (2)

Wrong form of the verb.

(d) You shouldn't throw rubbish on the ground.

No se debe tirar basura en la tierra. (3)

Avoid translating word for word from English. Learn set phrases.

(e) Last Saturday, I helped to pick up plastic bottles in the park near my house.

El sábado pasado, yo ayudé a recoger botellas de plástico en el parque cerca -- mi casa. (3)

Subject pronouns are not needed before a verb in Spanish. Word missing after cerca.

(12 marks)

1 Use the translations in the exam-style question on page 57 to help you correct the sentences in this exam-style question. Write them below.

- In English we don't use 'the' (definite article) before abstract nouns such as 'poverty', 'unemployment' and 'pollution'. However, in Spanish, we **do** use the definite article: *la pobreza, el desempleo, la contaminación*, etc.
- Remember that you **don't** use the definite article before jobs and professions in Spanish: *Mi tío es granjero y mi tía es enfermera*.

- a
b
c
d
e

1 How do I avoid translating word for word?

- Certain words and phrases in Spanish cannot be translated literally. You need to know how they are expressed in Spanish.
- Prepositions can be used differently in English and Spanish.

- In Spanish you use the verb 'to have' (*tener*) with age, not the verb 'to be' as in English: *Tengo 15 años*.
- You also use *tener* to express phrases such as 'I'm hot' and 'I'm hungry': *Tengo calor, tengo hambre*.
- Spanish has two verbs for 'to play': *jugar* (to play a sport) and *tocar* (to play a musical instrument).

1 The English sentences below contain words and phrases that cannot be translated literally.

Use *desde hace* with the present tense to say how long you have been doing something.

a Circle the correct option to complete the sentences.

b Write a note in the space provided to explain your choice.

i My brother is 24 and he works as a fireman.

Mi hermano **es** / **tiene** / **hace** 24 años y trabaja de bombero.

Explanation: Use *tener* with age, not *ser*.

ii Today it is sunny and hot.

Hoy hace sol y **es** / **tiene** / **hace** mucho calor.

Explanation:

iii Our cat is very thin and he's always hungry.

Nuestro gato es muy delgado y siempre **tiene** / **es** / **está** hambre.

Explanation:

iv José plays the guitar quite well but he plays football very badly.

José **juega** / **toca** / **hace** la guitarra bastante bien, pero juega muy mal al fútbol.

Explanation:

v Sandra has been learning English for five years.

Sandra estudia inglés **durante** / **hace** / **desde hace** cinco años.

Explanation:

2 Complete the sentences below by choosing the correct preposition from the box.


a en de por en de

Be careful to use the correct preposition when you translate sentences into Spanish.

- a El año pasado, fuimos vacaciones a Francia.
b Pablo es el chico más alto mi clase.
c casa tenemos un perro y dos conejos.
d Reparto periódicos la mañana.
e Me gusta ir al insti pie, pero es más rápido ir bici.

2 How do I use the correct Spanish equivalents for certain verbs and phrases?

To avoid making mistakes in translation it's important to notice how certain verbs are used differently in Spanish from the way they are used in English.

- 1 Read the notes in the yellow box below. Then read the sentences that follow and cross out  the incorrect verb in each case.

Remember that in Spanish:

- you use **tener** ('to have') where in English we use 'to be':

tener éxito	to be successful
tener suerte	to be lucky
tener sueño (calor / frío / hambre / sed, etc.)	to be sleepy (hot / cold / hungry / thirsty, etc.)
- verbs for **eating meals** don't use 'have':

desayunar	to have breakfast
merendar	to have tea
cenar	to have dinner/supper
- you use **reflexive verbs** to talk about **daily routine**:

despertarse	to wake up
levantarse	to get up
ducharse	to have a shower
- **other useful verbs** include:

sacar buenas notas	to get good marks
sacar fotos	to take photos
cuidar a	to look after
salir	to go out

- a Los domingos, siempre **salgo** / **voy** fuera con mis amigos en bicicleta.
- b No tengo un trabajo, pero **miro** / **cuido** al gato y al perro de nuestros vecinos cuando ellos son de vacaciones.
- c Las tiendas de moda Zara y Mango **son** / **tienen** éxito en todo el mundo.
- d De lunes a viernes, **me levanto** / **me pongo** a las siete menos cuarto.
- e Siempre **desayuno** / **como** un vaso de leche y pan tostado antes de ir al insti.
- f **Tienes** / **Estás** sueño porque te acostaste muy tarde anoche.
- g Mi amigo **tiene** / **es** mucha suerte porque va de vacaciones a Cuba en enero.
- h Normalmente, en España **cenamos** / **comemos cena** entre las nueve y las diez.
- i Estoy contenta porque **tuvé** / **saqué** buenas notas en idiomas y en matemáticas.

- 2 Now translate  these sentences into Spanish.

- a I'm hot and thirsty.
- b They're very lucky because they've got a big garden.
- c Last night, I went out with my family.
- d We always have breakfast before we go to school.
- e Tim has to get up early because he's a farmer.
- f I usually get good marks in English.

3 How do I make sure my translation is accurate?

When translating, be careful with details such as:

- agreement of adjectives
- word order
- using the infinitive after certain verbs.

- Check that adjectives agree with the word they describe and remember they usually come after it:
Vivimos en un piso pequeño.
- Remember that possessive adjectives *mi, tu, su, nuestro*, etc. are like other adjectives and must agree:
mi casa, mis amigos, su hermano, sus padres, nuestra vecina, nuestros vecinos
- Words like *mucho* (many, a lot of), *poco* (few, little) and *demasiado* (too, too much / many) must also agree when they describe a noun:
Hay mucho ruido y mucha contaminación en las ciudades.
Hay demasiada basura y demasiadas bolsas y botellas de plástico.
 Look at pages 3, 11 and 19 for more practice in using adjectives in Spanish.



- 1 Complete  these Spanish sentences by translating the English phrases in brackets.

- a Vivimos en (a small town)
- b Nuestros vecinos tienen (lots of dogs)
- c Su jardín es (too small)
- d Hay un parque grande cerca de nuestra casa con (lots of plants and flowers)
- e Tenemos suerte porque hay muy (little traffic and very little pollution)
- f (Our house) tiene placas solares* y ahorramos energía.
- g (In our garden), cultivamos ensalada, verduras y fruta.
- h (My parents) siempre van al trabajo en bicicleta.

*solar panels

- 2 Read the Spanish sentences below.

In English we often use verbs with **-ing** to talk about likes and future plans. However, to do this in Spanish, you use the infinitive after the conjugated verb:
*Me gusta **participar** en eventos deportivos.* I like taking part in sports events.

- a Find and underline  the infinitive verbs in each sentence.
- b Match  each sentence to the correct English translation.

A No me gusta ver basura en la calle.

B Me gustaría tomarme un año sabático.

C Prefiero trabajar en equipo.

D El año que viene, vamos a hacer un proyecto ecológico en el instituto.

E En el futuro, quiero estudiar geografía y ciencias ambientales.

a I would like to take a gap year.

b I prefer working in a team.

c I don't like seeing rubbish in the street.

d In the future, I want to study Geography and Environmental Studies.

e Next year, we're going to do an ecology project at school.

Sample response

- To translate effectively, you need to:
- avoid translating word for word
 - use the correct Spanish equivalents for certain verbs and phrases
 - make sure your translation is accurate.

Do the translated sentences in the sample student answer below follow the three points above about translating effectively?

Exam-style question

Mi ciudad

Traduce las frases siguientes **al español**.

- (a) I live in a big city. (2)
- (b) We get on well with our neighbours. (2)
- (c) I like living in the city because my house is near a park. (2)
- (d) Last month, I recycled glass, paper and lots of plastic bottles. (3)
- (e) Next year, my friends and I are going to organise an event about health. (3)

(12 marks)

- (a) Vivo en una **grande** ciudad.
- (b) Nos llevamos bien con **nuestro** vecinos.
- (c) Me gusta **vivo** en la ciudad porque mi casa **esta** cerca -- un parque.
- (d) El **ultimo** mes, **reciclo** vidrio, papel y **muchos** botellas de plástico.
- (e) El año que viene, **mi** amigos y yo **voy a organizo** un evento sobre -- salud.

- 1 The translated sentences above contain mistakes, highlighted in yellow. Rewrite the sentences correctly, using the checklist to help you.

- a
- b
- c
- d
- e

Checklist	
In my answer do I ...	
avoid translating literally?	
use the correct Spanish equivalents for set phrases?	
use the correct prepositions?	
position adjectives correctly?	
make adjectives agree with nouns?	
make adjectives such as <i>mucho</i> , <i>poco</i> and <i>demasiado</i> agree with nouns?	
make possessive adjectives agree with nouns?	
use infinitives after verbs expressing likes and future plans?	
use the correct verb tenses?	
use correct spelling and accents?	

Your turn!

You are now going to write your own response to this exam-style task.

Exam-style question

Mi país y el medio ambiente

Traduce las frases siguientes **al español**.

- (a) It's very hot in my country. (2)
- (b) There's a lot of traffic. (2)
- (c) I'm worried about air pollution. (2)
- (d) Last summer, I worked as a volunteer and we picked up a lot of rubbish. (3)
- (e) In the future, I want to look after the environment. (3)

(12 marks)

- Correct verb? Possessive adjective?
- Correct verb? Adjective agreement?
- Avoid word-for-word translation. Is a definite article needed?
- Which verb tense? Which persons of the verbs?
- Use infinitive after a verb talking about future plans?

- 1 Answer the question. Use the hints to help you. Then check your work using the checklist

- a
- b
- c
- d
- e

Checklist	
In my answer do I ...	
avoid translating literally?	
use the correct Spanish equivalents for set phrases?	
use the correct prepositions?	
position adjectives correctly?	
make adjectives agree with nouns?	
make adjectives such as <i>mucho</i> , <i>poco</i> and <i>demasiado</i> agree with nouns?	
make possessive adjectives agree with nouns?	
use infinitives after verbs expressing likes and future plans?	
use the correct verb tenses?	
use correct spelling and accents?	

Review your skills

Check up

Review your response to the exam-style question on page 63. Tick ✓ the column to show how well you think you have done each of the following.

	Not quite ✓	Nearly there ✓	Got it! ✓
avoided translating word for word	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
used the correct Spanish equivalents for verbs and phrases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
made sure my translation is accurate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Need more practice?

On paper, plan and write ✎ your response to the exam-style tasks below.

Exam-style question

Mi pueblo

Traduce las frases siguientes al español.

- (a) I live in a small town near the beach. (2)
- (b) It's very hot in July and August. (2)
- (c) There isn't much traffic, so I usually cycle to school. (2)
- (d) Last week, we went to Barcelona with our teachers. (3)
- (e) Next year, we're going to organise a football tournament to raise money. (3)

(12 marks)

Exam-style question

La salud

Traduce las frases siguientes al español.

- (a) I think health is very important. (2)
- (b) I never smoke because it's not good for your health. (2)
- (c) We eat well at home and I do sports every day. (2)
- (d) Last weekend, I took part in a charity sports event. (3)
- (e) Next year, I want to take part in a half-marathon. (3)

(12 marks)

How confident do you feel about each of these **skills**? Colour in ✎ the bars.

1 How do I avoid translating word for word?



2 How do I use the correct Spanish equivalents for certain verbs and phrases?



3 How do I make sure my translation is accurate?



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