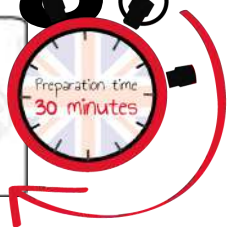
Lesson Plan Easy Access English

Stop Translating.

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Advice on how to stop translating, learn false friends, idioms, expressions to introduce your point of view and discussion, expressiong your opinions.



Activity one: Questions and Answers

Ask and answer the questions with your partner

1. In what situations do you feel the most comfortable in Eng
2. In what situations do you feel the least comfortable?
3. What's the difference between these two situations?
4. Do you often translate English into French?
5. What do you think are the problems with this process?



Activity two: Avoid translating

With your partner, read the text and sumarise what you have read

A major obstacle when learning a new language is avoiding the temptation to translate everything. Many learners of English make similar complaints along the lines of "when I listen to the BBC or to CNN, I can't understand anything because they speak much too fast." Again, it only seems as if native speakers speak too fast. In reality they speak at a completely normal speed. The problem is that if English isn't your mother tongue your subconscious mind always tries to translate everything you hear.

When you listen to English, you should not try to translate into your mother tongue. Just relax and let your ears have the chance to absorb and filter the sound of new words and phrases.
At the beginning this is not an easy task to accomplish. It's a fact that most adult English learners automatically start translating everything they hear into their native language. This is the main reason why they fail to "understand" native speakers. Their brains are constantly busy with translating and so they don't have enough time and mental energy to comprehend what is actually being said at the time.
Remember that your brain works like a computer. If you give your PC too many tasks to process at the same time, the system crashes. It's the same with listening to native English speakers. If you constantly try to translate what you hear, your brain gets overloaded with too many tasks and gives up.

Instead, you should break the language learning process into several parts just as you did naturally when you were a child. Back then you did not try to translate and "understand" everything you heard, did you? Of course you didn't. You were quite happy and content with hearing the sound of new words and phrases. In most cases this sound made you smile and you felt good. Because you were happy and content, you made progress pretty fast. Now that you have grown up, you suddenly demand too much of yourself. Without even realizing it, you basically want to accomplish the following three things all at once:
You want to be able to understand new words and phrases phonetically. You want to understand the meaning of those words and phrases. You want to able to translate those new words and phrases instantly and permanently.

As you can see, you need to split the learning process into several parts just as you did when you were a child. Now that you are an adult, you think that you can only learn if you put yourself under pressure. In other words, try to be a child again. Enjoy hearing the sound of English and don't bother about the meaning of the new words and phrases. The language centre in your brain is a brilliant system that works smoothly if you only let it do its thing. Don't force yourself to translate what you hear. Just relax and listen.

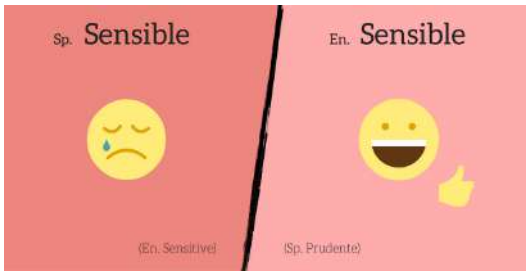
Activity three: Fasle friends

Faux amis (or 'false friends') are words that appear to be the same or similar in two languages but actually have very different meanings. They can easily cause confusion as it is often assumed they mean the same thing.

There are two common kinds of faux amis; false cognates, where two words in two different languages are spelt identically but have different meanings, and semi-false cognates, which are words that are not identical but look deceptively similar. Both of these can cause issues when translating French to English.

Find definitions for the English words below- Be Careful!

Bra
Location
Journey
Formation
Raisin
Affluence



Envy
Grape
Library
Jolly
Pile
Slip
Sensible



Fill in the gaps with the correct words from the list above

1. I love eating _____ in the summer, they are so refreshing
2. It was such a long _____ to Australia, I just wanted to sleep once I got there
3. I thought I would be _____ and not go to the pub on a school night
4. To practice reading in English I could head to the _____ and borrow some books out
5. There is always a _____ of washing to do! I don't know where it all comes from
6. It is very difficult to walk on ice, I always seem to _____ and slide around

Activity four: Expressions

Connect the idiomatic expressions with the correct definitions

One of the most difficult aspects of every language are idioms- These sentences literally cannot be translated and are a perfect example of why you should avoid doing so.

A blessing in disguise	Happens rarely
A dime a dozen	to accept something is difficult and do it anyway
Bite the bullet	to be very expensive
Make a long story short	Don't worry about something that can't be changed
Miss the boat	Tell something briefly
Time flies when you're having fun	to make a bad situation worse
Add insult to injury	you're just as bad as I am
Cost an arm and a leg	something common
Don't cry over spilt milk	something which seems bad but is actually good
It takes one to know one	its too late
Once in a blue moon	time passes quickly when you're enjoying yourself

Now try to use some of these expressions in sentences. Create some examples with your partner

Activity five: Structuring your speech

One of the keys to not translating from French to English is to structure your speech so that you don't find yourself searching for your words.
Look at the list below at vocabulary you can use for structuring your arguments- Afterwards to use this vocabulary in the next activity



Introductory and structuring words-

Firstly
To begin
I would like to begin by saying..
First off I would like to mention that..
Secondly
In conclusion
Finally

Adding to a point already made-
Moreover, furthermore, in addition, not only……but also, moreover, additionally
Putting the same idea in a different way-
In other words, to put it more simply, to look at this in another way
Introducing an alternative view point-
By contrast, conversely, on the contrary, however

Activity six:

Use the expressions from the activity below to formulate an argument on the following topics

1- Globalisation has only made the gap between poor and rich countries increase-discuss
2- The internet makes us more social-discuss
3- The education system does not help us it only restricts us-discuss
4- Our society needs to redefine the meaning of "success"-discuss
5- New technological process is aimed more at profit than improving people's lives-discuss
6- Humour should have no limits; we should be able to make a joke about anything- discuss



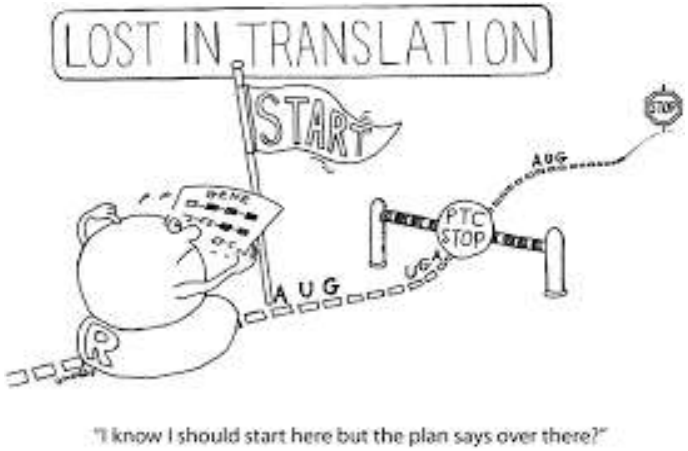
Activity seven: Role plays

Practice your dialogue with the following three role plays. Practice with a partner.

a. You are with a friend and you decide to tell them about the new idioms that you have learnt in an English lesson (e.g bite the bullet). Your partner will ask you questions about their meaning.

b. You and you partner must pick a situation in which you are very comfortable talking English and tell each other the reason why you feel English is more easily spoken in this situation.

c. With you partner describe a situation where you may have to talk English in the future and tell them why it may be difficult, ask your partner for advise on how you can handle the situation.



"I know I should start here but the plan says over there?"

