

ESL Class: Week of Oct 27

I. Opening Prayer

- See handout with English-Spanish prayers

II. Proficiency Pre-Assessment Reflection handout

- See handout (“hand” + “out”)

III. Why is English so crazy?

- 85% of Spanish is from Latin
- English is
 - 29% French (“Anglo-Norman”); 28% Latin (including technical words); 26% Germanic; 5% Greek; 12% Various origins
- **But... that means that English and Spanish share 57% of their origins!**
 - Both English and French have the same origins in the “proto-Indo-European” (PIE) language group
 - See handout or overhead of PIE language group branches

PIE Cognates: “Sound Shifts”

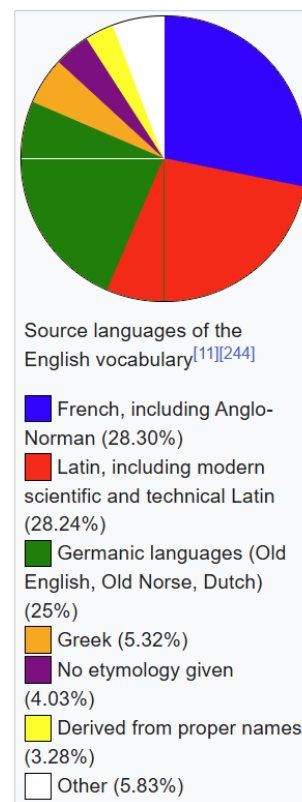
PIE Origin	Spanish	Sound Shift	English	Sound Shift
<i>ph-ter</i>	padre	<i>ph > p</i>	father	<i>ph > f</i>
<i>mh-ter</i>	madre	<i>ter > dre</i>	mother	<i>ter > ther</i>
<i>no-men</i>	nombre	<i>men > bre</i>	name	<i>no > nā</i>

IV. English facts & forms

- English has more unique words than any other language
- After the French “Norman Invasion” of 1066 AD, French was imposed upon English speakers.
 - However, French did not replace English: it was added on top of it.
 - Additionally, French speakers were high-status (rulers) and so French words became signals of wealth, whereas, lower classes used older English words:

High -Status French	Low-Status English
pork	pig
instrument	tool
question	ask
canine	dog

- English has unique grammar and expressions such as
 - possessive “z” sound:
 - *The dog’s bone* (“zzz”) = “bone of the dog”
 - silent zombie letters:
 - *knight, write, lamb, gnat, island*
 - auxiliary verbs
 - *I am going, They had been, She will have been there.*
- English combines verbs and prepositions for new meaning (“phrasal verbs”)
 - *The plane took off; The team gave up; Mom dropped off the kids; I looked up the definition*



V. English Vowels

- English has vowels that are pronounced differently depending on the word
 - ex. *go* v. *do*, *cat* v. *cake*, *bit* v. *bite*, *not* v. *note*, *two* v. *to* v. *toe*
- In addition to *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u* & (sometimes) *y*, English uses two vowels to make unique sounds (called ‘diphthongs’)
 - ex: *buy*, *clear*, *coin*, *cow*, *moon*, *mouth*, *oil*, *ouch*, *rain*, *toy*
 - consider also: *good* v. *food*
 - Spanish has 5 vowels and 5 diphthongs (ex. *aire*, *hoy*, *muy*, *pausa*)
- English also has words that spell differently but a pronounced the same (homophones):
 - here*, *hear* *its*, *it’s* *there*, *their*, *they’re* *to*, *too*, *two*; *toe*, *tow*

Exercis e: try pronouncing these words:

beat	choose	door	four
great	overflow	thread	usual

- To make it worse, English has “silent vowels” that are not pronounced

ate	before	castle	date
fare	grate	kite	moose

- Note: there are also silent consonants, but more on that later..

VI. Common Errors Spanish-speakers make in English

- English “consonant clusters”
 - = two consonants together that make a unique sound
 - Spanish speakers will pronounce both consonants equally
 - Whereas English speakers will “slur” or combine them
 - examples:
 - “st”: “eStudent instead of “student” or “sp”: “eSpecial” instead of “special”
 - other consonant combinations include “fl”, “bl” “pl”, “th”, “tr”
 - flower*, *blue*, *blanket*, *globe*, *sheep*, *thin*, *thing*, *tree*, *truck*
- Ending consonants
 - Spanish speakers frequently drop the sound of the final consonant in a word
 - ex: *dig* = “dee” , *sit* = “see” , *map* = “ma”
- the “H” sound
 - English uses “h” as a soft consonant, whereas it is silent in Spanish
 - ex. *house* = “ouse” , *happy* = “appy”
- See worksheet on common Errors Spanish speakers make in English

VII. Student Weekly Goals

- See handout: list goals for continued practice of English during the week

VIII. Closing prayer