

Language Differences Commonly Observed Among Spanish Speakers

Language Characteristics	Sample English Utterances
Adjective comes after noun.	The house green is big.
"s" is often emitted in plurals, possessives, and regular third person present tense.	We have five plate here. The girl book is brown. The baby cry.
Past tense -ed is often omitted.	We walk yesterday.
Double negatives are used.	I don't have no more.
Negative imperatives may be used; no is used instead of don't.	No touch the hot stove.
"No" may be used before a verb to signify negation	The kid no cross the street.
Superiority is demonstrated by using <i>more</i> before an adjective in a similar manner to the use of <i>más</i> in Spanish	The cake is more big.
The adverb often follows the verb	He drives very fast his motorcycle.
Post-noun modifiers are used.	This is the book of my sister.
Articles may be used with body parts	I bruised the knee.
"Have" may be used in place of the copula when talking about age.	I have 12 years (instead of I am 12 years old)

Articles are often omitted.

Papa is going to store.

When the subject has been identified in the previous sentence, it may be omitted in the next sentence.

Mama is sad. Lost her purse.

There may not be noun-verb inversion in questions

What this is? (*instead of what is this?*)

Acquired from:

Roseberry-McKibbin, Celeste (2018). *Multicultural Students with Special Language Needs*. Oceanside, CA: Academic Communication Associates, Inc.

Articulation Differences Commonly Observed Among Spanish Speakers

Articulation Characteristics	Sample English Patterns
/t, d, n/ may be dentalized (tip of tongue is placed against the back of the upper central incisors).	
Final consonants are often devoiced.	dose/doze
b/v substitution.	berry/very
Deaspirated stops (sounds like speaker is omitting the sound because it is said with little air release).	
ch/sh substitution.	chew/shoe
d/voiced th, or z/voiced th (voiced "th") does not exist as a distinct phoneme in Spanish).	dis/this, zat/that
t/voiceless th (voiceless "th" does not exist as a distinct phoneme in Spanish)	tink/think
Schwa sound is inserted before word initial consonant clusters	eskate/skate espend/spend
In Spanish words can end in 10 different sounds: a, e, i, o, u, l, r, n, s, d	may omit other sounds at the end of words
When words start with /h/, the /h/ is silent.	old/hold, it/hit
/r/ is tapped or trilled (tap /r/ might sound like the tap in the English word "butter").	
There is no /j/ (e.g., judge) sound in Spanish; speakers may substitute "y".	Yulie/Julie yoke/joke

Spanish /s/ is produced more frontally than English /s/.

Some speakers may sound like they have frontal lisps.

Vowel Differences

Spanish has 5 vowels: a, e, i, o, u (ah, eh, ee, long o, uu) and few diphthongs. Thus, Spanish speakers may produce the following vowel substitutions:

Articulation Characteristics	Sample English Patterns
ee/ih substitution peeg/pig, leetle, little	ee/ih substitution peeg/pig, leetle, little
eh/ae, ah/ae substitutions pet/pat, Stahn, Stan	eh/ae, ah/ae substitutions pet/pat, Stahn, Stan

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