

Contrastive Analysis - Expressions

Introduction - Discuss

1. *What's your favourite expression in your own language?*
 - a. *Do you know how to say it in English?*
2. *Are there any words or expressions that you think you use too much?*
3. *What's your favourite English expression?*

Contrastive Analysis

1. *Look at the Spanish expressions on the left.*
2. *First translate the expression word for word.*
3. *Then try to think of the equivalent expression in English, use your phone if necessary.*

Spanish	Direct Translation	Equivalent Expression
1. Costar un ojo de la cara	1. Cost an eye from your face	1. cost an arm and a leg
2. Aquí hay gato encerrado	2. there's a locked in cat here	2. smells fishy / there's something fishy going on
3. Ahogarse en un vaso de agua	3. drown in a glass of water	3. make a mountain out of a molehill / a storm in a teacup
4. Aburrirse como una ostra	4. get as bored as an oyster	4. be bored stiff
5. Dar la espalda a alguien	5. give the back to someone	5. give sb the cold shoulder/turn your back on sb
6. Dar la talla	6. give the size	6. be up to scratch / measure up
7. Desahogarse	7. undrown yourself - to vent	7. get st off your chest / to let off steam
8. Atar cabos	8. tie the ends	8. put two and two together - realise, have a eureka moment
9. Desviarse del tema	9. divert/ turn off	9. get sidetracked/go off on a tangent
10. El alma se le cayó a los pies	10. his soul dropped to his feet	10. his heart sank - heart sinks
11. El mundo es un pañuelo	11. the world is a hanky/handkerchief	11. It's a small world
12. Poner algo a la práctica	12. put st to practice	12. put sth into practice
13. En un primer vistazo	13. at the first sight	13. at first glance
14. Ecurrir el bulto	14. strain the parcel	14. pass the buck - not take responsibility,
15. Estar de los nervios	15. be of your nerves	15. be a bundle of nerves / be on edge
16. Estar mal visto	16. be badly seen	16. be frowned upon
17. Inclinar la balanza a favor de	17. lean the the scale in favour of	17. tip the scale/balance in favour of
18. Irse al traste	18. go to the garbage/rubbish dump	18. go down the drain/toilet - fall through

4. *Compare the English expression with the Spanish version:*

- What differences do you notice?
- Which one makes more sense?
- Think of a way to remember the English ones: an image, a rhyme, relate it to your life, relate it to the Spanish version, etc.

Practice

Complete the sentences with expressions from before.

1. My boss GOT SIDETRACKED in the meeting and spent half an hour talking about something completely different.
2. After the job interview, he was ON EDGE/A BUNDLE OF NERVES for the whole week waiting for the response.
3. I had to get a new charger for my Macbook, it COST AN ARM AND A LEG, it's outrageous!
4. When he saw how much further they had to walk his HEART SANK
5. I saw my next-door neighbour on the beach in Mallorca! IT'S A SMALL WORLD
6. I go to the gym after work to LET OFF STEAM
7. She could never MEASURE UP to her mother's expectations.
8. Despite all his problems, his friends never TURNED THEIR BACK ON HIM
9. After 10 minutes of the class on American history, the children were BORED STIFF
10. After the disaster all the different government departments kept PASSING THE BUCK, no one would take responsibility.
11. The deal seemed too good to be true and he suspected that there WAS SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON
12. Calm down, you're such a drama queen, everything is going to be ok, stop MAKING A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL
13. Putting your feet on the seats on the metro is FROWNED UPON
14. His plans to hitchhike around the world FELL THROUGH when he broke his ankle.
15. It took the detectives a while to PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER but they eventually spotted the connection between the killer and the victim.
16. AT FIRST GLANCE he could pass for a teenager, but then you look a bit closer.
17. It's a good theory, but how easy will it be to PUT INTO PRACTICE?
18. The election results are very close, just a few hundred votes could TIP THE BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF either candidate.

Conversation

Complete the questions with the missing word, then ask them to your partner.

1. What do you do to let OFF steam?
2. Do you think you are too trusting? How good are you at seeing if there is something FISHY going on?
3. Do you have a SMALL world experience?
4. How good are you at staying on topic? How often do you get SIDETRACKED in conversations or presentations?
5. When was the last time you had to pay AN ARM and a LEG for something? Was it worth it?
6. What other social behaviour is frowned UPON in public in your country?
7. If you've made a mistake, do you tend to PASS the buck? Or own up to your mistake?
8. Has a big plan of yours ever fallen THROUGH? Why didn't it happen? How did it make you feel?
9. When was the last time you were bored STIFF? Why?
10. Are you a drama queen? Do you tend to make A MOUNTAIN out of A MOLEHILL?
11. Are there any habits/theories that you know are a good idea but that you struggle to put INTO practice?
12. How well do you usually cope with adversity? Does your heart SINK? Or are you good at keeping your spirits UP?
13. AT first glance, do you think someone could mistake you for a famous person?
14. How do you normally calm down if you're feeling ON edge?
15. Do you like mystery books/films/TV shows? How good are you at putting TWO and TWO together?
16. Who do you think will win the next elections in your country? Are there any issues that you think might TIP the balance IN favour of one party?
17. What would it take for you to turn your back ON your best friend?
18. Do you feel like you measure UP to your parents' expectations?