

False Friends - verbs

➔ **ACCOST** – nothing to do with taking anybody to bed. It translates as “*abordar*”

➔ **ADVISE** is not “avisar” but “*aconsejar*”, “*orientar*”, “*asesorar*”. “Avisar” most frequently translates as “warn” (of a danger) or “let know”. The noun is “*advice*”, which translates as “*consejo*”.

➔ **ATTEND** rarely means “atender”, as in ‘*The Pope always travels with his own team of doctors attending on him*’ (= taking care of / looking after him) The commonest meaning of “attend” is “*asistir*”. “*estar presente*”. Other possible translations of “atender”:

- 1) *listen to / pay attention to*
- 2) *wait on / serve* (in a shop)

➔ **INTEND** means “*proponerse*”. “*querer hacer*”. “*tener intención de*”. There are other words for “intentar”: “(make an) attempt”, “try”.

➔ **INVEST** has to do with economics and translates as “*invertir*”. The noun is “*investment*” (= “inversion”)

➔ **MOLEST** has negative sexual connotations. Possible translations:

“*ofender*”, “*faltar al respeto*”, “*meterse con*”

For Spanish “molestar” we have several equivalents: “*bother*”, “*disturb*”.

“**Molestation**” is a common crime in the USA, and a ‘child molester’ is someone who tries to have sex with children.

➔ **PRETEND** may translate as “*fingir*”. “*aparentar*”, as in: ‘*Stop pretending!*’ (= ¡Déjate de mentiras!) “Pretender”, however, is translated as “*try*”, “*intend*”.

➔ **QUIT** has nothing to do with “quitar”. It means “*dejar de*”, “*parar*”, “*abandonar*”. “Quitar” can be translated as “*take (away)*”, “*take off*”, “*steal*”, though it may simply mean “*turn off (the light/radio/TV...)*”

➔ **REALIZE** translates as “*darse cuenta*”, “*caer en la cuenta de*”. The English equivalent for “realizar” is “*carry out*”. Sometimes, simply “*make*” or “*do*”.

➔ **RECORD** has nothing to do with memories. The most frequent translation is “*grabar*” but it can also be translated as “*registrar*”, “*fichar*”, “*tomar nota de*”. There are other verbs conveying the meaning of Spanish “recordar”, such as “*remember*”, “*recall*”, “*remind*”

➔ **REMOVE** is not “remover”, but “*quitar*”, “*eliminar*”, “*extirpar*”.

Spanish verb “remover” translates as “*stir (up)*” (the sugar in a cup of coffee), or “*toss*” (a salad).

➔ **REST** means “*descansar*”, “*reposar*”.

“Restar” is an arithmetical operation which translates as “*subtract*”, “*take away*”.

➔ **TRADUCE** does not mean “traducir” but “*calumniar*” or “*difamar*”.

The translation of “traducir” is “*translate*”