

FALSE SPANISH FRIENDS

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Many Spanish words look the same as their English counterparts--but not all! Here's a sampling of some false friends, much like the French ones listed in the August 1975 and February 1976 Word Ways.

AJAR to crumple ARENA sand
 BALSA pool BATE bat BLOC pad BRONCO rough
 CAFE coffee CANAPE sofa CARTEL poster CARTON cardboard COLA tail
 COLLAR necklace COMA comma COMER to eat CON with CORAL choral
 CORDON string COL cabbage
 DADO dice DON talent
 ENLACE connection
 FARO lighthouse FIN end FINES Finnish FRAY friar
 GALAS finery GALES Wales GENIAL brilliant GUSTO taste
 INGLE groin INSTAR urge
 LABIA glibness LAUD lute LEER to read LIAR to tie LID fight LIMO mud
 MASCARA mask MATE dull MAYO May MAYOR bigger MEDIA stocking
 MEMO stupid MESON inn MOLE mass MOTE nickname MORAL mulberry
 NON odd
 ONCE eleven
 PACER to graze PAN bread PAPA Pope PARED wall PASTEL cake
 PESO weight PIE foot POLO pole PRO for PURE puree
 QUINCE fifteen
 RED network RENTABLE profitable REPLICIA answer RUIN despicable
 SAUCE willow SEA to be SIN without SON sound SOY to be
 TALON heel TALLER workshop TAN so TOPE maximum TUNA prickly pear
 VALE voucher VINE to come VISOR viewfinder

But the falsest friend of all is the Spanish word INHABITABLE which my dictionary translates as "uninhabitable"!