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Cognates: The window to understanding connections between languages

WebQuest Description: Acquiring a new language is a daunting process and every tool that can assist learners needs to be explored. All people have a demonstrable ability to learn a language proven by their being able to speak their mother-tongue. Cognates are words that are related by descent from the same ancestral language. By introducing students to the similarities between their first language and the language they are studying can provide a scaffold for learning.
Grade Level: College / Adult
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: Cognates,false-cognates, language acquisition, differences, suffix's
Published On:
Last Modified: 2016-01-17 15:12:06
WebQuest URL: http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=308074

Introduction

Language learners may not realize how their nativelanguage and the one they are studying are connected historically. Understanding these connections canfacilitate the development of a greater vocabulary base without the necessityof learning individual words. While there are exceptions, many words have theexact same spelling with the exception of the suffix. The list of suffix'sbelow provides some examples of common words between English and Portuguese.There are about 3,000 cognates between English and Portuguese.Word Endings / SuffixsEnglish   PortugueseAl

gia,   ico,   ico,
ido,   ismo,   ista,
ivo,   mento,   or,
orio,   oso,   siao,
sis,   cao,   dade

Process

WEBSITES: Begin your search.... http://blogs.transparent.com/portuguese/1000-words-you-already-know-in-Portuguese/ http://www.learn-portuguese-now.com/cognates.html
http://www.cognates.org/img/cognate_languages.jpg
http://www.cognates.org/cognates_by_nature.html http://www.cognates.org/research/oxford.html http://reallifeglobal.com/the-17-most-dangerous-brazilian-false-cognate-errors-in-English/ http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cognate#
tourist dentist humorist Tourists need dentists, not humorists. turista dentista humorista Os turistas precisam de dentistas, não humoristas.

Conclusion

Increasing usable vocabulary in a new language is an important part of being able to communicate effectively. Many linguists believe that knowing 3000 words is enough to have conversational fluency. With the knowledge provided in this webquest, students can take a 'short-cut' to increasing their vocabulary.

Teacher Page

Standards

Credits

Other