

DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATION (XII): COLLOCATIONS

A. Match each of the nouns on the left with the appropriate verb on the right. Then translate each collocation into Spanish.

		Translation into Spanish
1. Milk	rings	
2. A volcano	flows	
3. A kettle	bounces	
4. A bell	flushes	
5. A ball	erupts	
6. A violin string	swings	
7. A toilet	stretches	
8. A pendulum	boils	
9. A river	goes off	
10. An elastic	vibrates	
11. An egg	sets sail	
12. An aeroplane	blooms	
13. A flower	arises	
14. A plant	takes root	
15. A ship	falls	
16. Day	breaks	
17. A problem	takes off	
18. Night	breaks out	
19. War	comes out	
20. The moon	hatches	

B. Divide the words in the list into verbs and nouns and then choose the correct collocations between them. Finally, translate them into Spanish.

concern	conclusions	decision	deflate
draw	ego	expound	foretell
future	hole	joy	law
make	manage	mar	quench
repeal	take	theory	thirst

	Translation into Spanish
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Oposiciones al Cuerpo de Profesores de E.O.I. 2022-2023

5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	

C. Divide the words in the list into adjectives and nouns and then choose the correct collocations. Finally, translate them into Spanish.

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| accent | activity | alarming | auspicious |
| behaviour | bend | broad | crime rate |
| detail | difficulty | efficacious | grapes |
| insurmountable | medicine | metals | occasion |
| offensive | precious | precise | sharp |
| situation | sour | strenuous | stressful |

	Translation into Spanish
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	

D. Fill in the gaps with the verbs which commonly precede the following Spanish nouns. Compare the verbs in the equivalent English periphrases.

____ una fiesta ____ una decisión ____ una visita ____ la guerra
 ____ un discurso ____ la sed ____ el amor ____ un papel
 ____ un paso ____ un golpe ____ una queja ____ cambios
 ____ una paliza ____ dinero

E. Match each of the partitives given on the left with one of the non-count nouns on the right. Translate the sequences into Spanish.

Full collocation + translation

loaf	glass	
slice	paper	
rasher	dust	
sheet	bacon	
stick	chocolate	
pane	keys	
particle	chalk	
flock	birds	
bunch	bread	
bar	cake	

ANSWER KEY

A. Match each of the nouns on the left with the appropriate verb on the right. Then translate into Spanish.

	Translation into Spanish
1. Milk goes off	La leche se echa a perder/se corta/se estropea/se pone mala, agria, en mal estado
2. A volcano erupts	Un volcano erupciona/entra en erupción
3. A kettle boils	Una tetera hierve/silba
4. A bell rings	Un timbre suena; una campana suena/tañe/repica
5. A ball bounces	Una pelota/un balón (re)bota
6. A violin string vibrates	Una cuerda de violín vibra
7. A toilet flushes	Un inodoro evacúa/el váter descarga agua
8. A pendulum swings	Un péndulo oscila
9. A river flows	Un río fluye/corre
10. An elastic stretches	Una goma se estira
11. An egg hatches	Un huevo eclosiona/un cascarón se rompe
12. An aeroplane takes off	Un avión despega
13. A flower blooms	Una flor florece/se abre
14. A plant takes root	Una planta agarra/se enraiza/echa raíces
15. A ship sets sail	Un barco zarpa/se echa a la mar (poet)
16. Day breaks	Amanece/rompe el día (poet)
17. A problem arises* ¹	Surge un problema
18. Night falls	Anochece/cae la noche (poet)
19. War breaks out	Estalla la guerra
20. The moon comes out* ¹	La luna sale

Comentado [Office1]: The outbreak of a war

*¹The moon can also rise and set, just like the sun.

B. Divide the words in the list into verbs and nouns and then choose the correct collocations between them. Finally, translate them into Spanish.

Concern	conclusions	decision	deflate
draw	ego	expound	foretell
future	hole	joy	law
make	manage	mar	quench
repeal	take	theory	thirst

	Translation into Spanish
1. To foretell the future	Predecir el futuro
2. To quench your thirst	Saciar/calmar la sed
3. To repeal a law	Revocar una ley
4. To draw conclusions	Extraer/sacar conclusiones

Oposiciones al Cuerpo de Profesores de E.O.I. 2022-2023

5.	To take/make a decision	Tomar una decisión
6.	To deflate someone's ego	Bajarle los humos a alguien
7.	To make a hole	Cavar/hacer un hoyo/un agujero
8.	To mar someone's joy	Aguarle la fiesta a alguien/empañar la alegría de alguien
9.	To expound a theory	Exponer una teoría
10.	To manage a concern	Arreglar un asunto
11.	To take joy	Regocijarse

C. Divide the words in the list into adjectives and nouns and then choose the correct collocations. Finally, translate them into Spanish.

Accent	activity	alarming	auspicious
behaviour	bend	broad	crime rate
detail	difficulty	efficacious	grapes
insurmountable	medicine	metals	occasion
offensive	precious	precise	sharp
situation	sour	strenuous	stressful

	Translation into Spanish
1. A broad accent (= strong)	Un acento fuerte
2. Offensive behaviour *2	Actitud/comportamiento ofensivo
3. Sour grapes	Uvas ácidas
4. Strenuous activity	Actividad extenuante
5. Insurmountable difficulty	Dificultad insalvable
6. Sharp bend *2	Curva pronunciada
7. Stressful situation	Situación estresante
8. Precious metals	Metales preciosos
9. Efficacious medicine (= effective)	Medicina eficaz
10. Alarming crime rate	Tasa de criminalidad alarmante
11. An auspicious occasion	Una ocasión propicia/favorable
12. A precise detail	Un detalle exacto

*2 *Sharp behaviour* is also possible, and could be translated as *actitud cortante, brusca*.

D. Fill in the gaps with the verbs which commonly precede the following Spanish nouns. Compare the verbs in the equivalent English periphrases.

___ una fiesta ___ una decisión ___ una visita ___ la guerra
 ___ un discurso ___ la sed ___ una paliza ___ un papel

_____ un paso _____ un golpe _____ una queja _____ cambios

Dar/organizar una fiesta: to throw/give/hold/organise a party

Pronunciar/Dar un discurso: to deliver/give/make a speech

Dar un paso: to take/make a step

Propinar una paliza: to give a beating

Tomar una decisión: to make/take a decision

Saciar/calmar la sed: to quench your thirst

Dar/propinar un golpe: to deal/strike/deliver a blow

Hacer dinero: to make money

Ganar dinero: to earn money

Hacer una visita: to pay/make a visit

Presentar/poner una queja: to lodge/file/make a complaint

Declarar la guerra: to wage/declare war

Interpretar un papel: to play a role/a part

Rajar un papel: to tear up a piece of paper

Sufrir, experimentar cambios: to undergo changes

Comentado [Office2]: You may also undergo surgery (better than the simple "have an operation").

E. Match each of the partitives given on the left with one of the non-count nouns on the right. Translate the sequences into Spanish.

Full collocation + translation

loaf	glass	A loaf of bread: una barra de pan
slice	paper	A slice of cake: una porción/un trozo de tarta
rasher	dust	A rasher of bacon: una tira de bacon
sheet	bacon	A sheet of paper: una hoja de papel
stick	chocolate	A stick of chalk: un trozo de tiza
pane	keys	A pane of glass: cristal
particle	chalk	A particle of dust (or "a speck of dust"): una mota de polvo
flock	birds	A flock of birds* ³ : una bandada de pájaros
bunch	bread	A bunch of keys* ⁴ : un puñado de llaves
bar	cake	A bar of chocolate: una tableta de chocolate

*³: A flock of sheep: un rebaño de ovejas

*⁴: A bunch of grapes: un racimo de uvas // a bunch of friends: un puñado de amigos // a bunch of bananas: un manojo, racimo de plátanos.