

This story happened about four years ago, but I just remembered it yesterday after talking with one of my students (Hola Carol :))

One day, a friend from the US who lived in Ecuador for a few months told me:

“Andrés, hoy fue un día extraño”.
(*Andrés, today was a strange day.*)

After hearing that phrase I was ready to hear something interesting, so I just asked her what happened and let her keep talking.

“Primero, el bus que tomé para ir a Quito se rompió”.
(*First, the bus that I took to go to Quito broke in half.*)

My answer:

WHAT?!!!

And she again:

“Sí, el bus se rompió”.
(*Yes, the bus broke in half.*)

Since she told me it was a strange day, I assumed something really weird had happened and the bus actually broke in half, but then I remembered something:

The verb “break” sometimes is tricky.

You see, if you say “el bus se rompió,” the words that my friend used, it means “the bus broke in half”. Something weird but not impossible to happen.

BUT

What she really meant to say was “the bus broke down”, which in Spanish is “el bus se dañó.”

A small but important difference.

When I explained the difference to her, she just laughed and said that she had already told the same story to more people, and no one had corrected her.

I wonder if they thought it actually happened.

She felt a bit embarrassed, but she also kept laughing about it. And the best thing is, after that day she never made that mistake again.

It was a good confusion after all.

That brings us to the lesson I have for you today:

Don't be afraid of making mistakes.

I'll say that again, just in case:

Don't be afraid of making mistakes.

any language learners, especially (but not exclusively) beginners, are afraid to talk to a native speaker.

Why?

They don't want to make a mistake. They don't want to feel embarrassed. And they don't want to feel stupid.

If you think that way, well... I have bad news for you:

Making mistakes and feeling embarrassed from time to time is part of the learning process. There is no way to avoid that.

The good news is, people don't really care if you don't speak perfect Spanish. Even native speakers make mistakes from time to time, why would we judge a person who is learning our language?

So if you have the opportunity to speak Spanish, take it.

You won't regret it.

And if you make a funny mistake, just laugh. That's the best way to cure that embarrassment.

And if you want a little help to learn or improve your Spanish:

[Online Spanish Lessons.](#)

P.S. I made tons of mistakes when I was actively learning English, and I still do it now. My favorite one, I used to confuse the pronunciation of "sheet" and "shit". Can you imagine how funny some conversations were?

Spanish with Andrés

Valle de los Chillos, Sangolqui
Ecuador

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