

Good and false friends

Aim: To develop students' awareness of both helpful and misleading cognate relationships.

Materials: False friends worksheet

Vocabulary: False friend, good friend

Procedure:

1. Ask students whether they think cognates are always helpful. Point out that sometimes English words look like French words but the meanings are different. These are **false friends**.
2. Elicit examples to illustrate the problem. Ask what it means to say: "I have a quiet, gentle dog", Or: "My mother works in a library". Make the connection between the English term *false friends* and French *faux amis*. (Both terms are used in English to describe deceptive cognates.)
3. Pass out the false friends handout. Mention that they will be answering some questions in French.
4. Students work individually or in groups to answer the questions, using dictionaries if needed. Confirm correct answers.
5. To close the activity ask the students, "Which do you think there are more of in English-- good friends or false friends?" Answer: There are many more good friends. Thousands!