

What is the pattern?

Aim: To help students see cognate relationships that may not be obvious.

Materials Needed: Student worksheet, dictionaries if needed

Vocabulary: *pattern, borrow*

Procedure

1. Start by writing these sentences with missing words on the board:

_____ sofa _____ orange.

_____ train _____ long.

2. Ask the class which language they are in. If they answer "English," point out that they could also be French. Then elicit the complete sentences in the two languages.

The/Le sofa is/est orange.

The/Le train is/est long.

Note that the confusion is possible because words like *sofa* and *orange* have exactly the same spellings in both English and French.

3. Tell the students that they are going to learn how to understand some English words that are not identical in French (but come from French). There is a trick to doing this and they have to figure it out.
4. There are two different patterns or 'rules'. Pass out the handout but don't do an example as students have to try to find the patterns for themselves.
5. Students work individually or in pairs to complete the handout.
6. Check to see that they have arrived at the correct answers.

Notes:

1st pattern: In French, the words have *h* instead of *s*.

(e.g. English *host* = French *hôte*)

2nd pattern: In French, the words have *é* or *e* instead of *s*

(e.g. English *space* = French *espace*)

The second pattern is particularly useful to know. There are hundreds of examples!