

ENGLISH STRUCTURE	LANGUAGE TRANSFER ISSUE	LANGUAGES	SAMPLE TRANSFER ERRORS IN ENGLISH
Articles	There are no indefinite articles.	Chinese Hmong Korean Vietnamese	He goes to one class on Wednesdays. = He goes to a class on Wednesdays. I bought one cake from bakery. = I bought a cake from a bakery.
	The definite article can be omitted.	Hmong Spanish	Do you have book? = Do you have the book? Do you have a book?
	The indefinite article is not used before a profession.	Chinese Haitian Creole (article is optional if the predicate contains the verb be) Korean Spanish Vietnamese	He is teacher. = He is a teacher. My sister is famous doctor. = My sister is a famous doctor.
	The definite article can be used with a profession.	Spanish	The Professor Ruiz is helpful. = Professor Ruiz is helpful.
	Singular and plural definite articles follow the noun.	Haitian Creole Examples: zanmi an = friend (the) zanmi yo = friends (the)	<i>Note: Students may place definite articles incorrectly.</i>
Nouns	There is no plural form for nouns (plurals can be expressed through an adjective quantifier).	Chinese Hmong Korean (plurals are usually used for "people" nouns, such as my friends, and other nouns) Vietnamese	I have many good idea. = I have many good ideas. The paper has several problem. = The paper has several problems.
	There is no plural form after a number.	Chinese Haitian Creole (plural form is often omitted) Hmong Korean Vietnamese	There are three new student. = There are three new students. Vacation is four week. = Vacation is four weeks.
	A plural is formed by placing a plural marker after the noun.	Haitian Creole (indefinite plurals are unmarked) Korean	<i>Note: Students may add an additional word rather than adding -s to the noun.</i>

ENGLISH STRUCTURE	LANGUAGE TRANSFER ISSUE	LANGUAGES	SAMPLE TRANSFER ERRORS IN ENGLISH
Nouns, <i>continued</i>	In English, <i>-es</i> is added only after the consonants <i>s</i> , <i>x</i> , <i>ch</i> , <i>sh</i> , and <i>z</i> . Also, <i>y</i> is changed to <i>i</i> before adding <i>-es</i> . In other languages, <i>-es</i> is added to nouns that end in <i>y</i> or any consonant to form the plural.	Spanish	walles = walls rayes = rays
	English contains noncount nouns that do not have a plural form (for example: <i>fishing</i> , <i>money</i> , <i>bread</i> , <i>honesty</i> , <i>water</i> , <i>snow</i>).	Chinese Haitian Creole Hmong Korean Vietnamese	I like dancings. = I like dancing. She wears jewelrys. = She wears jewelry.
	Proper names can be listed last name first. <i>Chinese example:</i> Chan Fu Kwan is written last name first without a comma. <i>Vietnamese example:</i> Tran My Bao is written last, middle, first.	Chinese (always last name first) Hmong (In Asia) Korean Vietnamese	Note: Teachers and students may confuse first and last names.
	A first name is preferred when repeating a person's name.	Hmong Vietnamese	Mr. Kou Xiong is a teacher. Mr. Kou (first name) speaks many languages.
	Possessive nouns are formed with an of phrase.	Haitian Creole (Southern Haiti only) Spanish Vietnamese	This is the chair of Jamie. = This is Jamie's chair.
Pronouns	There is no distinction between subject and object pronouns.	Chinese Haitian Creole Hmong Spanish Vietnamese	I gave the forms to she. = I gave the forms to her. Him helped I. = He helped me.
	There is no gender difference for third person singular pronouns.	Chinese (spoken language only) Haitian Creole Hmong (uses the pronoun <i>it</i>) Vietnamese (uses familiar form of third person singular)	Talk to the girl and give it advice. = Talk to the girl and give her advice.

ENGLISH STRUCTURE	LANGUAGE TRANSFER ISSUE	LANGUAGES	SAMPLE TRANSFER ERRORS IN ENGLISH
Pronouns, <i>continued</i>	There is no distinction between simple, compound, subject, object, and reflexive pronouns.	Hmong	The book is I. = The book is mine. She is I sister. = She is my sister. I go I. = I go by myself.
	There are no relative pronouns.	Korean (modifying clause can function as a relative clause) Vietnamese	Look at the backpack is on the floor. = Look at the backpack which is on the floor.
	It is possible to omit the pronoun it as a subject.	Chinese Hmong Korean Vietnamese	What time? = What time is it? Three o'clock already. = It is three o'clock already.
	A possessive pronoun is formed by placing a separate word or character before the pronoun.	Vietnamese	This car is (of) him. = This car is his.
	A possessive pronoun is placed after the noun.	Haitian Creole	That book is (for) me. = That is my book.
Verbs	The verb <i>be</i> can be omitted with adjectives and prepositional phrases.	Chinese Haitian Creole Hmong Korean Vietnamese	We always cheerful. = We are always cheerful. I hungry. = I am hungry. You at home. = You are at home.
	The verb <i>be</i> is not used for adjectives or places.	Hmong Vietnamese	She beautiful. = She is beautiful. The book on the table. = The book is on the table.
	A verb is not inflected for person and number.	Chinese Haitian Creole Hmong Korean (verbs are inflected to reflect age or status) Vietnamese	That house have a big door. = That house has a big door. Everyone like you. = Everyone likes you.
	Several verbs can be used together with no words or punctuation to separate them.	Hmong Vietnamese	I cook eat at home. = I cook and eat at home.

ENGLISH STRUCTURE	LANGUAGE TRANSFER ISSUE	LANGUAGES	SAMPLE TRANSFER ERRORS IN ENGLISH
Verbs, <i>continued</i>	There is no gerund form (-ing) and/or no distinction between gerunds and infinitives.	Chinese (no form to show that an action is ongoing) Haitian Creole Hmong Korean Spanish Vietnamese	She hates to read. = She hates reading. She kept to talk. = She kept talking.
	The verb <i>be</i> can be used in place of <i>have</i> .	Korean	I am car. = I have one car.
	Infinitives are not used to indicate purpose.	Haitian Creole	I want learn English. = I want to learn English. I go to the library for study. = I go to the library to study.
	A <i>that</i> clause is used rather than an infinitive.	Hmong Spanish	I want that they try harder. = I want them to try harder.
	<i>Have</i> is used in place of <i>there is</i> , <i>there are</i> , or <i>there was</i> , <i>there were</i> .	Hmong Vietnamese	In the library have many books. = In the library, there are many books.
	The verb <i>have</i> is used to express states of being (such as age or hunger).	Spanish	She has ten years. = She is ten years old. I have hunger. = I am hungry.
	Two-word verbs, or phrasal verbs, exist in very few languages. (In addition to English, they are found in a few other languages, such as Dutch, German, and Scandinavian languages.)		Note: Most learners of English find two-word verbs difficult, but it is necessary to learn them in order to understand informal, conversational English.
Verb Tense	There are no tense inflections. Tense is usually indicated through context or by adding an expression of time.	Chinese Hmong (infinitive form of the verb is used with an expression of time) Vietnamese	When I am small, I ask many questions. = When I was small, I asked many questions. She teach math next semester. = She will teach math next semester.
	Verb tense does not change within the same sentence.	Haitian Creole Hmong	When we finish, we leave. = When we finish, we will leave.
	Present perfect tense can be used in place of past tense.	Haitian Creole	I have seen Lucas yesterday. = I saw Lucas yesterday.

ENGLISH STRUCTURE	LANGUAGE TRANSFER ISSUE	LANGUAGES	SAMPLE TRANSFER ERRORS IN ENGLISH
Verb Tense, <i>continued</i>	Present tense can be used in place of future tense. The present tense is used in place of the present perfect.	Haitian Creole Hmong Spanish	I finish it tomorrow. = I will finish it tomorrow. I live here a long time. = I have lived here a long time.
Adverbs	Adverbs are not used. Two adjectives or two verbs can be used to describe an adjective or verb.	Hmong	I run fast fast. = I run really fast. I run run to school. = I run quickly to school.
Adjectives	Adjectives follow the nouns they modify.	Hmong Spanish (the position of the adjective can also indicate meaning) Vietnamese	They have a house big. = They have a big house. We live in a village Laotian. = We live in a Laotian village.
	Adjectives can reflect number and gender.	Spanish	I have kinds parents. = I have kind parents.
	Some nouns and adjectives share the same form.	Chinese	<i>Note: Students may have difficulty choosing between noun and adjective forms.</i> She wants to be independence. = She wants to be independent.
	Comparative adjectives do not change form. They are expressed with the equivalent of <i>more</i> and <i>most</i> .	Hmong (add adverbs after the adjective) Korean Spanish	She is fast more. = She is faster. She is more old than you. = She is older than you.
	A definite article is used in place of a possessive adjective.	Spanish (definite article used for parts of the body)	Ana broke the leg. = Ana broke her leg.
	A possessive adjective is formed by placing a separate word, character, or article between the pronoun and the noun.	Chinese (Suffix May Be Omitted In Some Cases) Hmong	he (possessive character) book = his book
	Possessive adjectives are omitted when the association is clear.	Korean Vietnamese	He raised hand. = He raised his hand.
	There is no distinction between personal pronouns and possessive adjectives.	Vietnamese	It is book I. = It is my book.
Prepositions	Meanings of prepositions do not always correspond to those in English.	Spanish	Please put your dish on the sink. = Please put your dish in the sink.

ENGLISH STRUCTURE	LANGUAGE TRANSFER ISSUE	LANGUAGES	SAMPLE TRANSFER ERRORS IN ENGLISH
Word Order (Statements)	The verb precedes the subject.	Spanish	Arrived the teacher late. = The teacher arrived late.
	Verbs are placed last in a sentence. The usual word order is subject-object-verb.	Korean	The teacher the assignment gives. = The teacher gives the assignment.
	Subject and verb order is rarely changed.	Chinese Haitian Creole Korean	She is content and so I am. = She is content and so am I.
	A subject pronoun can be omitted when the subject is understood.	Chinese Korean (can omit the subject pronoun <i>you</i>) Spanish	Is crowded. = It is crowded. Am hungry. = I am hungry.
	A direct object precedes an indirect object when the indirect object is a pronoun.	Chinese (Cantonese Only)	I gave an apple him. = I gave him an apple.
	Adverbs and adverbial phrases can precede verbs.	Chinese Korean	I hard study. = I study hard. He by train goes to school. = He goes to school by train.
Questions	Yes/No questions can be formed by adding an element to the end of a declarative statement.	Chinese Hmong Korean Vietnamese (statement followed by phrase "or not")	The book is interesting, yes? = Is the book interesting? You like that color, no? = Do you like that color?
	Yes/No questions can be formed by adding a verb followed by its negative within a statement.	Chinese Vietnamese	You want not want watch movie? = Do you want to watch a movie or not?
	Yes/No questions can be formed by adding the question word between the pronoun and the verb.	Hmong	You (question word) like the school? = Do you like the school?
	Question words are placed according to the position of the answer. For example, if the answer functions as an object, the question words are placed in the regular object position.	Chinese Korean	He told you what? = What did he tell you? Tell me he is where? = Tell me where he is.
	The answers <i>yes</i> and <i>no</i> vary depending upon the verb used in the question.	Hmong	Note: Students may substitute a verb for a yes-or-no answer. Do you speak English? Speak. = Do you speak English? Yes. Do you speak English? No speak. = Do you speak English? No.

ENGLISH STRUCTURE	LANGUAGE TRANSFER ISSUE	LANGUAGES	SAMPLE TRANSFER ERRORS IN ENGLISH
Commands	Commands can be formed by adding an adverb after verbs to be emphasized.	Hmong (add the adverb now) Vietnamese (add the adverb right now)	Do now. = Do it!
	Commands can be formed by adding a time indicator after the verbs to be emphasized.	Hmong	Fix the car at 3:00. = Fix the car.
	Commands can be formed by adding the verb go for emphasis at the end of the sentence.	Vietnamese	Buy my groceries, go! = Buy my groceries.
	Commands can be formed by changing the verb ending.	Korean	Bring(ing) it over here. = Bring it over here.
Negatives and Negative Sentences	Double negatives are routinely used.	Haitian Creole Spanish	They don't like nothing. = They don't like anything.
	The negative marker goes before the verb phrase.	Korean (especially in informal situations) Spanish	Joey not has finished the homework. = Joey has not finished the homework.
Subjects and Predicates	Sentences do not always include a subject.	Spanish	Is fun to cook? = Is it fun to cook? Raining. = It is raining. Is your mother? Yes, is. = Is she your mother. Yes, she is.