

HINTS FOR WORKING ON CONNECT: HOW TO AVOID LOSING CREDIT DUE TO COMMON ERRORS

1.) SPELLING:

All answers MUST be spelled correctly for credit. If you are not getting full credit for a particular question, check the spelling in your textbook to make certain you are spelling each word correctly. ¡OJO! This includes ACCENT MARKS! If a word needs an accent mark, and you do not use one, you will not get credit for your answer. **EXAMPLE:**

If you need to write the informal singular subject pronoun for “you”, and you write “tu” instead of “tú”, your answer will not be correct. (tú = you; tu = your). Watch out as well for “él” vs. “el”: él = he; el = the (masculine singular definite article).

2.) VOCABULARY & ARTICLES:

Read instructions very carefully. Many times you must write a vocabulary word to complete a sentence or in relation to a picture you see. Often, students will get the right word, but not get credit because they did not follow instructions with regard to the inclusion/omission of the article, or the correct article (definite vs. indefinite). **EXAMPLES:**

A) ARTICLE IS REQUIRED, BUT YOU DO NOT INCLUDE IT IN YOUR ANSWER.

YOU SEE: *Write the vocabulary word that corresponds to the picture. Include the DEFINITE article.
(+ picture of a book)*

YOU WRITE: libro

RESULT: No credit is given because you did not include the definite article “el” that corresponds to “libro.” Also, if you include the article, but use the INDEFINITE article, “un”, it would also be wrong because the instruction requires that you use the DEFINITE article, “el”.

B.) ARTICLE IS *NOT* REQUIRED, BUT YOU INCLUDE IT IN YOUR ANSWER.

YOU SEE: *Complete the sentence with the correct vocabulary word:
Hay un ____ en la mesa. (+ picture of dictionary)*

YOU WRITE: un diccionario (or) el diccionario

RESULT: No credit is given because:
*in both cases, the use of an article is not needed because it is already in the sentence.
i.e., if you write “un diccionario”, the sentence then reads: Hay **un un diccionario** en la mesa.
*if you wrote “el” it would also be wrong because, even if an article was required, you must use the indefinite article in sentences with “hay” = there is/ there are.

3.) VERB CONJUGATIONS

Be sure that the verb conjugation required in a sentence corresponds to the subject. **EXAMPLE:**

YOU SEE: *Complete the sentence with the correct conjugation of the verb in parentheses.
Susana y Ana _____ matemáticas. (ESTUDIAR)*

YOU WRITE: estudia

RESULT: No credit is given because the conjugation “estudia” does not correspond to the subject “Susana y Ana.” Since “Susana y Ana” = ellas, the correct conjugation is “estudian.”

4.) HINTS / GRAMMAR REFERENCES

If you are stuck on a question and not sure how to answer, be sure to click on any grammar links or hints on the page:

[Subject Pronouns: Present Tense of -ar Verbs: Negation \(Part 1\)](#)

[Subject Pronouns: Present Tense of -ar Verbs: Negation \(Part 2\)](#)

These links take you to the corresponding video tutorial

Hints

References

eBook & Resources

[Hint #1](#)

This hint will open a window that shows you information related to the question that can help you.

5.) ASK THE INSTRUCTOR A QUESTION

If you have tried all of the above suggestions for possible incorrect answers, use the “ASK THE INSTRUCTOR” option. This will send a message to your instructor’s Connect Inbox, and your instructor will receive the question + a direct link to the question you are asking about so that he/she can try to give you guidance on how to get the correct answer. ¡OJO! Be sure to give your instructor plenty of time before the due date and time so that you can get a response before it is too late, e.g., if you send this request at 11:30 at night and your assignment is due at 11:59 p.m., this is not enough time to expect a response. ALSO: You might want to send a follow-up email to your instructor alerting him/her to the fact that you have posted a question on Connect.