

LA LISTA DE HORRORES

«Horror»	Explicación gramatical	Forma debida
la problema la tema la mapa	Careful with gender irregularities! Many words of Greek origin which end in -ma, -pa, -ta are masculine, although they end in -a.	el problema el tema el mapa
Realicé que estaba equivocada.	Realizar is a false cognate. Pay special attention to false cognates as you learn your vocabulary. The <i>Punto y aparte</i> textbook warns you of several.	Me di cuenta de que estaba equivocada.
Vi Silvia ayer.	When the direct object is a specific person or people, it must be preceded by the personal a. If the direct object comes after the verb tener or is an indefinite or unknown subject, you do not use the a.	Vi a Silvia ayer. Tengo tres hermanas. Busco una persona que hable español.
una otra solución	Never use the indefinite article before otro/a/os/as.	otra solución
Busco por el libro. Espero por el autobús.	The use of prepositions must be memorized. Some verbs take no preposition where they do in English, some take a different preposition from their English counterpart, and some take a preposition where they take none in Spanish.	Busco el libro. Espero el autobús.
Sra. Alonso es tan lista como profesor Gómez.	When you are talking about someone, you must include the article before the title. The article is eliminated when speaking directly to the person.	La Sra. Alonso es tan lista como el profesor Gómez. Sergio: «Sra. Alonso, conoce Ud. al profesor Gómez?»
Amor es un problema.	Remember that the direct article is used much more often in Spanish than in English, especially before the subject of the sentence.	El amor es un problema.
cincuenta años pasados	You must use an hace... que construction to express "years, weeks, days ago."	hace cincuenta años
Tuve un buen/mal tiempo.	This has no meaning in Spanish. To express "to have a good/bad time," you must use these expressions:	Lo pasé bien/mal. (No) Me divertí mucho (nada).
Sara y Ingrid; Olivia o Oscar	The word y changes to e before a word beginning with an "i" sound. O changes to u before a word beginning with an "o" sound.	Sara e Ingrid; Olivia u Oscar
muchos tiempos	Tiempo refers to the concept of time and weather. When you want to refer to a number of times use veces.	muchas veces