

# TRANSFER

The tendency to compare aspects of the 2nd language to what has already been learned in the 1st language. This represents the cognitive operation known as transfer.

*“that kinda equals that”*

Whenever we learn something new, long-term memory searches our brain's storage for past learnings that are similar to, or associated with, the new learning. If this happens, the **memory networks are activated** and the associated memories are **reconsolidated** in working memory.



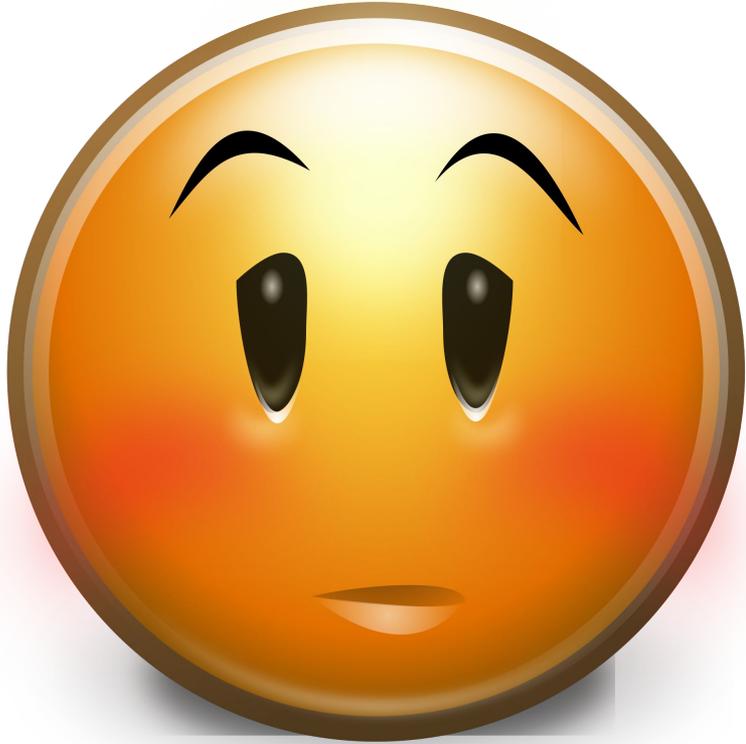
In other words, the brain gets **lit!**

## Here's an example

The Spanish word for “pregnant” is “embarazada”. What English word comes to mind when you hear this word?



Embarrassed!!



Red-faced!!

This encompasses the idea that one might deal gently with the person who is red-faced.

This recycling of past words  
 (“embarrassed”) into the new flow  
 (“pregnant” in Spanish) **reinforces** and  
 **provides additional rehearsal** for new  
 **material** but also

*aids in assigning meaning to  
 the new information.*



JAMES WHATLING  
SPLASH NEWS



JAMES WHATLING  
SPLASH NEWS

## *Other words I have learned using transfer:*

1. “hello” in Japanese
2. “mask” in Spanish
3. “rat’s mouth”(Spanish)
4. “plaid shirt”
5. go “left” in French
6. go “right” in Spanish

1. “Ohio”
2. “mascara”
3. “Boca Raton”
4. “cuadros, quad”
5. “gauche”
6. derecha



Can you give some examples of vocabulary you’ve learned easily through transfer?

ELLs from non-literacy oriented homes know very few descriptive synonyms in English for common words, yet they need these to succeed academically.

Recycle words periodically, especially synonyms!

miniscule, miniscula, letras mayusculas



Transfer is a **mnemonic** device.

**mnemonic**-- anything that aids information *retention* and *retrieval*. Sometimes it is a pattern of letters, ideas, or associations

## *Transfer affects:*

acquisition of vocabulary

phonetics/grammar

CASAs preparation

connecting language and culture

# Transfer can be positive or it can be negative

An example of negative transfer would be to use the grammatical rule to put adjectives behind the noun instead of in front of the noun,

**“a hat yellow”**

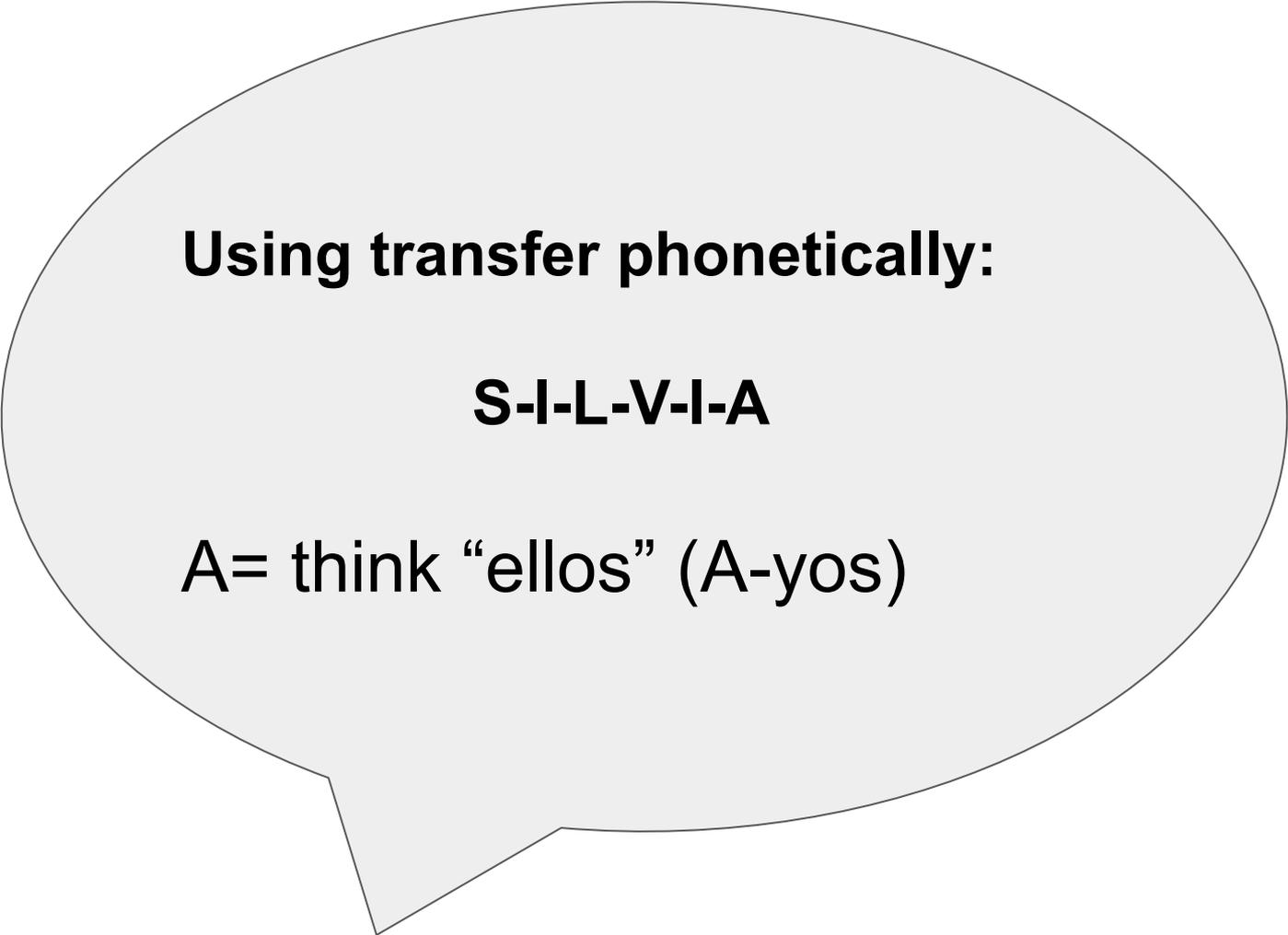
**10/28/2021**  
**mm/dd/yyyy**

**28/10/2021**  
**dd/mm/yyyy**

Another example of negative transfer would be:

the French word “librarie” means bookstore.

The French word for library is une bibliothèque



**Using transfer phonetically:**

**S-I-L-V-I-A**

A= think “ellos” (A-yos)

spelling

|

S-



-L-V



-A



Special thanks to “Courtney Carter from Kent ISD, who mentioned using a snake to reinforce present tense with a snake. “he walkssssss” “she walkssssss” “I walk” “you walk” “we walk” “they walk”. Students make a *negative* transfer of grammatical rules when they associate “s” with plurals, but the verb “s” is for one person.

The American flag has 13 stripes (straipes)

Does he drive? Das he draiv?

straight hair = strite hair

Transfer is an important factor in language learning at all levels and is probably a major contributor to what linguists call the “interaction hypothesis.”

This holds that L1 and L2 will exert influences on each other when the L2 is acquired at a later age.

*How the ELL Brain Learns, David Sousa*

**TEACHING ASSISTANT AT  
CARLTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Help teach students to read  
Mon. - Fri. 9:00-3:00  
Apply by fax to Mr. Bates 555-3928

**24** What does the teaching assistant do?

- A. send faxes to students
- B. help children learn to read
- C. read to children
- D. assist Mr. Bates

← Back End Test

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

# Using transfer for CASAs preparation



## CASAs testing

FOR **ANYBODY**  Urgent

DATE **MAY 25** TIME \_\_\_\_\_ A.M. / P.M.

**While You Were Out**

M. **BOB BARR**

OF ~~RE~~ **LIBERTARIANS**

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ AREA CODE \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXTENSION \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CAME TO SEE YOU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RETURNED YOUR CALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

MESSAGE

**I'M THE NOMINEE!**

**WHERE'S THE**

**MEDIA COVERAGE?**

**WHERE'S THE WEB**

**FUNDRAISING DRIVE?**

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

We also have to think about the transfer of culture and experience. Most of us recognize this pink message pad. We've been exposed to this for many years. (But apparently these are not used very much anymore. I get phone messages on a post-it note at my job.)

## Conclusion:

Efforts to boost transfer for ESL students can have a positive effect on retention and retrieval of information, thus making learning more positive and fun.