False Friends at School and Work

English words that look like Spanish words but mean something different, at school, at college and at work, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 7

a lecture · hand in your notice · a qualified success

At school — A1–A2

lecture	reading
college	school
signature	subject
notice	news
record	remember
title	degree
career	degree course

left: the English word · right: what the Spanish look-alike means

At work and in town — A1–A2

fabric	factory
argument	plot
discuss	argue
advertise	warn
conductor	driver
résumé	summary
qualifications	marks

discuss the plan (no "about") · some news, not a news

College and the job hunt — B1–B2

Study: a lecture, a lecturer, a seminar, a tutor, a degree, a degree course, a sixth-form college

Applying: a job advert, a CV (US résumé), a cover letter, apply for, qualifications, qualify as

Leaving: hand in your notice, a notice period, at short notice, a noticeboard

Forms: title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Dr), signature, sign, record your hours

Talking: discuss something, argue about something, have an argument

*She **qualified as** a nurse, then **handed in her notice** at the café.*

marks or grades = your results; qualifications = your degrees and certificates

Partial false friends — C1–C2

College: go to college (US) · go to university (UK) · a community college · an Oxford college

Degree and title: hold a degree in · a first-class degree · a job title · a form of address

Argue: argue with (quarrel) · argue that (give reasons) · the argument of a book

Record: on record, off the record, a track record, set the record straight

Qualify and notice: qualify a statement, a qualified success · until further notice, take notice of

*The author **argues that** the reform was only **a qualified success**.*

RE-cord (noun) · re-CORD (verb)

At college and work

- *I have a degree in history.*
- *Can we discuss my timetable?*
- *I've attached my CV.*
- *My notice period is one month.*

Common mistakes

- ~~I study a career in law.~~ → I'm doing a **law degree**.
- ~~My favourite signature~~ → my favourite **subject**
- ~~I advertise you~~ → I **warn** you / I'll **let you know**
- ~~I don't record his name.~~ → I don't **remember** it.

Words with a past

- **fabric**: Latin *fabrica*, a workshop
- **notice**: Latin *notitia*, knowledge
- **discuss**: Latin *discutere*, to shake apart
- **résumé**: Latin *resumere*, to take up again

My new words

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