# Lexia® Core5® Reading Contrastive Analysis Guide

This guide supports educators in understanding how Multilingual Learners' (ML) home language may influence their acquisition of General American English (GAE). The charts included in this guide highlight frequent and predictable differences in phonology and language usage between students' home languages and English. These charts are not intended to be a complete description of each language, nor are they all-inclusive.

#### Why is Contrastive Analysis important?

In order to support a student's ability to successfully acquire English, home languages should be leveraged while providing explicit instruction in phonology, phonics, grammar, comprehension, writing, and vocabulary. By recognizing both positive (when two languages are similar) and negative (when two languages are different) language transfer, teachers can better support students in their English language and literacy development.

#### How can the Contrastive Analysis Guide be used?

Educators can use this guide to inform instruction, assessment, and intervention practices. It can help identify and address predictable areas of difficulty that MLs may encounter, as well as opportunities to leverage similarities between their home language and English. By understanding these comparisons, educators can:

- Encourage students to use their home language while they strive to make connections and comparisons to English sounds, words, phrases, and sentences.
- Provide direct, explicit, and systematic instruction of the similarities and differences between the languages.
- Use this guide as a communication tool to guide conversations with caregivers about the similarities and differences between the English language and their home language.
- Preview and review instructional materials to anticipate areas of instruction or clarification.
- Provide immediate corrective feedback on errors or misunderstandings that both share the English correction and also connect to the learners' home language.













#### **Phonology Contrastive Analysis**

Each column provides explanations and examples for how students may merge, replace, or omit sounds. In cases of replaced sounds, the word outside the parentheses represents what students might say, while the word in parentheses shows the expected pronunciation.

General American					Possible Vow	el Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/ē/ as in eagle, Pete, bee, team				May replace with /i/ fit (feet); sit (seat)	Merges with /ĭ/ seat/sit; ween/win	Merges with /ĭ/ seat/sit; ween/win In word-initial position, may acquire an initial glottal stop ?eat (eat)	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels; may have difficulty holding the vowel sound before a voiced consonant	Merges with /i/ seat/sit; ween/win; sheep/ship; cheap/chip Pronounced excessively long in open syllables, interfering in sentence-level prosody see vs. seem	/i/—as opposed to the long /ē/, Tagalog /i/ is slightly long and stressed as in the /i/ between team and Tim	May replace with /i/ fit (feet) May have difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant
/ĭ/ as in itch	May replace with /ē/ team (Tim); cheap (chip); sheen (shin) Merges with /ī/ lit/light; spit/spite Merges with /ă/, /ĕ/, /ŏ/, and /ŭ/ din/den/Dan/ don/done	May replace with /ē/ team (Tim); cheap (chip); sheen (shin) Merges with /ī/ lit/light; spit/spite Merges with /ă/, /ĕ/, /ŏ/, and /ŭ/ din/den/Dan/ don/done	May replace with /ē/ sheep (ship)	May replace with /ē/ team (Tim); cheap (chip); sheen (shin) Merges with /ī/ lit/light; spit/spite	Merges with /ē/ sheep/ship; bean/bin	May omit or may lower preceding word-final voiced nasal /ŋ/ sing (sing)	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels; merges with /ĕ/ etch/itch	Merges with /ē/ seat/sit; ween/win; sheep/ship; cheap/chip	/i/—as opposed to the long /ē/, Tagalog /i/ is slightly long and stressed as in the /i/ between team and Tim	May replace with /ē/ eetch (itch) Has difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant

General American					Possible Vow	el Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/ā/ as in acorn, cake, rain, play	Merges with /ä/ nape/nap; bake/back	Merges with /ă/ nape/nap; bake/back	May replace with é, which merges /ē/ for <b>Pete</b> and /ĕ/ for <b>echo</b>	Merges with /ĕ/ made/med; wait/wet; mane/men	Merges with /ĕ/ made/med; wait/wet; mane/men	Merges with /ĕ/ made/med; wait/wet; mane/men In word-initial position, may acquire an initial glottal stop ?eat (eat)	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels	Merges with /ĕ/ or can be confused with /ĭ/ made/med; wait/wet; mane/men Pronounced excessively long in open syllables, interfering in sentence-level prosody say vs. same	Pronounced as /ɔ/ always	May replace with /ö/ [British] sod ([American] sod)  Has difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant
/ĕ/ as in echo	Merges with   ă ,  ĭ ,  ŏ ,  and  ŭ   din/den/Dan/ don/done	Merges with  /ă/, /ĭ/, /ŏ/,  and /ŭ/  din/den/Dan/ don/done	Replaces with é, which merges /ē/ for <b>Pete</b> and /ĕ/ for <b>echo</b>		Merges with /ā/ made/med; wait/wet; mane/men Merges with /ă/ head/had; leg/lag	Merges with /ā/ and /ĕ/ made/med; wait/wet; mane/men	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels sad/said	Merges with /ā/ made/med; wait/wet; mane/men		May have difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant
/ă/ as in apple	Merges with /ā/ nape/nap; bake/back Merges with /ĕ/, /ĭ/, /ŏ/, and /ŭ/ din/den/Dan/ don/done	Merges with /ā/ nape/nap; bake/back Merges with /ĕ/,/ĭ/,/ŏ/, and /ŭ/ din/den/Dan/ don/done	Replaces with schwa /ə/ sound <b>apple/appel</b>	Merges with /ā/ nape/nap; bake/back	Merges with /ĕ/ head/had; leg/lag; bed/bad; pet/pat	Replaces with /ŭ/ or /ŏ/ or /ĕ/ pun (pan); ofter (after); lend (land)	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels	Merges with /ŭ/ and /ŏ/ sad/sod/sud; bad/bod/bud	Merges with /a/ in the first syllable in above or about. To be more specific, the pronunciation is between the long [æ] and the schwa [ə] sounds.	Replaces with /ĕ/ met (mat) May have difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant

General American					Possible Vow	el Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/ī/ as in ice, bike, cry	Merges with /ĭ/ lit/light; spit/spite	Merges with /ĭ/ lit/light; spit/spite		Merges with /i/ lit/light; spit/spite		In word-initial position, may acquire an initial glottal stop  7ice (ice)	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels	Differences with /ā/ may/my; say/sigh Pronounced excessively long in open syllables, interfering in sentence-level prosody cry vs. crime		May have difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant
/ŏ/ as in octopus	Merges with /ō/ and /aw/ boat/bot/ bought Merges with /ă/, /ĕ/, /ĭ/, and /ŭ/ din/den/Dan/ don/done		Replaces with the sound between the open /ö/ and closed /ū/ as in <b>food</b>	Merges with /ō/ and /aw/ and /au/ boat/bot/ bought; law/ clause/clothes	Merges with /aw/ not/naughty; bot/bought		May have difficulty with distinction between vowels	Merges with /ă/ and /ŏ/ sad/sod/sud; bad/bod/bud	Pronounced as /o/ always	Replaces with /ö/ [British] sod ([American] sod)  May have difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant
/ŭ/ as in up	Merges with  /ă/, /ĕ/, /ĭ/,  and /ŏ/  din/den/Dan/ don/done	Merges with   ă ,  ě ,  ĭ ,  and  ŏ   din/den/Dan/  don/done	Replaces with schwa /ə/ sound fur/fuh	Merges with /ŏ/ Bob, dog		May omit or may lower before word- final voiced nasal /ŋ/ hung (hung)	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels	Merges with /ă/ and /ō/ sad/sod/sud; bad/bod/bud	Merges with /ă/ above	May have difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant
/aw/ as in law, audio, fall	Merges with /ō/ and /ŏ/ boat/bot/ bought	Merges with /ō/ and /ŏ/ boat/bot/ bought		Merges with /ö/ and /ö/ boat/bot/ bought	Merges with  ö  caught/cot	Replaces with /ĕ/ or /ŏ/ before word- final glide or nasal fell (fall); fon (fawn)	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels; in word-final position, replaces with /r/ par/paw	Merges with /ö/ boat/bot/ bought; coat/caught	Pronounced as /ɔ/ <b>always</b>	

General American					Possible Vow	el Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/ō/ as in open, rope, snow, boat	Merges with  ō  and  ŏ  boat bot  bought	Merges with /ō/ and /ö/ boat/bot/ bought	Replaces with the sound between the open /ŏ/ and closed /ū/ as in <b>food</b>	Merges with /ŏ/ and /aw/ office; boat/ bot/bought			May have difficulty with distinction between vowels; has difficulty holding the vowel sound before a voiced consonant	Monoph- thongizes to [o]	For open, the first syllable is pronounced as /o/always	May have difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant
/oo/ as in book, put	Merges with /ū/ fool/full	Merges with /ū/ fool/full	Replaces with /œ/ where the sound is between /ū/ as in food and /y/-/ū/ as in cue	Merges with /ū/ and /ou/ fool/full; poor; pool/pull; choose; door	Merges with /ū/ pool/pull; foot/food	Merges with /ū/ pool/pull	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels; has difficulty holding the vowel sound before a voiced consonant	Merges with /ū/ fool/full; pool/pull		
/ū/ as in rule, moon	Merges with /oo/ fool/full	Merges with /oo/ fool/full	Replaces with /œ/ where the sound is between /ū/ as in <b>food</b> and /y/-/ū/ as in <b>cue</b>	Merges with /oo/and /ou/ fool/full; pool/pull; food	Merges with /ū/ pool/pull; foot/food	Merges with /ū/ pool/pull In word-initial position, may acquire an initial glottal stop Peat (eat)	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels	Merges with /oo/ fool/full; pool/pull Pronounced excessively long in open syllables, interfering in sentence-level prosody sue vs. soon; due vs. dune		Merges with /oo/ pool/pull Has difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant

General American					Possible Vow	el Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/y/-/ū/ as in unicorn, cube		Gets pronounced as /ū/ sue	Replaces with /œ/ where the sound is between /ū/ as in food and /y/-/ū/ as in cue	Merges with /ou/ uber/union/ uniform			May have difficulty with distinction between vowels; merges with /ŭ/ unicorn/ uunicorn; cube/cuubb	Pronounced excessively long in open syllables, interfering in sentence-level prosody		May have difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant
/oi/ as in boy, foil			Merges with /ɔɛj/, where the sound is between <b>boy</b> and <b>bay</b>				May have difficulty with distinction between vowels; replaces with /wae/ bwae/boy; fwael/foil	Begins the glide in the diphthong too early		May have difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant
/ou/ as in cow, ouch							May have difficulty with distinction between vowels; replaces with /aw/ caw/cow; awch/ouch			May have difficulty holding a vowel sound before a voiced consonant
/er/ as in fern, shirt, urn			Replaces with /ir/ sound. Please note that /r/ sound could come out as guttural, especially when /r/ is not followed by another consonant sound.	Merges with /ur/ and /ĕ/ learn, burn, turn	May omit -r (and /j/ at the end of words) and sometimes replaces with /t/ met (merge)	May have strong retroflex /r/ or replace with /ŭ/ in word-final position motheR (mother); fathŭ (father)	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels; merges with /ŭ/furn/fern; shurt/shirt	Merges with /ar/ or occasionally /or/ her/hair		When preceded by /w/, replaces with a variety of other sounds

General American					Possible Vow	el Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/ar/ as in star			Please note that /r/ sound could come out as guttural.	Merges with /ă/ arcade, superstar	May omit -r ba (bar)	May have strong retroflex /r/ or omit in word-final position staR (star); stah (star)	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels			
/or/ as in sport			Replaces with /or/ sport/spor Please note that /r/ sound could come out as guttural.	Merges with /ŏ/ sport, effort	May omit -r thon (thorn)	Replaces with /ō/ before a stop <b>spōt (sport)</b>	May have difficulty with distinction between vowels			

General American					Possible Consor	nant Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/p/ as in pig	In word-initial position, replaces with /b/, /d/, or /g/ bun/done/gun (pun)	In word-initial position, replaces with /b/, /d/, or /g/ bun/done/gun (pun)		In word-initial position, replaces with /b/, /d/, or /g/ bun/done/gun (pun); back (pack); fool (pool) In word-final position, is not fully articulated bee (beep); sleep, lip	In word-initial position, replaces with /b/ back (pack)	In word-final position, is not fully articulated <b>bee (beep)</b>		Merges with /b/ big/pig; tap/ tab		
/b/ as in bat	In word-final position, replaces with /p/, /t/, or /k/ pup/putt/puck (pub)	In word-final position, replaces with /p/, /t/, or /k/ pup/putt/puck (pub)		In word-final position, replaces with /p/, /t/, or /k/ pup/putt/puck (pub)	In word-final position, replaces with voiceless sounds lap (lab)	In word-final position, replaces with voiceless sounds lap (lab)				
/t/ as in tack, stopped	In word-initial position, replaces with /b/, /d/, or /g/ bag/dag/gag (tag)			In word-initial position, replaces with /b/, /d/, or /g/ bag/dag/gag (tag) In word-final position, is not fully articulated bee (beep); sleep, lip	In word-final position, is not fully articulated or is omitted ben (bent); nine (night)	In word-final position, is not fully articulated <b>ben (bent)</b>				
/d/ as in dog, hummed	In word-final position, replaces with /p/, /t/, or /k/ hap/hat/hack (had)			In word-final position, replaces with /p/, /t/, or /k/ hap/hat/hack (had)	In word-final position, replaces with voiceless sounds or is omitted hat (had); learn (learned)	In word-final position, replaces with voiceless sounds hat (had)				Replaces with a hard /d/ lid

General American					Possible Consor	nant Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/k/ as in cup, kite, duck	In word-initial position, replaces with /b/, /d/, or /g/ bot/dot/got (cot) In word-final position, /k/ does not follow /ŋ/ in Spanish, so words such as wink become wing.			In word-initial position, replaces with /b/, /d/, or /g/ bot/dot/got (cot) In word-final position, may not be fully articulated tall (talk)	In word-final position, may not be fully articulated or is omitted tall (talk); lie (like)	In word-final position, may not be fully articulated tall (talk)	May have difficulty pronouncing letters that produce different sounds			
/g/ as in goat	In word-final position, replaces with /k/ wick (wig)			In word-final position, replaces with /p/, /t/, or /k/ whip/wit/wick (wig) In word-final position, replaces with voiceless sounds pick (pig)	In word-final position, replaces with voiceless sounds pic/pick (pig); bic/bick (big)	In word-final position, replaces with voiceless sounds pick (pig)	May have difficulty pronouncing letters that produce different sounds			
/m/ as in man	In word-final position, replaces with /n/, /nk/, or /ng/ dane/dank/dang (dame)			In word-final position, may not be fully articulated bean/bing (beam)		In word-final position, replaces with /n/ or /ng/ bean/bing (beam)				

General American					Possible Consor	nant Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/n/ as in nest, knife, gnu	In word-final position, replaces with /m/, /nk/, or /ng/ dame/dank/dang (dane)	In word-final position, replaces with /m/, /nk/, /ng/, or /gn/ dame/dank/dang (dane)		In word-final position, replaces with /m/, /nk/, /ng/, or /gn/ dame/dank/dang (dane)		In word-initial position, merges with /I/ life (knife); lap (nap) In word-final position, replaces with /m/ or /ng/ keem/king (keen)				
/ng/ as in sing	In word-final position, replaces with /n/, /nk/, or /m/ dane/dank/dame (dang)			In word-final position, replaces with /n/, /nk/, or /m/ dane/dank/dame (dang)	In word-final position, may omit the nasal /ng/, or may replace with /k/ think (thing); hunk (hung)	In word-final position, replaces with /m/ or /n/ fame/fain (fang)				Replaces with a hard /g/ gun
/t/ as in fish, sniff					In word-final position, may omit or may replace by other voiceless sounds lip (lift); thip (thief); lie (life)				Same pronunciation in Tagalog since Tagalog alphabet added the letters f, j, v, x, etc.  Please note, however, that Tagalog speakers sometimes pronounce the /f/ sound as /p/ as in /pish/, as /f/ did not exist in their vocabulary in the past.	

General American					Possible Consor	nant Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/v/ as in valentine, serve	In word-initial position or word-medial position, replaces with /b/ berry (very); nerbous (nervous) In word-final position, replaces with /f/ luff (love)				In word-final position, may omit Iu (love)	In word- initial or word-medial position, replaces with /w/ or /f/ falue (value); inwest (invest) In word-final position, replaces with /f/ luff (love)	Replaces with /w/ wet (vet)	Can be confused with /f/ very (fairy); halve (half)	Same pronunciation in Tagalog since Tagalog alphabet added the letters f, j, v, x, etc. Please note, however, that Tagalog speakers sometimes pronounce the /v/ sound as /b/ as in /balentain/ for "valentine," as /v/ did not exist in their vocabulary in the past.	
/th/ as in thumb	Replaces with /t/ wit (with); tin (thin)		This may be pronounced as a more emphatic /t/ as in /tz/.	Replaces with /t/ wit (with); tin (thin) In word-final position, may omit fay (faith)	In word-final position, may omit fay (faith) Replaces with /t/ welty (wealthy)	Replaces with /t/, /f/, or /s/ pat/paff/pass (path); tank/fank/ sank (thank)		Merges with /s/ or /t/ sin/tin (thin); face/fate (faith)	Replaces with /t/ tree (three)	Replaces with /s/ pass (path); sank (thank)
/ <u>th</u> / as in feather	Replaces with /d/ wedder (weather); doze (those)		This may be pronounced as a more emphatic /d/as in /dz/.	Replaces with /d/ wedder (weather); doze (those) In word-final position, may omit Io (loathe)	In word-final position, may omit Io (loathe) Replaces with /d/ or /z/fodder (father); zat (that)	Replaces with /d/ or /z/ fodder (father); zat (that)	Replaces with /d/ wedder (weather)	Merges with /z/ or /d/ day (they); zee (thee)	Replaces with /d/ der (there)	Replaces with /z/ fuhzzer (father); zat (that)

General American					Possible Conso	nant Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/s/ as in sun, dress, cell					In word-final position, may omit pack (packs)		Has difficulty pronouncing letters that produce different sounds			
/z/ as in zebra, runs, fuzz	Replaces with /s/ crasy (crazy); fance (fans)		This may be pronounced as a more emphatic /d/ as in the affricate /dz/.		In word-final position, may omit boy (boys)	Replaces with /s/ crasy (crazy); fance (fans)			Replaces with /s/ sipper (zipper)	
/sh/ as in shoes	Replaces with /ch/ chip (ship); flach (flash)			Replaces with /ch/chip (ship); witch (wish)	In word-final position, replaces with /t/ cat (cash); put (push)	Replaces with /s/ when preceding high front vowel vacasen (vacation)				
/zh/ as in pleasure	Replaces with /sh/ garash (garage); mesher (measure)				In word-final position, may omit colla (collage)	Replaces with /sh/ garash (garage); mesher (measure)	Has difficulty pronouncing letters that produce different sounds	May merge with /j/ or /sh/ meajure/ meashure (measure)		

General American					Possible Conso	nant Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/j/ as in jam, badge, page	In word-medial and word-final position, replaces with /y/ or /ch/doyer (dodger); etch (edge) The letter j is a voiceless velar fricative in Spanish, so Spanish pronunciation of jam can also sound like ham to English ears. Spanish speakers devoice final consonants; for example, they might pronounce bridge as brich or brish.				In word-final position, replaces with /t/ jut (judge)	Replaces with /ch/ or another voiceless sound etch (edge); basher (badger); chump (jump)		May merge with /zh/ zham (jam); zhoke (joke)		Replaces with stopped d, then zh /d-zh/D'Joyce (Joyce)
/ch/ as in chin, patch		In word-initial position, replaces with /sh/ shin (chin)		Replaces with /sh/ sheep, shoe, shake	In word-final position, replaces with /t/ chut (church)	Replaces with /sh/ sheep (cheap); wish (witch)		May merge with /sh/ ship (chip); shop (chop)		
/y/ as in yo-yo	In word-initial position, replaces with /j/ jess (yes); jogurt (yogurt)			Replaces with /ē/ eat, feat		In word-initial position, may omit <b>or (your)</b>				
/wh/ as in wheel			Replaces with /w/ as in <i>wait</i>					Merges with /w/	Replaces with /w/ as in <i>wait</i>	

General American					Possible Consor	nant Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
/w/ as in window										Replaces with /oo/ and then /ee/ ooeendow (window)
/h/ as in hat	In word-initial position, may omit appy (happy)	In word-initial position, may omit appy (happy)	In word-initial position, may omit at (hat)							
/ı/ as in leaf, bell				In word-final position, pronounces as a separate syllable pu-II (pool) In word-medial or word-final position, may omit sef (self); te (tell)	In word-final position, may omit or may replace with /n/ smine (smile); gir (girl)	Replaces with /r/ rife (life) In word-initial position, merges with /n/ knife (life); nap (lap)				
/r/ as in rabbit, wren	Replaces with trilled (rolled) /r/ In Spanish, /r/ is pronounced when written, so when reading English, speakers often vocalize it before consonants in words such as learn and farm, and overpronounce it at the end of words such as floor and car.	Replaces with /h/ hobbit (rabbit)	Merges with guttural /r/	Replaces with trilled (rolled) /r/		In word-initial position, replaces with /I/ or /w/ lace (race); wed (red) In word-final position, replaces with /I/ kale (care)		Replaced by a flipped or rolled /r/		Replaces with rolling /r/ rrabbit (rabbit)

General American		Possible Consonant Differences									
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian	
Words Ending in /t/ Like coat, cot, hat		Changes /t/ to /ch/ and adds /ĭ/ coachi (coat); gechi (get); raichi (rate)									
Words Ending in /d/ Like code, cod, had		Changes /d/ to a soft /g/ and adds /ĭ/ cogi (code); bradgi (braid); ladgi (lad)									
Words Beginning in /d/ Like direction		Changes /d/ to soft /g/ gyrection (direction)									
Does Not Pronounce the Letter I		Changes / to a /w/ or /ŭ/ sound feeum (film); Brazeeuw (Brazil); te-oo (tell)									

General American	Possible Blend Differences									
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
Omitting Consonants	In word-medial or word-final position, may omit one or more consonants ness (nest); res (rests); frenly (friendly)	In word-medial or word-final position, may omit one or more consonants res (rests); frenly (friendly) or adds an /i/ sound nesti (nest)	In word-initial position, may omit /h/ 'ave (have); 'eard (heard)	In word-medial or word-final position, may omit one or more consonants ness (nest); res (rests); frenly (friendly)	In word-initial or word-final position, may omit one or more consonants ness (nest)	In word-initial or word-final position, may omit one or more consonants ness (nest); pah (pot)	In word-final position, may omit one consonant frenly (friendly)			
Inserting Consonants				In word-initial or word-final position, inserts a vowel sound between two consonants sipoil (spoil)		In word-initial or word-final position, inserts a vowel sound between two consonants sipoil (spoil)	In word-initial position, inserts a vowel sound between two consonants sipoil (spoil)			
Replacing or Adding Consonants	/s/ + consonant in word-initial position does not occur in Spanish, so Spanish speakers add the /ĕ/ sound (as in pen) before the /s/ estop (stop); estress (stress)	With /s/ + /p/ or /t/ in word- initial position, adds an /ĕ/ prior to the /s/ estop (stop); esports (sports)		With /s/ + consonant in word-initial position, replaces /ĕ/ prior to the /s/ estop (stop); esports (sports)		In word-initial position, replaces /r/with /I/flee (free)	With /s/ + consonant in word-initial position, replaces /ĕ/ prior to the /s/ especially (specially); estop (stop)			

General American					Possible Blen	d Differences				
English Target Skill	Spanish	Portuguese	French	Haitian- Creole	Vietnamese	Cantonese/ Mandarin	Urdu	Arabic	Tagalog	Russian
Consonant Clusters							Has difficulty pronouncing consonant clusters in word-initial or word-final position istraight (straight); faly (fly); filam (film)			

#### Language and Usage Contrastive Analysis

The following language pattern confusions may be attributed to a student's home language. Explicit instruction in the correlated General American English (GAE) Target Skill can help students learn and acquire GAE language patterns.

General American English Target Skill	Possible Noun Differences	Home Language
Noncount Nouns	May confuse count and noncount nouns the stuffs	Spanish, Portuguese, Urdu
Singular and Plural Nouns	May omit plural marker -s  I have three dog.	Haitian-Creole, Vietnamese, Cantonese/Mandarin
	Uses singular noun for plurals of 11 or more 12 hour	Arabic
	Tendency to not use the plural form of nouns	Tagalog
	May use incorrect pluralization of nouns  The mouses ate the cheese.	Urdu
Possessive Nouns	Uses prepositions to describe possessives I went with the friend of my brother. Please drive to the house of my friend.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Vietnamese
	May omit or may avoid using possessive 's my father car	Vietnamese, Urdu
	Uses opposite possessive order compared to English car my father	Arabic
Irregular Nouns	May use incorrect pluralization of irregular nouns  The other childs are at the zoo.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole
	Uses singular form for irregular plural nouns <b>two goose</b> (two geese)	Cantonese/Mandarin

General American English Target Skill	Possible Article Differences	Home Language
Definite Article Usage	Overuses articles The English is difficult to learn. The football is popular in the America.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Urdu
	May omit articles She has cat. She wants dog not cat.	Haitian-Creole, Vietnamese, Cantonese/Mandarin, Urdu
	Overuses definite articles, especially for general meanings  The women in the Middle East (women in the Middle East)	Arabic
Indefinite Article Usage	Uses <i>one</i> in place of article <i>a</i> / <i>an My dad is one doctor.</i>	Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Urdu
	May omit indefinite articles  I'm having problem.	Arabic
	Uses <i>the</i> in place of <i>a</i> / <i>an My dad is the doctor.</i>	Tagalog

General American English Target Skill	Possible Pronoun Differences	Home Language
General Pronoun Usage	May omit pronouns in clauses  If don't move now, we will get hurt.	Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Vietnamese
	Avoids pronouns and repeats nouns  I visit my uncle every month, and I clean uncle house.	Urdu, Vietnamese
	Overuses pronouns with nouns  This job, it very hard.	Vietnamese

General American English Target Skill	Possible Pronoun Differences	Home Language
Subject/Object Pronouns	May confuse subject and object pronouns  Him looked at you.	Cantonese/Mandarin
	May omit pronouns before verbs  Called me, told me.	Arabic
	May omit subject pronouns  Mom isn't here. Is at restaurant.	Spanish, Portuguese
Possessive Pronouns	Uses articles in place of possessive pronouns  She washes the hair every day.	Spanish, Haitian-Creole
	May confuse possessive forms  The book is my.	Spanish, Vietnamese
	Replaces the possessive form whose with who I don't know who house that is.	Urdu
Relative Pronouns	May use relative pronouns incorrectly  The teacher which spoke Spanish no longer works here.  The book who was read was romantic.	Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Urdu

General American English Target Skill	Possible Pronoun Differences	Home Language
Indefinite Pronouns	Uses <i>one</i> or <i>an</i> in place of indefinite pronouns with plural nouns  Will you give me one cookies?	Spanish, Haitian-Creole
	May use indefinite pronouns incorrectly when used with negation  I do not want some.  I waited, but anybody came.	Spanish
	May omit complements such as <i>any</i> , <i>some</i> , <i>it</i> , etc. <i>I don't want</i> (any).	Spanish
	May use the wrong number for pronouns  I saw many stars in the sky. It was twinkling.	Cantonese/Mandarin
	May omit the pronoun <i>one</i> I saw two cars, and I like the red (one).	Spanish
Pronoun Referent	Uses pronoun that doesn't match the referent  He is a pretty lady. (with female referent)  She is my brother. (with male referent)	Cantonese/Mandarin
	Uses gender binary pronouns with inappropriate gender  He is my mother.	Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Tagalog
	Uses gender binary pronouns, particularly with gender- neutral nouns The knife is sharp; he can cut you.	Russian, Spanish
Resumptive Pronouns in Relative Clauses	Uses resumptive pronouns in relative clauses  I read the book that you gave me it.	Arabic

General American English Target Skill	Possible Verb Differences	Home Language
Subject-Verb Agreement	Spanish has a number of verbs commonly used with direct objects instead of the typical English subjectverb construction. For example: It pleases me instead of I like it. Multilingual Learners create sentences such as Football likes me. There is a similar construction used with unplanned events that creates literal translations such as: The book lost itself on me. or The vase dropped itself on them.	Spanish
	May omit -s in present tense, third-person agreement He like pizza.	Vietnamese, Haitian-Creole, Arabic, Cantonese/Mandarin
	May have problems with irregular subject-verb agreement  Tom and Sue has a new car.	Cantonese/Mandarin
	Subject-verb disagreement  He frown when he see me in the class.	Urdu, Tagalog
Helping Verbs	May use helping verbs <i>do, have, will,</i> and <i>be</i> in incorrect contexts and incorrect tenses	Haitian-Creole, Russian
	May omit helping verbs in negative statements Sue no coming to school.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Russian, Vietnamese
	May omit the helping verb in the passive voice <i>The book opened.</i>	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Urdu, Cantonese/Mandarin
	May use wrong helping verb  I is writing.	Cantonese/Mandarin
Linking Verbs	May omit the linking verb <b>She pretty.</b>	Urdu, Vietnamese, Arabic

General American English Target Skill	Possible Verb Differences	Home Language
Auxiliary Verb: be	Does not conjugate the infinitive form of <i>be</i> I be thinking about going to the dance.	Haitian-Creole
	May delete a form of <i>be</i> in the present progressive contraction usage  I listenin' to music.  He liftin' weights.	Haitian-Creole
	Uses verb <i>be</i> to show common actions <b>You always be lying.</b>	Urdu
	Uses have instead of be I have happy. He has right.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole
	Uses variations of the verb <i>be</i> to show habitual action <i>He always be lying.</i>	Haitian-Creole
Auxiliary Verb: do	May omit do/does/did from questions When John leave?	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole
	In questions, the auxiliary <i>do</i> may be omitted <b>She has a dog?</b>	Urdu
	May omit do/does/did and may incorrectly use no in place of not I no understand.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Arabic
	May mix up the auxiliary: do/does He don't like football.	Vietnamese
Auxiliary Modal Verbs	May confuse modals should and must; may, can, and might  If the traffic light is red, you should stop.	Arabic

General American English Target Skill	Possible Verb Differences	Home Language
Present Tense	Overuses the present tense  I am always playing golf on Sundays.	Urdu
Present-Progressive Tense	Uses the simple present tense in place of present progressive <b>Look, it snows!</b>	Spanish, Haitian-Creole
	Overuses the present progressive  He living in New York.	Arabic
Present-Perfect Tense	Avoids the present-perfect tense  Marcos live here for three months.	Haitian-Creole, Vietnamese
	Uses <i>been</i> with present-perfect tense  She been knowing me forever.	Urdu
Past-Progressive Tense	Uses the past-progressive tense for recurring action in the past  When I was young, I was talking a lot.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole
Past-Perfect Tense	May use nonacademic irregular verbs in past and past- perfect tenses <b>We seen that.</b>	Haitian-Creole
	Uses the simple present tense in place of past-perfect tense  I live here since 1995.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole

General American English Target Skill	Possible Verb Differences	Home Language
Future Tense	Uses the present tense for the future tense Tomorrow I call you.	Cantonese/Mandarin, Arabic
	Overuses the future tense in the dependent clause of conditional sentences  If you will help me, I will help you.	Urdu
	Uses the simple present tense in place of future tense <b>We see each other tomorrow.</b>	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole
General Verb Use	May omit the main verb  Talk in class not good.	Haitian-Creole, Cantonese/Mandarin
Transitive and Intransitive Verbs	May confuse transitive and intransitive verbs  The child throws.  The child thrown the ball.	Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Cantonese/Mandarin
Infinitive Verb Forms	Uses the infinitive form of verbs as in "I must to speak with her."	French
Participles	May confuse present participles and past participles  The book is bored.  not  The book is boring.	Haitian-Creole, Cantonese/Mandarin, Spanish, Portuguese
Verbs in Questions	May order inverted interrogative verb phrases incorrectly  Has seen Simon the movie?	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Cantonese/Mandarin
	May leave questions in statement word order You want how many?	Arabic
Verbs in Imperative Sentences	Uses a subject in imperative mood  Come you here.	Spanish, Haitian-Creole

General American English Target Skill	Possible Verb Differences	Home Language
Verb Tenses and Pronunciation	May omit contracted forms  He goin' to the movie.	Haitian-Creole
	May omit tense markers  I study English yesterday.	Vietnamese, Haitian-Creole, Cantonese/Mandarin
	May have difficulty pronouncing final consonant clusters in general; speakers tend to pronounce -ed in all past tense verbs as a separate syllable or to delete -ed entirely from past tense verbs with singular forms ending in /d/ or /t/  I talk - ed in class. (I talked in class.)  I wan- a puppy. (I wanted a puppy.)	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole

General American English Target Skill	Possible Adjective Differences	Home Language
Adjective Placement	Places adjectives after nouns  I saw a car red.	Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Cantonese/Mandarin, Arabic, Urdu
	Although some adjectives are placed after the nouns, it seems that French speakers are able to use the adj + noun pattern correctly.	French
General Adjective Rules	Adds -s to adjectives when describing plural nouns  Look at the beautifuls flowers.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole

General American English Target Skill	Possible Adjective Differences	Home Language
Comparative and Superlative Adjectives	Avoids comparatives and superlatives  Nancy is beautiful. Lynn is beautiful. Gilda is beautiful too.	Haitian-Creole, Urdu
	May have difficulty with irregular comparatives and superlatives (bad, good, far)	Haitian-Creole, Russian
	Avoids specialized adjectives for comparatives and superlatives  I am more old than Bill, but Ted is the most old.	Spanish, Portuguese
	Uses indefinite article instead of possessive adjective <b>She washes the hair.</b>	Spanish

General American English Target Skill	Possible Adverb Differences	Home Language
Adverb Placement	May confuse <i>too</i> and <i>very</i> He is too nice man.	Arabic
	Sometimes misplaces the adverb. Example: "She speaks French very well" becomes "She speaks very well French."	French
	Places adverbs before verbs  He quickly ran. not  He ran quickly.	Haitian-Creole, Cantonese/Mandarin
	Inserts adverbs mid-sentence I yesterday go to store.	Cantonese/Mandarin

General American English Target Skill	Possible Adverb Differences	Home Language
Adverbial Phrases	Places the adverbial phrase before the direct object <b>My mom cleans very well the house.</b>	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Urdu, Arabic
Adverbs of Frequency	May position adverbs of frequency incorrectly in sentences  Often they have visited Costa Rica.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole

General American English Target Skill	Possible Preposition Differences	Home Language
Common Idiomatic Expressions with Prepositions in Them	English preposition use is idiomatic in nature and may be difficult for all Multilingual Learners.  talk on the phone; pick up your room; under the weather	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Vietnamese, Cantonese/Mandarin, Arabic, Russian
Proper Use of <i>up</i> and <i>down</i>	Uses <i>up</i> and <i>down</i> without an object of the preposition <i>I saw it up.</i> (i.e., up above, on top)	Arabic
Proper Use of to	May omit <i>to</i> with the verb <i>go</i> When you going Egypt?	Arabic
Preposition Placement	Uses a preposition with an indirect object  He gave to Maria the book.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole
	Avoids the colloquial use of prepositions at the end of a sentence  For what did they come?	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole
	Follows a preposition with an infinitive verb  After to eat breakfast, we go to school.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Urdu

General American English Target Skill	Possible Preposition Differences	Home Language
General Preposition Rules	Does not use prepositions  They put me a wig. (instead of They put a wig on me.)	Portuguese
	Does not use the word <i>thing</i> when modified by an adjective, saying, for example, <i>The most important</i> (instead of <i>The most important</i> thing).	Portuguese
	May omit prepositions She likes come home.	Urdu, Cantonese/Mandarin
	May use from (de) as part of the phrasal verb when it is not necessary in English. Example: sortir de ("leave from"), although in English "leave" without the "from" would suffice.	French
	May confuse prepositions  I go at school.	Cantonese/Mandarin
	May use the wrong preposition  I was upset on him.	Urdu

General American English Target Skill	Possible Negatives Differences	Home Language
General Use of Negative Words	Replaces <i>no, never,</i> and <i>neither</i> with <i>any, ever,</i> and <i>either</i> after a negative word or word part <i>I don't want that one, neither.</i>	Haitian-Creole
	Uses negative inversion in sentences  Don't nobody like that girl.	Haitian-Creole
	Uses <i>no</i> in place of <i>not</i> <b>You no understand.</b>	Urdu
	Uses the negative word before the verb phrase I not have found the book.	Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Urdu
	Uses double negatives I don't want (no want) no problem.	Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Urdu
	Uses negative word following pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs in short responses <i>her no not here</i>	Spanish, Haitian-Creole
	May use negative pronouns <i>none, nobody,</i> and <i>no one</i> incorrectly	Russian

General American English Target Skill	Possible False Cognate Differences	Home Language
Cognates	Sounds/words are similar but actually have different meanings. Example: assister in French means "to attend," while assist in English means "to help."	French