**SPN 101 Using Online Resources correctly.**
In this example we’re going to show you some common pitfalls to avoid when writing a composition.
Let’s say that the composition prompts you to:

**Describe your family.** *(Please include examples descriptive and possessive adjectives)*

This sounds simple and it is when you follow a few simple rules.

1) RULE #1 Say what you CAN say and not what you WANT to say.
2) RULE #2 Use Spanish forms not English forms.
3) RULE #3 Know when you are receiving proper help and when you are crossing a line.

I’ll come back to those. Back to our Prompt.

**Describe your family.**

This comes to mind.

*My Spanish cousins are brown-haired, smart and funny. But my is my different. She is my best friend. Our family works a lot of hours every day. We like hard work. One day we are going to not work so hard and we are going to relax on a big boat.*

Translators will generate this—

Mis primos de España son de pelo castaño, inteligente y divertida. **

This is grammatically incorrect and would not award you full credit.

- When I use the internet as a resource properly I will have to a little time and look up any adjectives that you did not know in the neutral/masculine form.
- Go to word reference.com and type in funny.
- That works—cómodo
- Now use what you know from Spanish class to get that adjective in the corresponding form with the Noun that it modifies. In this case PRIMOS. This is a mixed gender group or all male group that is plural. Cómodo becomes cómodos.

Mis primos españoles son morenos, inteligentes y cómodos.

So now we have gotten the first one taken care of, but what about the rest.

Mis primos españoles son morenos, inteligentes y cómicos. Pero la relación entre mi madre y yo es diferente. Ella es mi mejor amiga. Nuestra familia trabaja muchas horas cada día. A nosotros nos gusta nuestro trabajo difícil. Un día no vamos a trabajar tanto y vamos a relajarnos en nuestro barco grande.

Back to the rules.

1) For your level of Spanish you cannot write in the past and you can only you “going to” expressions for the future. SAY WHAT YOU CAN not what you want to. Any Spanish instructor that sees a sentence with verb tenses that you don’t know how to create or with elements of a sentence that smell like a translator generated them will more than likely call you out. You don’t want to risk academic dishonesty. CHECK YOUR SYLLABUS!

2) Also make sure to include the asked for elements in every sentence if at all possible. Look for the underlined (possessive adjectives) and bold (descriptive adjectives) elements.

GOOD LUCK!!!