

Opción B

Things to think about when bringing foreign children to Spain

Are you planning to bring your children to Spain and incorporate them into the Spanish state education? That decision should be taken with great care, after appropriate research, and bearing in mind the needs and personality of each individual child. Never forget that the problem of changing from English to Spanish schools is more than a problem of language; it is a problem of culture and customs as well. Many people underestimate the impact of such a change on their children, are unaware of the cultural differences involved, and may misunderstand what is happening at the school in relation to their children. The Spanish state system allows for parental involvement; therefore you should take every opportunity to communicate with the school in order to solve all the little problems that will inevitably arise.

As a general rule, adapting to a different school environment and picking up the language along the way is easier for younger children than for teenagers. However, even as early as five or six, a child who is thrown into a classroom where he does not understand the language can feel dramatically disoriented. If your child has a tendency to be aggressive or introverted, these tendencies will perhaps be accentuated by the frustration or embarrassment of not being able to make him or herself understood, and not understanding what is expected of him or her. For all children there is an adaptation period, during which little real academic progress should be expected. This period may range from a few months to a year or more, depending on the child, but obviously it will be longer for older children. However, this should not stop parents from introducing their children into a Spanish school at primary level, as there is still plenty of time for them to adjust and adapt.

1. Write **one of the following two** compositions (maximum 4 points):
 - a. Do you think it is a good idea to take young children to study in a foreign country? Why or why not? Explain your answer in at least 80 words.
 - b. Write a story of at least 80 words **ending with** this sentence: "So, *Luke saw that living and studying in a foreign country was not such a terrible experience*". Remember that **the 17 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write**.
2. Answer the following **two** questions:
 - a. Does the writer say that all children immediately adapt when they enter a new school where a different language is spoken? Explain your answer (maximum 1 point).
 - b. According to the text, is language the only difficulty for English children who enter a Spanish school? Explain your answer (maximum 1 point).
3. Imagine your best friend is not sure about starting a degree at a British university. Advise him/her to do so and give him/her a good reason for it (maximum 2 points).
4. Grammatical transformation.
 - a. Rewrite the following sentence as a third type (impossible) conditional (maximum 1 point):
If your child has a tendency to be aggressive, this will perhaps be accentuated by frustration.
 - b. Rewrite the following sentence in the negative-interrogative. **Write only one sentence** (maximum 1 point):
You should take every opportunity to communicate with the school.