

Many of my students are having trouble with a very common Spanish phrase:

Darse cuenta.

So let's break it down in the simplest way possible.

1. What it says (literal words)

dar = to give

se = to oneself

cuenta = an account / a count

de = of

que = that

Literal meaning:

"to give yourself an account of..."

2. What it means

(real Spanish meaning)

to realize

to notice

to become aware of

Spanish speakers

never think of the literal meaning.

They only hear realize.

3. Three super-common real-life phrases

A. Me doy cuenta de que...

I realize that...

Me doy cuenta de que necesito café.

B. No me di cuenta.

I didn't realize / I didn't notice.

Perdón, no me di cuenta.

No me di cuenta de la hora.

C. Ya, me di cuenta.

Yeah, I realized / Yeah, I noticed.

Ya, me di cuenta de que está cerrado.