

Lost in translation?

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The following anecdote occurred during the 25th Congress of the Colombian Association of Radiology, held at our beautiful Caribbean city of Cartagena:

A Colombian radiologist was trying to have a conversation with one of our more than twenty foreign lecturers, a world-renowned Belgian-American ultrasonographer.

Even though both had strong accents, they managed to communicate in English and enjoy together the dinner to which all the lecturers were invited by our organization.

Feeling proud of his own command of the English language, the Colombian radiologist was glad to understand that the professor's wife was the owner of a pet center at her home town in the United States. He chose to follow this line of small talk, so he remarked that he also owned a pet, a lovely Miniature Schnauzer dog named Magic. The Belgian-American professor could not help bursting into hysterical laughter, and was soon joined by the rest of us, when we found out that he was not talking about a shop where one can buy a turtle, a canary or a dog, but about a PET (Positron Emission Tomography) diagnostic center!

(The names of the characters have been omitted to protect them from derision.)

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