This paper investigates the characteristics of lexical inconsistencies, defines them and proposes a working classification that accounts for all instances of lexical errors. This taxonomy intends to be an instrument to facilitate the work of researchers and teachers to analyze, classify and deal with lexical deficiencies. The typology bases on linguistic criteria (semantic, syntactic, orthographic or pragmatic components of the lexical item are affected), on psycholinguistic (L1-oriented or L2-oriented deficiencies), and on pedagogical criteria (a noun, a verb, an adjective, an adverb or an idiom is object of the inconsistency). This classification has strong pedagogical claims and justification. Therefore, an example of its practical use in second language teaching is provided, attesting thus its instructional power.