

Cognates

Spanish and English share many of the same root words due to the fact that Spanish is a Latin based language and English borrowed heavily from Latin and French in its earlier days. Words that are the same in two languages or very similar are called cognates. See if you can guess the meanings of the following Spanish/English cognates. Cognates are a good way to learn a lot of words fast. **Note that these words are not pronounced the same in English and Spanish.**

aburrido	la música	la idea	el piano
contento	la guitarra	el elefante	la computadora
desordenado	el/la radio	público	el estereo
enfermo (hint: infirmary)	la televisión	el apartamento	el teatro
furioso	el beisbol	el departamento	el basquetbol
nervioso	el evento	permitir	la historia
ocupado	el tenis	observar	rápido
ordenado	la universidad	la cultura	el boxeo
preocupado	el autobús	la dieta	el aeropuerto
inteligente	el tigre	misterioso	la dirección
independiente	las matemáticas	el auto	la biología
paciente	el taxi	el doctor	la ciencia
responsable	el chocolate	el/la turista	la vitamina
terrible	el carro	la novela	la economía
horrible	el arte	la práctica	el volibol
importante	el problema	ideal	el esquí
necesario	la opinión	el león	la bicicleta
flexible	el animal	privado	decidir
eficiente	el golf	el plan	el banco
generoso	la oficina	curioso	robar
la montaña	el desierto	el océano	el actor
la fruta	el café	la actriz	las vacaciones
religioso	romántico	el ingrediente	la gasolina
serio	tropical	el hospital	la diferencia
tímido	el cassette	el supermercado	típico

False cognates are words that look similar in two languages, but have different meanings. Watch out for these:

- el fútbol - soccer, not football
- embarazada - pregnant, not embarrassed
- pena - embarrassment, not pain
- discutir - to argue, not discuss
- la ropa - clothing, not rope
- la sopa - soup, not soap
- contestar - to answer, not a contest

Spanish Pronunciation

Ñ = ny canyon niño, pequeño

LL = y tortilla, pollo, La Jolla

J = h La Jolla, José

H = silent hola, hermoso

Resources for Practicing Spanish

1. Internet Sites for Learning and Practicing Spanish

For grammar and vocabulary practice:

<http://www.learnspanish.com>

<http://www.quia.com>

<http://www.vokabel.com>

For grammar lessons and explanations:

<http://www.muw.edu/~rmccalli/SpGram101intro.html>

<http://www.whitebuffalos.net/Spanish/links.htm>

For a variety of Spanish language activities:

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Forum/4726/wkbk.html>

<http://www.quepasa.com>

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Thebes/6177/Index.html>

Run your own search for whatever you're looking for in Spanish. These are just some sites that I have used.

2. Television Programs

Destinos: An Introduction to Spanish

Mon - Fri 12:00 Noon or 12:30AM on ITV (Cox SD - 23, Daniel's - 12, Cox No.Co. - 16, Time Warner - 17)

This program is also available in the language lab.

A 52 episode program designed for beginning and intermediate students of Spanish. The program has a very interesting plot, but is designed with the Spanish student in mind. The first several episodes have some narration in English to help you understand the storyline. Set your VCR to tape this everyday. The programs are ½ hour each. If you tape them, you can stop and rewind and listen again if you miss something.

Plaza Sésamo - Sesame Street in Spanish

Sunday mornings 8:00 - 9:00AM (2 ½ hour episodes)

KBNT - Check your cable listing for channel

Survival Spanish

Wednesday mornings - 6:00-6:30AM

ITV - Check your cable listing for channel

In San Diego, we are fortunate to receive some Spanish language stations. For additional practice, try watching soap operas, newscasts, talk shows, etc.

3. Movies

Several movies in Spanish are available for rent at your local movie rental store. Many are in Spanish with English subtitles.

I recommend the following:

Like Water for Chocolate (Como agua para chocolate)

Men with Guns (Hombres Armados)

El Mariachi

Also, check out the collection at Palomar's language lab. They have many good films in Spanish. There are documentaries about cultural subjects, Disney movies that many of us are familiar with in English, and many others.

4. Radio

We also have many Spanish language radio stations in our area (some from San Diego, some from Tijuana). This is a good way to practice in your car. Commercials and other announcements are very good practice. They give the time frequently, as well as traffic reports and other info.

My personal favorites are 102.9 (Baladas - love songs) and 104.5 (Spanish rock and pop).

There are also many others if you just search the dial.

5. Reading

We have several Spanish language newspapers available in our area. It is also possible to find magazines such as People or Reader's Digest in Spanish. You can find these in supermarkets and drugstores in certain areas of town.

Dual language storybooks and storybooks written for Spanish students are an excellent way to practice your Spanish and learn some culture. You can generally find these and other foreign language literature and language learning resources in larger bookstores such as Borders or Barnes and Noble.

Children's books in Spanish can also be a good language learning resource. Our public libraries usually have a small section of these books in Spanish.

6. Language Learning Cassettes

Language learning cassette programs are very useful. You can listen to them in your car or while exercising for additional language practice. You can find these programs at any bookstore and some public libraries. You can usually even find some at used bookstores for under \$10.

7. CD-Roms

You can buy your own CD-Roms to use on your home computer. You can buy these at electronics or computer stores. They are often very cheap, \$10 or even free after rebate.

8. Talk to Native Speakers

Take every opportunity to talk to native speakers. This is the **best practice possible**, even if you can only say a few phrases. Don't be shy; order your food in Spanish next time you visit a Spanish restaurant, greet your housekeeper or gardener in Spanish (if they speak Spanish). Latin Americans are very warm friendly people, and will enjoy helping you learn their language.

¿Cómo te llamas?

Me llamo ...

¿Cuál es tu profesión?

Soy ...

Trabajo en ...

¿De dónde eres?

Soy de ...

Useful Expressions and Other Information

The Basics

mande - excuse me, say that again
repita, por favor - repeat that please
hable más despacio, por favor - speak slower please
con permiso - excuse me (requesting permission to get by or leave)
perdón - excuse me (requesting forgiveness for a mistake, or to get someone's attention)
lo siento - I'm sorry (literally "I feel it")
mucho gusto - nice to meet you
igualmente - same here (said in response to someone else saying "mucho gusto")
el gusto es mío - the pleasure is mine (in response to someone else saying "mucho gusto")
por favor - please
gracias - thank you
de nada - your welcome
hola - hello
¿qué tal? - how's it going
¿qué pasa? - what's happening (can be used as a greeting among friends, or simply to ask what's going on)
Buenos días - good morning
Buenas tardes - good afternoon
Buenas noches - good evening, good night
adios - goodbye
hasta pronto - until soon (see you soon)
hasta luego - see you later
chiao - chiao, goodbye

More Useful Expressiones

¡Qué lástima! - What a shame!
¡Qué suerte! - What luck!
¡Qué bueno! - How nice!
Es importante - It's important
Es necesario - It's necessary
Es posible - It's posible
Es increíble - It's incredible
Por supuesto / Claro que sí - of course

Polite Titles

Señor (Sr.) - Mr., sir
Señora (Sra.) - Mrs., ma'am
Señorita (Srta) - Miss
Don - the equivalent of Mr., but used with a person's first name. (Don Fernando)
Doña - the equivalent of Mrs/Miss., but used with a person's first name. (Doña Maria)

Common Endings

- ente = ent dependiente, inteligente, valiente, eficiente
- tad/dad = ity comunidad, libertad, dignidad, oportunidad
- ista = ist comunista, pesimista, optimista, realista
- cion/sion = tion accion, declaracion, comunicacion, television
- ble = ble flexible, probable, posible, responsable
- ismo = ism comunismo, anarquismo
- ivo/a = ive pasivo, impulsivo, abusivo
- eria = ery panaderia, cerveceria, cafeteria
- ico/a = ic asmatico, politico
- ure = ura cultura, temperatura, pintura

Los Números

uno - 1	seis - 6	once - 11
dos - 2	siete - 7	doce - 12
tres - 3	ocho - 8	trece - 13
cuatro - 4	nueve - 9	catorce - 14
cinco - 5	diez - 10	quince - 15

Now the compound numbers begin:

diez y seis - 16	veinte - 20
diez y siete - 17	veinte y uno - 21
diez y ocho - 18	veinte y dos - 22
diez y nueve - 19	veinte y tres - 23

treinta - 30	cien - 100	seiscientos - 600
cuarenta - 40	ciento uno - 101	setecientos - 700
cincuenta - 50	ciento cincuenta y seis - 156	ochocientos - 800
sesenta - 60	doscientos - 200	novecientos - 900
setenta - 70	trescientos - 300	mil - 1000
ochenta - 80	cuatrocientos - 400	dos mil - 2000
noventa - 90	quinientos - 500	un millón - 1,000,000

Years: 1999 = mil novecientos noventa y nueve

2000 = dos mil

Note: you cannot say diecinueve (19) noventa y nueve (99) for the year 1999. This would be understood as a price, not a date.

Spanish Pronunciation

A	<u>f</u> ather	mamá, casa, baño
E	<u>t</u> elephone	teléfono, entrada, perro
I	<u>f</u> ee <u>t</u>	chica, película, libro
O	<u>o</u> cean	foto, coche, amigo
U	<u>m</u> oo <u>d</u>	fruta, música, mujer
A, E, I, O, U	el burro sabe más que tú.	