

Common English/Spanish Cognates

Espanglés is a term coined to describe the meeting point between the Spanish (Español) and English (Inglés) languages. This systemized study of English/Spanish cognates offers the learner a potentially huge stock of Spanish vocabulary words.

The cognates fall into suffix categories which, for clarity and convenience, have been grouped under the following terms of grammar:

1. **Nouns:** Words which name things (woman, chair, city, dream etc.)
2. **Adjectives:** Words which describe things (pretty, happy, yellow etc.)
3. **Verbs:** Action words (kicked, smiled, goes)
4. **Adverbs:** Words added to verbs to describe an action (They ran *quickly*)

* The apostrophe (') in the Spanish words indicates the position of the stress.

What are cognates?

The 'convertible' English to Spanish words are known as cognates, words in both languages which share the same Latin root and which are visibly and often audibly very similar. It is important to bear in mind that these cognates do not always translate from one language to another precisely. For example: "inferior" in Spanish may be used to refer to a subordinate in the work-place, without carrying any of the derogatory meaning in the English usage. In Spanish, "informal" means unreliable rather than casual. In spite of these 'false cognates', there are thousands of English words which can be converted into Spanish along with much of their English meaning (especially the literal) by following a few simple steps.

Nouns

There are many Spanish nouns that are instantly recognizable to an English reader. With slight modifications (usually with some change to the word ending and pronunciation) many Spanish nouns can easily be converted into English nouns.

#1. -or = -or

English	Spanish
actor	ac'tor
color	co'lor
favor	fa'vor
tutor	tu'tor
error	e'rror

#2. -al = -al

English	Spanish
animal	ani'mal
capital	capi'tal
hospital	hospi'tal
metal	me'tal
moral	mo'ral

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Many English nouns ending with '-ist', can be converted into Spanish nouns by adding an 'a' to the end of the word.

#3. -ist = -ista

English	Spanish
artist	ar'tista
dentist	den'tista
novelist	nove'lista
optimist	opti'mista
tourist	tu'rista

#4. -ism = -ismo

English	Spanish
idealism	idea'lismo
sexism	se'xismo
budhism	bu'dismo
tourism	tur'ismo
optimism	opti'mismo

#5. -nce = -ncia

English	Spanish
assistance	asis'tencia
license	li'cencia
experience	experi'encia
distance	dis'tancia
intelligence	inteli'gencia

#6. -ty = -dad

English	Spanish
variety	varie'dad
society	socie'dad
electricity	electrici'dad
city	ciu'dad
university	universi'dad

Adjectives

Many Spanish adjectives can be converted into English simply by changing the word ending. Almost all Spanish adjectives are either masculine (ending in *o*) or feminine (ending in *a*). An adjective's gender is usually dictated by the gender of the noun to which it is refers.

#1. -ive = -ivo

English	Spanish
negative	nega'tivo
expressive	expre'sivo
positive	posi'tivo
effective	efec'tivo
offensive	ofen'sivo

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#2. -al= -al

English	Spanish
final	fi'nal
usual	us'ual
local	lo'cal
normal	nor'mal
natural	natu'ral

#3. -ous = -oso

English	Spanish
famous	fa'moso
nervous	nervi'oso
delicious	delici'oso
generous	gene'roso
ambitious	ambici'oso

#4. -ic = -ico

English	Spanish
romantic	ro'matico
fantastic	fan'tastico
electric	e'lectrico
artistic	ar'tistico
automatic	auto'matico

#5. -ble= -ble

English	Spanish
horrible	ho'rrible
impossible	impo'sible
terrible	te'rrible
probable	pro'bable
notable	no'table

#6. -nt= -nte

English	Spanish
ignorant	igno'rante
convenient	conveni'ente
patient	paci'ente
important	impor'tante
excellent	exce'lente

#7. -id= -ido

English	Spanish
stupid	estu'pido
rapid	'rápido
splendid	esplen'dido
valid	va'lido
solid	so'lido

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#8. -ile= -il

English	Spanish
fertile	fer'til
hostile	hos'til
mobile	mov'il
juvenile	juve'nil
sterile	este'ril

#9. -ary= -ario

English	Spanish
secondary	secun'dario
literary	lite'rario
ordinary	ordi'nario
necessary	nece'sario
voluntary	volun'tario

Verbs

There are many English verbs that can be converted into Spanish, usually by changing the ending of the English verb and adding 'ar', 'er' or 'ir'.

Almost every English infinitive verb ending in '-ate' (eg. *celebrate*) can be converted into a Spanish infinitive by replacing the final '-ate' with '-ar' (eg. *celebrar*).

create	cre'ar
calculate	calcu'lar
concentrate	concen'trar
demonstrate	demo'strar
estimate	esti'mar
exaggerate	exage'rar
negotiate	negoci'ar
operate	ope'rar
participate	partici'par
terminate	termi'nar

Many English verbs (infinitive) ending in VOWEL + CONSONANT + T (eg. *result*) can be converted into Spanish verbs (infinitive) by adding '-ar', 'er' or 'ir' to the end of the English verb (eg. *resultar*).

insult	insul'tar
consult	consul'tar
present	presen'tar
represent	represen'tar
comment	comen'tar
import	impor'tar
export	expor'tar
convert	conver'tir
insist	insis'tir

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Many English infinitive verbs (of more than one syllable) ending VOWEL + CONSONANT + E (eg. examine) can be converted into Spanish infinitive verbs by dropping the final E and adding 'ar'. (eg. examinar).

accuse	acu'sar
adore	ado'rar
authorize	autori'zar
complete	comple'tar
converse	conver'sar
escape	esca'par
ignore	igno'rar
invite	invi'tar
imagine	imagi'nar
prepare	prepa'rar
organize	organi'zar
utilize	utili'zar

Almost every English infinitive verb ending with '-ify' (eg. signify) can be converted into a Spanish verb by replacing the final 'ify' with '-ificar' (eg. significar).

unify	unifi'car
simplify	simplifi'car
solidify	solidifi'car
amplify	amplifi'car
notify	notifi'car
modify	modifi'car
gratify	gratifi'car
justify	justifi'car
pacify	pacifi'car
certify	certifi'car

Adverbs

In Spanish, "mente" combines with (feminine) adjectives to form Spanish adverbs.
In English, "-ly" combines with many adjectives to form adverbs.

Adjective		Adverb	
English	Spanish	English	Spanish
normal	nor'mal	normally	normalmente
natural	natu'ral	naturally	natural'mente
final	fi'nal	finally	final'mente
probable	pro'bable	probably	probable'mente
absolute	abso'luta	absolutely	absoluta'mente
exact	e'xacta	exactly	exacta'mente
evident	evi'dente	evidently	evidente'mente
complete	com'pleta	completly	completa'mente

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