

Spanish Cognates

[Cognates](#) are words from two languages that are the same or similar. As English borrows many words from Latin there are many Spanish-English cognates.

By learning the rules below you will have an instant [Spanish vocabulary](#) of thousands of words.

Spanish Cognate Rule 1

Words that end in **-ous change to **-oso****

Spanish words that end in -oso tend to be adjectives. In English we can often change a noun into its corresponding adjective by adding -ous e.g advantage/advantageous, harmony/harmonious, space/spacious. You can often also do this in Spanish with -oso e.g peligro (danger)/peligroso (dangerous), lujo (luxury)/lujoso (luxurious).

Examples

English	Spanish
Curious	Curioso
Delicious	Delicioso
Glorious	Glorioso
Mysterious	Misterioso
Numerous	Numeroso
Precious	Precioso
Religious	Religioso
Tedious	Tedioso

Spanish Cognate Rule 2

Words that end in **-al** are *usually* the same in English

Examples

English	Spanish
Hospital	Hospital
Medical	Medical
Animal	Animal
Casual	Casual
Digital	Digital
Final	Final
Ideal	Ideal
Tropical	Tropical

Spanish Cognate Rule 3

Words that end in **-ct** change to **-cto**

Examples

English	Spanish
Act	Acto

Exact	Exacto
Correct	Correcto
Insect	Insecto
Dialect	Dialecto
Perfect	Perfecto
Product	Producto
Conflict	Conflicto

Spanish Cognate Rule 4

Words that end in **-ance** change to **-ancia**

Examples

English	Spanish
Ambulance	Ambulancia
France	Francia
Distance	Distancia
Tolerance	Tolerancia
Elegance	Elegancia

Import ance	Import ancia
Abund ance	Abund ancia

Spanish Cognate Rule 5

Words that end in **-ic** change to **-ico**

These words are usually adjectives and have the stress (and therefore an accent) on the last syllable before the **-ico**

Examples

English	Spanish
Alcohol ic	Alcohol íco
Bas ic	Bás ico
Fantast ic	Fantást ico
Gener ic	Genér ico
Med ic	Méd ico
Organ ic	Orgán ico
Pan ic	Pán ico
Romant ic	Románt ico

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Spanish Cognate Rule 6

Words that end in **-ar** are *usually* the same in English

Examples

English	Spanish
Familiar	Familiar
Lunar	Lunar
Muscular	Muscular
Regular	Regular
Solar	Solar
Vulgar	Vulgar
Similar	Similar
Popular	Popular

Spanish Cognate Rule 7

Words that end in **-ary** change to **-ario**

Examples

English	Spanish
Canary	Canario
Diary	Diario

Gloss ary	Glos ario
Estu ary	Estu ario
Prim ary	Prim ario
Sal ary	Sal ario
Vocabul ary	Vocabular ario
Tempor ary	Tempor ario

Spanish Cognate Rule 8

Words that end in **-ant** change to **-ante**

Examples

English	Spanish
Abund ant	Abund ante
Dist ant	Dist ante
Eleg ant	Eleg ante
Import ant	Import ante
Mut ant	Mut ante
Vac ant	Vac ante

Toler ant	Toler ante
Instant ant	Instant ante

Spanish Cognate Rule 9

Words that end in **-ble** are *usually* the same in English

Examples

English	Spanish
Audible	Audible
Cable	Cable
Terrible	Terrible
Destructible	Destructible
Horrible	Horrible
Flexible	Flexible
Impossible	Imposible
Visible	Visible

Spanish Cognate Rule 10

Words that end in **-ence** change to **-encia**

Examples

English	Spanish
Coincidence	Coincidencia
Competence	Competencia
Difference	Diferencia
Excellence	Excelencia
Frequency	Frecuencia
Intelligence	Inteligencia
Presence	Presencia
Violence	Violencia

Spanish Cognate Rule 11

Words that end in **-id** change to **-ido**

Note: many words following this rule have an accent on the first vowel.

Examples

English	Spanish
Acid	Ácido
Fluid	Fluido

Rapid	Rápido
Solid	Sólido
Valid	Válido
Stupid	Estúpido
Liquid	Líquido
Vivid	Vívido

Spanish Cognate Rule 12

Words that end in **-ment** change to **-mento**

Note: some words such as *departamento* may have other minor spelling changes.

Examples

English	Spanish
Argument	Argumento
Cement	Cemento
Department	Departamento
Document	Documento
Element	Elemento

Ligament	Ligamento
Moment	Momento
Pigment	Pigmento