

# Words you already know...

A bit of history on the language.....Spanish or Castellano? There are many words that English and Spanish that are either identical or similar in form.

This is because all the romance languages (French, Italian, Romanian and Portuguese) began with the introduction of Latin into Europe by the Italian soldiers. The use of “vulgar” Latin started on the Iberian peninsula, in present day Spain and Portugal and it evolved into what we know as the romance language. Then the version spoken in Spain’s Castille’s region was mixed with Arabic the dialect spoken by the Moors, when these group conquered parts of the region. Thus, the Castilian Spanish became the standardized Spanish language in the 1200’s - originally called Castellano (after castile) - and this is the Spanish that we know in present times.

## *Cognates (Los cognados)*

Spanish and English words also share many words that are similar or identical in form and meaning. We say Spanish and English are *language neighbors* because they both share words derived from Latin. We call these words with latin roots, cognates (los cognados).

You can also find similarities in the two languages when one “borrows” a word from the other language and adapts it so that it sounds close to their own language system. There are many words in English that have been borrowed from Spanish, and vice versa. For example, the English word **leader** has become Spanish **líder** in Spanish, and the Spanish word **lagarto**(the lizard) has become English **alligator**. The existence of so many cognates will make learning some Spanish vocabulary words easier for you and increase the number of words that you can recognize immediately.

***Following is a list of cognates you might use around the classroom, don’t try to memorize them - just get used to the sound of them in Spanish.***

- ✓ **Practica #1** - alfabeto - *alphabet*, arte - *art*...cafetería-*cafetería*...ciencia - *science*, clase - *class*, completar - *complete*, computadora-*computer*...color-*color*...copiar- *copy*...día-*day*, familia- *family*, grupo - *group*...hora - *hour*, idea- *idea*, inventar - *invent*...lista - *list*...literatura - *literature*.....
- organizar - *organize*...pintar- *paint*, poema - *poem*...problema - *problem*...

activo - *active*...arrogante - *arrogant*...atlético - *athletic*....calmo/calma - *calm*...  
curioso/a - *curious*

**Practica#2 - Use the -o ending when speaking about a male, -a ending when describing a female, the -e ending with referring to gender neutral.....**

**Ejemplo: extrovertido/a, sincero/sincera, curioso/a**

- a. Describe Juan using simple Spanish sentences that begin with  
Juan es (is)\_\_\_\_\_Juan no es (is not)\_\_\_\_\_
- b. How do you say sincere for a female \_\_\_\_\_and a  
male\_\_\_\_\_
- c. Think of a well-known person and use a word to describe him or her.  
Jennifer Lopez es\_\_\_\_\_ y \_\_\_\_\_  
El presidente es \_\_\_\_\_y\_\_\_\_\_

✓ **Practica # 3 - See if you can guess the meaning of each of the following words**  
Elegante, Idealista, importante, independiente, inteligente, interesante, liberal,  
optimista, paciente, pesimista, realista, rebelde, responsable, sentimental, terrible,  
serio/a sincero/a tímido/a, talentoso/talentosa, increíble.

✓ **At home practice - - watch the following videos:**

“The History of the Spanish language” by Pimsleur [approach.com](http://approach.com)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACOX5nMl2wQ>

Cognates vs. false cognates by “University Prep”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-u8VXrlWZO>

Scan code to go to *Spanishwithkaren.com*

