

Los cognados (True and False)

There are many Spanish and English words that are similar or identical in form and meaning. These words are called cognates (los cognados). Spanish and English are "language neighbors" and share many cognates because they both have words derived from Latin.

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. For example, the English word leader has become Spanish líder in Spanish, and the Spanish word lagarto (izard) has become English alligator.

The existence of so many cognates will make learning Spanish vocabulary words easier for you, by increasing the number of words you can recognize immediately.

Take a look at the following list of "true cognates"

SPANISH to ENGLISH Animal Area Artificial Auto Balance Bar
Base Brutal Cable Café Cafe Canal Cáncer Cancer Canon Capital
Carbon Cartón Carton Central Cerebral Criminal Crisis Cultural
Cultural Debate Debate Decisión Decision Diagonal Diagonal
Dimensión Dimension Director Disco División Division Doctor Drama Explosion
Expulsión Expulsion Federal Festival Final Flexi Original Panorama Particular Pasta
Pastor Patio Patron Verbal Versión Version Vertical Violín Violin Visible Visual
Vital Vulgar Vulnerable

- ✓ English to Spanish – for near-perfect English cognates ending in 'tion' can be converted to Spanish by replacing the ending with 'ción' - fascination to fascinación.



- ✓ Other near-perfect cognates, can be converted to English adjectives can be converted to Spanish adjectives by substituting the IC with ICO. For example: fantastic to fantastico.

But.....beware of false cognates

Not all words that sound or are spelled similar have the same meaning. The French linguists have called “false friends”. These are words look identical, but they actually mean two completely different things! Thankfully, there’s only a small list of them (compared to the true cognates).

English Word	Spanish Word	Meaning in Spanish	False Friend Explanation
Actual	Actual	Current / Present	In English, "actual" means "real" or "factual."
Embarrassed	Embarazada	Pregnant	In English, "embarrassed" refers to feeling self-conscious.
Library	Librería	Bookstore	In English, "library" is a place where books are borrowed.
Sensible	Sensible	Sensitive	In English, "sensible" means showing good judgment.
Pretend	Pretender	To Try / Attempt	In English, "pretend" means to make believe, while in Spanish, "pretender" means to try or attempt.
Fabric	Fábrica	Factory	In English, "fabric" refers to textile material, while "fábrica" means factory.
Eventually	Eventualmente	Eventually (correct)	Both words are true cognates. However, the nuance and usage might differ.
Actual	Actual	Current / Present	Same as "actual" in English, referring to something current or present.

Ejercicio:

Create 3 sentences using true cognates.

Escribe 3 oraciones con cognados falsos y presenten sus oraciones en la clase.

Homework (Tareas)

Watch the following video (3.11 mins) (Los cognados)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-u8VXrlWZQ>

Scan code to go to *Spanishwithkaren.com*

