

# Spanish/English Cognates

Cognates are words in two languages that share a similar meaning, spelling, and pronunciation. While English may share very few cognates with a language like Chinese, 30-40% of all words in English have a related word in Spanish. For Spanish-speaking ELLs, cognates are an obvious bridge to the English language.

Not surprisingly, researchers who study first and second language acquisition have found that students benefit from cognate awareness. Cognate awareness is the ability to use cognates in a primary language as a tool for understanding a second language. Children can be taught to use cognates as early as preschool. As students move up the grade levels, they can be introduced to more sophisticated cognates, and to cognates that have multiple meanings in both languages, although some of those meanings may not overlap. One example of a cognate with multiple meanings is *asistir*, which means to *assist* (same meaning) but also to *attend* (different meaning). (From [www.colorincolorado.org/educators/background/cognates](http://www.colorincolorado.org/educators/background/cognates) .)

There are many web sites to assist you with using cognates to help students learn English. Here is a list taken from [http://www.latinamericalinks.com/spanish\\_cognates\\_letter\\_a.htm](http://www.latinamericalinks.com/spanish_cognates_letter_a.htm) to help you get started.

## A

abandon - abandonar

abdicate - abdicar

abnormal - abnormal

abolish - abolir

abolition - abolición

abominable - abominable

abolish - abolir

abound - abundar

abrupt - abrupto

absolute - absoluto

absolutely - absolutamente

absorb - absorber

abstain - abstener se

abstraction - abstracción

absurd - absurdo

abundance - abundancia

abundant - abundante

abunantly –

abundantemente

abuse(n) - abuso

abuse(v) - abusar

abyss - abismo

academy - academia

accelerate - acelerar

accent - acento

accentuate - acentuar

accept - aceptar

acceptance - aceptación

access - acceso

accessory- accesorio

accident -accidente

accord(n)-acuerdo

accuse - acusar

acquire - adquirir

act - acto

active - activo

actor - actor

actress - actriz

actuary - actuario

adapt - adaptar

adhere - adherir

adherent - adherente

adjust - ajustar

administrate - administrar

admire - admirar

admit - admitir

adolescence –

adolescencia

adopt-adoptar

adore- adorar

affect- afectar

air - aire

altar - altar

ambulance-ambulancia

angular - angular

antioxidant-antioxidante

appear - aparecer

arrogance - arrogancia

arrogant - arrogante

aspirant - aspirante

assailant - asaltante

assembly - asimilar

assimilate - asimilar  
assistance - asistencia  
associate (v) -asociar  
association - asociación  
assume - asumir  
astronomer - astrónomo  
athlete - atleta  
athletic - atlético  
atmosphere - atmósfera  
atom - átomo  
atrocitiy - atrocidad  
attack(n) - ataque  
attack(v) - atacar  
attention - atención  
attentive - atento  
attentively –  
    atentivamente  
attenuate - atenuar  
attitude-actitud  
attraction - atracción  
attractive - atractivo  
attribute - atributo  
attribute - atribuir  
audacious - audaz  
audacity - audacia  
audience - audiencia  
augment - aumentar  
audacious - audaz  
audacity - audacia  
audience - audiencia  
augment-aumentar  
augmentation –  
    aumentación  
august - agosto  
aurora - aurora  
austere - ausero  
austerity - austeridad  
authentic - auténtico  
author - autor  
authority - autoridad  
authority - autoridad  
authorize - autorizar  
athorization - autoización  
automatic - automático

automation - autómatas  
automobile - automóvil  
autonomy - autonomía  
auxiliary - auxiliar  
avarice - avaricia  
avenue - avenida  
aversion - aversión  
avid - ávido  
azure - azul

## B

balance - balanza (n)  
balance - balancear  
balcony - balcón  
balloon - balón  
band - banda  
bandit - bandito  
bank - banco  
banker - banquero  
banquet - banquete  
bar - barra  
barbarian - bárbaro  
barbarity - barbaridad  
barber - barbero  
bark - barca  
baron - barón  
barrel - barril  
basis - base  
battle - batalla  
bayonet - bayoneta  
benediction - bendición  
benefice - beneficio  
benefit - beneficio  
benefit - beneficiar  
benevolence –  
    benevolencia  
benevolent - benévolo  
benign - benigno  
biblical - bíblico  
bicycle - bicicleta  
biography - biografía  
bland - blando  
blasphemy - blasfemia

blouse - blusa  
boat - bote  
bomb bomba  
border - borde  
boulevard - bulevar  
boxer - boxeador

## C

cable - cable  
calculate - calcular  
calendar - calendario  
calm (v.) - calmar  
calvary - calvario  
combine - combinar  
camel - camello  
canal - canal  
canary - canario  
cancelable - cancelable  
candidate - candidato  
candor - candor  
canon - canón  
canton - cantón  
capacity - capacidad  
cape - capa  
capital - capital  
capricious - caprichoso  
captin - capitán  
conflict - conflicto  
considerable-considerable  
contact- contacto  
contain - contener  
contract - contrato  
contribute - contribuir  
control - controlar  
convict- convicto  
cooperate - cooperar  
copy - copia  
correct - correcto  
create - crear

## D

dance(n) - danza  
dance(v) - danzar

debate - debate  
debilitate - debilitar  
debut - debut  
decadence - decadencia  
decent - decente  
decide - decidir  
decisive - decisivo  
declare - declarar  
decline - declinar  
decorate - decorar  
decree - decreto  
dedicate - dedicar  
defect - defecto  
defunct - difunto  
derelict - derelicto  
dialect - dialecto  
direct - directo  
distinct- distinto  
district - distrito

## E

eccentricity - excentricidad  
echo - eco  
edict - edicto  
edifice - edificio  
effect - efecto  
effective - efectivo  
efficacy - eficacia  
elector - elector  
electricity - electricidad  
elegance - elegancia  
elegant - elegante  
element - elemento  
emigrant - emigrante  
empire - imperio  
enemy - enemigo  
enigma - enigma  
envy - envidia  
episode - episodio  
error - error  
essence - esencia  
essential - esencial  
establish - establecer

eternal - eterno  
eternity - eternidad  
evacuate - evacuar

## F

fabricate - fabricar  
fabulous - fabuloso  
facilitate - facilitar  
facility - facilidad  
factor - factor  
faculty - facultad  
false - falso  
falsify - falsear  
falsity - falsedad  
fame - fama  
family - familia  
famous - famoso  
fascinate - fascinar  
fatality - fatalidad  
fatigue - fatiga  
favorable - favorable

## G

gallant - galante  
gallop - galope  
gardener - jardinero  
gas - gas  
gasoline - gasolina  
general (adj.) - general  
generosity - generosidad  
genteel - gentil  
genuine - genuino  
germ - germen  
gesture - gesto  
giant - gigante  
glacial - glacial  
globe - globo  
glorious - glorioso  
glory - gloria  
golf - golf  
gradual - gradual  
gratitude - gratitud  
grotesque – grotesco

## H

habitual - habitual  
hatchet - hacha  
harmonious - armonioso  
heir - heredero  
hemisphere - hemisferio  
herb - hierba  
hereditary - hereditario  
historian - historiador  
history - historia  
honor - honor  
horizontal - horizontal  
horrendous - horrendo  
horrible - horrible  
horror - horror  
hospitality - hospitalidad  
hostile - hostil

## I

idea - idea  
ideal - ideal  
identity - identidad  
idiot - idiota  
ignorant - ignorante  
illuminate - iluminar  
image - imagen  
imaginary - imaginario  
imaginative - imaginativo  
imagine - imaginar  
immediate - inmediato  
immediately –  
                  inmediatamente  
immense - inmenso  
immortal - inmortal  
impartial - imparcial  
imperfect - imperfecto  
imperial - imperial  
importance - importancia  
impossible - imposible

## J

jar - jarra

jargon - jerga  
judicial - judicial  
judiciary - judicialicio  
just - justo  
justice - justicia  
justify - justificar

## K

kilogram - kilogramo

## L

labor (n) - labor  
labor (v) - laborar  
laboratory - laboratorio  
laborious - laborioso  
lament - lamentar  
latitude - latitud  
legal - legal  
legislator - legislador  
legumes - legumbres  
liberal - liberal  
liberty - libertad  
limit - limitar  
line - linea  
liquidate - liquidar  
liquor - licor  
list - lista  
locality - localidad

## M

magistrate - magistrado  
magnitude - magnitud  
majesty - majestad  
malice - malicia  
malignant - maligno  
mandate - mandato  
manner - manera  
manual - manual  
manuscript - manuscrito  
map - mapa  
march(v) - marchar  
margin - margen

marine - marino  
mark(n) - marca  
mark(v) - marcar  
marvel - maravilla  
marvelous - maravilloso  
matrimony - matrimonio  
medal - medalla  
mediate - mediar

## N

narrate - narrar  
natal - natal  
national - nacional  
nationality - nacionalidad  
native - nativo  
natural - natural  
naturally - naturalmente  
naval - naval  
navigable - navegable  
necessary - necesario  
necessitate - necesitar  
necessity- necesidad  
negative - negativo  
nerve- nervio  
neutral - neutro  
noble (adj) - noble  
normal - normal

## O

oasis - oasis  
obedience - obediencia  
obedient - obediente  
object - objeto  
objective - objetivo  
oblige - obligar  
obscure - oscuro  
observe- observar  
obstruct - obstruir  
obtain - obtener  
occur - ocurrir  
odious - odioso  
offend- offender

## P

pacific - pacifico  
pact - pacto  
palace - palacio  
palm - palma  
passive - pasivo  
past - pasado  
paste - pasta  
pastor - pastor  
paternal - paterno  
patience - paciencia  
patio - patio  
patriarch - patriarca  
pause - pausa  
pavement - pavimento  
pearl - perla  
pedagogue - pedagogo

## Q

quarter - cuarto  
quiet - quieto  
quietude - quietud

## R

race(n) - raza  
tadiant - radiante  
radiator - radiador  
radical - radical  
ranch - rancho  
rapidity - rapidez  
rare - raro  
ray - rayo  
realist - realista  
reality - realidad  
reason(v) - razonar  
reasonable - razonable  
rebel - rebelde  
receive - recibir  
recently - recientemente  
recite - recitar  
reference - referencia  
refine - refinar  
reflect - reflejar

## S

Salad - ensalada  
Salary –s alario  
Sanctity - santidad  
Sane - sano  
Scene - escena  
Second - segundo  
secret(n) - secreto  
secretly - secretamente  
sect - secta  
secular - secular  
security - seguridad  
seduce - seducir  
senate - senado  
sensual - sensual  
serene - sereno

## T

Tact - tacto  
talent - talento  
tamale - tamal  
tardy - tardo  
tariff - tarifa  
tarragon - estragón  
tart - tarta  
tea - té  
teapot - tetera  
telescope - telescopio  
temperature -  
    temperatura  
temple - templo  
temporary - temporal  
terminate - terminar  
tepid - tibio  
terrace - terraza  
terrible - terrible  
theme - tema  
theology - teologia  
thesis - tesis  
timidity - timidez  
tint - tinte  
tobacco - tabaco  
tolerance - tolerancia

tone - tono  
tourist - turista  
traditional - tradicional  
tragedy - tragedia  
traffick - tráfico  
train - tren  
tunnel - túnel

## U

ulterior - ulterior  
ultimate - ultimo  
united - unido  
unity - unidad  
universal - universal  
unjust - injusto  
unstable - inestable  
urbane - urbano  
urgency - urgencia  
urgent - urgente  
use (v) - usar  
utility - utilidad  
utilize - utilizar

## V

vacant - vacante  
vacation - vacaciones  
vacillate - vacilar  
vague - vago  
valor - valor  
vanity - vanidad  
vary - variar  
vast - vasto  
vehicle - vehiculo  
vein - vena  
velocity - velocidad  
verb - verbo  
victory - victoria  
violence - violencia  
violent - violento  
virgin - virgen