

What are cognates?

- ❖ There are some words in another language that when you see them, you know (or think you know) what they mean.
- ❖ They may be spelled exactly alike (or similar to) a word in your native language. For example, “capital” is spelled the same & means the same thing in Eng/Spa; however, it has different pronunciation.
- ❖ Such pairs of words that exist in two languages are called “cognates”, from “cognatus”, the Latin word for *relative*.
- ❖ There are three types of cognates: exact, direct, and indirect

BUT BE AWARE...THERE'S ONE MORE!!

- There are some words that look like or are spelled like words in English; however, they have **different meanings & pronunciations** .
- These words are called **false cognates or false friends**.
- **Look at these words:** *pan, once, pie, hay, sin*
- If they're English words, we know their meanings, right? But do we know them in Spanish?
- Can you **guess** these meanings at first glance?
embarazada, sopa

But relax...



- Only about **10 %** of Spanish words are false cognates.

THREE TYPES OF COGNATES

❖ EXACT:

- Have same meaning and spelling in English
- *Examples:* chocolate, hotel, idea, piano

❖ DIRECT:

- Have a direct and similar meaning and spelling to words in English.
- *Examples:* *declaración, libertad, familia, especial, rápido, curioso*

❖ INDIRECT:

- Have an indirect meaning and spelling to words in English.
- *Example:* *Biblioteca* → *library*; “*biblio*”=
- *Latin for collection of books; la Biblia*= *Bible*



SPELLING, SPELLING, SPELLING...

Spanish words that end in *-a*, *-o* or *-e* very often have an equivalent in English. With some, you simply drop or change the last vowel.

aire

atleta (athlete)

caso

causa

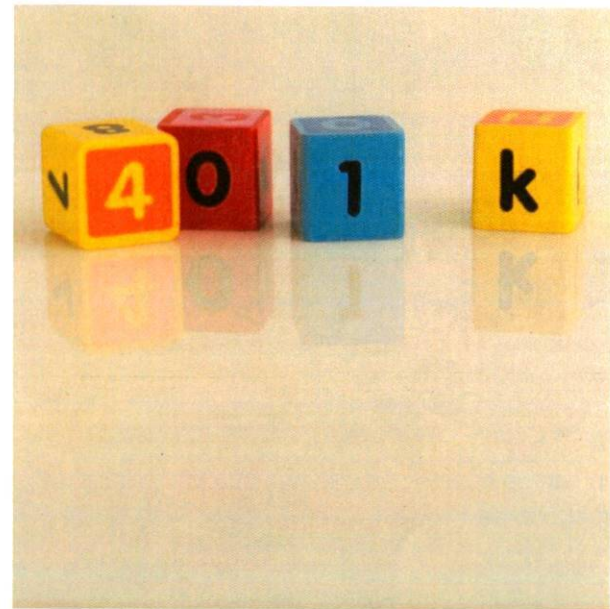
costo

creativo

credito

dieta

drama



PRONUNCIATION OF COGNATES

Many words in English have nearly identical Spanish cognates. Only the pronunciation is different and, at most, a very little spelling change:

auto
chocolate
cónsul
familiar
gas
hotel
idea
melón
millón
plaza
radio
regular
similar
teléfono
villa



WHY AND HOW?

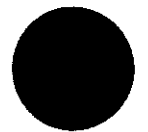
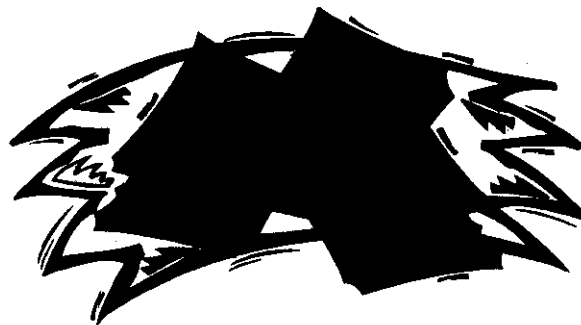
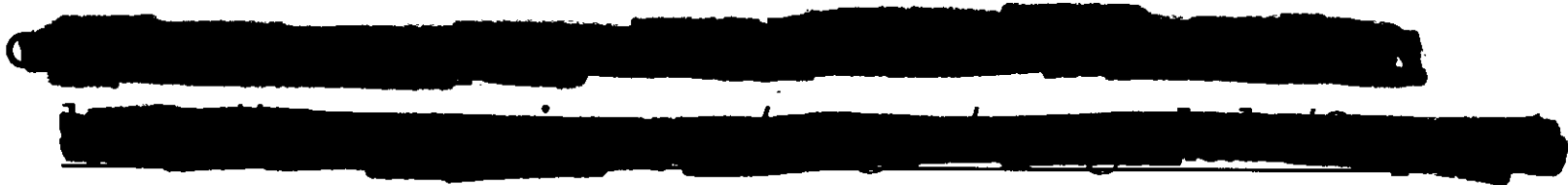
- Cognates help to Spanish beginners feel more **comfortable** with this new language.
- Establishes a **link** between English and Spanish.
- Students are aware of the **common origin** of words.
- Allows students to **explore** the language far beyond from school's objectives.



WHY AND HOW?

Activities for finding and using cognates

- Look for cognates in your textbook.
- Read magazines and newspapers in order to find cognates
- Try to translate the main idea of a paragraph by identifying cognates that will help to understand its content.



YOU CAN READ SPANISH, TOO!

You may not know it, but if I tell you that “*el*”= “the”, “*hay*”=“there is/there are” “*un*”=a, an...I bet you can read and understand the meanings of these sentences ...and understand them...let's try:

1. El elefante es un animal inteligente.
2. Hay elefantes en África.
3. El camello es un animal diferente.
4. Hay muchos camellos en el desierto.
5. El tigre es un animal feroz.
6. El león es otro animal feroz.
7. Hay muchos animales feroces en el circo.

HOW DO COGNATES HELP US LEARN SPANISH?

- ❖ Spanish is a language that evolved from Latin over the last two thousand years.
- ❖ English, although it is not as closely related to Latin as Spanish, borrows thousands of words from Latin, many of them the same words that Spanish uses.
- ❖ Both languages have borrowed many words from Classical Greek. This results in thousands of cognates between English and Spanish.
- ❖ Learning vocabulary of another language is much easier when you can recognize cognates.
- ❖ Simply use your knowledge of English vocabulary and apply the rules that determine the spelling change between the two languages.



COGNATES: ^{SOPLO} SUFFIX RECOGNITION

There are many Spanish cognates that end in *-ción*. The equivalent English word ends in *-tion*. Note that all of these words have the stress on the final syllable. Also, all of these words are feminine in gender.

abreviación

sensación

separación

significación

situación

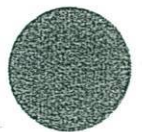
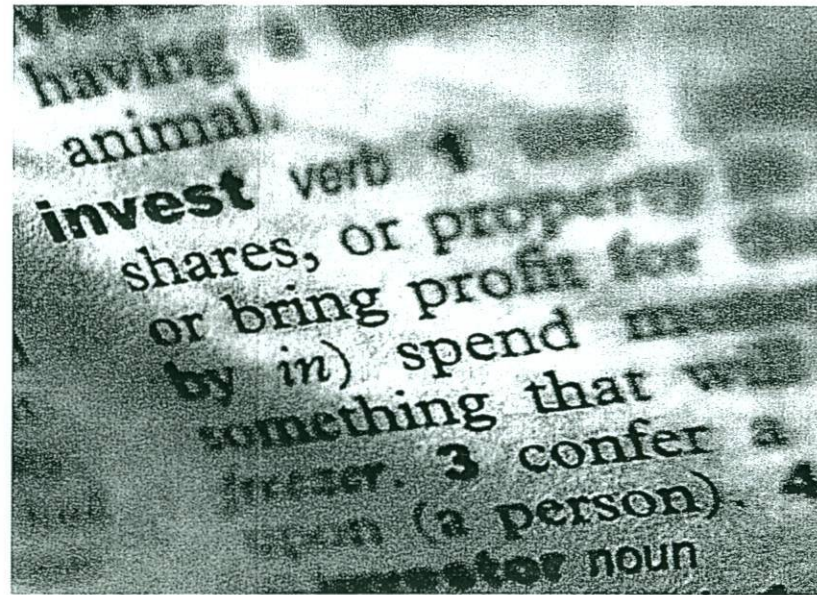
ventilación

violación



Words that end in *-ary* in English very often have a Spanish cognate that ends in *-ario/ -aria*.

aniversario
diccionario
disciplinario
itinerario
literario
necesario/a
ordinario/a
salario
vocabulario



Words that in in *-dad/-tad* are quite common in Spanish. They usually correspond to an English word that ends in *-ty*. All of these words are feminine in gender.

autoridad (authority)

ciudad (city)

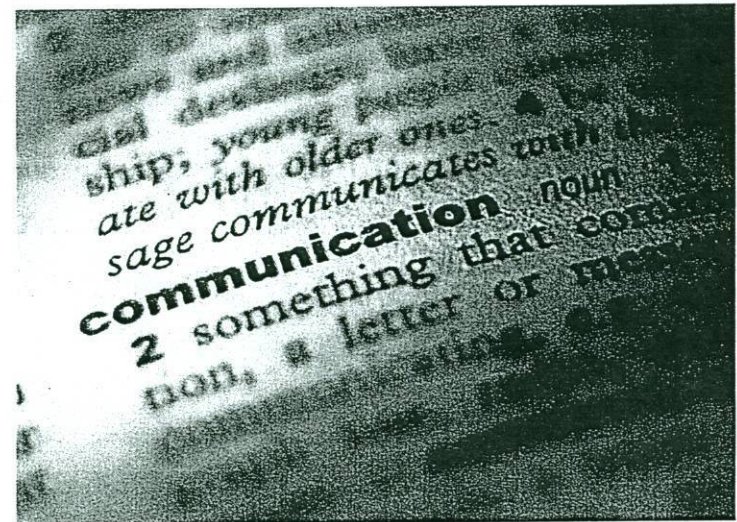
comunidad

dificultad

enfermedad (infirmity, illness)

formalidad

velocidad



English words that end in *-ic* usually have a Spanish cognate that simply add an *-o/a*.

atlántico/a
automática/o
democrático/a
didáctico/a
escolástico/a
romántico/a
sarcástico/a



Like the previous category, English words that end in *-ical* have a Spanish cognate that ends in *-ico/ -ica*.

clásico/a

cómico/a

eléctrico/a

físico/a

histórico/a

metódico/a

periódico (newspaper, periodical)

político/a

práctico/a

psicológico/a (psychological)

técnico/a



English words that end in *-ent* often have a cognate in Spanish that ends in *-ente*. These words are usually adjectives.

agente
cliente
diferente
equivalente
indiferente
inteligente
suficiente



KEEP AN EYE ON...

Spanish words that end in - *mente* (as opposed to just -*ente*). They usually have an English cognate that ends in -*ly*. These are adverbs.

correctamente

desafortunadamente (unfortunately)

especialmente

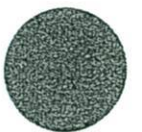
exactamente

finalmente

generalmente

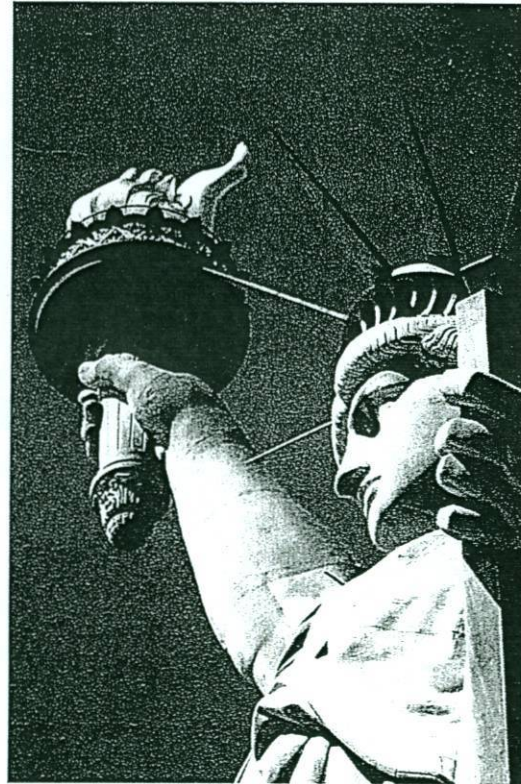
moralmente

rapidamente



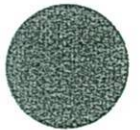
Words that end in *-ment* in English have equivalents in Spanish that simply add an *-o*. These words are nouns.

argumento
monumento
sacramento
suplemento
testamento



Words that end in *-al* in both English and Spanish are often cognates.

animal
anual
capital
central
comercial
especial
general
hospital
intelectual



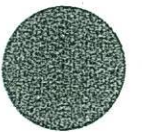
English words that end in *-ence* or *-ance* often have a Spanish cognate that ends in *-encia* or *-ancia*.

abundancia
ausencia (absence)
circunstancia
conciencia
diferencia



-ant (or sometimes *-ent*) words in English sometimes end in *-ante* in Spanish.

abundante
constante
elegante
estudiante
importante



Some English words that end in *-ous* have a Spanish cognate that ends in *-oso*.

ambicioso

curioso

delicioso

famoso

glorioso

gracioso



English words with the ending *-y* sometimes have an equivalent in Spanish with the ending *-ia* or *-io*.

aristocracia

compañía (company)

democracia

eficacia

familia

farmacia (pharmacy)

historia



English words that end in *-or* often have a Spanish cognate that is identical.

actor

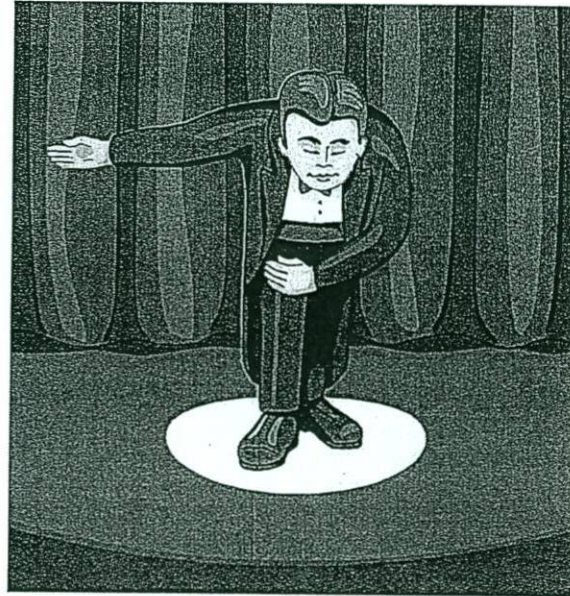
autor (author)

color

director

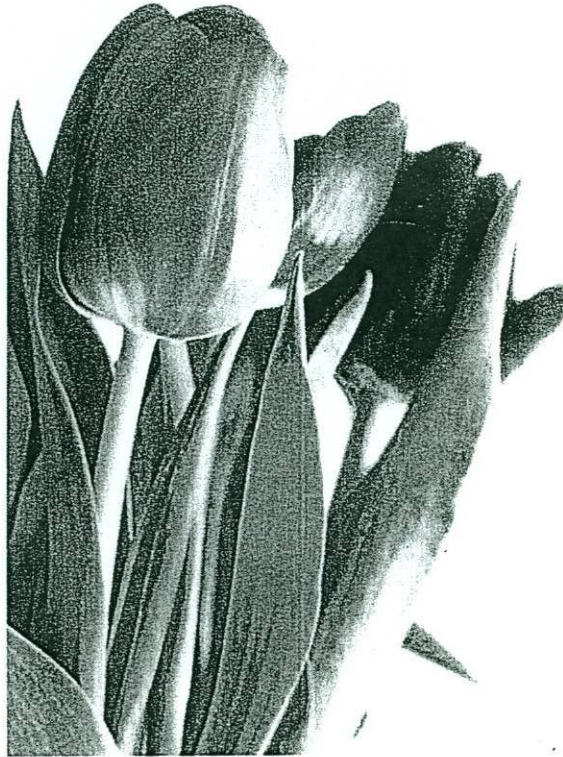
doctor

humor



English words that end in *-ist* often have a Spanish cognate that ends with **-ista**.

artista
florista
moralista
pianista
turista



PRUEBA PRACTICA

How do you say/write the following in Spanish?

1. cost
2. situation
3. necessary
4. university
5. romantic
6. hysterical
7. different
8. especially
9. argument
10. difference

11. important
12. famous
13. family
14. artist
15. doctor

