Spanish Cognates

Instantly Learn Thousands of Spanish Words With These Vocabulary Cheat Codes

[Cognates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognate) 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](http://www.linguasorb.com/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** |
| Curi**ous** | Curi**oso** |
| Delici**ous** | Delici**oso** |
| Glori**ous** | Glori**oso** |
| Mysteri**ous** | Misteri**oso** |
| Numer**ous** | Numer**oso** |
| Preci**ous** | Preci**oso** |
| Religi**ous** | Religi**oso** |
| Tedi**ous** | Tedi**oso** |

Spanish Cognate Rule 2

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

**Examples**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English** | **Spanish** |
| Hospit**al** | Hospit**al** |
| Medic**al** | Medic**al** |
| Anim**al** | Anim**al** |
| Casu**al** | Casu**al** |
| Digit**al** | Digit**al** |
| Fin**al** | Fin**al** |
| Ide**al** | Ide**al** |
| Tropic**al** | Tropic**al** |

Spanish Cognate Rule 3

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

**Examples**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English** | **Spanish** |
| A**ct** | A**cto** |
| Exa**ct** | Exa**cto** |
| Corre**ct** | Corre**cto** |
| Inse**ct** | Inse**cto** |
| Diale**ct** | Diale**cto** |
| Perfe**ct** | Perfe**cto** |
| Produ**ct** | Produ**cto** |
| Confli**ct** | Confli**cto** |

Spanish Cognate Rule 4

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

**Examples**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English** | **Spanish** |
| Ambul**ance** | Ambul**ancia** |
| Fr**ance** | Fr**ancia** |
| Dist**ance** | Dist**ancia** |
| Subst**ance** | Subst**ancia** |
| Toler**ance** | Toler**ancia** |
| Eleg**ance** | Eleg**ancia** |
| 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** | Alcohól**ico** |
| 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** |

Spanish Cognate Rule 6

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

**Examples**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English** | **Spanish** |
| Famili**ar** | Famili**ar** |
| Lun**ar** | Lun**ar** |
| Muscul**ar** | Muscul**ar** |
| Regul**ar** | Regul**ar** |
| Sol**ar** | Sol**ar** |
| Vulg**ar** | Vulg**ar** |
| Simil**ar** | Simil**ar** |
| Popul**ar** | Popul**ar** |

Spanish Cognate Rule 7

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

**Examples**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English** | **Spanish** |
| Can**ary** | Can**ario** |
| Di**ary** | Di**ario** |
| Gloss**ary** | Gloss**ario** |
| Estu**ary** | Estu**ario** |
| Prim**ary** | Prim**ario** |
| Sal**ary** | Sal**ario** |
| Vocabul**ary** | Vocabul**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** |
| Inst**ant** | Inst**ante** |

Spanish Cognate Rule 9

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

**Examples**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English** | **Spanish** |
| Audi**ble** | Audi**ble** |
| Ca**ble** | Ca**ble** |
| Terri**ble** | Terri**ble** |
| Destructi**ble** | Destructi**ble** |
| Horri**ble** | Horri**ble** |
| Flexi**ble** | Flexi**ble** |
| Impossi**ble** | Imposi**ble** |
| Visi**ble** | Visi**ble** |

Spanish Cognate Rule 10

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

**Examples**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English** | **Spanish** |
| Coincid**ence** | Coincid**encia** |
| Compet**ence** | Compet**encia** |
| Differ**ence** | Difer**encia** |
| Excell**ence** | Excel**encia** |
| Frequ**ence** | Frecu**encia** |
| Intellig**ence** | Intelig**encia** |
| Pres**ence** | Pres**encia** |
| Viol**ence** | Viol**encia** |

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** |
| Ac**id** | Ác**ido** |
| Flu**id** | Flu**ido** |
| Rap**id** | Ráp**ido** |
| Sol**id** | Sól**ido** |
| Val**id** | Vál**ido** |
| Stup**id** | Estúp**ido** |
| Liqu**id** | Líqu**ido** |
| Viv**id** | Vív**ido** |

Spanish Cognate Rule 12

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

**Examples**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **English** | **Spanish** |
| Argu**ment** | Argu**mento** |
| Ce**ment** | Ce**mento** |
| Depart**ment** | Depart**mento** |
| Docu**ment** | Docu**mento** |
| Ele**ment** | Ele**mento** |
| Liga**ment** | Liga**mento** |
| Mo**ment** | Mo**mento** |
| Pig**ment** | Pig**mento** |