

Helping Spanish Speakers Build English Vocabulary

By Matthew Gollub ©2007

Spanish speakers are in the position to quickly and easily attain English vocabulary. At least 40% of English words share Latin cognates. Below are **sophisticated** English words closely related to **common** Spanish expressions. Try introducing one or two a day. You'll not only boost your students' vocabulary; you'll train them to look for "handles" on words based on what they already know!

English word (in the sense of)

Spanish

abundant	abundante
accompany (go with)	acompañar
agitate (v. to shake up)	agitar
aggregate (n. sum or total)	agregado
aggregate (v. to add or total up)	agregar
bilingual	bilingüe
blouse	blusa
cathedral	catedral
cause	causa
chauffeur (driver)	chófer
client (customer)	cliente
congeal (freeze)	congelar
congealed (frozen)	congelado
concept	concepto
conduct (noun)	conducto
conduct oneself	conducirse
culpable (guilty)	culpable
discourse (n. speech)	discurso
distinct	distinto
durable (long lasting)	durable
edifice (building)	edificio
esteem (respect)	estimo
esteemed (respected)	estimado
extraordinary	extraordinario
facile	fácil
ferocious	feroz
florist	florista
gratitude	gratitud
humble	humilde
kilometer	kilómetro

English word (in the sense of)

Spanish

lament (regret)	lamentar
lamentable	lamentable
lamentably	lamentablemente
liberate (oneself)	librarse
liberated	librado
master (expert)	maestro (also teacher)
mastery	maestría
matrimony (marriage)	matrimonio
matrimonial	matrimonial
meter	metro
nocturnal	nocturno
occupied	ocupado
occupy (oneself)	ocuparse
occult (to hide or conceal)	ocultar
occult (adj. not easily understood)	oculto
opine (to think, believe)	opinar
passport	pasaporte
preoccupy (oneself)	preocuparse
preoccupied (worried)	preocupado
prohibited	prohibido
sentiments (feelings)	sentimientos
remedy	remedio
respect	respeto
sacerdotal (priestly)	sacerdote (n. priest)
sacrament	sacramento
siren (of the sea)	sirena (mermaid)
solo (alone)	sólo
sufficient (enough)	suficiente
succeed (happen)	suceder
surpass	superar
temple	templo
testament	testamento
tourist	turista
triumph (verb)	triumfar
triumph (noun)	trunfo
unique	único
unite (join together)	unirse
valor (courage)	valor
verdant (lush, green)	verde
veritable (true)	verdadero

Note: for more lists, search the Internet for “English Spanish cognates.”