Spanish Cognates

Nouns

Many Spanish nouns can easily be converted into English nouns.

English nouns and Spanish nouns ending in '-or' are very often identical.

#1. *-or = -or*	
English	**Spanish**
• actor • color • doctor • director • horror	• actor • color • doctor • director • horror

English nouns and Spanish nouns ending in '-al' are very common identical.

#2. *-al = -al*	
English	**Spanish**
• animal • general • hospital • manual • moral	• animal • general • hospital • manual • moral

Many English nouns ending with '-ist', can be converted into Spanish nouns by changing to '-ista'.

#3. *-ist → -ista*	
English	**Spanish**
• artist • egoist • list • socialist • tourist	• artista • egoista • lista • socialista • turista

#4. *-ism → -ismo*	
English	**Spanish**
• idealism • despotism • mechanism • organism • optimism	• idealismo • despotismo • mecanismo • organismo • optimismo

#5. -nce → -ncia	
English	**Spanish**
• abundance • arrogance • experience • patience • intelligence	• abundancia • arrogancia • experiencia • paciencia • inteligencia

#6. -ty → -dad	
English	**Spanish**
• activity • curiosity • electricity • identity • university	• actividad • curiosidad • electricidad • identidad • universidad

#7. -tion → -ción	
English	**Spanish**
• association • combination • condition • exemption • instruction	• asociación • combinación • condición • exempción • instrucción

English nouns ending with '-y' often corresponds to Spanish nouns ending with '-ía', '-ia', or '-io'.

#8. -y → '-ía', '-ia', or '-io'	
English	**Spanish**
• agency • agony • battery • family • history • urgency • remedy • salary • testimony • dictionary	• agencia • agonía • batería • familia • historia • urgencia • remedio • salario • testimonio • diccionario

Verbs

There are many English verbs that can be converted into Spanish, usually by changing the ending of the English verb and adding the Spanish verb suffices 'ar', 'er' or 'ir'.

Almost every English verb ending in **'-ate'** can be coverted into a Spanish infinitive by replacing the final '-ate' with **'-ar'**.

#1. *-ate → -ar*	
English	**Spanish**
accelerate	acelerar
accentuate	acentuar
aggregate	agregar
associate	asociar
demonstrate	demostrar
estimate	estimar
exaggerate	exagerar
negotiate	negociar
operate	operar
participate	participar
terminate	terminar

Many English verbs ending in **VOWEL + CONSONANT + T** can be converted into Spanish verbs by adding **'-ar'** or **'-ir'** to the end of the English verb.

#2. *VOWEL + CONSONANT + T → '-tar' or '-tir'*	
English	**Spanish**
insult	insultar
consult	consultar
exalt	exaltar
present	presentar
represent	representar
comment	comentar
ferment	fermentar
lament	lamentar
import	importar
comport	comportar
insert	insertar
support	soportar
export	exportar
convert	convertir
insist	insistir

Many English infinitive verbs ending **VOWEL + CONSONANT + E** can be converted into Spanish infinitive verbs by **dropping the final E** and adding '**-ar**'.

#3. *VOWEL + CONSONANT + E → VOWEL + CONSONANT + 'AR'*	
English	**Spanish**
abuse	abusar
accuse	acusar
cause	causar
excuse	excusar
admire	admirar
adore	adorar
compare	comparar
declare	declarar
implore	implorar
analyze	analizar
authorize	autorizar
civilize	civilizar
paralyze	paralizar
complete	completar
converse	conversar
escape	escapar
ignore	ignorar
invite	invitar
imagine	imaginar
prepare	preparar
organize	organizar
utilize	utilizar

Almost every English infinitive verb ending with '**-ify**' can be converted into a Spanish verb by replacing the final '-ify' with '**-ificar**'.

#4. *'-ify' → '-ificar'*	
English	**Spanish**
unify	unificar
simplify	simplificar
solidify	solidificar
classify	clasificar
notify	notificar
modify	modificar
gratify	gratificar
justify	justificar
pacify	pacificar
verify	verificar

Adjectives

Like nouns, many English adjectives can be converted into Spanish simply by changing the word ending. Here are some useful rules.

#1. *-ive → ivo*	
English	**Spanish**
• active	• activo
• decisive	• decisivo
• festive	• festivo
• effective	• efectivo
• indicative	• indicativo

#2. *-al = -al*	
English	**Spanish**
• brutal	• brutal
• usual	• usual
• local	• local
• criminal	• criminal
• natural	• natural

#3. *-ous → -oso*	
English	**Spanish**
• ambitious	• ambicioso
• gracious	• gracioso
• delicious	• delicioso
• generous	• generoso
• venomous	• venenoso

#4. *-ic → -ico*	
English	**Spanish**
• magnetic	• magnético
• fantastic	• fantastico
• electric	• eléctrico
• artistic	• artistico
• automatic	• automatico

#5. *-ble = -ble*	
English	**Spanish**
• admirable	• admirable
• impossible	• imposible
• terrible	• terrible
• favorable	• favorable
• notable	• notable

#6. -nt → -nte	
English	**Spanish**
• ignorant • convenient • prudent • important • triumphant	• ignorante • conveniente • prudente • importante • triunfante

#7. -id → -ido	
English	**Spanish**
• stupid • lucid • splendid • candid • solid	• estupido • lúcido • esplendido • cándido • solido

#8. -ile → -il	
English	**Spanish**
• agile • fragile • mobile • juvenile • automobile	• ágil • frágil • movil • juvenil • automóvil

#9. -ary → -ario	
English	**Spanish**
• actuary • arbitrary • ordinary • imaginary • ordinary	• actuario • arbitrario • ordinario • imaginario • ordinario

Adverbs

In English, **"-ly"** combines with many adjectives to form adverbs.

In Spanish, **"-mente"** combines with (feminine) adjectives to form Spanish adverbs.

English	Spanish
absolutely	absolutamente
normally	normalmente
naturally	naturalmente
finally	finalmente
correctly	correctamente
exactly	exactamente
evidently	evidentemente
difficultly	difícilmente