

Instant Immersion | Spanish

Transcript SAMPLE

Knowing how letters sound in Spanish will help you recognize “cognates”, which are words that are similar to English words. They may be spelled alike to some extent, yet sound very different. Can you identify the English cognate of the following Spanish words?

<i>Hospital</i>	Hospital
<i>Radio</i>	Radio
<i>Restaurante</i>	Restaurant
<i>Recepción</i>	Reception
<i>Música</i>	Music
<i>Aeropuerto</i>	Airport
<i>Suéter</i>	Sweater
<i>Hamburguesa</i>	Hamburger
<i>Televisión</i>	Television
<i>Banco</i>	Bank

There are lots of cognates between Spanish and English; be on the lookout for them.

One more thing you’ll need to know to pronounce Spanish words correctly is where the stress falls in a word. As an example of why the stress is important, consider the words **suspect** and **suspect** in English. One is a noun, **suspect**, and the other is a verb, **suspect**. Yet the only difference in pronunciation is where the word is stressed. There are pairs of words like this in Spanish, as well. When you repeat words as you listen to these tapes, pay attention to where the stress falls. There are three simple rules, which will allow you to correctly stress any word you see written but have not yet heard. These rules are as follows:

1) If the last letter of a word is *n*, *s*, or any vowel, word stress falls on the next-to-last syllable, as in:

Agua - water, *chicle* - gum, *baño* - bath, *platos* - plate, *atlas* - atlas
and in *hablan*, which means **they speak**.

2) If the last letter of a word is any consonant other than *n* or *s*, stress falls on the final syllable, as in:

Coliflor - cauliflower, *frijol* - bean, *pared* - wall, and *nariz*-nose

3) Any word that does not follow these 2 rules has a written accent over the stressed syllable. Some examples of words needing written accents are:

Jabón - soap, *kilómetro* - kilometer, *francés* - French, and *maní* - peanut

(the written accent may also be used to distinguish otherwise identical words; for instance, *sí* with an accent written over the *i* means **yes**, *si* without an accent means **if**.)

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Can you tell which of these words would need a written accent?

Llave	no
México	yes, (<i>México</i> needs a written accent over the <i>é</i> since it does not stress according to the first rule.)
Ruinas	no
Agua	no
Mesa	no
Música	yes, (<i>música</i> needs a written accent over the <i>ú</i> since it is not stressed according to the first rule.)
Vista	no
Recepción	yes, (<i>recepción</i> needs a written accent over the <i>ó</i> since it is not stressed according to the first rule.)

Okay, let's review: Can you remember the letters of the alphabet? This time you'll hear a pause for your answer before each letter: *a, b, c, ch, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, ll, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, x, y, z*

Great. Now see if you can tell how the following words would be spelled (if you are able, write them down after you hear them):

Año	<i>año</i> (a- ñ-o)
Mesa	<i>mesa</i> (m-e-s-a)
Frijol	<i>frijol</i> (f-r-i-j-o-l)
Jabón	<i>jabón</i> (j-a-b-ó-n) (Did you notice <i>o con acento</i> , that means o with an accent)
Chicle	<i>chicle</i> (c-h-i-c-l-e)
Agua	<i>agua</i> (a-g-u-a)
Edad	<i>edad</i> (e-d-a-d)
Ruinas	<i>ruinas</i> (r-u-i-n-a-s)
Kilómetro	<i>kilómetro</i> (k-i-l-ó-m-e-t-r-o)

OK, let's see if you can remember some of the vocabulary you've heard so far. Try to answer the question

¿Cómo se dice? How does one say?

¿Cómo se dice ?

¿Cómo se dice ?	Cauliflower	<i>coliflor</i>
¿Cómo se dice ?	Bathroom	<i>baño</i>
¿Cómo se dice ?	Key	<i>llave</i>
¿Cómo se dice ?	Soap	<i>jabón</i>
¿Cómo se dice ?	Salt	<i>sal</i>
¿Cómo se dice ?	Plate	<i>plato</i>
¿Cómo se dice ?	Table	<i>mesa</i>
¿Cómo se dice ?	Water	<i>agua</i>
¿Cómo se dice ?	Music	<i>música</i>
¿Cómo se dice ?	wine	<i>vino</i>

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Well done. Now, listen to this brief conversation. Don't worry about the grammar; you'll learn more about that in subsequent lessons. The first time you hear the conversation, just listen. The 2nd time, repeat what you hear. The 3rd time through, the conversation will be translated for you.

A: *¿Qué es?*

B: *Es coliflor*

A: *¿Coliflor?*

B: *Sí, coliflor. Es bueno, ¿no?*

A: *Más o menos. Necesita sal. ¡Y los frijoles son muy picantes!*

B: *Sí, necesito agua.*

A: *Hay agua en la mesa.*

B: *Gracias.*

A: *No hay de que.*

A: *¿Qué es?*

B: *Es coliflor*

A: *¿Coliflor?*

B: *Sí, coliflor. Es bueno, ¿no?*

A: *Más o menos. Necesita sal. ¡Y los frijoles son muy picantes!*

B: *Sí, necesito agua.*

A: *Hay agua en la mesa.*

B: *Gracias.*

A: *No hay de que.*

A: *¿Qué es?* (What is it?)

B: *Es coliflor* (It's cauliflower)

A: *¿Coliflor?* (Cauliflower?)

B: *Sí, coliflor. (Yes, cauliflower) Es bueno, ¿no? (It's good isn't it?)*

A: *Más o menos. Necesita sal. (More or less, it needs salt) ¡Y los frijoles son muy picantes! (And the beans are very spicy)*

B: *Sí, necesito agua. (Yeah, I need water)*

A: *Hay agua en la mesa. (There is water on the table)*

B: *Gracias. (Thanks)*

A: *No hay de que. (Don't mention it)*