

## COGNATES

elephant elefante  
artist artista  
circle círculo

### STRATEGIES TO LEARN VOCABULARY

#### COGNATES

Cognates are words from several **languages** that share a same **etymological origin**. The word **cognate** comes from, the **Latin**: *co=con y gnatus* = nacer. Its **literal** translation would be consanguineous or of the same **nature**.

In a **text** of approximately 80 English words, 25 of them are **similar** in Spanish. When we read a text in English, there may be a lot of **unknown** words. Before looking for them in a **dictionary**, try to understand their meaning **considering context clues, cognates and word formation** (prefixes, suffixes and compound words).

**Exercise:** Underline the words that are similar to Spanish.

An **ecosystem** consists of **several** living **organisms** and their **physical** environment. The living **organisms** and their non-living environment are interrelated and **interact** with each other. There is a flow of **energy** from the non-living **organisms** to the living **organisms**. There are **several materials cycles** – that is, exchanges of **materials** between living and non-living **parts**. When we **study** an **ecosystem**, we can therefore **analyze** its **components** (the **structure** of the ecosystem) and we can analyze its **processes** (the **functions** in the ecosystem).

English	Spanish
Actor	Actor
Auto	Auto
Animal	Animal
Capital	Capital
Control	Control
Idea	Idea
Humor	Humor

**But be careful!** When interpreting cognates, there are some that do not mean what they seem. They are called **false cognates** or "**false friends**". If a reader doesn't know them,

there will be wrong meanings or false interpretations. For example, the word **advertisement**, does not mean “**advertencia**”, it means “**anuncio publicitario**.

## EXAMPLES

English word / Spanish meaning	Real meaning Spanish/ English
<b>Actual:</b> real	<b>Actual</b> in English: nowadays , in the present currently
<b>Exit:</b> salida	<b>Éxito</b> in English: success
<b>Large:</b> grande	<b>Largo</b> in English: long
<b>Lecture:</b> conferencia	<b>Lectura</b> in English: Reading
<b>Target:</b> objetivo	<b>Tarjeta</b> in English: card
<b>Translate:</b> traducir	<b>Trasladar</b> in English: to move
<b>Attend:</b> asistir	<b>Attender</b> in english: assist
<b>Facilities:</b> instalaciones	<b>Facilidades</b> in english; easiness

**Exercises:** I. Read the sentences and say the meaning of cognate in Spanish.

**Example:** Unemployment is a problem; *actually*; is the worst after violence. **Realmente**

- 1-She attended \_\_\_\_\_ a very interesting lecture \_\_\_\_\_ on astronomy yesterday.
2. Among Universidad Del Valle's facilities \_\_\_\_\_ we can find a large library \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I think he finally recorded \_\_\_\_\_ all his favourite singer's songs.
4. She eventually realized \_\_\_\_\_ that happiness and sadness are states of mind.

## II- Choose the correct meaning of cognates. Keep in mind the context.

1. You can borrow books from the **library**      a- Liberia      b- oficina      c- biblioteca
2. You don't like fish, but **actually** it is delicious.a- realmente      b- actualmente      c- actualidad
3. The students must **attend** to class.      a- participar en      b- atender      c- asistir
4. The government's **policies** were not useful      a- policías.      b- políticas      c- pólizas
5. Those children buy some **groceries**      a- gracias      b- groserías      c- víveres

## More false cognates

English Word	Spanish Meaning	English Word	Spanish Meaning
Advertise	anunciar publicidad	Journal	periódico, boletín
Advice	consejo	Library	Biblioteca
Assist	atender	Murder	asesinato
Balloon	globo	Once	una vez
Border	frontera	Pan	sartén

Comodities	mercancía, artículo	Policies	políticas, póliza
Come	venir	Rope	cuerda
Date	Fecha, cita amorosa	Sunrise	salida del sol
Embarrassed	apenado	Son	hijo
Facilites	instalaciones	Sales	ventas
Fabric	tela, tejido	Terrific	estupendo
Introduce	presentar personas	Target	objetivo, blanco
Involve	involucrar	Van	buseta, camioneta

III. Choose the right word according to the meaning of the sentence.

1. Chrissie is happy because she got (**embarrassed/ pregnant**).
2. The (**signature/subject**) I like most is math.
3. 5-The film was a (**exit/success**).
4. How many (**idioms/languages**) can you speak?
5. I've got (**a cold/constipation**). Pass me a tissue, please.
6. I was only living with my parents (**eventually/temporarily**).
- 7- (**Eventually/Temporarily**), we decided to go on holiday.
- 8- My family live in England, but I have a lot of (**parents/relatives**) in Canada.

## FALSE COGNATES PRACTICE

# FALSE FRIENDS

FILL IN GAPS WITH THE CORRECT WORD

- 1.-The reporter was very ..... (educated/polite). He thanked me for my help.
- 2.-Her first novel was a ..... (success/exit). She sold many books.
- 3.-Mary ..... (advised/ revised) her son about his new friends.
- 4.-Julio was so ..... (embarrassed/pregnant) when his father met him at the pub.
- 5.-They were shouting. It looked like they were having ..... (a discussion/ an argument)
- 6.-I liked the play very much but the main ..... (character/personage) had a horrible ..... (temperament/sense of humour)
- 7.- Look at the wall. There is a ..... (advert/warning) about incorrect behaviour.
- 8.-That book is rather ..... (common/rare) . There are only two copies left.
- 9.-How many ..... (idioms/languages) can she speak?
- 10.-My uncle has .....(inverted/invested)a large sum of  
money in the .....(factory/fabric).
- 11.-Let me ..... (present/introduce) my new wife Sally Parker.
- 12.-It's forbidden to talk to the bus ..... (conductor/driver).
- 13.-I'm sorry but I didn't want to make any ..... (faults/mistakes)
- 14.-The secretary kept the documents in a ..... (carpet/folder).
- 15.-Martin works at the Central Bank in London . He is ..... (a counter/an accountant)
- 16.-Did you see the ..... (notices/news) on TV last night?
- 17.-Thousands of people watched the ..... (stop/parade) on St Patrick's Day.
- 18.-You couldn't ..... (remember/record) the day we met for the first time.
- 19.- My brother had some ..... (injuries/ injured) on his right arm
- 20.- What's the ..... (topic/ subject) of today's debate?
- 21- Vegetables and fruits are ..... (sane/healthy) for you.

