

# Cognates

Cognates are words that are exactly the same in English and Spanish. Near cognates are words that are almost the same. There are a few rules to know when it comes to near-cognates that will make understanding their meaning much more simple!

English ending	Spanish ending	Example
-ty	-dad	University - <b>universidad</b>
-ous	-oso	Generous - <b>generoso</b>
-ance	-ancia	Ambulance - <b>ambulancia</b>
-tion	-ción	Tradition - <b>tradicción</b>
-ly	-mente	Normally - <b>normalmente</b>
-ct	-cto	Exact - <b>exacto</b>



1. What do the following near cognates mean? Write the English. Use the table above to help you if needed!

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| a) participación _____ | f) educación _____   |
| b) generalmente _____  | g) básicamente _____ |
| c) tolerancia _____    | h) misterioso _____  |
| d) furioso _____       | i) repetición _____  |
| e) variedad _____      | j) distancia _____   |

2. Now, change the following English words into Spanish using the rules above.

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| a) deforestation _____ | g) naturally _____   |
| b) perfectly _____     | h) nervous _____     |
| c) curious _____       | i) motivation _____  |
| d) action _____        | j) destruction _____ |
| e) importance _____    | k) religious _____   |
| f) reality _____       | l) correct _____     |

Being able to identify and understand near-cognates will really improve your reading and listening skills. There are also lots of verbs that are near cognates. These usually end in:

- Ar (invitar - invite)
- Er (depend - depend)
- Ir (existir - exist)

Because these are verbs, they all mean "To...." (to invite, to depend, to exist)

3. Write the English meaning of these verbs:

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| a) celebrar _____   | g) decidir _____    |
| b) usar _____       | h) describir _____  |
| c) comunicar _____  | i) terminar _____   |
| d) investigar _____ | j) formar _____     |
| e) insistir _____   | k) considerar _____ |
| f) participar _____ | l) observar _____   |

4. You're going to read a difficult text about a topic you may not have yet studied. Don't panic! You don't have to understand every word! Look for the cognates that you recognise and then complete the activities below.

Hay muchos problemas en nuestro mundo hoy en día. Hay muchos animales extintos o animales en peligro de extinción como el tigre, el rinoceronte y el orangután a causa de la deforestación y la destrucción del planeta. El tráfico causa la polución del aire y es esencial recordar la importancia de reciclar. Para combatir los problemas se debe reciclar papel y reducir la polución. Además, se debe usar más el transporte público y plantar más árboles.

**peligro** = danger    **se debe** = you must  
**causa** = causes    **recordar** = to remember

- a) Underline or list any cognates you see in the text.
- b) Re-read the text and decide what it is about - choose from the options below.
- Volunteering
  - The environment
  - Healthy living
  - Family relationships

c) Read the text again and answer the questions below in English.

- What 2 things cause animal extinction?

---

---

- What does the traffic cause?

---

- What is it essential to remember?

---

- What 4 things must we do to combat these problems?

---

---

---

---

Challenge:

- a) According to the text, which 3 animals are in danger of extinction?

---

---