

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 - universidad
-ous	-oso	Generous - generoso
-ance	-ancia	Ambulance - ambulancia
-tion	-ción	Tradition - tradicción
-ly	-mente	Normally - normalmente
-ct	-cto	Exact - exacto



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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a) participación participation | f) educación education |
| b) generalmente generally | g) básicamente basically |
| c) tolerancia tolerance | h) misterioso mysterious |
| d) furioso furious | i) repetición repetition |
| e) variedad variety | j) distancia distance |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) deforestation deforestación | g) naturally naturalmente |
| b) perfectly perfectamente | h) nervous nervioso |
| c) curious curioso | i) motivation motivación |
| d) action acción | j) destruction destrucción |
| e) importance importancia | k) religious religioso |
| f) reality realidad | l) correct correcto |

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 to celebrate | g) decidir to decide |
| b) usar to use | h) describir to describe |
| c) comunicar to communicate | i) terminar to terminate/end |
| d) investigar to investigate | j) formar to form |
| e) insistir to insist | k) considerar to consider |
| f) participar to participate | l) observar to observe |

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
árboles = trees	

- 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? **Deforestation and the destruction of the planet**
 - What does the traffic cause? **Air pollution**
 - What is it essential to remember? **The importance of recycling**
 - What 4 things must we do to combat these problems? **Recycle paper, reduce pollution, use public transport, plant trees**

Challenge:

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