

26

Synonyms, Antonyms, and Cognates

¿Cuánto sabe usted?

How Much Do You Know Already?



1. Name two ways to express *to choose* in Spanish.
2. How would you translate **embarazada**, **librería**, and **revolver**?
3. What do both **comenzar** and **empezar** mean in English?
4. How do English words ending in *-ous* usually end in Spanish?
5. What is the antonym of **rechazar**?

Synonyms

Los sinónimos

SYNONYMS are words or expressions that have the same or approximate meaning. ANTONYMS are words or expressions that have opposite or contrastive meanings.

Synonyms allow a person to say the same thing in a different way, thus increasing communicative competence. Bear in mind, however, that no two words or expressions have precisely the same meaning in every situation. Here is a list of common synonyms in Spanish:

- Basic Synonyms

acordarse de, recordar

to remember

alimento, comida

nourishment, food

alumno, estudiante

student

andar, caminar

to walk

anillo, sortija

ring (jewelry)

antiguo, viejo

ancient, old

así que, tan pronto como
 asustar, espantar
 aún, todavía
 ayuda, socorro
 barco, buque
 bastante, suficiente
 batalla, combate
 bonita, linda
 breve, corto
 camarero, mozo
 campesino, granjero
 cara, rostro
 chicos, niños
 cocinar, cocer, guisar
 comenzar, empezar
 comprender, entender
 conducir, manejar
 conquistar, vencer
 contento, feliz, alegre
 contestar, responder
 continuar, seguir
 cruzar, atravesar
 cuarto, habitación, pieza
 cura, sacerdote
 delgado, flaco
 desear, querer
 diablo, demonio
 diversión, pasatiempo
 elevar, levantar
 enviar, mandar
 error, falta
 escoger, elegir
 esposo, marido
 exhausto, cansado
 grave, serio
 hallar, encontrar
 hermosa, bella
 hombre, señor
 idioma, lengua
 irse, salir, marcharse
 lentamente, despacio
 luchar, pelear
 lugar, sitio
 maestro, profesor
 medias, calcetines
 miedo, temor

as soon as
 to frighten, to scare
 still, yet
 aid, help
 boat, ship
 enough, sufficient
 battle, combat
 pretty, lovely
 brief, short
 waiter
 farmer
 face
 children
 to cook
 to commence, to begin
 to comprehend, to understand
 to drive
 to conquer, to vanquish
 content, happy
 to answer, to respond
 to continue
 to cross
 room
 priest
 thin, slim
 to desire, to want
 devil, demon
 diversion, pastime
 to elevate, to raise
 to send
 error, fault, mistake
 to choose, to select
 spouse, husband
 exhausted, tired
 grave, serious
 to find, to encounter
 beautiful
 man
 language, tongue
 to go away, to leave
 slowly
 to fight, to struggle
 place, site
 teacher, professor
 socks
 fear, dread

morir, fallecer	<i>to die, to expire</i>
mostrar, enseñar	<i>to show, to teach</i>
mujer, señora	<i>woman</i>
nunca, jamás	<i>never</i>
obrero, trabajador	<i>worker</i>
obtener, conseguir	<i>to obtain, to get</i>
odiar, aborrecer	<i>to hate, to abhor</i>
país, nación	<i>country, nation</i>
pájaro, ave	<i>bird</i>
parar, detener	<i>to stop</i>
pasear, caminar	<i>to take a walk</i>
pena, dolor	<i>pain, grief</i>
perezoso, flojo	<i>lazy</i>
poner, colocar	<i>to put, to place</i>
regresar, volver	<i>to return</i>
rezar, orar	<i>to pray</i>
rogar, suplicar	<i>to beg, to implore</i>
romper, quebrar	<i>to break</i>
similar, semejante, parecido	<i>similar, alike</i>
sorprender, asombrar	<i>to surprise</i>
tal vez, acaso, quizás	<i>maybe, perhaps</i>
tirar, lanzar	<i>to throw, to pitch</i>
trabajo, obra	<i>work</i>
ya que, puesto que	<i>since, inasmuch as</i>

It is always best to check up on the meaning of a word before putting it to use as a synonym. For example **conocer** (*to know someone*) is not the same as **saber** (*to know something*), even though both may be listed as synonyms. The same holds true for words like **pero** and **sino**, which both mean *but* in English, but are used quite differently:

Quiero comer, pero no tengo tiempo.

I want to eat, but I don't have the time.

No fuimos a la tienda ayer, sino hoy.

We didn't go to the store yesterday, but today.



LA PRÁCTICA 1

List synonyms for the following common words:

1. andar caminar
2. mujer _____
3. enviar _____
4. linda _____
5. conseguir _____
6. obrero _____
7. jamás _____
8. feliz _____
9. continuar _____
10. despacio _____

Replace the underlined word with a synonym:

11. Salieron a las siete. Se fueron
 12. Estaban orando en la mesa. _____
 13. Es un caso muy grave. _____
 14. ¿A qué hora empieza la clase? _____
 15. Tenían los rostros sonrientes. _____
 16. ¿Cuál idioma te gusta más? _____
 17. Encontramos una zona llena de aves. _____
 18. Era un hombre flojo. _____
 19. ¡Lanza la pelota! _____
 20. Mi papá no ha vuelto todavía. _____
-

Antonyms

Los antónimos

Antonyms are words that express opposite or contrastive meanings. Again, however, not all words on this list are exact opposites:

• Basic Antonyms

aceptar , to accept	rechazar , to refuse
alegre , happy	triste , sad
algo , something	nada , nothing
alguien , someone	nadie , nobody
amar , to love	odiar , to hate
amigo(a) , friend	enemigo(a) , enemy
antes , before	después , after
antiguo , ancient	moderno , modern
aquí , here	allí , there
arriba , above	abajo , below
ausente , absent	presente , present
bajo , low/ short	alto , high/ tall
bien , well	mal , badly
bueno , good	malo , bad
caliente , hot	frío , cold
cerca de , near	lejos de , far
cerrar , to close	abrir , to open
comprar , to buy	vender , to sell
con , with	sin , without
corto , short (in length)	largo , long
dar , to give	recibir , to receive
delante de , in front of	detrás de , in back of
empezar , to begin	terminar , to finish
entrada , entrance	salida , exit
fácil , easy	difícil , difficult
grande , big	pequeño , small
ir , to go	venir , to come
joven , young	viejo , old
levantarse , to get up	sentarse , to sit down
limpio , clean	sucio , dirty
más , more	menos , less
mucho , much	poco , little
perder , to lose	hallar , to find
pregunta , question	respuesta , answer
primero , first	último , last
rico , rich	pobre , poor
ruido , noise	silencio , silence
siempre , always	nunca , never
subir , to go up	bajar , to go down



LA PRÁCTICA 2

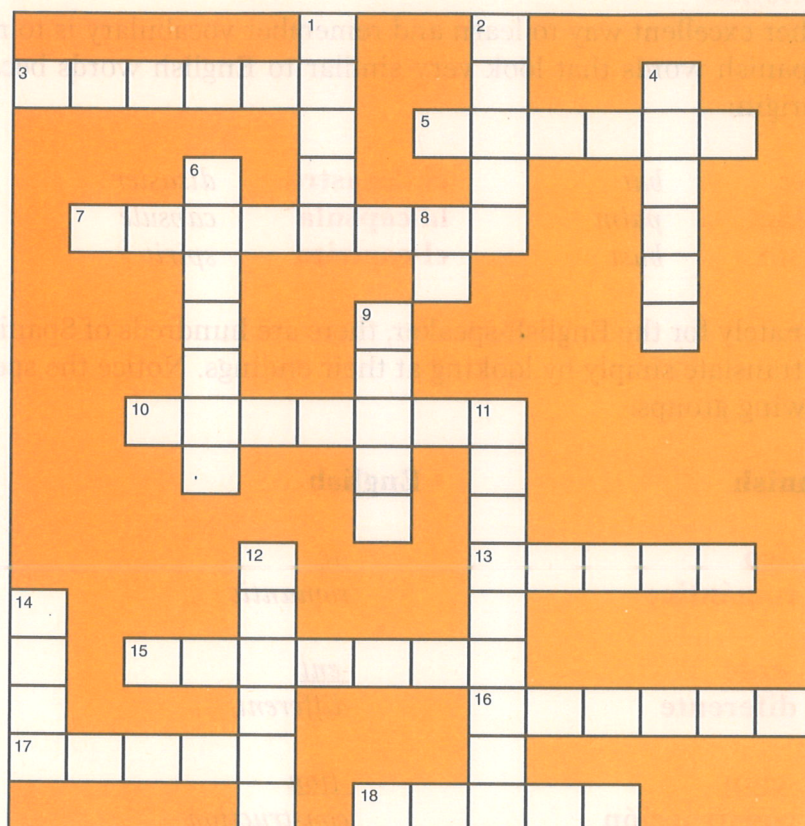
Select the right antonym and write it on the line provided.

- | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. aceptar | salir, rechazar, adelantar | <u>rechazar</u> |
| 2. corto | ancho, bajo, largo | _____ |
| 3. ruido | silencio, bonito, fino | _____ |
| 4. venir | dar, ir, llegar | _____ |
| 5. algo | alguien, todos, nada | _____ |
| 6. odiar | amar, besar, disfrutar | _____ |
| 7. entrada | bebida, salida, caliente | _____ |
| 8. antiguo | difícil, viejo, moderno | _____ |
| 9. ausente | presente, listo, enfermo | _____ |
| 10. hallar | encontrar, perder, olvidar | _____ |

Find a common antonym for these other words:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 11. recibir | <u>dar</u> |
| 12. llorar | _____ |
| 13. el oeste | _____ |
| 14. juntar | _____ |
| 15. ganar | _____ |
| 16. la guerra | _____ |
| 17. lleno | _____ |
| 18. encender | _____ |
| 19. olvidar | _____ |
| 20. la noche | _____ |

CROSSWORD 11



Find the opposites:

Across

- 3. sucio
- 5. abrir
- 7. ruido
- 10. dar
- 13. rico
- 15. nunca
- 16. entrada
- 17. amar
- 18. arriba

Down

- 1. viejo
- 2. malo
- 4. perder
- 6. nadie
- 8. venir
- 9. bajar
- 11. pregunta
- 12. triste
- 14. mucho

Cognates

Palabras análogas

Another excellent way to learn and remember vocabulary is to recognize cognates, or Spanish words that look very similar to English words because they are related in origin:

el bate	<i>bat</i>	el desastre	<i>disaster</i>
la palma	<i>palm</i>	la cápsula	<i>capsule</i>
el busto	<i>bust</i>	el espíritu	<i>spirit</i>

Fortunately for the English-speaker, there are hundreds of Spanish words that are easy to translate simply by looking at their endings. Notice the spelling changes in the following groups:

• Spanish

-ico
romántico

-ente
diferente

-ción
construcción

-oso
delicioso

-dad
electricidad

-rio
necesario

-ista
artista

• English

-ic
romantic

-ent
different

-tion
construction

-ous
delicious

-ty
electricity

-ry
necessary

-ist
artist

Many Spanish verb infinitives also resemble their English equivalent. Notice the patterns in the following cognates:

<i>to absorb</i>	absorber
<i>to control</i>	controlar
<i>to plant</i>	plantar
<i>to refer</i>	referir
<i>to visit</i>	visitar

- Verbs ending in *-ate* in English generally end in **-ar** in Spanish:

<i>concentrate</i>	concentrar
<i>manipulate</i>	manipular
<i>investigate</i>	investigar

- Verbs ending in *-fy* in English generally end in **-ficar** in Spanish.

<i>verify</i>	verificar
<i>certify</i>	certificar
<i>clarify</i>	clarificar

- Verbs ending in *-ize* or *-yze* in English generally end in **-izar** in Spanish.

<i>analyze</i>	analizar
<i>authorize</i>	autorizar
<i>dramatize</i>	dramatizar

Countless Spanish words are spelled exactly the same in English. They have the same meanings also, but are obviously pronounced differently:

general	nuclear
diabetes	noble
doctor	alfalfa
similar	vulgar
exterior	pelvis



False Cognates

Palabras de analogía engañosa

There are several false cognates in Spanish, too. These words fool students because they look like cognate words, but have very different meanings in English:

• Spanish

actual
asistir a
atender
el campo
el cargo
la carta
el collar
el compromiso
constiparse
contestar
el delito
la desgracia
el desmayo
educado
embarazada
el éxito
el labrador
largo
la lectura
la librería
molestar
el pariente
realizar
recordar
revolver
sensible
soportar
el suceso
la tormenta
la trampa
el vaso

• English

present, of the present time
to attend, to be present at
to take care of
countryside
duty, post, responsibility
letter (to mail, post)
necklace
promise
to catch cold
to answer
crime
misfortune
fainting
well-mannered
pregnant
success, outcome
farmer
long
reading
bookstore
bother
relative
to achieve
to remember
to stir, turn over
sensitive
to bear
event, happening
storm
trap, snare, trick
drinking glass



LA PRÁCTICA 3

Write the English translation as quickly as you can:

1. recordar to remember
2. contestar _____
3. barrer _____
4. introducir _____
5. desmayarse _____
6. presentar _____
7. investigar _____
8. atender _____
9. adorar _____
10. embarazar _____

Underline the word with the closest meaning to each word below:

11. **general** a. absolute b. general c. leader
12. **vencer** a. to conquer b. to surrender c. to arrive
13. **collar** a. collar b. to gather c. necklace
14. **delito** a. removal b. crime c. cancellation
15. **hallar** a. to lose b. hallway c. to find
16. **trampa** a. vagabond b. thief c. trick
17. **éxito** a. success b. exit c. departure
18. **asistir** a. to join b. to help c. to attend
19. **actual** a. actual b. current c. eventful
20. **vulgar** a. primitive b. criminal c. vulgar

Idiomatic Expressions, Proverbs, and Sayings

¿Cuánto sabe usted?

How Much Do You Know Already?



1. What does **tener buena estrella** mean?
2. Finish this saying, **El que madruga, _____**.
3. How do you say *to blush* in Spanish?
4. What would **Ser de poca monta** be?
5. What's the saying in Spanish that means, *All that glitters is not gold*.

Idioms

Modismos

Some of the most interesting words and expressions in Spanish are considered idiomatic, because they cannot be understood by analyzing their literal meanings. For example, **Tengo frío** appears to mean *I have cold*, a bizarre statement in English. However, it is a very common idiom in Latin America and Spain: *I'm cold!*

• Idiomatic Expressions

The following is a categorized selection of idiomatic expressions in Spanish that begin with a basic verb:

ABRIR

abrir el día

abrir la mano

abrir el ojo

abrir los ojos a uno

to dawn

to accept bribes

to be alert

to enlighten

ACABAR

acabar de

acabarse uno

Es cosa de nunca acabar.

to have just

to grow feeble, weary

It is an endless affair.

ANDAR

a más andar

a mejor andar

andar a derechas

andar a golpes

andar de boca en boca

andar en cueros

andar listo

andar por decir

andar por hacer

andar de boca en boca

andarse por las ramas

at full speed

at best

to act honestly

to come to blows

to be the talk of the town

to go stark naked

to be diligent

to be determined to say

to be determined to do

to be generally known

to beat around the bush

CABER

caber en suerte

caberle a uno

no caber de gozo

no caber en sí

no caber en sí

to get lucky

to be fitting to someone

to be overjoyed

to be full of one's own merits

to be overjoyed, or furious

CAER

caer a plomo

caer de espaldas

caer de rodillas

caer en cama

caer en gracia

caer en la cuenta

caerse de sueño

dejarse caer

caerse el alma a los pies

to fall flat

to fall backward

to fall on one's knees

to become sick

to please someone

to see the point

to be falling asleep

to drop oneself

to be down in the dumps

DAR

dar a luz

dar asco

dar calabazas

dar carta blanca a uno

dar con

dar contra alguna cosa

dar cuerda a

dar de comer o beber

dar de gritos

to give birth

to disgust

to jilt

to give someone carte blanche

to run into

to hit against something

to wind

to feed or give a drink to

to shout

dar de sí
 dar diente con diente
 dar el golpe de gracia
 dar el pésame
 dar en el blanco
 dar entre ceja y ceja
 dar fiado
 dar filo
 dar la enhorabuena
 dar guerra
 dar la hora
 dar la lata
 dar la vuelta
 dar las gracias
 dar licencia
 dar miedo
 dar por sentado
 dar prestado
 dar que hacer
 dar que reír
 dar que sentir
 dar rienda suelta a
 dar un paseo
 dar un abrazo
 dar un grito
 dar un recado
 dar voces
 dar vueltas a algo
 darse a
 darse cuenta de
 darse la mano
 darse maña
 darse por sentido
 darse por vencido
 darse prisa
 dar gato por liebre
 No se me da nada.

DECIR

decir la verdad
 decir para sí
 decir por decir
 es decir
 oír decir
 por mejor decir
 decirle cuatro verdades
 no decir ni pío

to stretch
 to shiver with cold
 to finish someone off
 to express condolence
 to hit the mark
 to tell it like it is
 to give credit
 to sharpen an instrument
 to congratulate
 to make trouble
 to strike the hour
 to make a nuisance of oneself
 to turn back
 to thank
 to give leave
 to frighten
 to take for granted
 to lend
 to give trouble
 to make one laugh
 to hurt one's feelings
 to give free rein to
 to take a walk
 to embrace
 to shout
 to leave a message
 to scream
 to think something over
 to give oneself to
 to realize
 to shake hands
 to contrive
 to show resentment
 to give up
 to hurry
 to take someone in
 It gives me no concern.

to tell the truth
 to talk to oneself
 to talk for the sake of talking
 that is to say
 to hear it said
 more properly speaking
 to tell someone a thing or two
 not to say a word

DEJAR**dejar de** (+ infinitive)**dejar plantado****no dejar piedra por****(sin) mover***to stop (doing something)**to stand somebody up**to leave no stone unturned***DORMIR****dormir a pierna suelta****dormir la mona****dormirse sobre sus laureles***to sleep like a log**to sleep off a hangover**to rest on one's laurels***ECHAR** **echar a perder** **echar chispas** **echar de menos** **echar flores** **echar la culpa** **echarse a** **echárselas de***to ruin, spoil**to be furious, get angry**to miss**to flatter, sweet-talk**to blame**to start to**to boast of being***ESTAR****estar a punto de****estar a sus anchas****estar alerta****estar bien con****estar calado hasta los huesos****estar como el pez en el agua****estar con el alma en un hilo****estar con el pie en el aire****estar de acuerdo****estar de buen humor****estar de mal humor****estar de más****estar de pie****estar de por medio****estar de prisa****estar de vuelta****estar en condiciones****estar en la luna****estar en las nubes****estar en que****estar en su pellejo****estar fuera de sí****estar hecho una sopa****estar mal con****estar mal****estar para****estar por****estar sin blanca****estarse quieto***to be on the verge of**to be comfortable**to be on the watch**to be on good terms with**to be soaked to the skin**to be right at home**to be in suspense**to be unsettled**to agree**to be in a good mood**to be in a bad mood**to be in excess**to stand**to mediate**to be in haste**to be back**to be in good shape**to have one's head in the clouds**to be daydreaming**to be of the opinion that**to be in his/her shoes**to be beside oneself**to get soaked**to have bad relations with someone**to be in bad shape**to be about to do something**to be inclined to do something**to be flat broke**to stand still*

HABER

Hay que...
No hay de qué.
No hay más que pedir.

*It is necessary that...
You are welcome.
It leaves nothing to be desired.*

HACER

Hace muchos años...
Hace buen o mal tiempo.
Hace calor o frío.
Hace viento.
hacer caso
hacer buenas migas
hacer de las suyas
hacer un papel
hacer juego
hacer la vista gorda
hacer las paces
hacer época
hacer pedazos
hacer su agosto
hacer un viaje
hacerse médico
hacerse daño
hacerse tarde
hacersele agua la boca
hacer chacota
hacer daño
hacer de
hacer el papel
hacer frente
hacer juego
hacer pedazos
hacer pensar
hacer pucheros
hacer saber
hacer su agosto
hacer un pedido
hacer un viaje
hacer una visita
hacerse
IR
ir a medias
ir a pie
ir agua arriba
ir tras la corriente
irse a pique
ir al grano
ir de juerga
ir sobre ruedas

*Many years ago...
It's good or bad weather.
It's warm or cold.
It's windy.
to pay attention
to hit it off with someone
to be up to one's old tricks
to play a role
to match
to pretend not to notice
to make peace
to attract public attention
to break to pieces
to make a killing
to take a trip
to become a doctor
to hurt oneself
to become late
to make one's mouth water
to ridicule
to harm
to act as
to act the part
to face
to be well matched
to tear to pieces
to give cause to suspect
to pout
to acquaint
to make good use of one's time
to place an order
to take a trip
to pay a visit
to become
to go halves
to walk
to walk upstream
to go downstream
to flounder, fall
to go straight to the point
to be out on a spree
to run smoothly*

LLEVAR

llevar a cabo	<i>to carry out</i>
llevar la contraria	<i>to contradict</i>
llevarse como perro y gato	<i>to be always squabbling</i>
llevarse un chasco	<i>to be disappointed</i>
llevar puesto	<i>to have on, to be wearing</i>
llevar en peso	<i>to carry in the air</i>
llevar consigo	<i>to carry along with</i>
llevar auestas	<i>to carry on one's shoulder, back</i>
llevarse bien, o mal	<i>to be on good, or bad terms</i>
llevar el compás	<i>to beat time in music</i>

METER

meter la pata	<i>to put one's foot in one's mouth</i>
meterse donde no le llaman	<i>to meddle, to snoop around</i>
meterse en la boca de lobo	<i>to enter the lion's den</i>
meterse en un callejón sin salida	<i>to get into a jam</i>

PONER

poner en ridículo	<i>to make somebody look ridiculous</i>
poner las cartas sobre la mesa	<i>to put one's cards on the table</i>
poner los puntos sobre las íes	<i>to dot the i's and cross the t's</i>
poner a alguien por las nubes	<i>to heap praise on someone</i>
ponérsele a uno la carne de gallina	<i>to get goose pimples</i>
ponérsele los cabellos de punta	<i>to be terrified</i>
poner al sol	<i>to expose to the sun</i>
poner atención	<i>to pay attention</i>
poner de vuelta y media	<i>to humiliate a person</i>
poner en libertad	<i>to free</i>
poner en limpio	<i>to copy</i>
poner en obra	<i>to put into action</i>
poner en tierra	<i>to put ashore</i>
poner huevos	<i>to lay eggs</i>
poner la mesa	<i>to set the table</i>
poner por escrito	<i>to put in writing</i>
poner toda su fuerza	<i>to act with all one's might</i>
ponerse a	<i>to set about, to start</i>
ponerse en camino	<i>to set forth</i>
ponerse colorado	<i>to blush</i>

QUEDAR

quedarse boquiabierto

quedarse con

quedarse con el día y la noche

quedar de una pieza

quedar en

to be left with your mouth open

to keep

to be left penniless

to be dumbfounded

to agree on

QUERER

querer a

querer decir

sin querer

to love

to mean

unwillingly

SABER

hacer saber

saber a

No se sabe.

to communicate

to taste of

It is not known.

SALIR

salir bien

salir con un domingo siete

salir de alguno

salirse de sus casillas

salir del paso

salirse con las suyas

Sale el sol.

to succeed

to say something irrational

to get rid of a person

to lose one's temper

to get out of a difficulty

to have one's way

The sun rises.

SER

ser cómplice de

ser de edad

ser del caso

ser del parecer

ser uno de tantos

ser de poca monta

ser el colmo

ser la flor y nata

ser de otro cantar

ser pan comido

ser para chuparse los dedos

ser todo oídos

ser un cero a la izquierda

ser una lata

ser una perla

ser uña y carne

no ser cosa del otro jueves

Sea lo que fuere.

to have a hand in

to be of age

to be fitting

to be of the opinion

to be one of the crowd

to be of little value

to be the limit

to be the cream of the crop

to be a horse of a different color

to be as easy as pie

to taste delicious

to be all ears

to be of no value

to be annoying

to be a jewel

to be as close as can be

to be nothing out of the ordinary

Be that as it may.

TENER

no tener arreglo

no tener hiel

not be able to be helped

to be meek and gentle

no tener ni un pelo de tonto

no tener pelos en la lengua

no tener pies ni cabeza

no tener razón

tener ángel

tener buena estrella

tener calor o frío

tener celos de uno

tener corazón de piedra

tener cuidado

tener en cuenta

tener éxito

tener fama

tener ganas

tener hambre

tener la culpa de

tener la razón

tener líos

tener los huesos molidos

tener los nervios de punta

tener lugar

tener madera para

tener mala cara

tener malas pulgas

tener miedo de

tener mundo

tener ojos de lince

tener pájaros en la cabeza

tener palabra

tener presente

tener prisa

tener que hacer

tener que ver con

tener sed

tener sueño

tener suerte

tener un disgusto

tener vergüenza

tenerse en pie

TOMAR

tomar algo a bien/a mal

tomar a broma

tomar a pecho

tomar en serio

tomar la palabra

tomar partido por

tomar la delantera

tomarle el pelo

tomárselo con calma

to be nobody's fool

to be very outspoken

to have no rhyme or reason

to be wrong

to be charming

to be lucky

to be warm or cold

to be jealous of someone

to be cold-hearted

to be careful

to keep in mind

to be successful

to have the reputation

to desire

to be hungry

to be at fault

to be in the right

to have difficulties

to be exhausted

to have one's nerves on edge

to take place

to be cut out for

to look bad

to be short-tempered

to be afraid of

to be sophisticated

to have eyes like a hawk

to have bats in the belfry

to keep one's word

to bear in mind

to be in a hurry

to have to do something

to have to do with

to be thirsty

to be sleepy

to be lucky

to have a falling out

to be ashamed of

to stand

to take something well/badly

to take a joke

to take to heart

to take seriously

to take the floor

to side with

to get ahead of

to pull someone's leg

to take it easy

VALER

valer más algo que nada
valer más tarde que nunca
valer la pena de
valer un ojo de la cara
Más vale.

*to be better than nothing
to be better late than never
to be worthwhile
to be worth a fortune
It is better.*

VER

no tener nada que ver con eso
ver a hurtadillas
ver con muchos ojos
ver el cielo abierto
verse las caras
A mi ver...
A ver...
Es de ver que...
Ya se ve.

*to have nothing to do with it
to look over one's shoulders
to observe very carefully
to see a great opportunity
to see each other face to face
In my opinion...
Let us see...
It is worth noticing that...
It is evident.*

VENIR

venir de molde
venir lo que viniere
venir al caso
venir a menos
venir a las manos
venir a pelo
venir de perilla
venirse abajo
venirse al suelo
venirse el cielo abajo
venir de perlas

*to fit like a glove
to come what may
to come to the point
to decline
to come to blows
to come just at the right time
to come at the nick of time
to fall, collapse
to fall to the ground
to rain heavily
to be just the thing, just right*

• More Expressions

buscar tres pies al gato
consultar con la almohada
dorar la píldora
faltarle a uno un tornillo
hablar hasta por los codos
llamar al pan, pan y al vino,
vino
no importar un bledo/un
comino
pasar las de Caín
pedir peras al olmo
no pegar ojo en toda la noche
quemarse las pestañas
dejar en claro
saltar a la vista
mandar a freír espárragos

*to split hairs
to sleep on it
to sugarcoat something
to have a screw loose
to talk incessantly
to call a spade a spade
to not give a damn about
to go through hell
to expect the impossible
to not sleep a wink all night
to burn the midnight oil
to make clear
to be obvious
to go jump in a lake*

matar dos pájaros de un tiro
 tocar en lo vivo
 a pedir de boca
 contra viento y marea
 de buenas a primeras
 de mal en peor
 de segunda mano
 el qué dirán
 oír campanas y no saber
 donde
 oír, ver y callar
 verlo todo color de rosa
 verlo todo color negro
 volver a las andadas
 volver en sí

Como Ud. quiera.
 Dios mediante.
 ¿Cómo fué eso?
 Había una vez.
 Mañana será otro día.
 Toca madera.
 Todo el santo día.
 Trato hecho.

to kill two birds with one stone
 to hurt deeply
 perfectly, smoothly
 against all odds
 right off the bat
 from bad to worse
 secondhand
 what people say
 to hear without understanding
 to mind your own business
 to see life through rose-colored glasses
 to be pessimistic
 to go back to one's old ways
 to regain consciousness

As you will.
 God willing.
 How did that happen?
 Once upon a time.
 Tomorrow's another day.
 Knock on wood.
 The whole darn day.
 It's a deal.



LA PRÁCTICA 1

Fill in the missing words in these popular idioms, and then translate them into English:

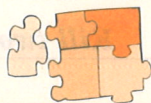
1. Matar dos pájaros de un tiro. Kill two birds with one stone.
2. Hablé hasta por los _____. _____
3. Mandar a freír _____. _____
4. No tener pelos en la _____. _____
5. Nuestro negocio iba sobre _____. _____
6. Meterse en un _____ sin salida. _____
7. Poner los puntos sobre las _____. _____
8. Hacer de tripas _____. _____
9. Estar con el _____ en el aire. _____
10. Dar entre ceja y _____. _____

Write down **V (Verdadero)** if the translation is correct or **F (Falso)** if it isn't:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| 11. estar de prisa | to be in a hurry | V |
| 12. dar gato por liebre | to give freedom | _____ |
| 13. hacer chacota | to go to work | _____ |
| 14. poner en limpio | to clean thoroughly | _____ |
| 15. llevar un chasco | to bring a friend | _____ |
| 16. ir de juerga | to leave upset | _____ |
| 17. salirse con las suyas | to lose one's temper | _____ |
| 18. ser de poca monta | to be broke | _____ |
| 19. tener líos | to have difficulties | _____ |
| 20. venir de molde | to come from wealth | _____ |

What do these common Spanish idioms mean in English?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 21. Me salí de mis casillas. | _____ |
| 22. No dije ni pío. | _____ |
| 23. Me puse colorado. | _____ |
| 24. No me di cuenta. | _____ |
| 25. Me quedé boquiabierto. | _____ |



POR SU CUENTA

List a few of your favorite idiomatic expressions in Spanish that begin with the following words:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 1. estar : | _____ |
| 2. poner (se) : | _____ |
| 3. dar (se) : | _____ |
| 4. tener : | _____ |
| 5. hacer (se) : | _____ |

Proverbs and Sayings

Proverbios y dichos

Sayings and proverbs, meaningful words to the wise, are part of Spanish culture. Read through the following, and memorize those that suit you best.

Río que suena, piedras trae.

There's truth to the rumor.

Dime con quién andas, y te diré quién eres.

Tell me who you hang around with, and I'll tell you who you are.

Haces mal, espera otro tal.

Sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.

Ojos que le vieron ir, no verán venir.

An opportunity lost never returns.

Ojos que no ven, corazón que no siente.

Out of sight, out of mind.

Buena vida, arrugas trae.

Those who live comfortably live long.

A quien le venga el guante que se lo plante.

If the shoe fits, wear it.

Como viene, se va.

Easy come, easy go.

No hay mal que por bien no venga.

There is no evil that may not be turned to good.

Antes que te cases, mira lo que haces.

Look before you leap.

A lo hecho, pecho.

It's no use crying over spilled milk.

Querer es poder.

Where there is a will there is a way.

En boca cerrada no entran moscas.

Flies do not enter a closed mouth.

Ver es creer.

Seeing is believing.

No todo lo que brilla es oro.

All that glitters is not gold.

Más vale pájaro en mano que cien volando.

A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.

No dejes para mañana lo que puedes hacer hoy.

Don't leave for tomorrow what you can do today.

Dios los crea y ellos se juntan.

Birds of a feather flock together.

A quién madruga, Dios lo ayuda.

The early bird catches the worm.

Donde una puerta se cierra, otra se abre.

Whenever a door closes, another opens.

Donde no hay amor, no hay dolor.

Where there is no love, there is no pain.

Más valen cuatro ojos que dos.

Two heads are better than one.

Entre la espada y la pared.

Between the devil and the deep blue sea.

Hay gato encerrado.

There's something fishy.

No hay moros en la costa.

The coast is clear.

Poderoso caballero es don Dinero.

Money talks.

A dónde fueres, haz lo que vieres.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

A caballo regalado no se le mira el diente.

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.