The Infamous False Cognates (a.k.a. False Friends)

(Excerpts taken from Cognate Linguistics)

- False cognates have produced so much doubt and misconception to both teachers and learners to the point of making us keep a prudent distance from absolutely all lexical resemblances. We could be before a foreign word that is identical to one in our mother tongue but, when we realize that we are unaware of all its possible meanings and integral usage, refusal sometimes seems to be more sensible than approval.

- Due to a lack of practical research on this subject, most language teachers are usually more concerned with the intimidating unknown number of false cognates rather than with that of real cognates.

- By no means can the existence of false cognate words continue representing, as it has always been, a limitation for a definite identification and exploitation of cognates.

- The several statistics provided by this research are reliable evidence to oust some deeply-rooted misconceptions regarding both the number and impact of false cognates; we will demonstrate their immaterial impact in the process of cognate language acquisition.

- Interestingly, the larger the number of frequently used words or academic ones (AWL), the more real cognate, and the less false cognates we will find. Additionally, it is crucial to keep in mind that the effect of that average 5% of false cognate occurrence is easily, dramatically and permanently going to be reduced once we are informed about them. In other words, we will hardly ever make the same mistake twice concerning the use of a wrong cognate word.

- Table 1.8 Percentages of false cognates in frequency lists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GSL 2284 words</th>
<th>Oxford 3457 words</th>
<th>Brown 1st 5000 words</th>
<th>Kelk's 20833 words</th>
<th>AWL 570 words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cognates</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Cognates</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% error margin*</td>
<td>22,8</td>
<td>34,5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>208,3</td>
<td>5,7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: this is the number of words that you would need to produce an increase of 1% to these figures.
Cognates by nature

There are several claims that have become the common criteria for some linguists and teachers when determining the false cognate status of a word. Let us discuss the inappropriateness of three of the most common assertions:

1. *A word is a false cognate when the (English) term is more common than its (Spanish) counterpart.*

   False. A cognate will always be a cognate by nature. Its innate status is determined by its origin, not by its frequency. Although evidential frequency can certainly help us decide on the use of a more common or appropriate word, it has nothing to do with the cognate nature of a word, much less with its usefulness.

2. *Although both words mean X, in (English) the word has upgraded/downgraded its meaning, making it a false cognate.*

   False. Analyzing whether the Spanish word *estúpido* (simple, limitado; bruto, rudo; ignorante, nulo) is much more offensive or not than the English word *stupid* (unintelligent, dense, slow, obtuse; brainless; unwise, foolish) so as to label it as a false cognate is evidently too impractical and fruitless to be commented. The word is simply pejorative; in fact, in foreign language texts such differentiation is inexistent. On the other hand, a deeper analysis would take us to the next claim.

3. *X is a false cognate when it additionally means Y in only one of the two languages.*

   False. This assertion arises when any of the several meanings of a cognate word is not shared by its cognate counterpart. For example, in both English and Spanish, the word *club* means: association - asociación, society - sociedad, organization - organización, alliance - alianza; nightclub - nightclub, discotheque - discoteca, casino - casino (Thesaurus of Microsoft Office Word 2003). However, in Spanish it does share the meanings: stick, bat; or the black trefoil symbol on a playing card. Does this mean the word *club* should be considered a false cognate even when its several synonyms are unequivocal cognates too?

   According to Encyclopedia Britannica, *association* and *club* are synonyms because they share at least one common meaning, not all of their meanings. *Association* does not mean *stick* or *a trefoil symbol*; however, these unrelated meanings do not take away its status as a synonym of *club*. We could say the same of *table* and its synonym *chart*, given that *chart* does not mean a piece of furniture. A cognate word goes far beyond being a type of foreign synonym of a word. The cognate nature of words -either borrowed foreign words or ancestral Greek or Latin derivations- cannot be taken away by the fact that not all of their meanings, connotations or usages coincide with or exist for their cognate counterparts. Cognates have nothing to do with the idea of exactness between all the meanings and usages of two foreign words. The most suitable definition or explanation for many of the so-called false cognates should be that of 'real cognate words with additional unrelated or uncognate meanings'.
• **False Cognates: The Coherent List**

I leave the following list to your consideration and analysis. This list below is certainly not definitive or comprehensive but it is sufficient, indeed. This list disagrees with other existing lists, mostly due to the criteria explained in the items 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7. Some of these lists of false cognates easily found on the Internet feature many more words with a very arguable false cognate status since possible misinterpretation is not a fixed attribute of theirs, not counting on their irrelevant frequency rank.

The author actually believes that only half of these words are ‘worth-teaching’ to learners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>English</strong></th>
<th><strong>Spanish</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Word</td>
<td>Spanish Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(False Cognate to Spanish speakers)</td>
<td>(False Cognate to English speakers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able adj. capable</td>
<td>Hable v. to speak (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ace n. top player, champion</td>
<td>Hace v. to do (indicative form, 3rd person sing.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual adj. real</td>
<td>Actual adj. current, present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actually adv. really</td>
<td>Actualmente adv. currently, presently</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actuate v. to start, to activate</td>
<td>Actuar v. to act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adept n. skilled, proficient</td>
<td>Adepto n. fan, affiliated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adherent n. supporter</td>
<td>Adherente n. adhesive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjudicate v. to arbitrate</td>
<td>Adjudicar v. to concede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advert n. advertisement</td>
<td>Advertir v. to warn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertise v. to publicize</td>
<td>Advertir v. to warn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertisement n. commercial publication</td>
<td>Advertencia n. warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice n. recommendation</td>
<td>Aviso v. to warn, let sb. know (imperative form, 2nd person sing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advise v. to recommend</td>
<td>Aviso n. warning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affront v. to insult</td>
<td>Afrontar v. to face Afrenta n. insult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ago adv. before</td>
<td>Hago v. to do (indicative form, 1st person sing.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcove n. niche</td>
<td>Alcoba n. bedroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>All pron. every</td>
<td>Al prep. 'to the', towards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocate v. to assign</td>
<td>Alócate v. to get crazy (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocated adj. owed, assigned</td>
<td>Alocado adj. crazy, over excited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also adv. as well</td>
<td>Alzo v. to lift (indicative form, 1st person sing.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amaze v. to astonish</td>
<td>Amase v. to knead (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amazed adj. astonished</td>
<td>Amasado adj. kneaded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amenities n. things that make a place comfortable to live or work in.</td>
<td>Amenidad n. the fact that something is enjoyable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amorous adj. usu. involving sexual love</td>
<td>Ameno adj. enjoyable, fun.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ancient adj. antique</td>
<td>Amoroso adj. loving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antique adj. very old</td>
<td>Anciano adj. n. old; senior citizen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aperture n. hole, orifice, crack</td>
<td>Antiguo adj. ancient; old-fashioned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apology n. excuse</td>
<td>Apertura n. inauguration/opening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appellation n. designation</td>
<td>Apología n. eulogy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appoint v. to nominate; to assign a duty</td>
<td>Apelación n. claim; requirement, petition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apuntar v. to aim; to take notes; Apunte n. note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Apt adj. appropriate
Armada n. fleet
Ardent adj. passionate, devoted
Ardour n. passion; devotion
Arena n. coliseum
Argument n. quarrel
Arm n. limb; v. to supply weapons
Armour n. bullet-proof vest
Arrow n. pointer
Artifice n. deceit
Ascendancy n. influence
Aspersion n. accusation
Assess v. to evaluate; to estimate the value of property for taxation
Assessor n. somebody who assesses
Assiduous adj. hardworking and careful
Assumption n. supposition
Asylum n. shelter
Ate v. past tense of to eat
Attend v. to accomplish, to achieve
Attempt v. to try
Attend v. to be present
Auction n. public sale
Aunt n. one's uncle's wife
Avail v. to use; to help
Avocado n. a fruit with a very large seed and black or green skin
Bachelor n. single
Bale n. a big amount of something such as paper or cotton tied tightly together
Ball n. sphere
Balloon n. inflatable
Barb n. part of an arrowhead that makes it hard to remove
Bark n. the sound made by a dog
Batter v. to beat up
Bigot n. extremist
Billet n. quarters
Billion n. 1,000,000,000
Bizarre adj. strange
Bland adj. weak; ordinary
Blank adj. containing no writing or pictures
Blind adj. not able to see; v. to affect somebody's vision
Bomber n. somebody who plants bombs; a military aircraft that drops bombs during flight
Bonnet n. a hat tied under the chin
Border n. frontier
Borrow v. to have a loan of
Bottom n. base, floor
Brave adj. bold
Brute adj. bestial; n. somebody who attacks
Cabana n. changing room next to a swimming pool
Cabaret n. nightclub
Cabinet n. cupboard
Café n. cafeteria
Calves n. cow's offspring

Apto adj. able
Armada n. the Navy
Ardiente adj. passionate; burning
Ardor n. passion; burning
Arena n. sand
Argumento n. explanation; plot
Arma n. weapon; v. to supply weapons
Amor n. love
Arroz n. rice
Artífice n. creator Artificio n. deceit
Ascendencia n. ancestry
Aspersión n. spraying
Asesorar v. to provide professional advice
Asesor n. consultant
Asiduo adj. regular, frequent
Asunción n. exaltation
Asilo n. old people's home, nursery
Ate v. to tie (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Atar v. to tie
Atentar v. to attack
Atender v. to pay attention
Acción n. action
Aún adv. still, yet
Avalar v. to guarantee
Abogado n. lawyer
Bachiller n. high school graduate
Bala n. bullet
Bala n. bullet
Balón n. ball
Barba n. beard
Barco n. ship
Batir v. to stir; to shake, to blend
Bigote n. moustache
Billete n. banknote
Billón n. 1,000,000,000,000
Bizarro adj. brave
Blando adj. soft
Blanco adj. white
Blindar v. to armour
Bombero n. fire fighter
Bonete n. ecclesiastical hat
Borde n. brim
Burro n. donkey
Botón n. button
Bravo adj. angry
Bruto adj. bestial; stupid; raw or not processed
Cabaña n. hut
Cabaret n. night club; brothel
Gabinete n. cabinet; government; beauty parlour
Café n. coffee
Calvos n. adj. bald
Came v. past tense of to come
Camp n. encampment
Candid adj. honest
Cane n. staff; bamboo
Cap n. lid
Capable adj. able
Carbon n. non-metallic element, symbol C
Card n. certificate
Care n. carefulness
Career n. profession
Carpet n. rug
Cart n. wheeled haul
Carton n. cardboard box
Cartoon n. animation
Case n. container; situation
Cask n. barrel
Casual adj. informal
Casually adv. informally
Casualty n. victim
Choke to suffocate
Choose v. to select
Chorus n. main paragraph of a song
Cigar n. tobacco stick
Collar n. necklace; neck
College n. higher education institution
Come v. to approach
Command v. order n. commandment
Commodity n. goods, product, service
Compass n. an object to find your way in the sea; an object to draw circles
Complain v. to express discontent
Complexion n. related to skin
Compliment n. praise
Comprehensive adj. complete
Concourse n. confluence
Condescending adj. patronizing
Conductor n. performer; train controller
Confectioner n. baker
Confidence n. trust
Confident adj. self-assured
Conform v. to obey a rule; to behave according to people's acceptance
Constipated adj. unable to excrete from the bowels
Constipation n. the condition of being constipated
Content adj. satisfied
Contented adj. satisfied
Contest n. competition
Convene v. to assemble
Correspond v. to exchange written messages
Correspondent n. reporter
Costume n. disguise
Council n. a body serving in an administrative capacity
Courage n. bravery
Crude adj. rough
Curse n. annoyance, spell
Cynic n. pessimist, sceptic
Cama n. bed
Campo n. countryside, forest
Cándido adj. good, naive
Cana n. grey hair
Capa n. cape
Capable adj. that can be castrated
Carbón n. coal
Carta n. letter
Cara n. face
Carrera n. career; race
Carpeta n. folder
Carta n. letter
Cartón n. cardboard; cardboard box
Cartón n. cardboard; cardboard box
Casa n. house
Casco n. helmet
Casual adj. occasional, unexpected; informal
Casualmente adv. occasionally; informally
Casualidad n. coincidence
Choque n. crash
Choza n. hut
Coro n. choir; main paragraph of a song.
Cigarrillo n. cigarette
Collar n. necklace
Colegio n. high school
Come v. to eat (indicative form, 3rd person sing.)
Comando n. troop
Comodidad n. comfort
Compás n. an object to draw circles
Complacer v. to please
Complexión n. body structure (height, weight)
Cumplimiento n. fulfilment
Comprehensivo adj. understanding
Concurso n. concourse; contest.
Condescendiente adj. tolerant; sympathetic
Conductor n. driver; guide
Confeccionador n. manufacturer
Confidencia n. secret
Confidente n. confidant
Conformarse n. to agree to take less than wanted or be happy with it
Constipado adj. suffering from a cold
Constipación n. cold
Contenido adj. happy
Contento adj. happy
Contestar v. to answer
Convenir v. to agree with
Corresponder v. to match
Correspondiente adj. corresponding
Costumbre n. custom, habit
Conciliar v. to reconcile
Coraje n. anger, rage
Crudo adj. raw
Curso n. course
Cínico adj. shameless
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Cynicism n. pessimism; sarcasm
Damn, Damned intj. taboo word

Date n. day
Deception n. trickery
Delight n. pleasure
Demand v. to firmly make a request; n. firm request
Deprecate v. to criticize
Despite adv. in spite of
Dessert n. treat, sweet
Devise v. to plan
Device n. mechanism
Dice n. cube
Dime n. 10 cents
Dinner n. evening meal
Direction n. instruction
Discuss v. to converse
Discussion n. conversation
Disgrace n. shame
Disgrace v. to shame
Disgust n. loathing v. to loath
Disgusted adj. shocked
Disgusting adj. shocking
Dismay n. shock
Distinct adj. divergent; clear, definite
Distract v. to distract
Distraction n. entertainment

Divert v. to distract
Division n. distraction
Dormitory n. usu. a residence hall
Dose n. dosage
Economic adj. financial
Economics n. finances
Educated adj. cultured
Effective adj. efficient
Elemental adj. basic
Eleven n. 11 (10+1)
Embarrassed adj. ashamed
Engross v. to absorb; to occupy
Envoy n. representative
Envy n. jealousy
Equip v. to supply
Equipment n. set of instruments used to accomplish an end
Equivocation n. indirectness
Escapade n. adventure
Estate n. private property
Eventual adj. final, ultimate
Eventually adv. finally, ultimately
Excite v. to thrill
Excited adj. thrilled
Exit n. way out
Expectation n. hope

Cinismo n. sarcasm; shamelessness
Dame v. give me (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Dato n. information
Decepción n. disappointment
Delito n. crime
Demandar v. to sue; to firmly make a request
demanda n. lawsuit; a firm request
Despreciar v. to disregard; to despise
Despiste v. absent-mindedness
Desierto n. desert
Destituir v. to remove from charge
Destitución n. removal from charge
Disviar v. to distinguish, to perceive
Divisa n. currency
Dice v. to say (indicative form, 3rd person sing.)
Dime v. ‘tell me’
Dinero n. money
Dirección n. address
Discusión v. argument
Discusión v. argument
Desgracia n. disaster, misfortune, displeasure; shame
Desgraciar to displease
Disgusto n. annoyance Disgustar v. to annoy
Disgustado adj. annoyed, angry
Disgustante adj. annoying
Desmayo n. someone’s collapse
Distinto adj. different
Distractor v. to miss focus or attention; to amuse
Distracción n. missing focus; entertainment, amusement
Divertir v. to amuse, to have fun
Diversión n. amusement, fun
Dormitorio n. bedroom
Doce n. twelve
Económico adj. cheap
Económicos adj. cheap
Eduardo adj. cultured; polite, well-mannered
Efectivo adj. efficient; n. cash
Elemental adj. basic; elementary; obvious
Eleven v. lift (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Embarazada adj. pregnant
Engrosar v. to get thicker, fatter
Enviar v. to send
Enviar v. to send
Equipo n. team
Equipo n. team; equipment

Equivocación n. error, mistake
Escapada n. escape
Estado n. state
Eventual adj. possible, accidental
Eventualmente adv. possibly
Excitar v. to stimulate (usually sexually)
Excitado adj. stimulated (usually sexually)
Éxito n. success

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Expedient adj. suitable, advantageous
Expense n. expenditure
Explain v. to clarify
Fabric n. textile
Facility n. service
Factory n. manufacturing plant
Faculty n. professors
Fastidious adj. fussy, difficult
Fault n. blame
Feast n. banquet
File n. folder
Fin n. propeller
Fine adj. well
Floor n. storey
Florid adj. extravagant
Font n. set of letters of the same type or style
For prep. on behalf of
Fracas n. quarrel
Fume n. gas, smoke; v. to rage
Fund n. stock, supply
Gang n. a group of criminals working together
Genial adj. friendly
Geniality n. friendliness
Gentle adj. kind, tender
Gentile n. pagan
Gently adv. kindly
Grab v. to get hold of
Gracious adj. polite
Grand adj. great, majestic
Grape n. fruit
Grave n. the place where people are buried when they die
Groceries n. provisions
Guard v. to take care of, to protect
Hay n. silage, grass
Habitation n. the fact of people living in a place
Horn n. keratin outgrowth
Humid adj. moist
Idiom n. saying, proverb
Inadequate adj. insufficient
Inconsequential adj. irrelevant
Indignant adj. annoyed
Industrious adj. hard-working
Ingenuity n. cleverness
Inhabitable adj. liveable
Inhabitant n. resident
Inhabited adj. populated
Injury v. to wound, n. wound
To intimate to suggest
Intoxicated adj. affected by alcohol
Intoxication n. the state of being intoxicated
Introduce v. to present; to begin
Introduction n. prologue; presentation
Invidious adj. unpleasant
Involve v. to include

Expediente n. file, record
Espeso n. thick
Explanar v. to level off
Fabrica n. factory
Facilidad n. ease
Factoría n. enterprise Factor n. element
Facultad n. skill, ability; university department
Fastidioso adj. annoying
Falta n. lack
Fiesta n. party
Fila n. row; line of people, things
Fin n. end
Fino adj. thin; of high quality
Flor n. flower
Flordo adj. with flowers; rhetorical
Fuente n. fountain
Por prep. for; multiplied by; due to
Fracaso n. failure
Fume n. smoke (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Funda n. bag
Ganga n. bargain
Genial adj. great
Genialidad n. great idea; imagination
Gentil adj. well-mannered; polite
Gentil adj. well-mannered; polite
Gentil adj. well-mannered; polite
Grabar v. to record, to engrave
Gracioso adj. funny
Grande adj. big, large
Grapa n. staple
Grave adj. acute; serious severe
Grosierías n. rudeness, rude matters
Guardar v. to keep
Hay n. there is/are
Habitación n. bedroom; the fact of people living in a place
Horno n. oven
Húmedo adj. moist; soaked, wet
Idioma n. language
Inadecuado adj. inappropriate
Inconsecuente adj. contradictory
Indignante adj. outrageous, humiliating
Industria adj. industry
Ingenuidad n. ingenuousness, naivety
Inhabitable adj. uninhabitable
Inhabitado adj. uninhabited
Inhabitable adj. uninhabited
Injury v. insult, offence
Intimar v. to socialize
Intoxicado adj. poisoned
Intoxicación n. contamination
Introducir v. to insert
Introducción n. prologue; presentation; implementation
Envidioso adj. envious
Envolver v. to wrap
Journal n. magazine
Journalist n. reporter
Jubilation n. joy
Just adj. now
Labourer n. worker
Large adj. big
Largely adv. mostly
Lecture n. conference
Lentil n. edible grain
Letter n. correspondence
Liar n. untruthful
Librarian n.
Library n. building with a collection of books, records
Local n. native
Luxury n. comfort
Major n. main
Mallet n. hammer
Manner n. way of doing sth; behaviour, conduct
Mantelpiece n. bookshelf
Mark n. spot v. to indicate
Mascara n. make-up
Mate n. friend
Matter n. substance
Mayor n. elected head of a city or town
Measure n. amount; v. to calculate
Media n. press; medium
Molest v. to harass sexually
Moral n. lesson, maxim
Morose adj. depressed
Murder n. to kill

To note v. to write down
Notice v. to perceive; n. announcement
Notorious adj. dishonourable

Novel adj. new, original
Obscure adj. unclear
Occurrence n. event, incidence
Opaque adj. unclear; thick
Once adv. one time
Oration n. speech
Ostensible adj. apparent
Pail n. bucket
Pain n. ache
Pale adj. colourless
Pamphlet n. booklet
Pan n. pot
Panties n. short piece of underwear
Papa n. dad
Parcel n. package, piece of land
Parent n. father, mother

Particularly adv. specifically
Party n. festivity, event
Pattern n. model

Jornal n. salary
Jornalero n. factory or farm worker
Jubilación n. retirement
Justo adj. exact, precise; righteous, fair
Labrador n. farmer
Largo adj. long
Largamente adv. for a long time
Lectura n. reading
Lente n. (optical) glass
Letra n. letter (vowel or consonant)
Liar v. to tie, to bind
Librería n. book store
Librería n. book store

Local adj. local, n. store
Lujuria n. lust
Mayor adj. older, Mejor adj. better
Maleta n. suitcase
Manera n. way of doing sth.
Mantel (pieza) n. tablecloth
Marco n. frame
Mascara n. mask
Mate n. type of tea
Materia n. school subject; stuff; Material n. material
Mayor n. older
Mesura n. prudence
Media n. sock; average
Molestar v. to bother
Moral n. morality
Mórbido adj. bland, soft
Moroso adj. negligent
Muerde n. to bite (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Notar v. to notice
Noticia n. news
Notorio adj. obvious, evident (no neg. connotation)
Novel adj. beginner
Oscuro adj. dark
Ocurrencia n. weird idea
Opaco adj. nuclear, dark, dull
Once adj. eleven
Oración n. sentence; prayer
Ostensible adj. evident
Pala n. shovel
Pan n. bread
Pala n. shovel, spade
Panfleto n. lampoon
Pan n. bread
Panties n. tights, panty-hose
Papa n. Pope; potato; Papá n. dad
Parcela n. piece of land
Pariente n. one's relative (uncle, cousin, nephew, etc.)
Particularmente adv. specifically; privately
Partí v. to split (past tense form, 1st person sing)
Paterno n. related to fatherhood
Periodical n. bulletin
Petition n. legal demand
Petrol n. gas
Petulant adj. bad-tempered
Pie n. cake
Pigeon n. domestic bird found mainly in big groups in cities
Pinch v. to squeeze
Plate n. cover; dish
Police n. police force
Policy n. rule
Politic n. diplomatic
Politics n. political affairs
Pope n. Catholic priest
Powder n. dust
Precious adj. valuable
Preservative n. additive
Presume v. to assume
Prevent v. to stop, to avoid
Privacy n. confidentiality
Probe v. to search
Professor n. lecturer
Profound adj. figuratively deep
Propaganda n. half truths
Proper adj. appropriate
Prove v. to provide evidence
Punctual adj. on time
Point n. spot
Qualification n. skill
Question n. enquiry
Quiet adj. calm, peaceful; silent
Quit v. to give up
Range n. variety
Realize v. to understand, to notice
Recipe n. instructions
Recipient n. receiver
Recollect v. to remember
Recollection n. memory
Record n. v. to/a register
Red adj. a colour
Refrain v. to avoid
Refund n. repay
Registrar n. to record

Regular adj. usual, average
Relation n. connection; family member
Relative n. adj. family member; comparative
Relievable v. to alleviate
Remain v. to stay
Remark v. to comment
Remove v. to take away; to cause to leave
Rent n. v. to/a lease
Reparation n. damages; compensation
Repet v. to regret

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Resort n. option, club
Rest n. remainder; v. to relax
Resume v. to recommence
Retire v. to stop working
Retribution n. vengeance
Revolver n. a small gun
Robe n. coat
Rope n. cord, string
Rude adj. impolite
Ruin n. wreckage; v. to wreck
Salad n. vegetables mix
Sale n. auction
Sanity n. good sense
Sauce n. thick savoury liquid
Save v. to keep, to put aside
Scenario n. situation, setting
Scientific adj. related to science
Scholar n. researcher
Senior adj. elder
Sensible adj. rational
Sensitive adj. susceptible
Sentence n. statement; verdict v. to condemn
Serious adj. critical, important
Severe adj. acute
Several adj. some
Signature n. autograph
Similitude n. the fact of being similar to something or someone.
Sin n. (religious) offence
Sinister adj. threatening
Soap n. lather
Sober adj. abstemious
Sophisticated adj. stylish, complicated
Soul n. spirit
Spade n. shovel
Spectacles n. eyeglasses
Stranger n. alien
Subject n. topic, field of study; part of a sentence
Suburb n. outer neighbourhood
Succeed v. to do well
Success n. achievement
Sunrise n. dawn
Supply v. to provide; n. provisions
Support v. n. to/a hold up; back up
Sympathetic adj. understanding
Sympathise v. to understand
Sympathy n. understanding, compassion
Table n. desk; chart
Taller n. opposite of shorter
Tap n. valve
Target n. goal
Tenant n. occupant

Resorte n. wire spring
Resto n. remainder Restar v. to subtract
Resumen n. summary
Retire v. leave, take off (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Retribución n. compensation
Revolver v. to revolve; to stir; Revólver n. small gun
Robe v. steal (imperative form, 2nd person sing)
Ropa n. clothes
Rudo adj. tough, rough
Ruin adj. evil, mean; Ruina n. wreckage; Arruinar v. to wreck
Salado/a n. salty
Sale n. leave (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Sano adj. healthy
Sanidad n. hygiene
Sauce n. willow
Sabe v. (he/she) knows
Escenario n. stage
Científico n. scientist; adj. scientific
Escolar n. related to school
Señor n. mister, sir; gentleman
Sensible adj. sensitive
Sensitivo adj. sensible
Sentencia n. verdict; Sentenciar v. to condemn
Serio adj. critical, important; silent, reserved, trustworthy
Severo adj. rigid; serious
Severo adj. rigid
Asignatura n. school subject
Similitud n. similarity
Sin prep. without
Siniestro adj. threatening; n. catastrophe
Sopa n. soup
Sobre adj. envelope Saber v. to know
Sofisticado adj. stylish; complicated; modern, advanced
Solo n. alone
Espada n. sword
Espectáculos n. shows
Extranjero n. foreigner
Sujeto n. guy; part of a sentence
Suburbio n. slum
Suceder v. to happen
Suceso n. happening
Sonrisa n. smile
Suplir v. to substitute, to replace
Soportar v. to hold up; stand sb or sth; Soporte n. column
Simpático adj. nice, pleasant
Simpatizar v. to be outgoing
Simpatía n. fondness, liveliness
Tabla n. wooden plank
Taller n. workshop
Tapa n. lid
Tarjeta n. card
Teniente n. lieutenant
Terrific adj. great
Tired adj. exhausted
Topic n. subject
Traduce v. to criticize
Trait n. feature
Tramp n. vagabond
Transcend v. to excel
Translate v. to interpret
Translation n. interpretation
Tree n. plant
Tremendous adj. great
Tub n. container
Tuna n. fish type
Type n. kind v. to word-process
Ulterior adj. hidden
Ultimate adj. final; essential
Ultimately adv. in the end
Vacuum n. void
Vague adj. not expressed clearly
Vase n. pot
Veranda n. porch
Versus prep. against
Vicious adj. cruel
Villa n. cottage
Virtual adj. near, implicit
Volubility n. fluency
Voluble adj. fluent, talkative
Zealous adj. enthusiastic

Terrible adj. terrible
Tirado v. thrown away, dropped
Tópico n. cliché or trivial expression
Traduce v. to translate
Trato n. deal, agreement
Trampa n. cheating, trick
Trascender v. to excel; to be communicated
Trasladar v. to move; to relocate
Traslado n. movement, transfer
Tres n. three
Tremendo adj. large; terrible
Tubo n. tube
Tuna n. music band, cactus, laziness
Tipo n. kina, type; guy; Tipear v. to word-process
Ulterior adj. latter
Ultimo adj. last
últimamente adv. lately
Vacuna n. vaccination
Vago adj. lazy; vague
Vaso n. drinking glass
Baranda n. handrail
Versos n. verses
Vicioso adj. addicted
Villa n. cottage; municipality
Virtual adj. near, implicit; potential, future
Volubilidad n. instability
Voluble adj. changing
Celoso adj. jealous