

## 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

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

\*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.

### English

English Word  
(False Cognate to Spanish speakers)

Able adj. capable  
 Ace n. top player, champion  
 Actual adj. real  
 Actually adv. really  
 Actuate v. to start, to activate  
 Adept n. skilled, proficient  
 Adherent n. supporter  
 Adjudicate v. to arbitrate  
 Advert n. advertisement  
 Advertise v. to publicize  
 Advertisement n. commercial publication  
 Advice n. recommendation  
  
 Advise v. to recommend  
 Affront v. to insult  
 Ago adv. before  
 Alcove n. niche  
 All pron. every  
 Allocate v. to assign  
  
 Allocated adj. owed, assigned  
 Also adv. as well  
 Amaze v. to astonish  
  
 Amazed adj. astonished  
 Amenities n. things that make a place comfortable to live or work in.  
 Amorous adj. usu. involving sexual love  
 Ancient adj. antique  
 Antique adj. very old  
 Aperture n. hole, orifice, crack  
 Apology n. excuse  
 Appellation n. designation  
 Appoint v. to nominate; to assign a duty

### Spanish

Spanish Word  
(False Cognate to English speakers)

Hable v. to speak (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)  
 Hacer v. to do (indicative form, 3rd person sing.)  
 Actual adj. current, present  
 Actualmente adv. currently, presently  
 Actuar v. to act  
 Adepto n. fan, affiliated  
 Adherente n. adhesive  
 Adjudicar v. to concede  
 Advertir v. to warn  
 Advertir v. to warn  
 Advertencia n. warning  
 Avise v. to warn, let sb. know (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)  
 Aviso n. warning  
 Afrontar v. to face Afrenta n. insult  
 Hago v. to do (indicative form, 1st person sing.)  
 Alcoba n. bedroom  
 Al prep. 'to the', towards  
 Alócate v. to get crazy (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)  
 Alocado adj. crazy, over excited  
 Alzo v. to lift (indicative form, 1st person sing.)  
 Amase v. to knead (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)  
 Amasado adj. kneaded  
 Amenidad n. the fact that something is enjoyable  
 Ameno adj. enjoyable, fun.  
 Amoroso adj. loving  
 Anciano adj. n. old; senior citizen  
 Antiguo adj. ancient; old-fashioned  
 Apertura n. inauguration/opening  
 Apología n. eulogy  
 Apelación n. claim; requirement, petition  
 Apuntar v. to aim; to take notes; Apunte n. note

Apt adj. appropriate	Apto adj. able
Armada n. fleet	Armada n. the Navy
Ardent adj. passionate, devoted	Ardiente adj. passionate; burning
Ardour n. passion; devotion	Ardor n. passion; burning
Arena n. coliseum	Arena n. sand
Argument n. quarrel	Argumento n. explanation; plot
Arm n. limb; v. to supply weapons	Arma n. weapon; v. to supply weapons
Armour n. bullet-proof vest	Amor n. love
Arrow n. pointer	Arroz n. rice
Artifice n. deceit	Artífice n. creator Artificio n. deceit
Ascendancy n. influence	Ascendencia n. ancestry
Aspersión n. accusation	Aspersión n. spraying
Assess v. to evaluate; to estimate the value of property for taxation	Asesorar v. to provide professional advice
Assessor n. somebody who assesses	Asesor n. consultant
Assiduous adj. hardworking and careful	Asiduo adj. regular, frequent
Assumption n. supposition	Asunción n. exaltation
Asylum n. shelter	Asilo n. old people's home, nursery
Ate v. past tense of to eat	Ate v. to tie (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Attain v. to accomplish, to achieve	Atar v. to tie
Attempt v. to try	Atentar v. to attack
Attend v. to be present	Atender v. to pay attention
Auction n. public sale	Acción n. action
Aunt n. one's uncle's wife	Aún adv. still, yet
Avail v. to use; to help	Avalar v. to guarantee
Avocado n. a fruit with a very large seed and black or green skin	Abogado n. lawyer
Bachelor n. single	Bachiller n. high school graduate
Bale n. a big amount of something such as paper or cotton tied tightly together	Bala n. bullet
Ball n. sphere	Bala n. bullet
Balloon n. inflatable	Balón n. ball
Barb n. part of an arrowhead that makes it hard to remove	Barba n. beard
Bark n. the sound made by a dog	Barco n. ship
Batter v. to beat up	Batir v. to stir; to shake, to blend
Bigot n. extremist	Bigote n. moustache
Billet n. quarters	Billete n. banknote
Billion n. 1,000,000,000	Billón n. 1,000,000,000,000
Bizarre adj. strange	Bizarro adj. brave
Bland adj. weak; ordinary	Blando adj. soft
Blank adj. containing no writing or pictures	Blanco adj. white
Blind adj. not able to see; v. to affect somebody's vision	Blindar v. to armour
Bomber n. somebody who plants bombs; a military aircraft that drops bombs during flight	Bombero n. fire fighter
Bonnet n. a hat tied under the chin	Bonete n. ecclesiastical hat
Border n. frontier	Borde n. brim
Borrow v. to have a loan of	Burro n. donkey
Bottom n. base, floor	Botón n. button
Brave adj. bold	Bravo adj. angry
Brute adj. bestial; n. somebody who attacks	Bruto adj. bestial; stupid; raw or not processed
Cabana n. changing room next to a swimming pool	Cabaña n. hut
Cabaret n. nightclub	Cabaret n. night club; brothel
Cabinet n. cupboard	Gabinete n. cabinet; government; beauty parlour
Café n. cafeteria	Café n. coffee
Calves n. cow's offspring	Calvos n. adj. bald

Came v. past tense of to come	Cama n. bed
Camp n. encampment	Campo n. countryside, forest
Candid adj. honest	Cándido adj. good, naive
Cane n. staff; bamboo	Cana n. grey hair
Cap n. lid	Capa n. cape
Capable adj. able	Capable adj. that can be castrated
Carbon n. non-metallic element, symbol C	Carbón n. coal
Card n. certificate	Carta n. letter
Care n. carefulness	Cara n. face
Career n. profession	Carrera n. career; race
Carpet n. rug	Carpeta n. folder
Cart n. wheeled haul	Carta n. letter
Carton n. cardboard box	Cartón n. cardboard; cardboard box
Cartoon n. animation	Cartón n. cardboard; cardboard box
Case n. container; situation	Casa n. house
Cask n. barrel	Casco n. helmet
Casual adj. informal	Casual adj. occasional, unexpected; informal
Casually adv. informally	Casualmente adv. occasionally; informally
Casualty n. victim	Casualidad n. coincidence
Choke to suffocate	Choque n. crash
Chose v. to select	Choza n. hut
Chorus n. main paragraph of a song	Coro n. choir; main paragraph of a song.
Cigar n. tobacco stick	Cigarrillo n. cigarette
Collar n. necklace; neck	Collar n. necklace
College n. higher education institution	Colegio n. high school
Come v. to approach	Come v. to eat (indicative form, 3rd person sing.)
Command v. order n. commandment	Comando n. troop
Commodity n. goods, product, service	Comodidad n. comfort
Compass n. an object to find your way in the sea; an object to draw circles	Compás n. an object to draw circles
Complain v. to express discontent	Complacer v. to please
Complexion n. related to skin	Compleción n. body structure (height, weight)
Compliment n. praise	Cumplimiento n. fulfilment
Comprehensive adj. complete	Comprehensivo adj. understanding
Concourse n. confluence	Concurso n. concourse; contest.
Condescending adj. patronizing	Condescendiente adj. tolerant; sympathetic
Conductor n. performer; train controller	Conductor n. driver; guide
Confectioner n. baker	Confeccionador n. manufacturer
Confidence n. trust	Confidencia n. secret
Confident adj. self-assured	Confidente n. confidant
Conform v. to obey a rule; to behave according to people's acceptance	Conformarse n. to agree to take less than wanted or be happy with it
Constipated adj. unable to excrete from the bowels	Constipado adj. suffering from a cold
Constipation n. the condition of being constipated	Constipación n. cold
Content adj. satisfied	Contento adj. happy
Contented adj. satisfied	Contento adj. happy
Contest n. competition	Contestar v. to answer
Convene v. to assemble	Convenir v. to agree with
Correspond v. to exchange written messages	Corresponder v. to match
Correspondent n. reporter	Correspondiente adj. corresponding
Costume n. disguise	Costumbre n. custom, habit
Council n. a body serving in an administrative capacity	Conciliar v. to reconcile
Courage n. bravery	Coraje n. anger, rage
Crude adj. rough	Crudo adj. raw
Curse n. annoyance, spell	Curso n. course
Cynic n. pessimist, sceptic	Cínico adj. shameless

Cynicism n. pessimism; sarcasm	Cinismo n. sarcasm; shamelessness
Damn, Damned intj. taboo word	Dame v. give me (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Date n. day	Dato n. information
Deception n. trickery	Decepción n. disappointment
Delight n. pleasure	Delito n. crime
Demand v. to firmly make a request; n. firm request	Demandar v. to sue; to firmly make a request
Deprecate v. to criticize	demanda n. lawsuit; a firm request
Despite adv. in spite of	Despreciar v. to disregard; to despise
Dessert n. treat, sweet	Despiste v. absent-mindedness
Destitute adj. extremely poor	Desierto n. desert
Destitution n. extreme poverty	Destituir v. to remove from charge
Devise v. to plan	Destitución n. removal from charge
Device n. mechanism	Divisar v. to distinguish, to perceive
Dice n. cube	Divisa n. currency
Dime n. 10 cents	Dice v. to say (indicative form, 3rd person sing.)
Dinner n. evening meal	Dime v. 'tell me'
Direction n. instruction	Dinero n. money
Discuss v. to converse	Dirección n. address
Discussion n. conversation	Discusión v. argument
Disgrace n. shame	Discusión v. argument
	Desgracia n. disaster, misfortune, displeasure; shame
Disgrace v. to shame	Desgraciar to displease
Disgust n. loathing v. to loath	Disgusto n. annoyance
Disgusted adj. shocked	Disgustar v. to annoy
Disgusting adj. shocking	Disgustado adj. annoyed, angry
Dismay n. shock	Disgustante adj. annoying
Distinct adj. divergent; clear, definite	Desmayo n. someone's collapse
Distract v. to divert	Distinto adj. different
Distraction n. entertainment	Distraer v. to miss focus or attention; to amuse
	Distracción n. missing focus; entertainment, amusement
Divert v. to distract	Divertir v. to amuse, to have fun
Diversion n. distraction	Diversión n. amusement, fun
Dormitory n. usu. a residence hall	Dormitorio n. bedroom
Dose n. dosage	Doce n. twelve
Economic adj. financial	Económico adj. cheap
Economics n. finances	Económicos adj. cheap
Educated adj. cultured	Educado adj. cultured; polite, well-mannered
Effective adj. efficient	Efectivo adj. efficient; n. cash
Elemental adj. basic	Elemental adj. basic; elementary; obvious
Eleven n. 11 (10+1)	Eleven v. lift (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Embarrassed adj. ashamed	Embarazada adj. pregnant
Engross v. to absorb; to occupy	Engrosar v. to get thicker, fatter
Envoy n. representative	Enviar v. to send
Envy n. jealousy	Enviar v. to send
Equip v. to supply	Equipo n. team
Equipment n. set of instruments used to accomplish an end	Equipo n. team; equipment
Equivocation n. indirectness	
Escapade n. adventure	Equivocación n. error, mistake
Estate n. private property	Escapada n. escape
Eventual adj. final, ultimate	Estado n. state
Eventually adv. finally, ultimately	Eventual adj. possible, accidental
Excite v. to thrill	Eventualmente adv. possibly
Excited adj. thrilled	Excitar v. to stimulate (usually sexually)
Exit n. way out	Excitado adj. stimulated (usually sexually)
Expectation n. hope	Éxito n. success
	Expectación n. expectancy, interest, attention

Expedient adj. suitable, advantageous	Expediente n. file, record
Expense n. expenditure	Espeso n. thick
Explain v. to clarify	Explanar v. to level off
Fabric n. textile	Fabrica n. factory
Facility n. service	Facilidad n. ease
Factory n. manufacturing plant	Factoría n. enterprise
Faculty n. professors	Factor n. element
Fastidious adj. fussy, difficult	Facultad n. skill, ability; university department
Fault n. blame	Fastidioso adj. annoying
Feast n. banquet	Falta n. lack
File n. folder	Fiesta n. party
Fin n. propeller	Fila n. row; line of people, things
Fine adj. well	Fin n. end
Floor n. storey	Fino adj. thin; of high quality
Florid adj. extravagant	Flor n. flower
Font n. set of letters of the same type or style	Florido adj. with flowers; rhetorical
For prep. on behalf of	Fuente n. fountain
Fracas n. quarrel	Por prep. for; multiplied by; due to
Fume n. gas, smoke; v. to rage	Fracaso n. failure
	Fume n. smoke (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Fund n. stock, supply	Funda n. bag
Gang n. a group of criminals working together	Ganga n. bargain
Genial adj. friendly	Genial adj. great
Geniality n. friendliness	Genialidad n. great idea; imagination
Gentle adj. kind, tender	Gentil adj. well-mannered; polite
Gentile n. pagan	Gentil adj. well-mannered; polite
Gently adv. kindly	Gentil adj. well-mannered; polite
Grab v. to get hold of	Grabar v. to record, to engrave
Gracious adj. polite	Gracioso adj. funny
Grand adj. great, majestic	Grande adj. big, large
Grape n. fruit	Grapa n. staple
Grave n. the place where people are buried when they die	Grave adj. acute; serious severe
Groceries n. provisions	Groserías n. rudeness, rude matters
Guard v. to take care of, to protect	Guardar v. to keep
Hay n. silage, grass	Hay n. there is/are
Habitation n. the fact of people living in a place	Habitación n. bedroom; the fact of people living in a place
	Horno n. oven
Horn n. keratin outgrowth	Húmedo adj. moist; soaked, wet
Humid adj. moist	Idioma n. language
Idiom n. saying, proverb	Inadecuado adj. inappropriate
Inadequate adj. insufficient	Inconsecuente adj. contradictory
Inconsequential adj. irrelevant	Indignant adj. outrageous, humiliating
Indignant adj. annoyed	Industria adj. industry
Industrious adj. hard-working	Ingenuidad n. ingenuousness, naivety
Ingenuity n. cleverness	Inhabitable adj. uninhabitable
Inhabitable adj. liveable	Inhabitado adj. uninhabited
Inhabitant n. resident	Inhabitado adj. uninhabited
Inhabited adj. populated	Injuria n. insult, offence
Injury v. to wound, n. wound	Intimar v. to socialize
To intimate to suggest	Intoxicado adj. poisoned
Intoxicated adj. affected by alcohol	Intoxicación n. contamination
Intoxication n. the state of being intoxicated	Introducir v. to insert
Introduce v. to present; to begin	Introducción n. prologue; presentation; implementation
Introduction n. prologue; presentation	
	Envidioso adj. envious
Invidious adj. unpleasant	Envolver v. to wrap
Involve v. to include	

Journal n. magazine	Jornal n. salary
Journalist n. reporter	Jornalero n. factory or farm worker
Jubilation n. joy	Jubilación n. retirement
Just adj. now	Justo adj. exact, precise; righteous, fair
Labourer n. worker	Labrador n. farmer
Large adj. big	Largo adj. long
Largely adv. mostly	Largamente adv. for a long time
Lecture n. conference	Lectura n. reading
Lentil n. edible grain	Lente n. (optical) glass
Letter n. correspondence	Letra n. letter (vowel or consonant)
Liar n. untruthful	Liar v. to tie, to bind
Librarian n.	Librería n. book store
Library n. building with a collection of books, records	Librería n. book store
Local n. native	Local adj. local, n. store
Luxury n. comfort	Lujuria n. lust
Major n. main	Mayor adj. older, Mejor adj. better
Mallet n. hammer	Maleta n. suitcase
Manner n. way of doing sth; behaviour, conduct	Manera n. way of doing sth.
Mantelpiece n. bookshelf	Mantel (pieza) n. tablecloth
Mark n. spot v. to indicate	Marco n. frame
Mascara n. make-up	Mascara n. mask
Mate n. friend	Mate n. type of tea
Matter n. substance	Materia n. school subject; stuff; Material n. material
Mayor n. elected head of a city or town	Mayor n. older
Measure n. amount; v. to calculate	Mesura n. prudence
Media n. press; medium	Media n. sock; average
Molest v. to harass sexually	Molestar v. to bother
Moral n. lesson, maxim	Moral n. morality
Morbid adj. perverse	Mórbido adj. bland, soft
Morose adj. depressed	Moroso adj. negligent
Murder n. to kill	Muerde n. to bite (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
To note v. to write down	Notar v. to notice
Notice v. to perceive; n. announcement	Noticia n. news
Notorious adj. dishonourable	Notorio adj. obvious, evident (no neg. connotation)
Novel adj. new, original	Novel adj. beginner
Obscure adj. unclear	Oscuro adj. dark
Occurrence n. event, incidence	Ocurrencia n. weird idea
Opaque adj. unclear; thick	Opaco adj. nuclear, dark, dull
Once adv. one time	Once adj. eleven
Oration n. speech	Oración n. sentence; prayer
Ostensible adj. apparent	Ostensible adj. evident
Pail n. bucket	Pala n. shovel
Pain n. ache	Pan n. bread
Pale adj. colourless	Pala n. shovel, spade
Pamphlet n. booklet	Panfleto n. lampoon
Pan n. pot	Pan n. bread
Panties n. short piece of underwear	Panties n. tights, panty-hose
Papa n. dad	Papa n. Pope; potato; Papá n. dad
Parcel n. package, piece of land	Parcela n. piece of land
Parent n. father, mother	Pariente n. one's relative (uncle, cousin, nephew, etc.)
Particularly adv. specifically	Particularmente adv. specifically; privately
Party n. festivity, event	Partí v. to split (past tense form, 1st person sing)
Pattern n. model	Paterno n. related to fatherhood



Periodical n. bulletin	Periódico n. newspaper
Petition n. legal demand	Petición n. request
Petrol n. gas	Petróleo n. petroleum
Petulant adj. bad-tempered	Petulante adj. arrogant, vain
Pie n. cake	Pie n. foot
Pigeon n. domestic bird found mainly in big groups in cities	Pichón n. young bird
Pinch v. to squeeze	Pinchar v. to prick; to puncture
Plate n. cover; dish	Plata n. silver; money (slang)
Police n. police force	Policía n. police, police officer
Policy n. rule	Policía n. police, police officer
Politic n. diplomatic	Político n. politician; Política n. politics
Politics n. political affairs	Políticos n. politicians
Pope n. Catholic priest	Papá n. dad
Powder n. dust	Poder n. power
Precious adj. valuable	Precioso adj. beautiful
Preservative n. additive	Preservativo n. condom
Presume v. to assume	Presumir v. to assume; to boast
Pretend v. to imagine	Pretender v. to imagine; to try
Prevent v. to stop, to avoid	Prevenir v. to warn; to foresee
Privacy n. confidentiality	Privacidad n. confidentiality; intimacy
Probe v. to search	Probé v. (I) tasted
Professor n. lecturer	Profesor n. teacher
Profound adj. figuratively deep	Profundo adj. deep; profound
Propaganda n. half truths	Propaganda n. advertisement, advertising
Proper adj. appropriate	Propio adj. own
Prove v. to provide evidence	Probar v. to provide evidence; to try
Punctual adj. on time	Puntual adj. on time; specific
Point n. spot	Punto n. point, dot; period; spot
Qualification n. skill	Calificación n. grade, ranking
Question n. enquiry	Cuestión n. matter, issue
Quiet adj. calm, peaceful; silent	Quieto adj. still; quiet
Quit v. to give up	Quitar v. to remove, take away/off
Range n. variety	Rango n. ranking
Realize v. to understand, to notice	Realizar v. to carry out, to perform
Recipe n. instructions	Recibe n. to receive
Recipient n. receiver	Recipiente n. container
Recollect v. to remember	Recolectar v. to collect again
Recollection n. memory	Recolección n. a (public) collection
Record n. v. to/a register	Recuerdo n. memory; Recordar v. to remember, to remind
Red adj. a colour	Red adj. net
Refrain v. to avoid	Refrán v. to idiom, proverb
Refund n. repay	Refundir n. to mix again
Registrar n. to record	Registrar v. to record; to search in detail (sb. or a place)
Regular adj. usual, average	Regular adj. usual, average; acceptable; a bit mediocre
Relation n. connection; family member	Relación n. connection
Relative n. adj. family member; comparative	Relativo adj. connected to
Relevant adj. pertinent	Relevante adj. pertinent; outstanding
Relieve v. to alleviate	Relieve n. pattern
Remain v. to stay	Remar v. to row (a boat)
Remark v. to comment	Remarcar v. to mark again
Remove v. to take away; to cause to leave	Remover v. to remove; to stir
Rent n. v. to/a lease	Renta n. rent payment; income
Reparation n. damages; compensation	Reparación n. mending
Repent v. to regret	(De) Repente adv. suddenly

Resort n. option, club	Resorte n. wire spring
Rest n. remainder; v. to relax	Resto n. remainder Restar v. to subtract
Resume v. to recommence	Resumen n. summary
Retire v. to stop working	Retire v. leave, take off (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
	Retribución n. compensation
Retribution n. vengeance	Revolver v. to revolve; to stir; Revólver n. small gun
Revolver n. a small gun	
	Robe v. steal (imperative form, 2nd person sing)
Robe n. coat	Ropa n. clothes
Rope n. cord, string	Rudo adj. tough, rough
Rude adj. impolite	Ruin adj. evil, mean; Ruina n. wreckage; Arruinar v. to wreck
Ruin n. wreckage; v. to wreck	
	Salado/a n. salty
Salad n. vegetables mix	Sale n. leave (imperative form, 2nd person sing.)
Sale n. auction	Sano adj. healthy
Sane adj. rational	Sanidad n. hygiene
Sanity n. good sense	Sauce n. willow
Sauce n. thick savoury liquid	Sabe v. (he/she) knows
Save v. to keep, to put aside	Escenario n. stage
Scenario n. situation, setting	Científico n. scientist; adj. scientific
Scientific adj. related to science	Escolar n. related to school
Scholar n. researcher	Señor n. mister, sir; gentleman
Senior adj. elder	Sensible adj. sensitive
Sensible adj. rational	Sensitivo adj. sensible
Sensitive adj. susceptible	Sentencia n. verdict; Sentenciar v. to condemn
Sentence n. statement; verdict v. to condemn	Serio adj. critical, important; silent, reserved, trustworthy
Serious adj. critical, important	Severo adj. rigid; serious
Severe adj. acute	Severo adj. rigid
Several adj. some	Asignatura n. school subject
Signature n. autograph	Similitud n. similarity
Similitude n. the fact of being similar to something or someone.	Sin prep. without
Sin n. (religious) offence	Siniestro adj. threatening; n. catastrophe
Sinister adj. threatening	Sopa n. soup
Soap n. lather	Sobre adj. envelope Saber v. to know
Sober adj. abstemious	Sofisticado adj. stylish; complicated; modern, advanced
Sophisticated adj. stylish, complicated	
	Solo n. alone
Soul n. spirit	Espada n. sword
Spade n. shovel	Espectáculos n. shows
Spectacles n. eyeglasses	Extranjero n. foreigner
Stranger n. alien	Sujeto n. guy; part of a sentence
Subject n. topic, field of study; part of a sentence	Suburbio n. slum
Suburb n. outer neighbourhood	Suceder v. to happen
Succeed v. to do well	Suceso n. happening
Success n. achievement	Sonrisa n. smile
Sunrise n. dawn	Suplir v. to substitute, to replace
Supply v. to provide; n. provisions	Soportar v. to hold up; stand sb or sth; Soporte n. column
Support v. n. to/a hold up; back up	
	Simpático adj. nice, pleasant
Sympathetic adj. understanding	Simpatizar v. to be outgoing
Sympathise v. to understand	Simpatía n. fondness, liveliness
Sympathy n. understanding, compassion	Tabla n. wooden plank
Table n. desk; chart	Taller n. workshop
Taller n. opposite of shorter	Tapa n. lid
Tap n. valve	Tarjeta n. card
Target n. goal	Teniente n. lieutenant
Tenant n. occupant	

Terrific adj. great	Terrible adj. terrible
Tired adj. exhausted	Tirado v. thrown away, dropped
Topic n. subject	Tópico n. cliché or trivial expression
Traduce v. to criticize	Traduce v. to translate
Trait n. feature	Trato n. deal, agreement
Tramp n. vagabond	Trampa n. cheating, trick
Transcend v. to excel	Trascender v. to excel; to be communicated
Translate v. to interpret	Trasladar v. to move; to relocate
Translation n. interpretation	Traslado n. movement, transfer
Tree n. plant	Tres n. three
Tremendous adj. great	Tremendo adj. large; terrible
Tub n. container	Tubo n. tube
Tuna n. fish type	Tuna n. music band, cactus, laziness
Type n. kind v. to word-process	Tipo n. kina, type; guy; Tipear v. to word-process
Ulterior adj. hidden	Ulterior adj. latter
Ultimate adj. final; essential	Ultimo adj. last
Ultimately adv. in the end	últimamente adv. lately
Vacuum n. void	Vacuna n. vaccination
Vague adj. not expressed clearly	Vago adj. lazy; vague
Vase n. pot	Vaso n. drinking glass
Veranda n. porch	Baranda n. handrail
Versus prep. against	Versos n. verses
Vicious adj. cruel	Vicioso adj. addicted
Villa n. cottage	Villa n. cottage; municipality
Virtual adj. near, implicit	Virtual adj. near, implicit; potential, future
Volubility n. fluency	Volubilidad n. instability
Voluble adj. fluent, talkative	Voluble adj. changing
Zealous adj. enthusiastic	Celoso adj. jealous