

The **IMPORTANT VERBS** Learners Need

High Frequency, High Interest & Highly Useful Verbs for Language Learners

- Why focus on teaching these high-frequency verbs?
- Because the 100 most frequently used words account for 65% of all speech.
 - Verbs are most of those top 100 words.
 - Most U.S. teenagers use only 800 words a day outside of school.
 - Language learner authors know this and use these verbs in their novels.

**JUMP-START BEGINNERS BY TEACHING THESE VERBS IN THE 3RD PERSON SINGULAR WITH CLASSICAL TPR GESTURES
TO GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO UNDERSTAND, READ & SPEAK RIGHT AWAY**
With some imagination, almost any story can be told or adapted with these first 26 verbs

ESSENTIAL VERBS 26 verbs that are used by everyone, all the time (High Frequency)

↓ *The first 15 are inspired by Terry Waltz's "Super 7" & Mike Peto's "Sweet 16". These can be used to tell almost any story in a simple way.* ↓

be	go	have	want	like	there is
<i>(The word "like" is not as high frequency as the other verbs above, but it is included as an essential verb here because it lets students express preferences)</i>					
do	say	see	give	know	put
leave	go back	can			
find	need	take	look for	arrive	talk
meet	look at	live	work	call	

VIVID VERBS 24 verbs to make class more dramatic & interesting—like classic stories, movies & videos do (High Interest)

touch	grab	yell	throw	hit	fall down
jump	push	play			
love	hate	laugh	smile	cry	sing
escape	run	sleep			
kiss	hug	dance	share	die	kill

CLASSROOM VERBS 22 verbs about actions & activities in class (High Classroom Use)

stand up	sit down	walk	point at	raise	lower
open	shut	read	write	draw	listen to
take out	study	think	start	finish	wait
trade	pass	learn	teach		

USEFUL VERBS 37 verbs that make reading more comprehensible (High Use in Novels)

realize	turn off	turn on	attend	help	warm up	eat
buy	sell	cost	pay	believe	should	
leave	say good-bye	wake up	shoot	get mad	send	
clean	wash	take a bath	swim	kill	seem	
lose	win	practice	receive	remember	repeat	
follow	feel	try	come	fly	happen	

Spanish Teachers: See the corresponding list of **Verbos Importantes** on the following page.

VERBOS IMPORTANTES

The Most Useful Spanish Verbs

TEACH THESE IN THE 3RD PERSON SINGULAR WITH TPR GESTURES TO GIVE STUDENTS WHAT THEY REALLY NEED TO READ & SPEAK

(Parentheses)

= Frequency number in Spanish

The lower the number, the more often the word is used.

* (Asterisk)

= In the top 100 Spanish words

The 100 most frequently used words account for 65% of speech.

Gray Highlighting

= In the top 101 - 800 Spanish words

Most U.S. teenagers use only 800 words a day outside of school.

27 ESSENTIAL VERBS that are used by everyone, all the time

(High Frequency)

↓ The first 15 are inspired by Terry Waltz's "Super 7" & Mike Peto's "Sweet 16". They can be used to tell almost any story in a simple way. ↓

ser (* #8)	to be	estar (* #17)	to be	ir (* #30)	to go
tener (* #18)	to have	querer (* #57)	to want	gustar (#353)	to like / be pleasing to
hacer (* #25)	to do/make	decir (* #28)	to say/tell	ver (* #37)	to see
dar (* #39)	to give	saber (* #46)	to know	poner (* #77)	to put
salir (#111)	to leave	volver (#112)	to return	poder (* #27)	to be able to, can, may
encontrar (* #100)	to find	necesitar (#229)	to need	tomar (#122)	to take, drink
buscar (#173)	to look for/search	llegar (* #66)	to arrive	hablar (* #92)	to talk/speak
conocer (#124)	to meet, know	mirar (#142)	to look at	vivir (#128)	to live
trabajar (#183)	to work	haber (* #11)	to be/have	llamar (#104)	to call

24 VIVID VERBS to make stories more dramatic—like classic stories, movies & videos do

(High Interest)

tirar (#759)	to throw	pegarle (#1395)	to hit him/it	agarrar (#2074)	to grab
gritar (#1597)	to yell	caerse (#245)	to fall down	saltar (#1071)	to jump
empujar (#1877)	to push	jugar (#355)	to play (sports)	tocar (#325)	to touch, play (music)
encantar (#2859)	to love (something)	dormir (#857)	to sleep	odiar (#3444)	to hate
reírse (#1493)	to laugh	sonreír (#2731)	to smile	cantar (#1124)	to sing
escapar (#757)	to escape	correr (#332)	to run	andar (#536)	to walk, ride, go
besar (#3696)	to kiss	abrazar (#2873)	to hug	bailar (#2071)	to dance
llorar (#1466)	to cry	compartir (#681)	to share	morir (#293)	to die

21 CLASSROOM VERBS to talk about actions & activities in class

(High Classroom Use)

aprender (#422)	to learn	levantarse (#372)	to stand up	escuchar (#360)	to listen to
enseñar (#524)	to teach	sentarse (#710)	to sit down	apuntar (#1361)	to point at
abrir (#252)	to open	levantar (#372)	to raise/lift	leer (#244)	to read
cerrar (#454)	to shut/close	bajar (#569)	to lower	escribir (#187)	to write
estudiar (#328)	to study	empezar (#161)	to start	pensar (#106)	to think
dibujar (#2317)	to draw	terminar (#219)	to finish	esperar (* #63)	to wait, hope
cambiar (#246)	to trade/exchange	sacar (#228)	to take out	pasar (* #67)	to pass

37 USEFUL VERBS that make reading more comprehensible

(Often Used in Novels)

darse cuenta	apagar (#2104)	asistir (#822)	ayudar (#345)	bañar (#3224)	calentar (#2531)	comer (#389)
comprar (#437)	costar (#626)	creer (* #91)	deber (* #75)	dejar (* #94)	despedir (#1940)	
despertar (#734)	disparar (#2141)	enojar (#----)	enviar (#842)	ganar (#286)	lavar (#1762)	
limpiar (#1537)	matar (#557)	nadar (#3050)	pagar (#342)	parecer (* #81)	pasar (* #67)	spend time, happen
perder (#190)	practicar (#1303)	prender (#2454)	recibir (#205)	recordar (#246)	repetir (#382)	
seguir (* #97)	sentir (#131)	tratar (#437)	vender (#526)	venir (#105)	volar (#1376)	