



The **IMPORTANT VERBS** Learners Need

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

- 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.
 - Teaching verbs allows students to understand stories right away.
 - It's natural speech. Most 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 IN MOST LANGUAGES BY TEACHING THESE VERBS IN THE PRESENT TENSE, 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 the first 26 verbs alone.

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 (Different than be in some languages.) |
| <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 21 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 | show | | | |

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

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| 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 Important and Useful Spanish Verbs

TEACH IN THE PRESENT TENSE, 3RD PERSON SINGULAR WITH TPR GESTURES TO GIVE STUDENTS WHAT THEY NEED TO BEGIN TO READ & SPEAK

(Parentheses) = Frequency number in Spanish

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

* (Yellow & Asterisk) = In the top 100 Spanish words

The 100 most frequently used words, which are 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 *Used by everyone, all the time—especially in beginning courses (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 Novellas)*

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| apagar (#2104) | asistir (#822) | ayudar (#345) | bañar (#3224) | calentar (#2531) | comer (#389) |
| comprar (#437) | costar (#626) | creer (* #91) | darse cuenta (expresión con dar, #3) | deber (* #75) | dejar (* #94) |
| despedir (#1940) | despertar (#734) | disparar (#2141) | enojar (#----) | enviar (#842) | ganar (#286) |
| 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) |