

VERBOS IMPORTANTES

The Most Useful Spanish Verbs for Language Learners

TEACH SOME OF THESE 27 VERBS WITH TPR GESTURES TO GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO UNDERSTAND, 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 that make stories more dramatic—like classic stories, movies & TV 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)	

IMPORTANT VERBS

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

Why focus on teaching high-frequency verbs?

- Because the 100 most frequently used words account for 65% of speech.
- Most U.S. teenagers use only 800 words a day outside of school.
- Language learner literature uses these verbs

TEACH THE ESSENTIAL VERBS WITH TPR GESTURES TO GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO UNDERSTAND, READ & SPEAK

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

↓ *The first 14 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.* ↓

be	go	have	want	like	
<i>(The word "like" is not as high frequency as the other verbs on this list, but an essential verb 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 that make stories more dramatic—like classic stories, movies & TV do (High Interest)

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

CLASSROOM VERBS to talk about actions & activities in class in the T.L. (High Classroom Use)

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

USEFUL VERBS that make reading more comprehensible. (Often Used 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	