

PALABRAS IMPORTANTES

Important Words

FUNCTION WORDS & CLASSROOM VOCABULARY

WHAT ARE FUNCTION WORDS?

- **Function words are the small words that carry the grammar of a sentence.** Function words are a different type of word than content words. Content words are words like **silla** (nouns), **corre** (verbs), and **triste** (adjectives). Many content words are relatively easy to learn because they are more concrete—you can often imagine a picture of what a content word describes. But function words are abstract. They are the articles, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and other short grammatical marker words. Function words are important to know, but they are harder to imagine, memorize and define. The function words are mainly acquired by context—exposure and comparison in many different situations over time.

INTERESTING NEWS

- **The mind deals with function words and content words differently.** According to **Steven Pinker**, a leading cognitive scientist and linguist, in his book on how the mind deals with language, **Words and Rules**, our brains learn most of the function words early in life and then use them to communicate clearly. Function words are a relatively closed set of vocabulary. We learn new content words all the time, but function words, once learned, do not need many additions. Function words become embedded in the mind and provide a kind of scaffolding to help facilitate clear communication. They carry the look and feel of the language. Once you know these words and know how they work, you are on your way to knowing the language.

THE BAD NEWS

- **Function words are rarely cognates.** Not only are function words abstract and harder to memorize than content words, they usually cannot be piggy-backed on to English words that you already know like many other vocabulary words. Most of them are unique to Spanish and must be learned individually.

THE GOOD NEWS

- **You have already acquired many function words.** Many of the most high frequency words are short function words. You have probably already picked up many of the most common function words like **en, de, a, le, mi, con, and y**. Be on the lookout for these and other function words as you read and listen. When you know these words you are on your way to knowing the language.

MORE GOOD NEWS

- **You are probably ready to pick up more function words.** Function words are extremely common, but beginning language learners tend to skip over them because they are concentrating on the content words so much. That strategy can make sense as a novice language learner, but after a core of content words have been acquired, new learners find themselves hearing the function words and wanting to learn more of them. You may want to look over this list to put your mind at ease and to prepare yourself to recognize them as you listen and read.

ARE THESE ALL OF THE FUNCTION WORDS?

- **Not every high frequency function word is included on this list**—just those that are the most useful in an acquisition-rich classroom. Some words that newbies tend to pick up due to exposure in extensive reading and listening to natural conversations, like articles and some pronouns, are not included for brevity's sake. Other types of words that have been omitted are those that would be seen as redundant to beginners. These include words such as **cuando** (used as a conjunction, #40, or a preposition, #1803), when they already know **¿cuándo?** (the question word/adverb, #1199), and **donde** (the preposition and conjunction, #84) when they know **¿dónde?** (the question word/adverb, #421), from repeatedly hearing them in class conversations and stories.

PALABRAS IMPORTANTES INSTRUCTOR HANDOUT

With Word Frequency Numbers from A Frequency Dictionary of Spanish, by Mark Davies

INSTRUCTORS & AUTHORS: FOCUS ON USING THESE WORDS TO BE SURE YOUR STUDENTS ARE ACQUIRING THE HIGH FREQUENCY VOCABULARY THEY NEED—THE SKELETON OF THE LANGUAGE.

Highlighting = Words NOT in the top 800 most frequent Spanish words (but are still useful in class)

(#) = Word Frequency Number (#***) = Words NOT in top 5,000 most frequent Spanish words

CONJUNCTIONS (mostly)

1. que (#3) that
2. y (#4) and
3. como (#16) like, as
4. pero (#23) but
5. o (#26) or
6. si (#34) if
7. porque (#38) because
8. ni... ni (#64) neither... nor
9. pues (#105) then, well
10. sino (#109) except, rather
11. aunque (#117) although
12. mientras (#154) while

38. allá (#324) over there

39. solo (#102; 160) only, just; alone
40. casi (#146) almost
41. hoy (#164) today
42. aún (#282) still, yet
43. incluso (#294) including
44. quizás (#297) maybe
45. solamente (#336) only
46. pronto (#396) soon
47. igualmente (#1431) equally
48. apenas (#587) barely, hardly

75. cerca de (#391) close to

76. lejos de (#469) far from
77. sobre (#48) on, above
78. encima de (#436) over, on top of
79. debajo de (#820) below, beneath
80. delante de (#885) in front of, ahead
81. detrás de (#701) behind
82. dentro de (#174) inside
83. fuera de (#451) outside (of)
84. a través de (#347) through, across

TRANSITIONS

(ADVERBIAL PHRASES)

13. así que (#59) so
14. por eso (#63) so, for this reason
15. luego (#132) then, later
16. entonces (#76) then, so
17. más tarde (#1046) later
18. después (#87) afterwards, then

EXPRESSIONS WITH "VEZ" (#44)

49. una vez one time, once
50. muchas veces many times, often
51. a veces at times, sometimes
52. otra vez another time, again
53. en vez de instead of
54. tal vez perhaps

QUANTIFIERS / AMOUNTS

85. más (#24) more
86. muy (#42) very
87. mucho (#45) a lot
88. un poco (#74) a little
89. bastante (#270) enough, quite
90. demasiado (#335) too much
91. tanto (#79) so much
92. todo (#22) everything, all
93. todos (#22) everybody
94. todos los días (#22) every day
95. por todas partes (#86) everywhere
96. nada (#95) nothing
97. algo (#101) something
98. un montón de (#1946) a whole lot of

HELP TELLING A STORY

(ABVERBS)

19. ya (#36) already, now
20. ya no (#36) not anymore, no longer
21. ahora (#85) now
22. sin embargo (#180) nevertheless
23. además (#159) besides, as well
24. de repente (#2183) all of a sudden
25. todavía (#211) still, yet
26. por fin (#156) finally, at last

PREPOSITIONS

55. de (#2) of, from
56. a (#5) to, at
57. en (#6) in, on
58. por (#12) for, through, by
59. para (#15) for, in order to
60. con (#13) with
61. sin (#43) without
62. hasta (#54) until
63. desde (#61) since, from
64. durante (#148) during
65. contra (#172) against

PRONOUNS

99. yo (#52) I
100. tú (#554) you (familiar)
101. él (#41) he
102. ella (#69) she
103. usted (Ud.) (#269) you (formal)
104. nosotros (#191) we
105. ellos (#144) they (m)
106. ellas (#144) they (f)
107. ustedes (Uds.) (#269) you (all)

(More) ADVERBS

27. así (#59) like that
28. bien (#73) well, fine
29. tan (#83) so
30. también (#53) also
31. tampoco (#279) neither
32. antes de (#236) before
33. después de (#87) after
34. siempre (#90) always
35. nunca (#151) never
36. aquí (#129) here
37. allí (#169) there

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

70. entre (#58) between
71. hacia (#125) towards
72. alrededor de (#556) around
73. junto a (#729) beside
74. al lado de (#165) next to

108. alguien (#480) somebody
109. nadie (#283) nobody

110. conmigo (#1845) with me
111. contigo (#3017) with you

QUESTION WORDS

- 112. ¿Qué? (#47) What?
- 113. ¿Quién? (#292) Who?
- 114. ¿Por qué? (#12, 47) Why?
- 115. ¿Dónde? (#421) Where?
- 116. ¿Cómo? (#126) How?
- 117. ¿Cuál? (#395) Which?
- 118. ¿Cuándo? (#1199) When?
- 119. ¿Cuántos? (#723) How many?

• Many of the nouns and adjectives below are NOT high frequency words.

• They are on this list because they are interesting and/or useful in language class.

• Many of these words are included in standard curricula.

[] = Words NOT in the top 800 most frequent Spanish words

(*****) = Words not in top 5,000

MISCELLANEOUS NOUNS

- 120. un rato (#1478) a little while
- 121. cosa (#78) thing
- 122. palabra (#176) word
- 123. un cuento (#1357) a story
- 124. desayuno (#3157) breakfast
- 125. almuerzo (#3104) lunch
- 126. cena (#2971) dinner, supper
- 127. la bicicleta (#3955) bicycle
- 128. un carro (#1871) a car
- 129. el dinero (#291) money
- 130. la mañana (#401) the morning
- 131. mañana (#1235) tomorrow
- 132. la tarde (#242) the afternoon
- 133. la noche (#196) evening, night
- 134. esta noche (#196) tonight

- 135. un gato (#1412) a cat
- 136. un perro (#939) a dog
- 137. un caballo (#780) a horse

PEOPLE

- 138. un chico (#1079) a boy
- 139. una chica (#1907) a girl
- 140. un hombre (#80) a man
- 141. una mujer (#127) a woman
- 142. la familia (#201) the family

- 143. un hermano (#539) a brother
- 144. madre (#278) mother
- 145. padre (#182) father
- 146. un amigo (#262) a friend
- 147. un niño (#178) a little boy/kid
- 148. un policía (#506) police officer

PLACES

- 149. la casa (#116) house
- 150. la sala (#811) living/big room
- 151. el dormitorio (#3382) bedroom
- 152. la cocina (#1673) kitchen
- 153. la cama (#1185) bed
- 154. la calle (#248) street
- 155. la escuela (#532) school
- 156. el campo (#295) countryside
- 157. el país (#133) country
- 158. la montaña (#1212) mountain
- 159. el lago (#2680) lake
- 160. el mar (#645) sea
- 161. la playa (#1713) beach
- 162. el parque (#1760) park
- 163. la ciudad (#197) city
- 164. el pueblo (#241) town

ADJECTIVES

- 165. bueno (#115) good
- 166. malo (#275) bad
- 167. mejor (#121) better, best
- 168. mejor que (#121) better than
- 169. joven (#442) young
- 170. viejo (#281) old
- 171. nuevo (#99) new
- 172. ese/esa (#32) that
- 173. este/esta (#29) this
- 174. guapo (#4140) good-looking
- 175. bonito (#1707) pretty
- 176. hermoso (#1224) beautiful
- 177. chulo (*****) cute
- 178. feo (#2381) ugly
- 179. cada (#96) each, every
- 180. igual (#239) equal, the same
- 181. maravilloso (#1743) marvelous

- 182. triste (#1314) sad
- 183. feliz (#956) happy
- 184. contento (#1647) content
- 185. grande (#62) big
- 186. mediano (#3103) medium
- 187. pequeño (#184) small

- 188. delgado (#3039) skinny
- 189. gordo (#2217) fat
- 190. chistoso (*****) funny
- 191. cómico (#3485) funny
- 192. simpático (#2590) nice
- 193. antipático (*****) mean

- 194. rico (#627) rich
- 195. pobre (#373) poor
- 196. tonto (#2191) dumb, stupid
- 197. loco (#1377) crazy
- 198. inteligente (#1447) smart

- 199. enojado (*****) angry
- 200. cansado (#2147) tired
- 201. sucio (#1994) dirty
- 202. limpio (#1397) clean
- 203. aburrido (#2813) boring
- 204. interesante (#762) interesting
- 205. exigente (#3530) demanding
- 206. suave (#84) soft, smooth
- 207. fuerte (#1010) strong, hard, loud
- 208. débil (#1284) weak
- 209. caro (#1876) expensive
- 210. gratis (*****) free
- 211. barato (#1470) inexpensive

- 212. lleno (#508) full
- 213. vacío (#1532) empty
- 214. mismo (#51) same
- 215. menor (#334) younger
- 216. mayor (#138) older
- 217. fácil (#514) easy
- 218. difícil (#314) difficult, hard

PALABRAS IMPORTANTES INSTRUCTOR HANDOUT

IN ORDER OF WORD FREQUENCY

The lower the frequency number, the more often a word is used. This is a different order than on the other Palabras Importantes handouts. Also, note that this list does not contain all high frequency words, just those on the previous lists. Verbs, for example, are on a different list. For a complete list of high frequency words see [A Frequency Dictionary of Spanish](#), by Mark Davies.

Highlighting = Words NOT in the top 800 most frequent Spanish words **(#***)** = Words NOT in top 5,000

FUNCTION WORDS = ABSTRACT GRAMMATICAL MARKER WORDS

(Similar to "sight words" in elementary school; high frequency vocabulary that everyone needs to know.)

#1-50 by Frequency

1. **de (#2)** of, from
2. **que (#3)** that
3. **y (#4)** and
4. **a (#5)** to, at
5. **en (#6)** in, on
6. **por (#12)** for, through
7. **con (#13)** with
8. **para (#15)** for, in order to
9. **como (#16)** like, as
10. **todo (#22)** everything, all
11. **todos (#22)** everybody
12. **todos los días (#22)** every day
13. **pero (#23)** but
14. **más (#24)** more
15. **o (#26)** or
16. **si (#34)** if
17. **ya (#36)** already, now
18. **ya no (#36)** not anymore, no longer
19. **porque (#38)** because
20. **él (#41)** he
21. **muy (#42)** very
22. **sin (#43)** without
23. **una vez (#44)** one time, once
24. **muchas veces** many times, often
25. **a veces** at times, sometimes
26. **otra vez** another time, again
27. **en vez de** instead of
28. **tal vez** perhaps
29. **mucho (#45)** a lot, much
30. **sobre (#48)** on, above

#50-100 by Frequency

31. **yo (#52)** I
32. **también (#53)** also
33. **hasta (#54)** until
34. **así (#59)** like that
35. **entre (#58)** between
36. **así que (#59)** so
37. **desde (#61)** since, from
38. **por eso (#63)** so, for this reason
39. **ni... ni (#64)** neither... nor

40. **ella (#69)** she
41. **bien (#73)** well, fine
42. **un poco (#74)** a little
43. **entonces (#76)** then, so
44. **tanto (#79)** so much
45. **tan (#83)** so
46. **ahora (#85)** now
47. **por todas partes (#86)** everywhere
48. **después de (#87)** after
49. **después (#87)** afterwards, then
50. **siempre (#90)** always
51. **nada (#95)** nothing

#100-200 by Frequency

52. **algo (#101)** something
53. **solo (#102; #160)** only, just; lonely
54. **pues (#105)** then, well
55. **sino (#109)** except, rather
56. **aunque (#117)** although
57. **hacia (#125)** towards
58. **aquí (#129)** here
59. **luego (#132)** then, later
60. **ellos (#144)** they (m)
61. **ellas (#144)** they (f)
62. **casi (#146)** almost
63. **durante (#148)** during
64. **nunca (#151)** never
65. **mientras (#154)** while
66. **por fin (#156)** finally, at last
67. **además (#159)** besides, as well
68. **hoy (#164)** today
69. **al lado de (#165)** next to
70. **allí (#169)** there
71. **contra (#172)** against
72. **dentro de (#174)** inside
73. **sin embargo (#180)** nevertheless
74. **nosotros (#191)** we

#200-300 by Frequency

75. **todavía (#211)** still, yet
76. **según (#257)** according to
77. **antes de (#236)** before

78. **usted (Ud.) (#269)** you (formal)
79. **ustedes (Uds.) (#269)** you (all)
80. **bastante (#270)** enough, quite
81. **tampoco (#279)** neither
82. **aún (#282)** still, yet
83. **nadie (#283)** nobody
84. **incluso (#294)** including
85. **quizás (#297)** maybe

#300-400 by Frequency

86. **allá (#324)** over there
87. **demasiado (#335)** too much
88. **solamente (#336)** only
89. **a través de (#347)** through, across
90. **a pesar de (#366)** in spite of
91. **cerca de (#391)** close to
92. **pronto (#396)** soon

#400 + by Frequency

93. **encima de (#436)** over, on top of
94. **fuera de (#451)** outside (of)
95. **lejos de (#469)** far from
96. **alguien (#480)** somebody
97. **a causa de (#546)** because of
98. **tú (#554)** you (familiar)
99. **alrededor de (#556)** around
100. **apenas (#587)** barely, hardly
101. **detrás de (#701)** behind
102. **junto a (#729)** beside

debajo de (#820) below, beneath

delante de (#885) in front of, ahead

más tarde (#1046) later

acerca de (#1288) about

igualmente (#1431) equally

conmigo (#1845) with me

un montón de (#1946)

a whole lot of

de repente (#2183) all of a sudden

contigo (#3017) with you

QUESTION WORDS
(In order of frequency)

- 112. **¿Qué?** (#47) What?
- 113. **¿Por qué?** (#12, 47) Why?
- 114. **¿Cómo?** (#126) How?
- 115. **¿Quién?** (#292) Who?
- 116. **¿Cuál?** (#395) Which?
- 117. **¿Dónde?** (#421) Where?
- 118. **¿Cuántos?** (#723) How many?
- 119. **¿Cuándo?** (#1199) When?

• Many of the nouns and adjectives below are NOT high frequency words.

• They are on this list because they are interesting and/or useful in language class.

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(***) = Words not in top 5,000

COMMON SPANISH CLASS NOUNS
(in order of frequency)

- 120. **cosa** (#78) thing
- 121. **un hombre** (#80) a man
- 122. **la casa** (#116) house
- 123. **una mujer** (#127) a woman
- 124. **el país** (#133) country
- 125. **un niño** (#178) a little boy/kid
- 126. **palabra** (#176) word
- 127. **padre** (#182) father
- 128. **la noche** (#196) evening, night
- 129. **la ciudad** (#197) city
- 130. **esta noche** (#196) tonight
- 131. **la familia** (#201) the family
- 132. **el pueblo** (#241) town
- 133. **la tarde** (#242) the afternoon
- 134. **la calle** (#248) street
- 135. **un amigo** (#262) a friend
- 136. **madre** (#278) mother
- 137. **el dinero** (#291) money
- 138. **el campo** (#295) countryside
- 139. **la mañana** (#401) the morning
- 140. **un policía** (#506) police officer
- 141. **la escuela** (#532) school
- 142. **un hermano** (#539) a brother

- 143. **el mar** (#645) sea
- 144. **un caballo** (#780) a horse
- 145. **la sala** (#811) living/big room
- 146. **un perro** (#939) a dog
- 147. **un chico** (#1079) a boy
- 148. **la cama** (#1185) bed
- 149. **la montaña** (#1212) mountain
- 150. **mañana** (#1235) tomorrow
- 151. **un cuento** (#1357) a story
- 152. **un gato** (#1412) a cat
- 153. **un rato** (#1478) a little while
- 154. **la cocina** (#1673) kitchen
- 155. **la playa** (#1713) beach
- 156. **el parque** (#1760) park
- 157. **un carro** (#1871) a car
- 158. **una chica** (#1907) a girl
- 159. **el lago** (#2680) lake
- 160. **cena** (#2971) dinner, supper
- 161. **almuerzo** (#3104) lunch
- 162. **desayuno** (#3157) breakfast
- 163. **el dormitorio** (#3382) bedroom
- 164. **la bicicleta** (#3955) bicycle
- COMMON SPANISH CLASS ADJECTIVES**
(in order of frequency)
- 165. **este/esta** (#29) this
- 166. **ese/esa** (#32) that
- 167. **mismo** (#51) same
- 168. **grande** (#62) big
- 169. **suave** (#84) soft, smooth
- 170. **cada** (#96) each, every
- 171. **nuevo** (#99) new
- 172. **bueno** (#115) good
- 173. **mejor** (#121) better, best
- 174. **mejor que** (#121) better than
- 175. **mayor** (#138) older
- 176. **pequeño** (#184) small
- 177. **igual** (#239) equal, the same
- 178. **malo** (#275) bad
- 179. **viejo** (#281) old
- 180. **difícil** (#314) difficult, hard
- 181. **menor** (#334) younger
- 182. **pobre** (#373) poor
- 183. **joven** (#442) young
- 184. **lleno** (#508) full
- 185. **fácil** (#514) easy
- 186. **rico** (#627) rich
- 187. **interesante** (#762) interesting
- 188. **feliz** (#956) happy
- 189. **fuerte** (#1010) strong, hard, loud
- 190. **hermoso** (#1224) beautiful
- 191. **débil** (#1284) weak
- 192. **triste** (#1314) sad
- 193. **loco** (#1377) crazy
- 194. **limpio** (#1397) clean
- 195. **inteligente** (#1447) smart
- 196. **barato** (#1470) inexpensive
- 197. **vacío** (#1532) empty
- 198. **contento** (#1647) content
- 199. **bonito** (#1707) pretty
- 200. **maravilloso** (#1743) marvelous
- 201. **caro** (#1876) expensive
- 202. **sucio** (#1994) dirty
- 203. **cansado** (#2147) tired
- 204. **tonto** (#2191) dumb, stupid
- 205. **gordo** (#2217) fat
- 206. **feo** (#2381) ugly
- 207. **simpático** (#2590) nice
- 208. **aburrido** (#2813) boring
- 209. **delgado** (#3039) skinny
- 210. **mediano** (#3103) medium
- 211. **cómico** (#3485) funny
- 212. **exigente** (#3530) demanding
- 213. **guapo** (#4140) good-looking
- 214. **chulo** (****) cute
- 215. **chistoso** (****) funny
- 216. **antipático** (****) mean
- 217. **enojado** (****) angry
- 218. **gratis** (****) free

Nombre _____
Fecha _____
Clase _____

PALABRAS IMPORTANTES — STUDENT HANDOUT

These **Palabras Importantes** are some of the most important Spanish words for beginners. They are: 1) **High Frequency Spanish Words**, or 2) **Common Vocabulary** in language classes. These words form the skeleton of communication in Spanish. #1 - #112 are **Function Words**—these are short, common grammatical words. Function words are good to know because they are some of the most frequently used words in the language (60% of speech is composed of just 50 function words). #112 - #219 are **Content Words**. These are words that are more concrete and may be easier to pick up. Content words include question words, nouns and adjectives. You will acquire the much of the vocabulary on these lists just by listening and reading, but it can be helpful to focus on lists like these to see how much you are acquiring. We may also have a series of quizzes to check on your general progress.

Check to see how many of these you recognize right now. We will review this list periodically to see how many more you are picking up as the course progresses.

SPANISH to ENGLISH

CONJUNCTIONS (mostly)

1. que _____
2. y _____
3. como _____
4. pero _____
5. o _____
6. si _____
7. porque _____
8. ni... ni _____
9. pues _____
10. sino _____
11. aunque _____
12. mientras _____

TRANSITIONS

13. así que _____
14. por eso _____
15. luego _____
16. entonces _____
17. más tarde _____
18. después _____

HELP TELLING A STORY

19. ya _____
20. **ya no** _____
21. ahora _____
22. sin embargo _____
23. además _____
24. de repente _____
25. todavía _____
26. por fin _____

ADVERBS

27. así _____
28. bien _____
29. tan _____
30. también _____
31. tampoco _____
32. antes de _____
33. después de _____
34. siempre _____
35. nunca _____
36. aquí _____

37. allí _____
38. allá _____
39. solo _____
40. casi _____
41. hoy _____
42. aún _____
43. incluso _____
44. quizás _____
45. solamente _____
46. pronto _____
47. igualmente _____
48. apenas _____

EXPRESSIONS WITH "VEZ"

49. una vez _____
50. muchas veces _____
51. a veces _____
52. otra vez _____
53. en vez de _____
54. tal vez _____

PREPOSITIONS

55. de _____
56. a _____
57. en _____
58. por _____
59. para _____
60. con _____
61. sin _____
62. hasta _____
63. durante _____
64. desde _____
65. contra _____
66. según _____
67. acerca de _____
68. a pesar de _____
69. a causa de _____

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

70. entre _____
71. hacia _____
72. alrededor de _____
73. junto a _____
74. al lado de _____

75. cerca de _____
76. lejos de _____

77. sobre _____
78. encima de _____
79. debajo de _____

80. delante de _____
81. detrás de _____

82. dentro de _____
83. fuera de _____
84. a través de _____

QUANTIFIERS / AMOUNTS

85. más _____
86. muy _____
87. mucho _____
88. un poco _____
89. bastante _____
90. demasiado _____
91. tanto _____
92. todo _____
93. todos _____
94. todos los días _____
95. por todas partes _____
96. nada _____
97. algo _____
98. un montón de _____

PRONOUNS

99. yo _____
100. tú _____
101. él _____
102. ella _____
103. usted (Ud.) _____
104. nosotros _____
105. ellos _____
106. ellas _____
107. ustedes (Uds.) _____

108. alguien _____
109. nadie _____
110. conmigo _____
111. contigo _____

QUESTION WORDS

112. ¿Qué? _____
 113. ¿Quién? _____
 114. ¿Por qué? _____
 115. ¿Dónde? _____
 116. ¿Cómo? _____
 117. ¿Cuál? _____
 118. ¿Cuándo? _____
 119. ¿Cuántos? _____

PLACES

149. la casa _____
 150. la sala _____
 151. el dormitorio _____
 152. la cocina _____
 153. la cama _____
 154. la calle _____
 155. la escuela _____

ADJECTIVES

185. grande _____
 186. mediano _____
 187. pequeño _____
 188. delgado _____
 189. gordo _____
 190. chistoso _____
 191. cómico _____
 192. simpático _____
 193. antipático _____
 156. el campo _____
 157. el país _____
 158. la montaña _____
 159. el lago _____
 160. el mar _____
 161. la playa _____
 162. el parque _____
 163. la ciudad _____
 164. el pueblo _____
 194. rico _____
 195. pobre _____
 196. tonto _____
 197. loco _____
 198. inteligente _____
 199. enojado _____
 200. cansado _____

ADJECTIVES

120. un rato _____
 121. cosa _____
 122. palabra _____
 123. un cuento _____
 124. desayuno _____
 125. almuerzo _____
 126. cena _____
 127. la bicicleta _____
 128. el carro _____
 129. el dinero _____
 130. la mañana _____
 131. mañana _____
 132. la tarde _____
 133. la noche _____
 134. esta noche _____
 135. un gato _____
 136. un perro _____
 137. un caballo _____
 165. bueno _____
 166. malo _____
 167. mejor _____
 168. mejor que _____
 169. joven _____
 170. viejo _____
 171. nuevo _____
 172. ese/esa _____
 173. este/esta _____
 174. guapo _____
 175. bonito _____
 176. hermoso _____
 177. chulo _____
 178. feo _____
 179. cada _____
 180. igual _____
 181. maravilloso _____
 182. triste _____
 183. feliz _____
 184. contento _____
 201. sucio _____
 202. limpio _____
 203. aburrido _____
 204. interesante _____
 205. exigente _____
 206. suave _____
 207. fuerte _____
 208. débil _____
 209. caro _____
 210. gratis _____
 211. barato _____
 212. lleno _____
 213. vacío _____
 214. mismo _____
 215. menor _____
 216. mayor _____
 217. fácil _____
 218. difícil _____

PEOPLE

138. un chico _____
 139. unachica _____
 140. un hombre _____
 141. una mujer _____
 142. la familia _____
 143. un hermano _____
 144. madre _____
 145. padre _____
 146. un amigo _____
 147. un niño _____
 148. un policía _____

Nombre _____
Fecha _____
Clase _____

PALABRAS IMPORTANTES — STUDENT HANDOUT

ENGLISH TO SPANISH

CONJUNCTIONS (Mostly)

1. *that, than* _____
2. *and* _____
3. *like, as* _____
4. *but* _____
5. *or* _____
6. *if* _____
7. *because* _____
8. *neither... nor* _____
9. *then, well then* _____
10. *except, rather* _____
11. *although* _____
12. *while* _____

TRANSITIONS

13. *so* _____
14. *so, for this reason* _____
15. *then, later* _____
16. *then, so* _____
17. *later* _____
18. *afterwards, then* _____

HELP TELLING A STORY (ADVERBS)

19. *already, now* _____
20. *not anymore, no longer* _____
21. *now* _____
22. *nevertheless* _____
23. *besides, as well* _____
24. *all of a sudden* _____
25. *still, yet* _____
26. *finally, at last* _____

(MORE) ADVERBS

27. *like that* _____
28. *well, fine* _____
29. *so, so much* _____
30. *also, too* _____
31. *neither* _____
32. *before* _____
33. *after* _____
34. *always* _____
35. *never* _____
36. *here* _____

EXPRESSIONS WITH "VEZ"

37. *there* _____
38. *over there* _____
39. *alone* _____
40. *almost* _____
41. *today* _____
42. *even, still, yet* _____
43. *including* _____
44. *maybe* _____
45. *only* _____
46. *soon* _____
47. *equally* _____
48. *barely, hardly* _____

PREPOSITIONS

55. *of, from* _____
56. *to, at* _____
57. *in, on* _____
58. *for, through* _____
59. *for, in order to* _____
60. *with* _____
61. *without* _____
62. *until* _____
63. *during* _____
64. *since, from* _____
65. *against* _____
66. *according to* _____
67. *about, concerning* _____
68. *despite* _____
69. *because of* _____
70. *between* _____
71. *towards* _____
72. *around* _____
73. *beside* _____
74. *next to* _____
75. *close to* _____

QUANTIFIERS/AMOUNTS

76. *far from* _____
77. *on, above* _____
78. *over, on top of* _____
79. *below, beneath* _____
80. *in front of, ahead* _____
81. *behind* _____
82. *inside* _____
83. *outside (of)* _____
84. *through, across* _____
85. *more* _____
86. *very* _____
87. *a lot* _____
88. *a little* _____
89. *enough, quite* _____
90. *too much* _____
91. *so much* _____
92. *everything, all* _____
93. *everybody* _____
94. *every day* _____
95. *everywhere* _____
96. *nothing* _____
97. *something* _____
98. *a whole lot of* _____

PRONOUNS

99. *I* _____
100. *you (familiar)* _____
101. *he* _____
102. *she* _____
103. *you (formal)* _____
104. *we* _____
105. *they (masculine)* _____
106. *they (feminine)* _____
107. *you (all)* _____
108. *somebody* _____
109. *nobody* _____
110. *with me* _____
111. *with you* _____

QUESTION WORDS

112. What? _____
 113. Who? _____
 114. Why? _____
 115. Where? _____
 116. How? _____
 117. Which? _____
 118. When? _____
 119. How many? _____

PLACES

149. house _____
 150. living room, big room _____
 151. bedroom _____
 152. kitchen _____
 153. bed _____
 154. street _____
 155. school _____

186. medium _____

- 187. small** _____
188. skinny _____
189. fat _____
190. funny _____
191. funny _____
192. nice _____
193. mean _____

MISCELLANEOUS NOUNS

120. a little while _____
 121. thing _____
 122. Word _____
 123. a story _____
 124. breakfast _____
 125. lunch _____
 126. dinner, supper _____

156. countryside _____

157. country _____
 158. mountain _____
 159. lake _____
 160. sea _____
 161. beach _____
 162. park _____
 163. city _____
 164. town _____

- 194. rich** _____
195. poor _____
196. dumb, stupid _____
197. crazy _____
198. smart _____
199. angry _____
200. tired _____

ADJECTIVES

127. bicycle _____
 128. a car _____
 129. money _____
 130. the morning _____
 131. tomorrow _____
 132. the afternoon _____
 133. the evening, night _____
 134. tonight _____
 135. a cat _____
 136. a dog _____
 137. a horse _____

165. good _____

166. bad _____
 167. better, best _____
 168. better than _____
 169. young _____
 170. old _____
 171. new _____

- 201. dirty** _____
202. clean _____
203. boring _____
204. interesting _____
205. demanding _____
206. soft, smooth _____
207. strong, hard , loud _____
208. weak _____

PEOPLE

138. a boy _____
 139. a girl _____
 140. a man _____
 141. a woman _____
 142. the family _____
 143. a brother _____
 144. mother _____
 145. father _____
 146. a friend _____
 147. a little boy _____
 148. a police officer _____

174. handsome, good-looking _____

175. pretty _____
 176. beautiful _____
 177. cute _____
 178. ugly _____
 179. each, every _____
 180. equal, the same _____
 181. marvelous _____
 182. sad _____
 183. happy _____
 184. content, happy _____

- 212. full** _____
213. empty _____
214. same _____
215. younger _____
216. older _____
217. easy _____
218. difficult, hard _____

185. big _____

PALABRAS IMPORTANTES — STUDENT HANDOUT

CLAVE / KEY / NOTES

CONJUNCTIONS (Mostly)

1. **que** that, than
2. **y** and
3. **como** like, as
4. **pero** but
5. **o** or
6. **si** if
7. **porque** because
8. **ni... ni** neither... nor
9. **pues** then, well then
10. **sino** except, rather
11. **aunque** although
12. **mientras** while

TRANSITIONS

13. **así que** so
14. **por eso** so, for this reason
15. **luego** then, later
16. **entonces** then, so
17. **más tarde** later
18. **después** afterwards, then

HELP TELLING A STORY (ADVERBS)

19. **ya** already, now
20. **ya no** not anymore, no longer
21. **ahora** now
22. **sin embargo** nevertheless
23. **además** besides, as well
24. **de repente** all of a sudden
25. **todavía** still, yet
26. **por fin** finally, at last

(MORE) ADVERBS

27. **así** like that
28. **bien** well, fine
29. **tan** so
30. **también** also, too
31. **tampoco** neither

32. **antes de** before
33. **después de** after
34. **siempre** always
35. **nunca** never
36. **aquí** here
37. **allí** there
38. **allá** over there

PREPOSITIONS

39. **solo** only; alone
40. **casi** almost
41. **hoy** today
42. **aún** even, still, yet
43. **incluso** including
44. **quizás** maybe
45. **solamente** only
46. **pronto** soon
47. **igualmente** equally
48. **apenas** barely, hardly

EXPRESSIONS WITH "VEZ"

49. **una vez** one time, once
50. **muchas veces** many times, often
51. **a veces** at times, sometimes
52. **otra vez** another time, again
53. **en vez de** instead of
54. **tal vez** perhaps

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

55. **de** of, from
56. **a** to, at
57. **en** in, on
58. **por** for, through
59. **para** for, in order to
60. **con** with
61. **sin** without
62. **hasta** until
63. **durante** during
64. **desde** since, from
65. **contra** against
66. **según** according to
67. **acerca de** about, concerning
68. **a pesar de** despite
69. **a causa de** because of

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

70. **entre** between
71. **hacia** towards
72. **alrededor de** around
73. **junto a** beside
74. **al lado de** next to
75. **cerca de** close to
76. **lejos de** far from

77. **sobre** on, above
78. **encima de** over, on top of
79. **debajo de** below, beneath
80. **delante de** in front of, ahead
81. **detrás de** behind
82. **dentro de** inside
83. **fuera de** outside (of)
84. **a través de** through, across

QUANTIFIERS/AMOUNTS

85. **más** more
86. **muy** very
87. **mucho** a lot
88. **un poco** a little
89. **bastante** enough, quite
90. **demasiado** too much
91. **tanto** so much
92. **todo** everything, all
93. **todos** everybody
94. **todos los días** every day
95. **por todas partes** everywhere
96. **nada** nothing
97. **algo** something
98. **un montón de** a whole lot of

PRONOUNS

99. **yo** I
100. **tú** you (familiar)
101. **él** he
102. **ella** she
103. **usted (Ud.)** you (formal)
104. **nosotros** we
105. **ellos** they (masculine)
106. **ellas** they (feminine)
107. **ustedes (Uds.)** you (all)

108. **alguien** somebody
109. **nadie** nobody
110. **conmigo** with me
111. **contigo** with you

<u>QUESTION WORDS</u>		<u>PLACES</u>			
112. ¿Qué?	What?	149. la casa	house	185. grande	<i>big</i>
113. ¿Quién?	Who?	150. la sala	living room, big room	186. mediano	<i>medium</i>
114. ¿Por qué?	Why?	151. el dormitorio	bedroom	187. pequeño	<i>small</i>
115. ¿Dónde?	Where?	152. la cocina	kitchen	188. delgado	<i>skinny</i>
116. ¿Cómo?	How?	153. la cama	bed	189. gordo	<i>fat</i>
117. ¿Cuál?	Which?	154. la calle	street		
118. ¿Cuándo?	When?	155. la escuela	school	190. chistoso	<i>funny</i>
119. ¿Cuántos?	How many?			191. cómico	<i>funny</i>
				192. simpático	<i>nice</i>
				193. antipático	<i>mean</i>
<u>MISCELLANEOUS NOUNS</u>		156. el campo	countryside		
120. un rato	a little while	157. el país	country		
		158. la montaña	mountain	194. rico	<i>rich</i>
121. cosa	thing	159. el lago	lake	195. pobre	<i>poor</i>
122. palabra	word	160. el mar	sea		
123. un cuento	a story	161. la playa	beach	196. tonto	<i>dumb, stupid</i>
		162. el parque	park	197. loco	<i>crazy</i>
124. desayuno	breakfast	163. la ciudad	city	198. inteligente	<i>smart</i>
125. almuerzo	lunch	164. el pueblo	town		
126. cena	dinner, supper			199. enojado	<i>angry</i>
				200. cansado	<i>tired</i>
127. la bicicleta	bicycle	<u>ADJECTIVES</u>			
128. un carro	a car	165. bueno	good	201. sucio	<i>dirty</i>
129. el dinero	money	166. malo	bad	202. limpio	<i>clean</i>
		167. mejor	better, best	203. aburrido	<i>boring</i>
130. la mañana	the morning	168. mejor que	better than	204. interesante	<i>interesting</i>
131. mañana	tomorrow			205. exigente	<i>demanding</i>
132. la tarde	the afternoon	169. joven	young	206. suave	<i>soft, smooth</i>
133. la noche	the evening, night	170. viejo	old	207. fuerte	<i>strong, hard , loud</i>
134. esta noche	tonight	171. nuevo	new	208. débil	<i>weak</i>
		172. ese/esa	that		
135. un gato	a cat	173. este/esta	this	209. caro	<i>expensive</i>
136. un perro	a dog			210. gratis	<i>free</i>
137. un caballo	a horse	174. guapo	handsome, good-looking	211. barato	<i>inexpensive</i>
		175. bonito	pretty		
		176. hermoso	beautiful	212. lleno	<i>full</i>
		177. chulo	cute	213. vacío	<i>empty</i>
		178. feo	ugly		
		179. cada	each, every	214. mismo	<i>same</i>
		180. igual	equal, the same	215. menor	<i>younger</i>
		181. maravilloso	marvelous	216. mayor	<i>older</i>
		182. triste	sad	217. fácil	<i>easy</i>
		183. feliz	happy	218. difícil	<i>difficult, hard</i>
		184. contento	content, happy		

Nombre _____
 Fecha _____
 Clase _____

PALABRAS IMPORTANTES — STUDENT HANDOUT

IN ORDER OF WORD FREQUENCY English to Spanish

This list is in a different order than the other **Palabras Importantes** handouts. This one is in the order of word frequency. The lower the frequency number, the more often a word is used. As with the other lists, it does not contain all of the high frequency words in Spanish. The first list is the most useful **function words** and second list is the **nouns and adjectives** that are commonly used in Spanish classes. The **high frequency verbs** are on a different list. The numbering is from A Frequency Dictionary of Spanish, by Mark Davies.

FUNCTION WORDS = SHORT, ABSTRACT GRAMMATICAL MARKER WORDS—THE SKELETON OF THE LANGUAGE

Similar to “sight words” in elementary school: High frequency vocabulary that everyone needs to know instantly

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| #1-50 by Frequency | | #100-200 by Frequency | | #200-300 by Frequency | | #300-400 by Frequency | | #400 + by Frequency | |
| 1. de (#2) | 35. entre (#58) | 71. allí (#169) | 76. todavía (#211) | 87. allá (#324) | 93. encima de (#436) | 100. apenas (#587) | 111. yo (#52) | 121. yo (#52) | |
| 2. que (#3) | 36. así que (#59) | 72. contra (#172) | 77. según (#257) | 88. demasiado (#335) | 94. fuera de (#451) | 101. detrás de (#701) | 112. también (#53) | 122. también (#53) | |
| 3. y (#4) | 37. desde (#61) | 73. dentro de (#174) | 78. antes de (#236) | 89. a través de (#347) | 95. lejos de (#469) | 102. alrededor de (#556) | 113. hasta (#54) | 123. hasta (#54) | |
| 4. a (#5) | 38. por eso (#63) | 74. sin embargo (#180) | 79. usted (Ud.) (#269) | 90. a pesar de (#366) | 96. alguien (#480) | 103. hoy (#164) | 114. así (#59) | 124. así (#59) | |
| 5. en (#6) | 39. ni... ni (#64) | 75. nosotros (#191) | 80. ustedes (Uds.) (#269) | 91. cerca de (#391) | 97. a causa de (#546) | 104. al lado de (#165) | 115. al lado de (#165) | 125. al lado de (#165) | |
| 6. por (#12) | 40. ella (#69) | ----- | | | | | | 126. ----- | |
| 7. con (#13) | 41. bien (#73) | ----- | | | | | | 127. ----- | |
| 8. para (#15) | 42. un poco (#74) | ----- | | | | | | 128. ----- | |
| 9. como (#16) | 43. entonces (#76) | ----- | | | | | | 129. ----- | |
| 10. todo (#22) | 44. tanto (#79) | ----- | | | | | | 130. ----- | |
| 11. todos (#22) | 45. tan (#83) | ----- | | | | | | 131. ----- | |
| 12. todos los días (#22) | 46. ahora (#85) | ----- | | | | | | 132. ----- | |
| 13. pero (#23) | 47. por todas partes (#86) | ----- | | | | | | 133. ----- | |
| 14. más (#24) | 48. después de (#87) | ----- | | | | | | 134. ----- | |
| 15. o (#26) | 49. después (#87) | ----- | | | | | | 135. ----- | |
| 16. si (#34) | 50. siempre (#90) | ----- | | | | | | 136. ----- | |
| 17. ya (#36) | 51. nada (#95) | ----- | | | | | | 137. ----- | |
| 18. ya no (#36) | ----- | | | | | | 138. ----- | | |
| 19. porque (#38) | ----- | | | | | | 139. ----- | | |
| 20. él (#41) | 52. algo (#101) | ----- | | | | | | 140. ----- | |
| 21. muy (#42) | 53. solamente (#102) | ----- | | | | | | 141. ----- | |
| 22. sin (#43) | 54. pues (#105) | ----- | | | | | | 142. ----- | |
| 23. una vez (#44) | 55. sino (#109) | ----- | | | | | | 143. ----- | |
| 24. muchas veces | 56. aunque (#117) | ----- | | | | | | 144. ----- | |
| 25. a veces | 57. hacia (#125) | ----- | | | | | | 145. ----- | |
| 26. otra vez | 58. aquí (#129) | ----- | | | | | | 146. ----- | |
| 27. en vez de | 59. luego (#132) | ----- | | | | | | 147. ----- | |
| 28. tal vez | 60. ellos (#144) | ----- | | | | | | 148. ----- | |
| 29. mucho (#45) | 61. ellas (#144) | ----- | | | | | | 149. ----- | |
| 30. sobre (#48) | 62. casi (#146) | ----- | | | | | | 150. ----- | |
| ----- | | 63. durante (#148) | ----- | | | | | | 151. ----- |
| #50-100 by Frequency | | 64. nunca (#151) | ----- | | | | | | 152. ----- |
| 31. yo (#52) | 65. mientras (#154) | ----- | | | | | | 153. ----- | |
| 32. también (#53) | 66. por fin (#156) | ----- | | | | | | 154. ----- | |
| 33. hasta (#54) | 67. además (#159) | ----- | | | | | | 155. ----- | |
| 34. así (#59) | 68. solo (#160) | ----- | | | | | | 156. ----- | |
| ----- | | 69. hoy (#164) | ----- | | | | | | 157. ----- |
| | | 70. al lado de (#165) | ----- | | | | | | 158. ----- |

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 103. debajo de (#820) | 135. un amigo (#262) | 178. malo (#275) |
| 104. delante de (#885) | 136. madre (#278) | 179. viejo (#281) |
| 105. más tarde (#1046) | 137. el dinero (#291) | 180. difícil (#314) |
| 106. acerca de (#1288) | 138. el campo (#295) | 181. menor (#334) |
| 107. igualmente (#1431) | 139. la mañana (#401) | 182. pobre (#373) |
| 108. conmigo (#1845) | 140. un policía (#506) | 183. joven (#442) |
| 109. un montón de (#1946) | 141. la escuela (#532) | 184. lleno (#508) |
| 110. de repente (#2183) | 142. un hermano (#539) | 185. fácil (#514) |
| 111. contigo (#3017) | 143. el mar (#645) | 186. rico (#627) |
| | 144. un caballo (#780) | 187. interesante (#762) |

QUESTION WORDS

(In order of frequency)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 112. ¿Qué? (#47) | 145. la sala (#811) |
| 113. ¿Por qué? (#12, 47) | 146. un perro (#939) |
| 114. ¿Cómo? (#126) | 147. un chico (#1079) |
| 115. ¿Quién? (#292) | 148. la cama (#1185) |
| 116. ¿Cuál? (#395) | 149. la montaña (#1212) |
| 117. ¿Dónde? (#421) | 150. mañana (#1235) |
| 118. ¿Cuántos? (#723) | 151. un cuento (#1357) |
| 119. ¿Cuándo? (#1199) | 152. un gato (#1412) |

• Many of the nouns and adjectives below are NOT high frequency words.

• They are on this list because they are interesting and/or useful in language class.

• Many of these words are included in standard curricula.

[] = Words not in the top 800 most frequent Spanish words

(*****) = Words not in top 5,000

COMMON SPANISH CLASS

NOUNS

(in order of frequency)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 120. cosa (#78) | 165. este/esta (#29) |
| 121. un hombre (#80) | 166. ese/esa (#32) |
| 122. la casa (#116) | 167. mismo (#51) |
| 123. una mujer (#127) | 168. grande (#62) |
| 124. el país (#133) | 169. suave (#84) |
| 125. un niño (#178) | 170. cada (#96) |
| 126. palabra (#176) | 171. nuevo (#99) |
| 127. padre (#182) | 172. bueno (#115) |
| 128. la noche (#196) | 173. mejor (#121) |
| 129. la ciudad (#197) | 174. mejor que (#121) |
| 130. esta noche (#196) | 175. mayor (#138) |
| 131. familia (#201) | 176. pequeño (#184) |
| 132. pueblo (#241) | 177. igual (#239) |
| 133. la tarde (#242) | |
| 134. la calle (#248) | |

COMMON SPANISH CLASS

ADJECTIVES

(in order of frequency)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 120. cosa (#78) | 165. este/esta (#29) |
| 121. un hombre (#80) | 166. ese/esa (#32) |
| 122. la casa (#116) | 167. mismo (#51) |
| 123. una mujer (#127) | 168. grande (#62) |
| 124. el país (#133) | 169. suave (#84) |
| 125. un niño (#178) | 170. cada (#96) |
| 126. palabra (#176) | 171. nuevo (#99) |
| 127. padre (#182) | 172. bueno (#115) |
| 128. la noche (#196) | 173. mejor (#121) |
| 129. la ciudad (#197) | 174. mejor que (#121) |
| 130. esta noche (#196) | 175. mayor (#138) |
| 131. familia (#201) | 176. pequeño (#184) |
| 132. pueblo (#241) | 177. igual (#239) |
| 133. la tarde (#242) | |
| 134. la calle (#248) | |

