

Word form patterns between Spanish and English

This document contains lists of high-frequency words that follow patterns between Spanish and English word forms, as set out in section 3.4.1.17 of the AQA GCSE Spanish specification. The words on these lists are not already on the AQA GCSE Spanish vocabulary list, but are highly frequent (among the 2000 most frequent words in Spanish).

The varying length of lists gives teachers a sense of which patterns students are most likely to encounter between their L1 and L2 and could therefore be particularly useful for them (see, for example, lists 1, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 20, which have at least 15 words). Such word lists could be used to design activities in which students are encouraged to notice patterns in the language they read or hear and how these relate to equivalents in English.

Word class key: adj: adjectives; adv: adverbs; conj: conjunctions; nm/nf: nouns (masculine/feminine); prep: prepositions; v: verbs

Source of frequency rankings, translations and word class data: Davies, M., & Davies, K. (2018). *A frequency dictionary of Spanish: Core vocabulary for learners* (2nd ed.). London: Routledge

NB Some words occur in more than one list.

Pattern	Word	Frequency ranking	Translation	Word class
1. The Spanish word adds an -o (and sometimes an accent) or changes a final '-e' in English to an -o NB an accent is also sometimes added				
	caso	153	case, occasion	nm
	humano	243	human	adj
	artículo	458	article, product, item	nm
	minuto	478	minute	nm
	resto	522	rest, remainder, leftover	nm
	elemento	537	element	nm
	período	686	period, time	nm

	médico	692	medical	adj
	cubano	703	Cuban	adj
	modelo	705	model, pattern	nc
	futuro	718	future	nm
	banco	728	(financial) bank, bench	nm
	texto	753	text	nm
	motivo	779	motive, cause	nm
	contacto	818	contact	nm
	histórico	830	historical	adj
	público	837	public, audience	nm
	mexicano	849	Mexican	adj
	moderno	861	modern	adj
	concepto	868	concept	nm
	departamento	930	department, apartment	nm
	puro	938	pure, clean	adj
	documento	996	document	nm
	organismo	1023	organism, (human) body	nm
	conflicto	1024	conflict	nm
	instrumento	1043	instrument	nm
	absoluto	1096	absolute	adj
	perfecto	1115	perfect	adj
	tono	1127	tone	nm
	italiano	1145	Italian	adj
	básico	1156	basic, essential	adj
	americano	1176	American	adj

	acceso	1178	access, entry	nm
	positivo	1188	positive	adj
	candidato	1316	candidate	nm
	líquido	1382	liquid	nm
	extremo	1395	extreme	adj
	artístico	1402	artistic	adj
	eléctrico	1411	electric	adj
	médico	1443	medical	adj
	preciso	1462	precise, necessary	adj
	preciso	1462	precise, necessary	adj
	sexo	1463	sex	nm
	romano	1472	Roman	adj
	intenso	1479	intense, acute	adj
	exacto	1486	exact, faithful, true	adj
	secreto	1490	secret	nm
	evento	1517	event	nm
	kilómetro	1519	kilometer	nm
	definitivo	1551	definitive, conclusive	adj
	falso	1599	FALSE	adj
	universo	1603	universe	nm
	colombiano	1611	Colombian	adj
	democrático	1637	democratic	adj
	argumento	1674	argument, plot	nm
	urbano	1703	urban, city, urbane	adj

	costo	1707	price, cost, expense	nm
	órgano	1709	organ	nm
	absurdo	1757	absurd	adj
	latino	1792	Latin	adj
	negativo	1804	negative, pessimistic	adj
	experto	1824	expert	nm/f
	relativo	1912	relative	adj
	fruto	1914	fruit, result	nm
	violento	1920	violent	adj
	típico	1934	typical	adj
	contento	1949	happy, content	adj
	plástico	1962	plastic	nm
	divino	1970	divine	adj
	contexto	1977	context	nm
	administrativo	1980	administrative	adj
	templo	1991	temple, church	nm
2. Spanish word adds an -a (and sometimes an accent)				
	persona	108	person	nf
	problema	145	problem	nm
	música	340	music	nf
	arma	918	weapon	nf (el)
	optimista	1025	optimistic	adj
	víctima	1154	victim, casualty	nf
	poema	1430	poem	nm
	planeta	1496	planet	nm

	columna	1869	column, spine	nf
	comunista	1881	communist	adj
	protagonista	1926	protagonist, main character	nc
	socialista	1998	socialist	adj
<i>With slight spelling change</i>				
	sistema	221	system	nm
	aventura	1773	adventure	nf
3. Words ending in '-ist' in English often end in -ista in Spanish				
	optimista	1025	optimistic	adj
	comunista	1881	communist	adj
	protagonista	1926	protagonist, main character	nc
	socialista	1998	socialist	adj
4. Spanish changes a final '-e' to an -a				
	causa	594	cause	nf
	literatura	749	literature	nf
	temperatura	1306	temperature	nf
	medicina	1474	medicine	nf
	arquitectura	1627	architecture	nf
<i>With slight spelling change</i>				
	defensa	950	defense, plea	nf

5. The Spanish word adds an -e				
	firme	1965	firm, steady	adj
	continente	1950	continent	nm
6. Words which end in -ía or -ia in Spanish and '-y' in English				
	familia	233	family	nf
	compañía	638	company	nf
	energía	664	energy, power	nf
	economía	747	economy, economics, thriftiness	nf
	memoria	827	memory	nf
	teoría	851	theory	nf
	industria	1016	industry, factory	nf
	tecnología	1048	technology	nf
	victoria	1266	victory, triumph	nf
	frecuencia	1309	frequency	nf
	fotografía	1350	photograph	nf
	filosofía	1374	philosophy	nf
	categoría	1470	category	nf
	democracia	1484	democracy	nf
	gloria	1915	glory, fame	nf
	colonia	1960	colony, cologne	nf
7. Words which end in -or in Spanish and '-our' in English				
NB '-our' corresponds to British spelling				

	labor	1124	labor, work, task	
	honor	1734	honor, honesty	
8. Verbs which add -ar, -er or -ir in the infinitive in Spanish or change a final '-e' in English to one of these endings				
<i>NB Some words have minor spelling changes on verb - see bottom</i>				
	existir	194	to exist	v
	realizar	205	to fulfill, carry out	v
	presentar	235	to introduce, present	v
	producir	245	to produce, cause	v
	considerar	257	to consider	v
	convertir	261	to convert, change, become	v
	resultar	277	to result, turn out	v
	servir	313	to serve	v
	usar	317	to use	v
	responder	464	to answer, respond	v
	mover	467	to move, incite	v
	imaginar	500	to imagine	v
	representar	510	to represent	v
	referir	553	to refer (to)	v
	observar	556	to observe	v

	preparar	570	to prepare	v
	depender	679	to depend on	v
	abandonar	680	to abandon, leave (a place)	v
	notar	696	to notice	v
	defender	750	to defend, protect	v
	visitar	792	to visit	v
	extender	831	to extend, spread	v
	basar	838	to base on, base upon	v
	preocupar	852	to worry	v
	resolver	867	to resolve, settle, work out	v
	reducir	883	to reduce	v
	corresponder	898	to correspond with	v
	escapar	899	to escape	v
	causar	900	to cause, bring about	v
	declarar	976	to declare, testify	v
	controlar	994	to control	v
	conservar	1004	to conserve, preserve	v
	impedir	1030	to prevent, hinder	v
	determinar	1033	to determine, decide	v
	definir	1052	to define	v

	insistir	1076	to insist on	v
	identificar	1080	to identify	v
	consistir	1123	to consist of	v
	analizar	1126	to analyze	v
	introducir	1132	to introduce, bring in	v
	transformar	1148	to transform, change	v
	respetar	1191	to respect	v
	describir	1272	to describe	v
	confirmar	1312	to confirm	v
	transmitir	1313	to transmit, broadcast	v
	adoptar	1347	to adopt	v
	limitar	1376	to limit	v
	dividir	1385	to divide	v
	marchar	1386	to go, leave, march	v
	distinguir	1412	to distinguish	v
	interpretar	1421	to interpret	v
	admitir	1483	to admit	v
	emitir	1540	to emit, give (off)	v
	inventar	1545	to invent, make up	v
	intervenir	1552	to intervene	v
	coincidir	1555	to coincide, agree	v
	practicar	1595	to practice	v

	registrar	1605	to register, record	v
	proceder	1606	to proceed, start	v
	modificar	1664	to modify	v
	ignorar	1670	to be unaware	v
	resistir	1740	to resist, endure	v
	revisar	1743	to check, revise, inspect	v
	operar	1769	to operate	v
	consultar	1781	to consult	v
	figurar	1819	to appear, represent, figure (in)	v
	consumir	1820	to consume, take in	v
	votar	1828	to vote	v
	criticar	1849	to criticize	v
	conversar	1856	to converse, talk	v
	armar	1861	to arm, put together	v
	descender	1884	to descend	v
	fabricar	1941	to manufacture	v
	procurar	1943	to try, seek	v
	combinar	1964	to combine	v
With minor spelling changes of the verb:				

	aceptar	433	to accept	v
	repetir	512	to repeat	v
	significar	574	to mean	v
	acompañar	606	to accompany	v
	comentar	634	to comment on	v
	afirmar	636	to assert, affirm	v
	expresar	699	to express	v
	constituir	709	to constitute, consist of	v
	generar	711	to generate	v
	actuar	762	to act	v
	avanzar	772	to advance, progress	v
	afectar	881	to affect	v
	instalar	1112	to install	v
	concluir	1199	to conclude, finish	v
	recomendar	1247	to recommend	v
	confesar	1698	to confess, admit	v
	variar	1771	to change, vary	v
	caracterizar	1851	to characterize, portray	v
	justificar	1890	to justify, excuse	v
	conectar	1973	to connect, plug in	v
	pronunciar	1990	to pronounce	v

9. Verbs which end with -ar in the infinitive in Spanish and with '-ate' in English				
	liberar	1968	to free, liberate	v
	obligar	658	to obligate, force	v
	orientar	635	to guide, show the way	v
	contemplar	1108	to contemplate	v
	incorporar	1249	to incorporate, include	v
	eliminar	1263	to eliminate, exclude	v
	integrar	1305	to integrate, fit in	v
	investigar	1571	to investigate	v
	estimar	1754	to estimate, hold in esteem	v
	calcular	1947	to calculate, figure out	v
	indicar	526	to indicate	v
	participar	593	to participate	v
	separar	805	to separate	v
	celebrar	886	to celebrate	v
	facilitar	1666	to facilitate	v
	demostrar	563	to show, demonstrate	v
	comunicar	1275	to communicate	v

10. Words which, in addition to the points above, have minor spelling changes between English and Spanish to accord with the Spanish phonetic system of spelling				
	arquitectura	1627	architecture	nf
	fotografía	1350	photograph	nf
	filosofía	1374	philosophy	nf
11. Words in which t in Spanish corresponds to 'th' in English				
	autor	513	writer, author	nm/f
	autoridad	569	authority	nf
	método	983	method	nm
	católico	1362	Catholic	adj
	auténtico	1737	authentic	adj
	teoría	851	theory	nf
12. Spanish adverbs ending in -mente which end with '-ly' in English				
	realmente	382	really, actually, in fact	adv
	simplemente	731	simply, just	adv
	especialmente	757	especially	adv
	precisamente	791	precisely	adv
	totalmente	839	totally, completely	adv
	finalmente	948	finally, at last	adv
	exactamente	1082	exactly	adv
	prácticamente	1131	practically	adv
	completamente	1185	completely	adv

	directamente	1193	directly, straight away	adv
	seguramente	1204	surely, securely	adv
	probablemente	1339	probably	adv
	introducción	1355	introduction	nf
	generalmente	1387	generally, usually	adv
	inmediatamente	1469	immediately	adv
	absolutamente	1480	absolutely, completely	adv
	aproximadamente	1502	approximately	adv
	rápidamente	1509	rapidly, quickly	adv
	perfectamente	1561	perfectly	adv
	principalmente	1657	principally, mainly	adv
	normalmente	1696	normally	adv
	naturalmente	1832	naturally	adv
	lentamente	1843	slowly	adv
	evidentemente	1974	evidently, obviously	adv
With slight spelling change				
	solamente	504	only	adv
13. Words which end in -oso/-osa in Spanish and '-ous' in English				
	religioso	821	religious	adj

	famoso	997	famous, well known	adj
14. Words where '-tion' in English is replaced by -ción in Spanish				
	relación	272	relationship, relation	nf
	situación	285	situation	nf
	información	326	information	nf
	acción	404	action, act, deed	nf
	condición	418	condition	nf
	atención	489	attention	nf
	educación	490	education	nf
	investigación	511	investigation	nf
	producción	566	production	nf
	comunicación	619	communication	nf
	posición	667	position	nf
	institución	697	institution	nf
	elección	754	election, choice	nf
	construcción	793	construction	nf
	nación	823	nation	nf
	solución	836	solution, answer	nf
	generación	925	generation	nf
	creación	979	creation	nf
	conversación	989	conversation	nf

	operación	1014	operation	nf
	aplicación	1022	application	nf
	sensación	1038	sensation, feeling	nf
	tradición	1061	tradition	nf
	revolución	1086	revolution	nf
	administración	1147	administration	nf
	intención	1171	intention	nf
	opción	1175	option, choice	nf
	tradicional	1222	traditional	adj
	declaración	1264	declaration, statement	nf
	reacción	1293	reaction	nf
	exposición	1317	exhibition, display	nf
	protección	1425	protection	nf
	oposición	1441	opposition	nf
	emoción	1448	emotion, excitement	nf
	edición	1449	edition, publication	nf
	obligación	1452	obligation	nf
	asociación	1457	association	nf
	constitución	1458	constitution	nf
	disposición	1548	disposal, disposition	nf
	evolución	1598	evolution, development	nf
	intervención	1626	intervention	nf
	colección	1632	collection	nf

	representación	1640	representation	nf
	sección	1688	section, cut	nf
	presentación	1747	presentation, introduction	nf
	manifestación	1837	protest, manifestation	nf
	interpretación	1841	interpretation, interpreting	nf
	imaginación	1906	imagination, fantasy	nf
	dimensión	1916	dimension, size	nf
	excepción	1935	exception	nf
15. Words ending in -ante or -iente in Spanish corresponding to English '-ant' and '-ent'				
	importante	171	important	adj
	estudiante	795	student	nc
	instante	992	instant, moment	nm
	cliente	1062	client, customer	nc
	independiente	1177	independent, self-sufficient	adj
	corriente	1281	current, common	adj
	reciente	1284	recent	adj
	constante	1353	constant	adj
	correspondiente	1917	corresponding	adj

With slight spelling change				
	suficiente	781	sufficient, enough	adj
	paciente	1119	patient	nc
	brillante	1801	brilliant, shiny, sparkling	adj
16. Words where '-nce' in English becomes '-ncia' in Spanish				
	diferencia	533	difference	nf
	presencia	615	presence, appearance	nf
	importancia	660	importance	nf
	consecuencia	773	consequence	nf
	distancia	944	distance	nf
	conciencia	946	conscience, consciousness	nf
	existencia	953	existence, life	nf
	influencia	990	influence	nf
	provincia	1095	province, region	nf
	referencia	1335	reference, allusion	nf
	conferencia	1594	conference, lecture	nf
	independencia	1690	independence	nf
	inteligencia	1721	intelligence	nf

	resistencia	1767	resistance, opposition	nf
17. Adjectives where '-ical' in English becomes ico/ica in Spanish				
	político	258	political	nm/f
	médico	692	medical	adj
	técnico	1099	technical	nm/f
	eléctrico	1411	electric(al)	adj
	crítico	1868	critical	nm
	típico	1934	typical	adj
18. Words where 'oun' in English is replaced by -un in Spanish				
	anunciar	785	to announce, advertise	
	pronunciar	1990	to pronounce	
19. Words where des- in Spanish is replaced by 'dis-' in English				
	descubrir	414	to discover	v
	describir	1272	to describe	v
	destruir	1283	to destroy, ruin	v

20. Words which end in -dad or -tad in Spanish and -ty' in English				
	realidad	260	reality, actuality	nf
	actividad	344	activity, action	nf
	sociedad	353	society	nf
	universidad	387	university, college	nf
	oportunidad	564	opportunity, chance	nf
	autoridad	569	authority	nf
	capacidad	633	capacity	nf
	unidad	848	unit, unity	nf
	responsabilidad	915	responsibility	nf
	velocidad	1142	speed, velocity	nf
	entidad	1407	entity	nf
	facultad	1542	faculty, ability	nf
	personalidad	1550	personality, celebrity	nf
	humanidad	1553	humanity, mankind	nf
	oscuridad	1625	darkness	nf
	variedad	1815	variety	nf
	curiosidad	1830	curiosity, quaintness	nf
	propiedad	927	property	nf

	soledad	1495	loneliness, solitude	nf
21. Adjectives ending in -ense which compare with English equivalents ending in '-an' or indicating a place of origin				
	estadounidense	1071	U.S., American	adj
22. Words where an intervocalic -d- in Spanish is replaced by '-t-' in English				
	investigador	1695	researcher, investigator	nm/f
23. The English word adds an extra letter or letters				
	posible	427	possible	adj
	serie	429	series	nf
	avance	1562	advance, progress	nm
	anual	1952	annual, yearly	adj
	sesión	1972	session, meeting	nf
24. The Spanish word adds an epenthetic e- before words beginning with 's' + consonant				
	especial	436	special	adj
	estilo	607	style	nm

	estructura	740	structure	nf
	espíritu	832	spirit, ghost	nm
	estrategia	1460	strategy	nf
	espiritual	1889	spiritual	adj
25. Words where a single vowel in English is replaced by a diphthong in Spanish				
	<u>ca</u> usar	900	to cause, bring about	v
	<u>au</u> to	1543	auto, car	nm
	<u>au</u> téntico	1737	authentic	adj
	<u>ra</u> yo	1900	ray, beam, lightning	nm
	<u>ma</u> yo	909	May	nm
	novi <u>ie</u> mbre	1434	November	nm
	movim <u>ie</u> nto	370	movement	nm
	pie <u>ie</u> za	745	piece, part	nf
	tratam <u>ie</u> nto	1003	treatment, processing	nm
	septi <u>ie</u> mbre	1150	September	nm
	dici <u>ie</u> mbre	1165	December	nm
	independi <u>ie</u> nte	1177	independent, self-sufficient	adj
	reci <u>ie</u> nte	1284	recent	adj
	conci <u>ie</u> рто	1456	concert, concerto	nm