

# LOS COGNADOS/ COGNATES

## SPANISH 1- SRA. RAGSDALE

# What are cognates?

- ❖ There are some words in another language that when you see them, you know (or think you know) what they mean.
- ❖ They may be spelled exactly alike (or similar to) a word in your native language. For example, “capital” is spelled the same & means the same thing in Eng/Spa; however, it has different pronunciation.
- ❖ Such pairs of words that exist in two languages are called “cognates”, from “cognatus”, the Latin word for *relative*.
- ❖ There are three types of cognates: exact, direct, and indirect

# BUT BE AWARE...THERE'S ONE MORE!!

- There are some words that look like or are spelled like words in English; however, they have **different meanings & pronunciations** .
  - These words are called **false cognates or false friends**.
  - **Look at these words:** *pan, once, pie, hay, sin*
  - If they're English words, we know their meanings, right? But do we know them in Spanish?
  - Can you **guess** these meanings at first glance?  
*embarazada, sopa*
- But relax...***
- Only about **10 %** of Spanish words are false cognates.



# THREE TYPES OF COGNATES

## ❖ EXACT:

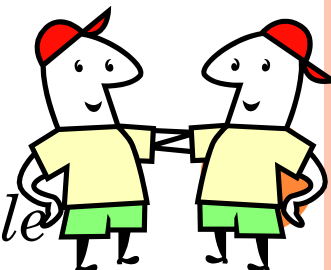
- Have same meaning and spelling in English
- *Examples: chocolate, hotel, idea, piano*

## ❖ DIRECT:

- Have a direct and similar meaning and spelling to words in English.
- *Examples: declaración, libertad, familia, especial, rápido, curioso*

## ❖ INDIRECT:

- Have an indirect meaning and spelling to words in English.
- *Example: Biblioteca → library; “biblio”=*
- *Latin for collection of books; la Biblia= Bible*



# HOW DO COGNATES HELP US LEARN SPANISH?

- ❖ Spanish is a language that evolved from **Latin** over the last two thousand years.
- ❖ English, although it is not as closely related to Latin as Spanish, **borrow**s thousands of words from Latin, many of them the same words that Spanish uses.
- ❖ Both languages have borrowed many words from **Classical Greek**. This results in thousands of cognates between English and Spanish.
- ❖ Learning vocabulary of another language is much easier when you can **recognize** cognates.
- ❖ Simply use your knowledge of English vocabulary and apply the rules that determine the spelling change between the two languages.



# YOU CAN READ SPANISH, TOO!

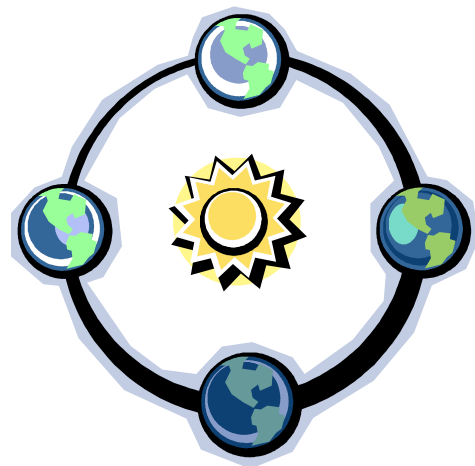
You may not know it, but if I tell you that “*el*”= “the”, “*hay*”=“there is/there are” “*un*”=a, an...I bet you can read and understand the meanings of these sentences ...and understand them...let's try:

1. El elefante es un animal inteligente.
2. Hay elefantes en África.
3. El camello es un animal diferente.
4. Hay muchos camellos en el desierto.
5. El tigre es un animal feroz.
6. El león es otro animal feroz.
7. Hay muchos animales feroces en el circo.



# WHY AND HOW?

- Cognates help to Spanish beginners feel more **comfortable** with this new language.
- Establishes a **link** between English and Spanish.
- Students are aware of the **common origin** of words.
- Allows students to **explore** the language far beyond from school's objectives.



# WHY AND HOW?

Activities for finding and using cognates

- Look for cognates in your textbook.
- Read magazines and newspapers in order to find cognates
- Try to translate the main idea of a paragraph by identifying cognates that will help to understand its content.
- Want more practice? Visit this website...  
<http://www.quia.com/pages/cragdale/8span1>





# PRONUNCIATION OF COGNATES

Many words in English have nearly identical Spanish cognates. Only the pronunciation is different and, at most, a very little spelling change:

auto  
chocolate  
cónsul  
familiar  
gas  
hotel  
idea  
melón  
millón  
plaza  
radio  
regular  
similar  
teléfono  
villa



# SPELLING, SPELLING, SPELLING...

Spanish words that end in *-a*, *-o* or *-e* very often have an equivalent in English. With some, you simply drop or change the last vowel.

aire

atleta (athlete)

caso

causa

costo

creativo

credito

dieta

drama



# COGNATES: SUFFIX RECOGNITION

There are many Spanish cognates that end in **-ción**. The equivalent English word ends in **-tion**. Note that all of these words have the stress on the final syllable. Also, all of these words are feminine in gender.

abreviación  
sensación  
separación  
significación  
situación  
ventilación  
violación



Words that end in **-ary** in English very often have a Spanish cognate that ends in **-ario/ -aria**.

aniversario  
diccionario  
disciplinario  
itinerario  
literario  
necesario/a  
ordinario/a  
salario  
vocabulario



Words that in in *-dad/-tad* are quite common in Spanish. They usually correspond to an English word that ends in *-ty*. All of these words are feminine in gender.

autoridad (authority)  
ciudad (city)  
comunidad  
dificultad  
enfermedad (infirmity, illness)  
formalidad  
velocidad



English words that end in *-ic* usually have a Spanish cognate that simply add an *-o/a*.

atlántico/a  
automática/o  
democrático/a  
didáctico/a  
escolástico/a  
romántico/a  
sarcástico/a



Like the previous category, English words that end in *-ical* have a Spanish cognate that ends in *-ico/ -ica*.

clásico/a

cómico/a

eléctrico/a

físico/a

histórico/a

metódico/a

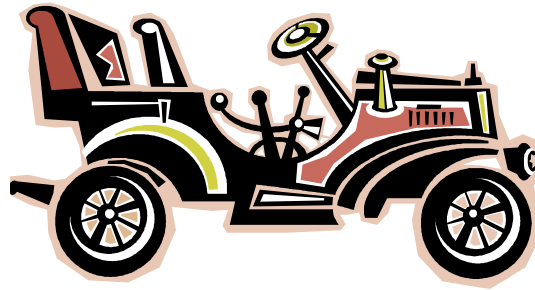
periódico (newspaper, periodical)

político/a

práctico/a

sicológico/a (psychological)

técnico/a



English words that end in *-ent* often have a cognate in Spanish that ends in *-ente*. These words are usually adjectives.

agente  
cliente  
diferente  
equivalente  
indiferente  
inteligente  
suficiente





## KEEP AN EYE ON...

Spanish words that end in - *mente* (as opposed to just -*ente*). They usually have an English cognate that ends in -*ly*. These are adverbs.

correctamente

desafortunadamente (unfortunately)

especialmente

exactamente

finalmente

generalmente

moralmente

rapidamente



Words that end in *-ment* in English have equivalents in Spanish that simply add an *-o*. These words are nouns.

argumento  
monumento  
sacramento  
suplemento  
testamento



Words that end in *-al* in both English and Spanish are often cognates.

animal  
anual  
capital  
central  
comercial  
especial  
general  
hospital  
intellectual



English words that end in *-ence* or *-ance* often have a Spanish cognate that ends in *-encia* or *-ancia*.

abundancia  
ausencia (absence)  
circunstancia  
conciencia  
diferencia



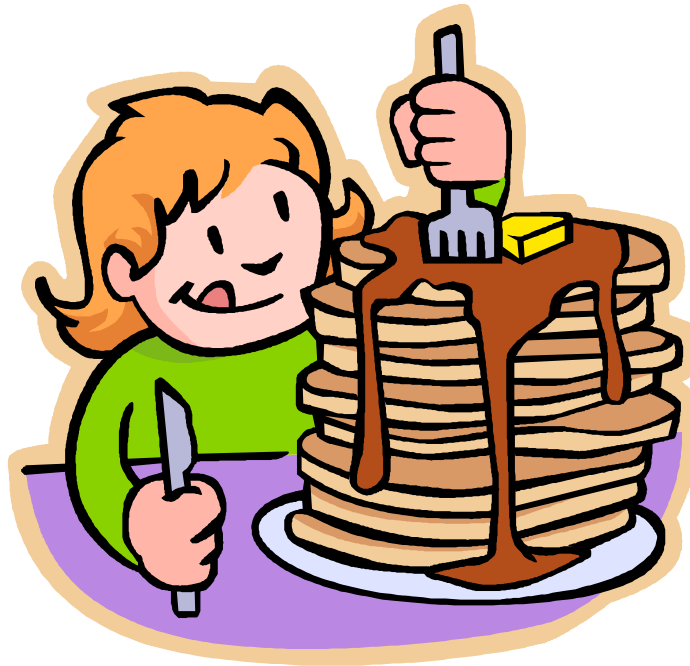
**-ant** (or sometimes **-ent**) words in English  
sometimes end in **-ante** in Spanish.

abundante  
constante  
elegante  
estudiante  
importante



Some English words that end in *-ous* have a Spanish cognate that ends in *-oso*.

ambicioso  
curioso  
delicioso  
famoso  
glorioso  
gracioso



English words with the ending **-y** sometimes have an equivalent in Spanish with the ending **-ia** or **-io**.

aristocracia

compañía (company)

democracia

eficacia

familia

farmacia (pharmacy)

historia



English words that end in **-or** often have a Spanish cognate that is identical.

actor

autor (author)

color

director

doctor

humor





English words that end in *-ist* often have a Spanish cognate that ends with **-ista**.

artista  
florista  
moralista  
pianista  
turista



# PRUEBA PRACTICA

How do you say/write the following in Spanish?

1. cost
2. situation
3. necessary
4. university
5. romantic
6. hysterical
7. different
8. especially
9. argument
10. difference

11. important
12. famous
13. family
14. artist
15. doctor



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12. famoso
13. familia
14. artista
15. doctor

