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, borrows 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.
7. Hay muchos animales feroz 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/cragsdale/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 \textit{-ary} in English very often have a Spanish cognate that ends in \textit{–ario/ -aria}.

\begin{itemize}
\item aniversario
\item diccionario
\item disciplinario
\item itinerario
\item literario
\item necesario/a
\item ordinario/a
\item salario
\item vocabulario
\end{itemize}
Words that end 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 \textit{-ical} have a Spanish cognate that ends in \textit{-ico/ -ica}.

clásico/a
cómico/a
eléctrico/a
físico/a
histérico/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
desaafortunadamente (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
intelectual
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**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. cost</td>
<td>11. importante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. situation</td>
<td>12. famoso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. necessary</td>
<td>13. familia</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. university</td>
<td>14. artista</td>
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<td>5. romantic</td>
<td>15. doctor</td>
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<td>6. hysterical</td>
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<td>7. different</td>
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<td>8. especially</td>
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<td>9. argument</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. difference</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
How do you say/write the following in Spanish?

1. costo
2. situación
3. necesari o
4. universidad
5. romántico
6. histérico
7. diferente
8. especialmente
9. argumento
10. diferencia
11. importante
12. famoso
13. familia
14. artista
15. doctor