

Common Confusing Spanish Words

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1

ser / estar



permanent being /
temporary state

Ella **es** amable. / **Está** cansada.

2

por / para



cause, through /
purpose, destination

Gracias **por** todo. / Es **para** ti.

3

saber / conocer



know facts /
know people or places

Sé la respuesta. / **Conozco** Madrid.

4

qué / cuál



what? /
which one?

¿**Qué** es eso? / ¿**Cuál** prefieres?

5

muy / mucho



very /
much, a lot

muy grande / **mucho** trabajo

6

bueno / bien



good adjective /
well adverb

un libro **bueno** / canta **bien**

7

malo / mal



bad adjective /
badly

un día **malo** / duerme **mal**

8

también / tampoco



also /
neither, not either

Yo **también**. / Yo **tampoco**.

9

ya / todavía



already /
still, yet

Ya llegó. / **Todavía** no.

10

porque / por qué



because /
why

Porque sí. / ¿**Por qué**?



Learn the difference clearly.

Common Spanish False Friends

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1 **éxito** / **salida**



success / exit

2 **asistir** / **atender**



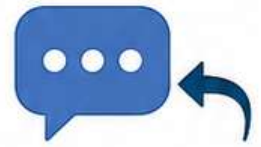
to attend / to assist or attend to

3 **carpeta** / **alfombra**



folder / carpet

4 **contestar** / **responder**



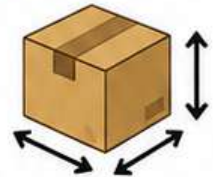
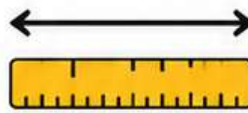
answer a question / respond or reply

5 **realizar** / **darse cuenta**



carry out, accomplish / realize, notice

6 **largo** / **grande**



long / large, big

7 **ropa** / **tela**



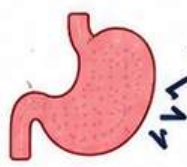
clothes / fabric, cloth

8 **biblioteca** / **librería**



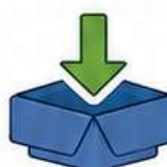
library / bookstore

9 **constipado** / **estreñido**



having a cold / constipated

10 **introducir** / **presentar**



insert, put in / introduce a person or present

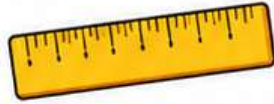


★ Learn the real meaning clearly. ★

Confusing Description Words in Spanish

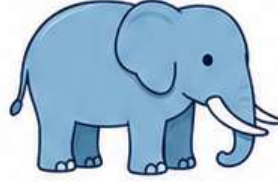
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1 poco / pequeño



little amount / small size

2 grande / gran



big in size / great before a noun

3 viejo / antiguo



old, aged / ancient or antique

4 caliente / calor



hot / heat

5 frío / resfriado



cold / a cold (illness)

6 mejor / mayor



better / older or greater

7 actual / real



current / real or true

8 actualmente / realmente



currently / really

9 sensible / sensato



sensitive / sensible, wise

10 embarazada / avergonzada



pregnant / embarrassed



Learn the difference clearly.

Confusing Place and Question Words

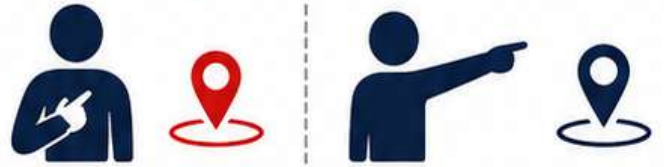
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1 dónde / adónde



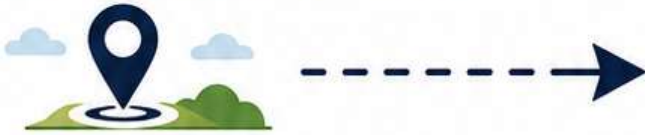
where? / to where?
(place vs destination)

2 aquí / ahí



here (near me) / there (near you)

3 allí / allá



there (specific place) /
over there (general direction)

4 este / esto



this + noun / this thing

5 ese / eso



that + noun / that thing

6 algún / alguno



some + noun / one or some (alone)

7 ningún / ninguno



no + noun / none, not one

8 mismo / igual



same / equal or similar

9 junto / juntos



next to / together

10 pero / sino



but / but rather, instead



Learn the difference clearly.



Confusing Spanish Verb Pairs



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1 pedir / preguntar



ask for / ask a question

2 traer / llevar



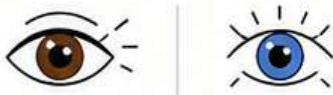
bring / take

3 ir / venir



go / come

4 ver / mirar



see / look or watch

5 oír / escuchar



hear / listen

6 buscar / encontrar



look for / find

7 quedar / quedarse



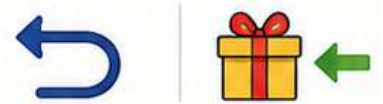
remain or arrange / stay or keep

8 dejar / salir



leave something / leave or go out

9 volver / devolver



return or come back / give back

10 recordar / acordarse



remember / remember or recall

11 olvidar / olvidarse



forget / forget or slip one's mind

12 pensar / creer



think or plan / believe

13 faltar / necesitar



lack or be missing / need

14 gustar / encantar



like / love

15 querer / amar



want or love / love deeply

16 tener / haber



to have / there is, auxiliary have

17 deber / tener que



should or owe / have to

18 probar / intentar



try, test, taste / attempt

19 tocar / jugar



play an instrument or touch / play a game or sport



Learn the difference. Use them with **confidence**.






100 Confusing Words in Spanish

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 **ser** / **estar**
to be (permanent) / to be (temporary)

 **por** / **para**
for, by, through, because of / for, in order to, to, intended for

 **saber** / **conocer**
to know (facts, information) / to know (people, places)

 **muy** / **mucho**
very / a lot, much (quantity)

 **bueno** / **bien**
good (adjective) / well (adverb), good (noun)

¡Hablemos español!

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