



The **IMPORTANT VERBS** Learners Need

High Frequency, High Interest, & Highly Useful Verbs for Learners of Any Language

Why focus on teaching these high-frequency verbs?

- Because the 100 most frequently used words account for 65% of all speech.
- Verbs are most of the top 100 words.
- Teaching verbs allows students to understand stories right away.
- It's natural speech: Most teenagers use only 800 words a day outside of school.
- Language learner authors know this and use these verbs in their novels.

JUMP-START BEGINNERS IN ANY LANGUAGE BY TEACHING THESE VERBS IN THE PRESENT TENSE, 3RD PERSON SINGULAR WITH CLASSICAL TPR GESTURES TO GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO UNDERSTAND, READ & SPEAK RIGHT AWAY.
 With some imagination, almost any story can be told or adapted with the first 26 verbs alone.

ESSENTIAL VERBS 26 verbs that are used by everyone, all the time (High Frequency)

↓ The first 15 are inspired by Terry Waltz's "Super 7" & Mike Peto's "Sweet 16". These can be used to tell almost any story in a simple way. ↓

<i>be</i>	<i>go</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>want</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>there is</i> (Different than <i>be</i> in some languages.)
<i>(The word "like" is not as high frequency as the other verbs above, but it is included as an essential verb here because it lets students express preferences)</i>					
<i>do</i>	<i>say</i>	<i>see</i>	<i>give</i>	<i>know</i>	<i>put</i>
<i>leave</i>	<i>go back</i>	<i>can</i>			
<i>find</i>	<i>need</i>	<i>take</i>	<i>look for</i>	<i>arrive</i>	<i>talk</i>
<i>meet</i>	<i>look at</i>	<i>live</i>	<i>work</i>	<i>call</i>	

VIVID VERBS 24 verbs to make class more dramatic & interesting—like classic stories, movies & videos do (High Interest)

<i>touch</i>	<i>grab</i>	<i>yell</i>	<i>throw</i>	<i>hit</i>	<i>fall down</i>
<i>jump</i>	<i>push</i>	<i>play</i>			
<i>love</i>	<i>hate</i>	<i>laugh</i>	<i>smile</i>	<i>cry</i>	<i>sing</i>
<i>escape</i>	<i>run</i>	<i>sleep</i>			
<i>kiss</i>	<i>hug</i>	<i>dance</i>	<i>share</i>	<i>die</i>	<i>kill</i>

CLASSROOM VERBS 21 verbs about actions & activities in class (High Classroom Use)

<i>stand up</i>	<i>sit down</i>	<i>walk</i>	<i>point at</i>	<i>raise</i>	<i>lower</i>
<i>open</i>	<i>shut</i>	<i>read</i>	<i>write</i>	<i>draw</i>	<i>listen to</i>
<i>take out</i>	<i>study</i>	<i>think</i>	<i>start</i>	<i>finish</i>	<i>wait</i>
<i>trade</i>	<i>happen/pass</i>	<i>show</i>			

USEFUL VERBS 36 verbs that make reading more comprehensible (High Use in Novellas)

<i>realize</i>	<i>turn off</i>	<i>turn on</i>	<i>attend</i>	<i>help</i>	<i>warm up</i>	<i>eat</i>
<i>buy</i>	<i>sell</i>	<i>cost</i>	<i>pay</i>	<i>believe</i>	<i>should</i>	
<i>leave</i>	<i>say good-bye</i>	<i>wake up</i>	<i>shoot</i>	<i>get mad</i>	<i>send</i>	
<i>clean</i>	<i>wash</i>	<i>take a bath</i>	<i>swim</i>	<i>kill</i>	<i>seem</i>	
<i>lose</i>	<i>win</i>	<i>practice</i>	<i>receive</i>	<i>remember</i>	<i>repeat</i>	
<i>follow</i>	<i>feel</i>	<i>try</i>	<i>come</i>	<i>fly</i>		

↓ **Spanish Teachers & Learners:** See the lists of **Verbos Importantes** on the following pages. ↓



VERBOS IMPORTANTES: Infinitives

The Most Important and Useful Spanish Verbs

TEACH IN THE PRESENT TENSE, 3RD PERSON SINGULAR WITH TPR GESTURES TO GIVE STUDENTS WHAT THEY NEED TO BEGIN TO READ & SPEAK

(Parentheses) = Frequency number in Spanish

* (Yellow & Asterisk) = In the top 100 Spanish words

Gray Highlighting = In the top 101 - 800 Spanish words

The lower the number, the more often the word is used.

The 100 most frequently used words, which are 65% of speech.

Most U.S. teenagers use only 800 words a day outside of school.

27 ESSENTIAL VERBS Used by everyone, all the time—especially in beginning courses (High Frequency)

↓ The first 15 are inspired by Terry Waltz's "Super 7" & Mike Peto's "Sweet 16". They can be used to tell almost any story in a simple way. ↓

ser (* #8)	to be	estar (* #17)	to be	ir (* #30)	to go
tener (* #18)	to have	querer (* #57)	to want	gustar (#353)	to like / to be pleasing to
hacer (* #25)	to do/make	decir (* #28)	to say/tell	ver (* #37)	to see
dar (* #39)	to give	saber (* #46)	to know	poner (* #77)	to put
salir (#111)	to leave/go out	volver (#112)	to return	poder (* #27)	to be able to, can, may
encontrar (* #100)	to find	necesitar (#229)	to need	tomar (#122)	to take, drink
buscar (#173)	to look for/search	llegar (* #66)	to arrive	hablar (* #92)	to talk/speak
conocer (#124)	to meet/know	mirar (#142)	to look at	vivir (#128)	to live
trabajar (#183)	to work	haber (* #11)	to be/have	llamar (#104)	to call

24 VIVID VERBS to make stories more dramatic—like classic stories, movies & videos do (High Interest)

tirar (#759)	to throw	pegarle (#1395)	to hit him/it	agarrar (#2074)	to grab
gritar (#1597)	to yell	caerse (#245)	to fall down	saltar (#1071)	to jump
empujar (#1877)	to push	jugar (#355)	to play (sports)	tocar (#325)	to touch, play (music)
encantar (#2859)	to love (something)	dormir (#857)	to sleep	odiar (#3444)	to hate
reírse (#1493)	to laugh	sonreír (#2731)	to smile	cantar (#1124)	to sing
escapar (#757)	to escape	correr (#332)	to run	andar (#536)	to walk, ride, go
besar (#3696)	to kiss	abrazar (#2873)	to hug	bailar (#2071)	to dance
llorar (#1466)	to cry	compartir (#681)	to share	morir (#293)	to die

21 CLASSROOM VERBS to talk about actions & activities in class (High Classroom Use)

aprender (#422)	to learn	levantarse (#372)	to stand up	escuchar (#360)	to listen to
enseñar (#524)	to teach	sentarse (#710)	to sit down	apuntar (#1361)	to point at
abrir (#252)	to open	levantar (#372)	to raise/lift	leer (#244)	to read
cerrar (#454)	to shut/close	bajar (#569)	to lower	escribir (#187)	to write
estudiar (#328)	to study	empezar (#161)	to start	pensar (#106)	to think
dibujar (#2317)	to draw	terminar (#219)	to finish	esperar (* #63)	to wait, hope
cambiar (#246)	to trade/exchange	sacar (#228)	to take out	pasar (* #67)	to happen/pass

36 USEFUL VERBS that make reading more comprehensible (Often Used in Novellas)

apagar (#2104)	asistir (#822)	ayudar (#345)	bañar (#3224)	calentar (#2531)	comer (#389)	
comprar (#437)	costar (#626)	crear (* #91)	darse cuenta (expresión con dar, #3)	deber (* #75)	dejar (* #94)	
despedir (#1940)	despertar (#734)	disparar (#2141)	enojar (#----)	enviar (#842)	ganar (#286)	lavar (#1762)
limpiar (#1537)	matar (#557)	nadar (#3050)	pagar (#342)	parecer (* #81)		
perder (#190)	practicar (#1303)	prender (#2454)	recibir (#205)	recordar (#246)	repetir (#382)	
seguir (* #97)	sentir (#131)	tratar (#437)	vender (#526)	venir (#105)	volar (#1376)	

VERBOS IMPORTANTES: 3rd Person

The Most Important and Useful Spanish Verbs. Learn These First.

IN THE PRESENT TENSE, 3RD PERSON SINGULAR. THESE GIVE STUDENTS WHAT THEY NEED TO BEGIN TO READ & SPEAK

Yellow Highlighting = Among the top 100 Spanish words

Extremely valuable to know.

The 100 most frequently used words are 65% of all speech.

Gray Highlighting = In the top 101 - 800 Spanish words

Also very useful.

U.S. teenagers use only 800 words a day outside of school, as do twins speaking to one another, people in poverty, and medieval European peasants.

27 ESSENTIAL VERBS *Used by everyone, all the time—especially in beginning courses (High Frequency)*

↓ *The first 15 are inspired by Terry Waltz's "Super 7" & Mike Peto's "Sweet 16". They can be used to tell almost any story in a simple way.* ↓

es is **está** is **va** goes **tiene** has **quiere** wants **le gusta** likes it

hace does / makes **dice** says / tells **ve** sees **le da** gives him/her **sabe** knows **pone** puts

sale leaves **vuelve** returns/goes back **puede** is able to, can, may

encuentra finds **necesita** needs **toma** takes/drinks **busca** looks for **llega** arrives **habla** talks / speaks

conoce meets/knows **mira** looks at **vive** lives **trabaja** works **hay** there is/there are **llama** calls

24 VIVID VERBS *to make stories more dramatic—like classic stories, movies & videos do (High Interest)*

tira throws **le pega** hits him/it **agarra** grabs **grita** yells **se cae** falls down **salta** jumps

empuja pushes **juega** plays (sports) **toca** touches/plays (music) **encanta** loves (something) **duerme** sleeps **odia** hates

se ríe laughs **sonríe** smiles **canta** sings **escapa** escapes **corre** runs **anda** walks, rides, goes

besa kisses **abrazo** hugs **baila** dances **llora** cries **comparte** shares **muere** dies

21 CLASSROOM VERBS *to talk about actions & activities in class (High Classroom Use)*

aprende learns **se levanta** stands up **escucha** listens to **enseña** teaches **se sienta** sits down **apunta** points at

abre opens **levanta** raises / lifts **lee** reads **cierra** shuts / closes **baja** lowers **escribe** writes

estudia studies **empieza** starts **piensa** thinks **dibuja** draws **termina** finishes **espera** waits / hopes

cambia trades **saca** takes out **pasa** happens / passes / spends time

36 USEFUL VERBS *that make reading more comprehensible (Often Used in Novels)*

apaga turns off **asiste** attends **ayuda** helps **baña** bathes **calienta** heats up **come** eats

compra buys **cuesta** costs **cree** believes **se da cuenta de** realizes **debe** must, should **deja** leaves behind

despide says goodbye **se despierta** wakes up **dispara** shoots **enoja** gets angry **envia** sends **gana** wins, earns **lava** washes

limpia cleans **mata** kills **nada** swims **paga** pays **parece** it seems

pierde loses **practica** practices **prende** turns on **recibe** receives **recuerda** remembers **repite** repeats

sigue follows **siente** feels **trata** tries **vende** sells **viene** comes **vuela** flies

VERBOS IMPORTANTES: **1st Person**

*The Most Important and Useful Spanish Verbs.
 Be aware of these as you read and listen.*

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soy *am* estoy *am* voy *I go* tengo *I have* quiero *I want* me gusta *I like it*

hago *I do / I make* digo *I say / I tell* veo *I see* le doy *I give him/her* sé *I know* pongo *I put*
 salgo *I leave* vuelvo *I return / I go back* puedo *I am able to / I can / I may*

encuentro *I find* necesito *I need* tomo *I take / I drink* busco *I look for* llego *I arrive* hablo *I talk / I speak*
 conozco *I meet / I know* miro *I look at* vivo *I live* trabajo *I work* hay *there is / there are* llamo *I call*

24 VIVID VERBS *to make stories more dramatic—like classic stories, movies & videos do (High Interest)*

tiro *I throw* le pego *I hit him/it* agarro *I grab* grito *I yell* me caigo *I fall down* salto *I jump*
 empujo *I push* juego *I play (sports)* toco *I touch/play (music)* me encanta *I love (something)* duermo *I sleep* odio *I hate*
 me río *I laugh* sonrío *I smile* canto *I sing* escapo *I escape* corro *I run* and *I walk, I ride, I go*
 beso *I kiss* abrazo *I hug* bailo *I dance* lloro *I cry* comparto *I share* me muero *I die*

21 CLASSROOM VERBS *to talk about actions & activities in class (High Classroom Use)*

aprendo *I learn* me levanto *I stand up* escucho *I listen to* enseño *I teach* me siento *I sit down* apunto *I point at*

abro *I open* levanto *I raise / I lift* leo *I read* cierro *I shut / I close* bajo *I lower* escribo *I write*
 estudio *I study* empiezo *I start* pienso *I think* dibujo *I draw* termino *I finish* espero *I wait / I hope*
 cambio *I trade* saco *I take out* paso *I spend time*

36 USEFUL VERBS *that make reading more comprehensible (Often Used in Novels)*

apago *I turn off* asisto *I attend* ayudo *I help* me baño *I bathe* caliento *I heat up (something)* como *I eat*
 compo *I buy* me cuesta *it costs me* creo *I believe* me doy cuenta de *I realize* debo *I must, I should* dejo *I leave behind*
 me despido *I say goodbye* me despierto *wakes up* disparo *I shoot* me enojo *I get angry* envío *I send* gano *I win, I earn* lavo *I wash*

limpio *I clean* mato *I kill* nado *I swim* pago *I pay* parezco *I seem*
 pierdo *I lose* practico *I practice* prendo *I turn on* recibo *I receive* recuerdo *I remember* repite *repeats*
 sigo *I follow* siento *I feel* trato *I try* vendo *I sell* vengo *I come* vuelo *I fly*