

# PALABRAS IMPORTANTES

## *Important [Spanish] Words*

### **CRUCIAL FUNCTION WORDS & TOP CLASSROOM VOCABULARY**

By Bryce Hedstrom

#### FUNCTION WORDS

• **Function words are the small words that carry the grammar of a sentence.** Function words are a different type of word than content words. Content words are words like *silla* (nouns), *corre* (verbs), and *triste* (adjectives). Many content words are relatively easy to learn because they are more concrete—you can often imagine a picture of what a content word describes. But function words are abstract. They are the articles, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and other short grammatical words. Function words are important to know, but they can be harder to imagine, memorize and define. The function words are mainly acquired by context—exposure and comparison in many different situations over time.

#### INTERESTING NEWS

• **The mind deals with function words and content words differently.** According to Steven Pinker, a leading cognitive scientist and linguist, in his book on how the mind deals with language, *Words and Rules*, our brains learn most of the function words early in life and then use them to communicate clearly. Function words are a relatively closed set of vocabulary. We learn new content words all the time, but function words, once learned, do not need many additions. Function words become embedded in the mind and provide a kind of scaffolding to help facilitate clear communication. They carry the look and feel of the language. Once you know these words and know how they work, you are on your way to knowing the language.

#### BAD NEWS

• **Function words are rarely cognates.** Not only are function words abstract and harder to memorize than content words, they usually cannot be piggy-backed on to English words that you already know like many other vocabulary words. Most of them are unique to Spanish and must be learned individually.

#### GOOD NEWS

• **You have already acquired many function words.** Many of the most high frequency words are short function words. You have probably already picked up many of the most common function words like **en, de, a, le, mi, con,** and **y**. Be on the lookout for these and other function words as you read and listen. When you know these words, you are on your way to knowing the language.

#### MORE GOOD NEWS

• **You are probably ready to pick up more function words.** Function words are extremely common, but beginning language learners tend to skip over them because they are concentrating on the content words so much. That strategy can make sense as a novice language learner, but after a core of content words have been acquired, new learners find themselves hearing the function words and wanting to learn more of them. You may want to look over this list to put your mind at ease and to prepare yourself to recognize them as you listen and read.

#### ARE THESE ALL OF THE FUNCTION WORDS?

• **Not every function word is included on these lists**—just those that are the most useful in an acquisition-rich classroom. Some words that newbies tend to pick up due to exposure in extensive reading and listening to natural conversations, like articles and some pronouns, are not included for brevity's sake. Other types of words that have been omitted are those that would be seen as redundant to beginners. These include words such as **cuando** (used as a conjunction, #40, or a preposition, #1803), when they already know **¿cuándo?** (the question word/adverb, #1199), and **donde** (the preposition and conjunction, #84) when they know **¿dónde?** (the question word/adverb, #421), from repeatedly hearing them in class conversations and stories.

# PALABRAS IMPORTANTES INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE

*With Word Frequency Numbers from A Frequency Dictionary of Spanish, by Mark Davies*  
**INSTRUCTORS & AUTHORS: FOCUS ON USING THESE WORDS TO BE SURE YOUR STUDENTS ARE ACQUIRING THE HIGH FREQUENCY VOCABULARY THEY NEED—THE SKELETON OF THE LANGUAGE.**

**Highlighting** = Words NOT in the top 800 most frequent Spanish words—but are still useful in language courses.

(#) = Word Frequency Number      (#\*\*\*) = Words NOT in top 5,000 most frequent Spanish words

## CONJUNCTIONS (mostly)

1. **que** (#3) that
2. **y** (#4) and
3. **como** (#16) like, as
4. **pero** (#23) but
5. **o** (#26) or
6. **si** (#34) if
7. **porque** (#38) because
8. **ni... ni** (#64) neither... nor
9. **pues** (#105) then, well
10. **sino** (#109) except, rather
11. **aunque** (#117) although
12. **mientras** (#154) while

## TRANSITIONS

### (ADVERBIAL PHRASES)

13. **así que** (#59) so
14. **por eso** (#63) so, for this reason
15. **luego** (#132) then, later
16. **entonces** (#76) then, so
17. **más tarde** (#1046) later
18. **después** (#87) afterwards, then

## HELP TELLING A STORY

### (ABVERBS)

19. **ya** (#36) already, now
20. **ya no** (#36) not anymore, no longer
21. **ahora** (#85) now
22. **sin embargo** (#180) nevertheless
23. **además** (#159) besides, as well
24. **de repente** (#2183) all of a sudden
25. **todavía** (#211) still, yet
26. **por fin** (#156) finally, at last

## (More) ADVERBS

27. **así** (#59) like that
28. **bien** (#73) well, fine
29. **tan** (#83) so
30. **también** (#53) also
31. **tampoco** (#279) neither
32. **antes de** (#236) before
33. **después de** (#87) after
34. **siempre** (#90) always
35. **nunca** (#151) never
36. **aquí** (#129) here
37. **allí** (#169) there

38. **allá** (#324) over there
39. **solo** (#102; 160) only, just; alone
40. **casi** (#146) almost
41. **hoy** (#164) today
42. **aún** (#282) still, yet
43. **incluso** (#294) including
44. **quizás** (#297) maybe
45. **solamente** (#336) only
46. **pronto** (#396) soon
47. **igualmente** (#1431) equally
48. **apenas** (#587) barely, hardly

## EXPRESSIONS WITH "VEZ" (#44)

49. **una vez** one time, once
50. **muchas veces** many times, often
51. **a veces** at times, sometimes
52. **otra vez** another time, again
53. **en vez de** instead of
54. **tal vez** perhaps

## PREPOSITIONS

55. **de** (#2) of, from
56. **a** (#5) to, at
57. **en** (#6) in, on
58. **por** (#12) for, through, by
59. **para** (#15) for, in order to
60. **con** (#13) with
61. **sin** (#43) without
62. **hasta** (#54) until
63. **desde** (#61) since, from
64. **durante** (#148) during
65. **contra** (#172) against
66. **según** (#257) according to
67. **acerca de** (#1288) about
68. **a pesar de** (#366) in spite of
69. **a causa de** (#546) because of

## PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

70. **entre** (#58) between
71. **hacia** (#125) towards
72. **alrededor de** (#556) around
73. **junto a** (#729) beside
74. **al lado de** (#165) next to

75. **cerca de** (#391) close to
76. **lejos de** (#469) far from
77. **sobre** (#48) on, above
78. **encima de** (#436) over, on top of
79. **debajo de** (#820) below, beneath
80. **delante de** (#885) in front of, ahead
81. **detrás de** (#701) behind
82. **dentro de** (#174) inside
83. **fuera de** (#451) outside (of)
84. **a través de** (#347) through, across

## QUANTIFIERS / AMOUNTS

85. **más** (#24) more
86. **muy** (#42) very
87. **mucho** (#45) a lot
88. **un poco** (#74) a little
89. **bastante** (#270) enough, quite
90. **demasiado** (#335) too much
91. **tanto** (#79) so much
92. **todo** (#22) everything, all
93. **todos** (#22) everybody
94. **todos los días** (#22) every day
95. **por todas partes** (#86) everywhere
96. **nada** (#95) nothing
97. **algo** (#101) something
98. **un montón de** (#1946) a whole lot of

## PRONOUNS

99. **yo** (#52) I
100. **tú** (#554) you (familiar)
101. **él** (#41) he
102. **ella** (#69) she
103. **usted (Ud.)** (#269) you (formal)
104. **nosotros** (#191) we
105. **ellos** (#144) they (m)
106. **ellas** (#144) they (f)
107. **ustedes (Uds.)** (#269) you (all)
108. **alguien** (#480) somebody
109. **nadie** (#283) nobody
110. **conmigo** (#1845) with me
111. **contigo** (#3017) with you

**QUESTION WORDS**

112. ¿Qué? (#47) What?  
 113. ¿Quién? (#292) Who?  
 114. ¿Por qué? (#12, 47) Why?  
 115. ¿Dónde? (#421) Where?  
 116. ¿Cómo? (#126) How?  
 117. ¿Cuál? (#395) Which?  
 118. **¿Cuándo? (#1199) When?**  
 119. **¿Cuántos? (#723) How many?**

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 (\*\*\*) = Words not in top 5,000

**MISCELLANEOUS NOUNS**

120. **un rato (#1478) a little while**  
  
 121. cosa (#78) thing  
 122. palabra (#176) word  
 123. **un cuento (#1357) a story**  
  
 124. **desayuno (#3157) breakfast**  
 125. **almuerzo (#3104) lunch**  
 126. **cena (#2971) dinner, supper**  
  
 127. **la bicicleta (#3955) bicycle**  
 128. **un carro (#1871) a car**  
 129. el dinero (#291) money  
  
 130. la mañana (#401) the morning  
 131. **mañana (#1235) tomorrow**  
 132. la tarde (#242) the afternoon  
 133. la noche (#196) evening, night  
 134. esta noche (#196) tonight  
  
 135. **un gato (#1412) a cat**  
 136. **un perro (#939) a dog**  
 137. un caballo (#780) a horse  
  
**PEOPLE**  
 138. **un chico (#1079) a boy**  
 139. **una chica (#1907) a girl**  
 140. un hombre (#80) a man  
 141. una mujer (#127) a woman  
 142. la familia (#201) the family

143. un hermano (#539) a brother  
 144. madre (#278) mother  
 145. padre (#182) father  
 146. un amigo (#262) a friend  
 147. un niño (#178) a little boy/kid  
 148. un policía (#506) police officer

**PLACES**

149. la casa (#116) house  
 150. **la sala (#811) living/big room**  
 151. **el dormitorio (#3382) bedroom**  
 152. **la cocina (#1673) kitchen**  
 153. **la cama (#1185) bed**  
 154. la calle (#248) street  
  
 155. la escuela (#532) school  
 156. el campo (#295) countryside  
 157. el país (#133) country  
 158. **la montaña (#1212) mountain**  
 159. **el lago (#2680) lake**  
 160. el mar (#645) sea  
 161. **la playa (#1713) beach**  
  
 162. **el parque (#1760) park**  
 163. la ciudad (#197) city  
 164. el pueblo (#241) town

**ADJECTIVES**

165. bueno (#115) good  
 166. malo (#275) bad  
  
 167. mejor (#121) better, best  
 168. mejor que (#121) better than  
  
 169. joven (#442) young  
 170. viejo (#281) old  
 171. nuevo (#99) new  
  
 172. ese/esa (#32) that  
 173. este/esta (#29) this  
  
 174. **guapo (#4140) good-looking**  
 175. **bonito (#1707) pretty**  
 176. **hermoso (#1224) beautiful**  
 177. **chulo (\*\*\*) cute**  
 178. **feo (#2381) ugly**  
  
 179. cada (#96) each, every  
 180. igual (#239) equal, the same  
 181. **maravilloso (#1743) marvelous**

182. **triste (#1314) sad**  
 183. **feliz (#956) happy**  
 184. **contento (#1647) content**  
  
 185. grande (#62) big  
 186. **mediano (#3103) medium**  
 187. **pequeño (#184) small**  
  
 188. **delgado (#3039) skinny**  
 189. **gordo (#2217) fat**  
  
 190. **chistoso (\*\*\*) funny**  
 191. **cómico (#3485) funny**  
 192. **simpático (#2590) nice**  
 193. **antipático (\*\*\*) mean**  
  
 194. rico (#627) rich  
 195. **pobre (#373) poor**  
  
 196. **tonto (#2191) dumb, stupid**  
 197. **loco (#1377) crazy**  
 198. **inteligente (#1447) smart**  
  
 199. **enojado (\*\*\*) angry**  
 200. **cansado (#2147) tired**  
  
 201. **sucio (#1994) dirty**  
 202. **limpio (#1397) clean**  
  
 203. **aburrido (#2813) boring**  
 204. **interesante (#762) interesting**  
 205. **exigente (#3530) demanding**  
  
 206. suave (#84) soft, smooth  
 207. **fuerte (#1010) strong, hard, loud**  
 208. **débil (#1284) weak**  
  
 209. **caro (#1876) expensive**  
 210. **gratis (\*\*\*) free**  
 211. **barato (#1470) inexpensive**  
  
 212. **lleno (#508) full**  
 213. **vacío (#1532) empty**  
  
 214. mismo (#51) same  
  
 215. menor (#334) younger  
 216. mayor (#138) older  
  
 217. fácil (#514) easy  
 218. difícil (#314) difficult, hard

# PALABRAS IMPORTANTES INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE

## IN ORDER OF WORD FREQUENCY

The lower the frequency number, the more often a word is used. This is a different order than on the other **Palabras Importantes** handouts. Also, note that this list does not contain all high frequency words, just those on the previous lists. Verbs, for example, are on a different list. For a complete list of high frequency words see [A Frequency Dictionary of Spanish](#), by Mark Davies.

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### FUNCTION WORDS = SHORT ABSTRACT GRAMMATICAL WORDS

(Similar to "sight words" in elementary school; high frequency vocabulary that everyone needs to know.)

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>#1-50 by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>de (#2)</b> of, from</li> <li>2. <b>que (#3)</b> that</li> <li>3. <b>y (#4)</b> and</li> <li>4. <b>a (#5)</b> to, at</li> <li>5. <b>en (#6)</b> in, on</li> <li>6. <b>por (#12)</b> for, through</li> <li>7. <b>con (#13)</b> with</li> <li>8. <b>para (#15)</b> for, in order to</li> <li>9. <b>como (#16)</b> like, as</li> <li>10. <b>todo (#22)</b> everything, all</li> <li>11. <b>todos (#22)</b> everybody</li> <li>12. <b>todos los días (#22)</b> every day</li> <li>13. <b>pero (#23)</b> but</li> <li>14. <b>más (#24)</b> more</li> <li>15. <b>o (#26)</b> or</li> <li>16. <b>si (#34)</b> if</li> <li>17. <b>ya (#36)</b> already, now</li> <li>18. <b>ya no (#36)</b> not anymore, no longer</li> <li>19. <b>porque (#38)</b> because</li> <li>20. <b>él (#41)</b> he</li> <li>21. <b>muy (#42)</b> very</li> <li>22. <b>sin (#43)</b> without</li> <li>23. <b>una vez (#44)</b> one time, once</li> <li>24. <b>muchas veces</b> many times, often</li> <li>25. <b>a veces</b> at times, sometimes</li> <li>26. <b>otra vez</b> another time, again</li> <li>27. <b>en vez de</b> instead of</li> <li>28. <b>tal vez</b> perhaps</li> <li>29. <b>mucho (#45)</b> a lot, much</li> <li>30. <b>sobre (#48)</b> on, above</li> </ol> <p>-----</p> <p><b>#50-100 by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31. <b>yo (#52)</b> I</li> <li>32. <b>también (#53)</b> also</li> <li>33. <b>hasta (#54)</b> until</li> <li>34. <b>así (#59)</b> like that</li> <li>35. <b>entre (#58)</b> between</li> <li>36. <b>así que (#59)</b> so</li> <li>37. <b>desde (#61)</b> since, from</li> <li>38. <b>por eso (#63)</b> so, for this reason</li> <li>39. <b>ni... ni (#64)</b> neither... nor</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40. <b>ella (#69)</b> she</li> <li>41. <b>bien (#73)</b> well, fine</li> <li>42. <b>un poco (#74)</b> a little</li> <li>43. <b>entonces (#76)</b> then, so</li> <li>44. <b>tanto (#79)</b> so much</li> <li>45. <b>tan (#83)</b> so</li> <li>46. <b>ahora (#85)</b> now</li> <li>47. <b>por todas partes (#86)</b> everywhere</li> <li>48. <b>después de (#87)</b> after</li> <li>49. <b>después (#87)</b> afterwards, then</li> <li>50. <b>siempre (#90)</b> always</li> <li>51. <b>nada (#95)</b> nothing</li> </ol> <p>-----</p> <p><b>#100-200 by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>52. <b>algo (#101)</b> something</li> <li>53. <b>solo (#102; #160)</b> only, just; lonely</li> <li>54. <b>pues (#105)</b> then, well</li> <li>55. <b>sino (#109)</b> except, rather</li> <li>56. <b>aunque (#117)</b> although</li> <li>57. <b>hacia (#125)</b> towards</li> <li>58. <b>aquí (#129)</b> here</li> <li>59. <b>luego (#132)</b> then, later</li> <li>60. <b>ellos (#144)</b> they (m)</li> <li>61. <b>ellas (#144)</b> they (f)</li> <li>62. <b>casí (#146)</b> almost</li> <li>63. <b>durante (#148)</b> during</li> <li>64. <b>nunca (#151)</b> never</li> <li>65. <b>mientras (#154)</b> while</li> <li>66. <b>por fin (#156)</b> finally, at last</li> <li>67. <b>además (#159)</b> besides, as well</li> <li>68. <b>hoy (#164)</b> today</li> <li>69. <b>al lado de (#165)</b> next to</li> <li>70. <b>allí (#169)</b> there</li> <li>71. <b>contra (#172)</b> against</li> <li>72. <b>dentro de (#174)</b> inside</li> <li>73. <b>sin embargo (#180)</b> nevertheless</li> <li>74. <b>nosotros (#191)</b> we</li> </ol> <p>-----</p> <p><b>#200-300 by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75. <b>todavía (#211)</b> still, yet</li> <li>76. <b>según (#257)</b> according to</li> <li>77. <b>antes de (#236)</b> before</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>78. <b>usted (Ud.) (#269)</b> you (formal)</li> <li>79. <b>ustedes (Uds.) (#269)</b> you (all)</li> <li>80. <b>bastante (#270)</b> enough, quite</li> <li>81. <b>tampoco (#279)</b> neither</li> <li>82. <b>aún (#282)</b> still, yet</li> <li>83. <b>nadie (#283)</b> nobody</li> <li>84. <b>incluso (#294)</b> including</li> <li>85. <b>quizás (#297)</b> maybe</li> </ol> <p>-----</p> <p><b>#300-400 by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>86. <b>allá (#324)</b> over there</li> <li>87. <b>demasiado (#335)</b> too much</li> <li>88. <b>solamente (#336)</b> only</li> <li>89. <b>a través de (#347)</b> through, across</li> <li>90. <b>a pesar de (#366)</b> in spite of</li> <li>91. <b>cerca de (#391)</b> close to</li> <li>92. <b>pronto (#396)</b> soon</li> </ol> <p>-----</p> <p><b>#400 + by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93. <b>encima de (#436)</b> over, on top of</li> <li>94. <b>fuera de (#451)</b> outside (of)</li> <li>95. <b>lejos de (#469)</b> far from</li> <li>96. <b>alguien (#480)</b> somebody</li> <li>97. <b>a causa de (#546)</b> because of</li> <li>98. <b>tú (#554)</b> you (familiar)</li> <li>99. <b>alrededor de (#556)</b> around</li> <li>100. <b>apenas (#587)</b> barely, hardly</li> <li>101. <b>detrás de (#701)</b> behind</li> <li>102. <b>junto a (#729)</b> beside</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>103. <b>debajo de (#820)</b> below, beneath</li> <li>104. <b>delante de (#885)</b> in front of, ahead</li> <li>105. <b>más tarde (#1046)</b> later</li> <li>106. <b>acerca de (#1288)</b> about</li> <li>107. <b>igualmente (#1431)</b> equally</li> <li>108. <b>conmigo (#1845)</b> with me</li> <li>109. <b>un montón de (#1946)</b><br/>a whole lot of</li> <li>110. <b>de repente (#2183)</b> all of a sudden</li> <li>111. <b>contigo (#3017)</b> with you</li> </ol> |
|---|--|--|

**QUESTION WORDS**

(In order of frequency)

112. ¿Qué? (#47) What?  
 113. ¿Por qué? (#12, 47) Why?  
 114. ¿Cómo? (#126) How?  
 115. ¿Quién? (#292) Who?  
 116. ¿Cuál? (#395) Which?  
 117. ¿Dónde? (#421) Where?  
 118. ¿Cuántos? (#723) How many?  
 119. ¿Cuándo? (#1199) When?

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• They are on this list because they are interesting and/or useful in language class.

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**COMMON SPANISH CLASS NOUNS**

(in order of frequency)

120. cosa (#78) thing  
 121. un hombre (#80) a man
122. la casa (#116) house  
 123. una mujer (#127) a woman  
 124. el país (#133) country  
 125. un niño (#178) a little boy/kid  
 126. palabra (#176) word  
 127. padre (#182) father  
 128. la noche (#196) evening, night  
 129. la ciudad (#197) city  
 130. esta noche (#196) tonight
131. la familia (#201) the family  
 132. el pueblo (#241) town  
 133. la tarde (#242) the afternoon  
 134. la calle (#248) street  
 135. un amigo (#262) a friend  
 136. madre (#278) mother  
 137. el dinero (#291) money  
 138. el campo (#295) countryside
139. la mañana (#401) the morning  
 140. un policía (#506) police officer  
 141. la escuela (#532) school  
 142. un hermano (#539) a brother  
 143. el mar (#645) sea

144. un caballo (#780) a horse  
 145. la sala (#811) living/big room  
 146. un perro (#939) a dog
147. un chico (#1079) a boy  
 148. la cama (#1185) bed  
 149. la montaña (#1212) mountain  
 150. mañana (#1235) tomorrow  
 151. un cuento (#1357) a story  
 152. un gato (#1412) a cat  
 153. un rato (#1478) a little while  
 154. la cocina (#1673) kitchen  
 155. la playa (#1713) beach  
 156. el parque (#1760) park  
 157. un carro (#1871) a car  
 158. una chica (#1907) a girl
159. el lago (#2680) lake  
 160. cena (#2971) dinner, supper
161. almuerzo (#3104) lunch  
 162. desayuno (#3157) breakfast  
 163. el dormitorio (#3382) bedroom  
 164. la bicicleta (#3955) bicycle
- COMMON SPANISH ADJECTIVES**  
(in order of frequency)
165. este/esta (#29) this  
 166. ese/esa (#32) that  
 167. mismo (#51) same  
 168. grande (#62) big  
 169. suave (#84) soft, smooth  
 170. cada (#96) each, every  
 171. nuevo (#99) new
172. bueno (#115) good  
 173. mejor (#121) better, best  
 174. mejor que (#121) better than  
 175. mayor (#138) older  
 176. pequeño (#184) small
177. igual (#239) equal, the same  
 178. malo (#275) bad  
 179. viejo (#281) old
180. difícil (#314) difficult, hard  
 181. menor (#334) younger  
 182. pobre (#373) poor
183. joven (#442) young  
 184. lleno (#508) full  
 185. fácil (#514) easy
186. rico (#627) rich  
 187. interesante (#762) interesting
188. feliz (#956) happy
189. fuerte (#1010) strong, hard, loud  
 190. hermoso (#1224) beautiful  
 191. débil (#1284) weak  
 192. triste (#1314) sad  
 193. loco (#1377) crazy  
 194. limpio (#1397) clean  
 195. inteligente (#1447) smart  
 196. barato (#1470) inexpensive  
 197. vacío (#1532) empty  
 198. contento (#1647) content  
 199. bonito (#1707) pretty  
 200. maravilloso (#1743) marvelous  
 201. caro (#1876) expensive  
 202. sucio (#1994) dirty
203. cansado (#2147) tired  
 204. tonto (#2191) dumb, stupid  
 205. gordo (#2217) fat  
 206. feo (#2381) ugly  
 207. simpático (#2590) nice  
 208. aburrido (#2813) boring
209. delgado (#3039) skinny  
 210. mediano (#3103) medium  
 211. cómico (#3485) funny  
 212. exigente (#3530) demanding
213. guapo (#4140) good-looking
214. chulo (#\*\*\*) cute  
 215. chistoso (#\*\*\*) funny  
 216. antipático (#\*\*\*) mean  
 217. enojado (#\*\*\*) angry  
 218. gratis (#\*\*\*) free



Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha \_\_\_\_\_

Clase \_\_\_\_\_

# PALABRAS IMPORTANTES — STUDENT HANDOUT

The Palabras Importantes are some of the most important Spanish words for beginners. They are: 1) High Frequency Spanish Words, and 2) Common Vocabulary in language classes. These words form the skeleton of communication in Spanish. #1 - #111 are Function Words—these are short, common, grammatical words. Function words are good to know because they are some of the most frequently used words in the language (60% of speech is composed of the 50 most common function words). #112 - #218 are Content Words. Content words are more concrete and may be easier to pick up. Content words include question words, nouns and adjectives. You will acquire the much of the vocabulary on these lists just by listening and reading, but it can be helpful to check on lists like these from time to time to see how much you are acquiring.

Check to see how many of these you recognize right now. We will review this list periodically to see how many more you are picking up as the course progresses.

## SPANISH to ENGLISH RECOGNITION (For lower levels)

### CONJUNCTIONS (mostly)

- 1. que \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. y \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. como \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. pero \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. o \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. si \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. porque \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. ni... ni \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. pues \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. sino \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. aunque \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. mientras \_\_\_\_\_

### TRANSITIONS

- 13. así que \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. por eso \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. luego \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. entonces \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. más tarde \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. después \_\_\_\_\_

### HELP TELLING A STORY

- 19. ya \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. ya no \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. ahora \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. sin embargo \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. además \_\_\_\_\_
- 24. de repente \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. todavía \_\_\_\_\_
- 26. por fin \_\_\_\_\_

### ADVERBS

- 27. así \_\_\_\_\_
- 28. bien \_\_\_\_\_
- 29. tan \_\_\_\_\_
- 30. también \_\_\_\_\_
- 31. tampoco \_\_\_\_\_
- 32. antes de \_\_\_\_\_
- 33. después de \_\_\_\_\_
- 34. siempre \_\_\_\_\_
- 35. nunca \_\_\_\_\_
- 36. aquí \_\_\_\_\_

- 37. allí \_\_\_\_\_
- 38. allá \_\_\_\_\_
- 39. solo \_\_\_\_\_
- 40. casi \_\_\_\_\_
- 41. hoy \_\_\_\_\_
- 42. aún \_\_\_\_\_
- 43. incluso \_\_\_\_\_
- 44. quizás \_\_\_\_\_
- 45. solamente \_\_\_\_\_
- 46. pronto \_\_\_\_\_
- 47. igualmente \_\_\_\_\_
- 48. apenas \_\_\_\_\_

### EXPRESSIONS WITH "VEZ"

- 49. una vez \_\_\_\_\_
- 50. muchas veces \_\_\_\_\_
- 51. a veces \_\_\_\_\_
- 52. otra vez \_\_\_\_\_
- 53. en vez de \_\_\_\_\_
- 54. tal vez \_\_\_\_\_

### PREPOSITIONS

- 55. de \_\_\_\_\_
- 56. a \_\_\_\_\_
- 57. en \_\_\_\_\_
- 58. por \_\_\_\_\_
- 59. para \_\_\_\_\_
- 60. con \_\_\_\_\_
- 61. sin \_\_\_\_\_
- 62. hasta \_\_\_\_\_
- 63. durante \_\_\_\_\_
- 64. desde \_\_\_\_\_
- 65. contra \_\_\_\_\_
- 66. según \_\_\_\_\_
- 67. acerca de \_\_\_\_\_
- 68. a pesar de \_\_\_\_\_
- 69. a causa de \_\_\_\_\_

### PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

- 70. entre \_\_\_\_\_
- 71. hacia \_\_\_\_\_
- 72. alrededor de \_\_\_\_\_
- 73. junto a \_\_\_\_\_
- 74. al lado de \_\_\_\_\_

- 75. cerca de \_\_\_\_\_
- 76. lejos de \_\_\_\_\_
- 77. sobre \_\_\_\_\_
- 78. encima de \_\_\_\_\_
- 79. debajo de \_\_\_\_\_
- 80. delante de \_\_\_\_\_
- 81. detrás de \_\_\_\_\_
- 82. dentro de \_\_\_\_\_
- 83. fuera de \_\_\_\_\_
- 84. a través de \_\_\_\_\_

### QUANTIFIERS / AMOUNTS

- 85. más \_\_\_\_\_
- 86. muy \_\_\_\_\_
- 87. mucho \_\_\_\_\_
- 88. un poco \_\_\_\_\_
- 89. bastante \_\_\_\_\_
- 90. demasiado \_\_\_\_\_
- 91. tanto \_\_\_\_\_
- 92. todo \_\_\_\_\_
- 93. todos \_\_\_\_\_
- 94. todos los días \_\_\_\_\_
- 95. por todas partes \_\_\_\_\_
- 96. nada \_\_\_\_\_
- 97. algo \_\_\_\_\_
- 98. un montón de \_\_\_\_\_

### PRONOUNS

- 99. yo \_\_\_\_\_
- 100. tú \_\_\_\_\_
- 101. él \_\_\_\_\_
- 102. ella \_\_\_\_\_
- 103. usted (Ud.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 104. nosotros \_\_\_\_\_
- 105. ellos \_\_\_\_\_
- 106. ellas \_\_\_\_\_
- 107. ustedes (Uds.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 108. alguien \_\_\_\_\_
- 109. nadie \_\_\_\_\_
- 110. conmigo \_\_\_\_\_
- 111. contigo \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION WORDS**

112. ¿Qué? \_\_\_\_\_  
 113. ¿Quién? \_\_\_\_\_  
 114. ¿Por qué? \_\_\_\_\_  
 115. ¿Dónde? \_\_\_\_\_  
 116. ¿Cómo? \_\_\_\_\_  
 117. ¿Cuál? \_\_\_\_\_  
 118. ¿Cuándo? \_\_\_\_\_  
 119. ¿Cuántos? \_\_\_\_\_

**MISCELLANEOUS NOUNS**

120. un rato \_\_\_\_\_  
 121. cosa \_\_\_\_\_  
 122. palabra \_\_\_\_\_  
 123. un cuento \_\_\_\_\_  
 124. desayuno \_\_\_\_\_  
 125. almuerzo \_\_\_\_\_  
 126. cena \_\_\_\_\_  
 127. la bicicleta \_\_\_\_\_  
 128. el carro \_\_\_\_\_  
 129. el dinero \_\_\_\_\_  
 130. la mañana \_\_\_\_\_  
 131. mañana \_\_\_\_\_  
 132. la tarde \_\_\_\_\_  
 133. la noche \_\_\_\_\_  
 134. esta noche \_\_\_\_\_  
 135. un gato \_\_\_\_\_  
 136. un perro \_\_\_\_\_  
 137. un caballo \_\_\_\_\_

**PEOPLE**

138. un chico \_\_\_\_\_  
 139. unachica \_\_\_\_\_  
 140. un hombre \_\_\_\_\_  
 141. una mujer \_\_\_\_\_  
 142. la familia \_\_\_\_\_  
 143. un hermano \_\_\_\_\_  
 144. madre \_\_\_\_\_  
 145. padre \_\_\_\_\_  
 146. un amigo \_\_\_\_\_  
 147. un niño \_\_\_\_\_  
 148. un policía \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACES**

149. la casa \_\_\_\_\_  
 150. la sala \_\_\_\_\_  
 151. el dormitorio \_\_\_\_\_  
 152. la cocina \_\_\_\_\_  
 153. la cama \_\_\_\_\_  
 154. la calle \_\_\_\_\_  
 155. la escuela \_\_\_\_\_  
 156. el campo \_\_\_\_\_  
 157. el país \_\_\_\_\_  
 158. la montaña \_\_\_\_\_  
 159. el lago \_\_\_\_\_  
 160. el mar \_\_\_\_\_  
 161. la playa \_\_\_\_\_  
 162. el parque \_\_\_\_\_  
 163. la ciudad \_\_\_\_\_  
 164. el pueblo \_\_\_\_\_

**ADJECTIVES**

165. bueno \_\_\_\_\_  
 166. malo \_\_\_\_\_  
 167. mejor \_\_\_\_\_  
 168. mejor que \_\_\_\_\_  
 169. joven \_\_\_\_\_  
 170. viejo \_\_\_\_\_  
 171. nuevo \_\_\_\_\_  
 172. ese/esa \_\_\_\_\_  
 173. este/esta \_\_\_\_\_  
 174. guapo \_\_\_\_\_  
 175. bonito \_\_\_\_\_  
 176. hermoso \_\_\_\_\_  
 177. chulo \_\_\_\_\_  
 178. feo \_\_\_\_\_  
 179. cada \_\_\_\_\_  
 180. igual \_\_\_\_\_  
 181. maravilloso \_\_\_\_\_  
 182. triste \_\_\_\_\_  
 183. feliz \_\_\_\_\_  
 184. contento \_\_\_\_\_

185. grande \_\_\_\_\_  
 186. mediano \_\_\_\_\_  
 187. pequeño \_\_\_\_\_  
 188. delgado \_\_\_\_\_  
 189. gordo \_\_\_\_\_  
 190. chistoso \_\_\_\_\_  
 191. cómico \_\_\_\_\_  
 192. simpático \_\_\_\_\_  
 193. antipático \_\_\_\_\_  
 194. rico \_\_\_\_\_  
 195. pobre \_\_\_\_\_  
 196. tonto \_\_\_\_\_  
 197. loco \_\_\_\_\_  
 198. inteligente \_\_\_\_\_  
 199. enojado \_\_\_\_\_  
 200. cansado \_\_\_\_\_  
 201. sucio \_\_\_\_\_  
 202. limpio \_\_\_\_\_  
 203. aburrido \_\_\_\_\_  
 204. interesante \_\_\_\_\_  
 205. exigente \_\_\_\_\_  
 206. suave \_\_\_\_\_  
 207. fuerte \_\_\_\_\_  
 208. débil \_\_\_\_\_  
 209. caro \_\_\_\_\_  
 210. gratis \_\_\_\_\_  
 211. barato \_\_\_\_\_  
 212. lleno \_\_\_\_\_  
 213. vacío \_\_\_\_\_  
 214. mismo \_\_\_\_\_  
 215. menor \_\_\_\_\_  
 216. mayor \_\_\_\_\_  
 217. fácil \_\_\_\_\_  
 218. difícil \_\_\_\_\_



Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha \_\_\_\_\_

Clase \_\_\_\_\_

# PALABRAS IMPORTANTES — STUDENT HANDOUT

## ENGLISH TO SPANISH PRODUCTION (For upper levels)

### CONJUNCTIONS (Mostly)

1. *that, than* \_\_\_\_\_
2. *and* \_\_\_\_\_
3. *like, as* \_\_\_\_\_
4. *but* \_\_\_\_\_
5. *or* \_\_\_\_\_
6. *if* \_\_\_\_\_
7. *because* \_\_\_\_\_
8. *neither... nor* \_\_\_\_\_
9. *then, well then* \_\_\_\_\_
10. *except, rather* \_\_\_\_\_
11. *although* \_\_\_\_\_
12. *while* \_\_\_\_\_

37. *there* \_\_\_\_\_
38. *over there* \_\_\_\_\_
39. *alone* \_\_\_\_\_
40. *almost* \_\_\_\_\_
41. *today* \_\_\_\_\_
42. *even, still, yet* \_\_\_\_\_
43. *including* \_\_\_\_\_
44. *maybe* \_\_\_\_\_
45. *only* \_\_\_\_\_
46. *soon* \_\_\_\_\_
47. *equally* \_\_\_\_\_
48. *barely, hardly* \_\_\_\_\_

76. *far from* \_\_\_\_\_
77. *on, above* \_\_\_\_\_
78. *over, on top of* \_\_\_\_\_
79. *below, beneath* \_\_\_\_\_
80. *in front of, ahead* \_\_\_\_\_
81. *behind* \_\_\_\_\_
82. *inside* \_\_\_\_\_
83. *outside (of)* \_\_\_\_\_
84. *through, across* \_\_\_\_\_

### TRANSITIONS

13. *so* \_\_\_\_\_
14. *so, for this reason* \_\_\_\_\_
15. *then, later* \_\_\_\_\_
16. *then, so* \_\_\_\_\_
17. *later* \_\_\_\_\_
18. *afterwards, then* \_\_\_\_\_

### EXPRESSIONS WITH "VEZ"

49. *one time, once* \_\_\_\_\_
50. *many times, often* \_\_\_\_\_
51. *at times, sometimes* \_\_\_\_\_
52. *another time, again* \_\_\_\_\_
53. *instead of* \_\_\_\_\_
54. *perhaps* \_\_\_\_\_

### QUANTIFIERS/AMOUNTS

85. *more* \_\_\_\_\_
86. *very* \_\_\_\_\_
87. *a lot* \_\_\_\_\_
88. *a little* \_\_\_\_\_
89. *enough, quite* \_\_\_\_\_
90. *too much* \_\_\_\_\_
91. *so much* \_\_\_\_\_

### HELP TELLING A STORY (ADVERBS)

19. *already, now* \_\_\_\_\_
20. *not anymore, no longer* \_\_\_\_\_
21. *now* \_\_\_\_\_
22. *nevertheless* \_\_\_\_\_
23. *besides, as well* \_\_\_\_\_
24. *all of a sudden* \_\_\_\_\_
25. *still, yet* \_\_\_\_\_
26. *finally, at last* \_\_\_\_\_

### PREPOSITIONS

55. *of, from* \_\_\_\_\_
56. *to, at* \_\_\_\_\_
57. *in, on* \_\_\_\_\_
58. *for, through* \_\_\_\_\_
59. *for, in order to* \_\_\_\_\_
60. *with* \_\_\_\_\_
61. *without* \_\_\_\_\_

92. *everything, all* \_\_\_\_\_
93. *everybody* \_\_\_\_\_
94. *every day* \_\_\_\_\_
95. *everywhere* \_\_\_\_\_
96. *nothing* \_\_\_\_\_
97. *something* \_\_\_\_\_
98. *a whole lot of* \_\_\_\_\_

### (MORE) ADVERBS

27. *like that* \_\_\_\_\_
28. *well, fine* \_\_\_\_\_
29. *so, so much* \_\_\_\_\_
30. *also, too* \_\_\_\_\_
31. *neither* \_\_\_\_\_
32. *before* \_\_\_\_\_
33. *after* \_\_\_\_\_
34. *always* \_\_\_\_\_
35. *never* \_\_\_\_\_
36. *here* \_\_\_\_\_

62. *until* \_\_\_\_\_
63. *during* \_\_\_\_\_
64. *since, from* \_\_\_\_\_
65. *against* \_\_\_\_\_
66. *according to* \_\_\_\_\_
67. *about, concerning* \_\_\_\_\_
68. *despite* \_\_\_\_\_
69. *because of* \_\_\_\_\_

### PRONOUNS

99. *I* \_\_\_\_\_
100. *you (familiar)* \_\_\_\_\_
101. *he* \_\_\_\_\_
102. *she* \_\_\_\_\_
103. *you (formal)* \_\_\_\_\_
104. *we* \_\_\_\_\_
105. *they (masculine)* \_\_\_\_\_
106. *they (feminine)* \_\_\_\_\_
107. *you (all)* \_\_\_\_\_

### PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

70. *between* \_\_\_\_\_
71. *towards* \_\_\_\_\_
72. *around* \_\_\_\_\_
73. *beside* \_\_\_\_\_
74. *next to* \_\_\_\_\_
75. *close to* \_\_\_\_\_

108. *somebody* \_\_\_\_\_
109. *nobody* \_\_\_\_\_
110. *with me* \_\_\_\_\_
111. *with you* \_\_\_\_\_





**QUESTION WORDS**

- 112. *What?* \_\_\_\_\_
- 113. *Who?* \_\_\_\_\_
- 114. *Why?* \_\_\_\_\_
- 115. *Where?* \_\_\_\_\_
- 116. *How?* \_\_\_\_\_
- 117. *Which?* \_\_\_\_\_
- 118. *When?* \_\_\_\_\_
- 119. *How many?* \_\_\_\_\_

**MISCELLANEOUS NOUNS**

- 120. *a little while* \_\_\_\_\_
- 121. *thing* \_\_\_\_\_
- 122. *Word* \_\_\_\_\_
- 123. *a story* \_\_\_\_\_
- 124. *breakfast* \_\_\_\_\_
- 125. *lunch* \_\_\_\_\_
- 126. *dinner, supper* \_\_\_\_\_
- 127. *bicycle* \_\_\_\_\_
- 128. *a car* \_\_\_\_\_
- 129. *money* \_\_\_\_\_
- 130. *the morning* \_\_\_\_\_
- 131. *tomorrow* \_\_\_\_\_
- 132. *the afternoon* \_\_\_\_\_
- 133. *the evening, night* \_\_\_\_\_
- 134. *tonight* \_\_\_\_\_
- 135. *a cat* \_\_\_\_\_
- 136. *a dog* \_\_\_\_\_
- 137. *a horse* \_\_\_\_\_

**PEOPLE**

- 138. *a boy* \_\_\_\_\_
- 139. *a girl* \_\_\_\_\_
- 140. *a man* \_\_\_\_\_
- 141. *a woman* \_\_\_\_\_
- 142. *the family* \_\_\_\_\_
- 143. *a brother* \_\_\_\_\_
- 144. *mother* \_\_\_\_\_
- 145. *father* \_\_\_\_\_
- 146. *a friend* \_\_\_\_\_
- 147. *a little boy* \_\_\_\_\_
- 148. *a police officer* \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACES**

- 149. *house* \_\_\_\_\_
- 150. *living room, big room* \_\_\_\_\_
- 151. *bedroom* \_\_\_\_\_
- 152. *kitchen* \_\_\_\_\_
- 153. *bed* \_\_\_\_\_
- 154. *street* \_\_\_\_\_
- 155. *school* \_\_\_\_\_
- 156. *countryside* \_\_\_\_\_
- 157. *country* \_\_\_\_\_
- 158. *mountain* \_\_\_\_\_
- 159. *lake* \_\_\_\_\_
- 160. *sea* \_\_\_\_\_
- 161. *beach* \_\_\_\_\_
- 162. *park* \_\_\_\_\_
- 163. *city* \_\_\_\_\_
- 164. *town* \_\_\_\_\_

**ADJECTIVES**

- 165. *good* \_\_\_\_\_
- 166. *bad* \_\_\_\_\_
- 167. *better, best* \_\_\_\_\_
- 168. *better than* \_\_\_\_\_
- 169. *young* \_\_\_\_\_
- 170. *old* \_\_\_\_\_
- 171. *new* \_\_\_\_\_
- 172. *that* \_\_\_\_\_
- 173. *this* \_\_\_\_\_
- 174. *handsome, good-looking* \_\_\_\_\_
- 175. *pretty* \_\_\_\_\_
- 176. *beautiful* \_\_\_\_\_
- 177. *cute* \_\_\_\_\_
- 178. *ugly* \_\_\_\_\_
- 179. *each, every* \_\_\_\_\_
- 180. *equal, the same* \_\_\_\_\_
- 181. *marvelous* \_\_\_\_\_
- 182. *sad* \_\_\_\_\_
- 183. *happy* \_\_\_\_\_
- 184. *content, happy* \_\_\_\_\_
- 185. *big* \_\_\_\_\_

- 186. *medium* \_\_\_\_\_
- 187. *small* \_\_\_\_\_
- 188. *skinny* \_\_\_\_\_
- 189. *fat* \_\_\_\_\_
- 190. *funny* \_\_\_\_\_
- 191. *funny* \_\_\_\_\_
- 192. *nice* \_\_\_\_\_
- 193. *mean* \_\_\_\_\_
- 194. *rich* \_\_\_\_\_
- 195. *poor* \_\_\_\_\_
- 196. *dumb, stupid* \_\_\_\_\_
- 197. *crazy* \_\_\_\_\_
- 198. *smart* \_\_\_\_\_
- 199. *angry* \_\_\_\_\_
- 200. *tired* \_\_\_\_\_
- 201. *dirty* \_\_\_\_\_
- 202. *clean* \_\_\_\_\_
- 203. *boring* \_\_\_\_\_
- 204. *interesting* \_\_\_\_\_
- 205. *demanding* \_\_\_\_\_
- 206. *soft, smooth* \_\_\_\_\_
- 207. *strong, hard, loud* \_\_\_\_\_
- 208. *weak* \_\_\_\_\_
- 209. *expensive* \_\_\_\_\_
- 210. *free* \_\_\_\_\_
- 211. *inexpensive* \_\_\_\_\_
- 212. *full* \_\_\_\_\_
- 213. *empty* \_\_\_\_\_
- 214. *same* \_\_\_\_\_
- 215. *younger* \_\_\_\_\_
- 216. *older* \_\_\_\_\_
- 217. *easy* \_\_\_\_\_
- 218. *difficult, hard* \_\_\_\_\_

# PALABRAS IMPORTANTES — STUDENT HANDOUT

## CLAVE / KEY / NOTES

### CONJUNCTIONS (Mostly)

1. **que** *that, than*
2. **y** *and*
3. **como** *like, as*
4. **pero** *but*
5. **o** *or*
6. **si** *if*
7. **porque** *because*
8. **ni... ni** *neither... nor*
9. **pues** *then, well then*
10. **sino** *except, rather*
11. **aunque** *although*
12. **mientras** *while*

### TRANSITIONS

13. **así que** *so*
14. **por eso** *so, for this reason*
15. **luego** *then, later*
16. **entonces** *then, so*
17. **más tarde** *later*
18. **después** *afterwards, then*

### HELP TELLING A STORY (ADVERBS)

19. **ya** *already, now*
20. **ya no** *not anymore, no longer*
21. **ahora** *now*
22. **sin embargo** *nevertheless*
23. **además** *besides, as well*
24. **de repente** *all of a sudden*
25. **todavía** *still, yet*
26. **por fin** *finally, at last*

### (MORE) ADVERBS

27. **así** *like that*
28. **bien** *well, fine*
29. **tan** *so*
30. **también** *also, too*
31. **tampoco** *neither*
32. **antes de** *before*
33. **después de** *after*
34. **siempre** *always*
35. **nunca** *never*
36. **aquí** *here*
37. **allí** *there*
38. **allá** *over there*

39. **solo** *only; alone*
40. **casi** *almost*
41. **hoy** *today*
42. **aún** *even, still, yet*
43. **incluso** *including*
44. **quizás** *maybe*
45. **solamente** *only*
46. **pronto** *soon*
47. **igualmente** *equally*
48. **apenas** *barely, hardly*

### EXPRESSIONS WITH "VEZ"

49. **una vez** *one time, once*
50. **muchas veces** *many times, often*
51. **a veces** *at times, sometimes*
52. **otra vez** *another time, again*
53. **en vez de** *instead of*
54. **tal vez** *perhaps*

### PREPOSITIONS

55. **de** *of, from*
56. **a** *to, at*
57. **en** *in, on*
58. **por** *for, through*
59. **para** *for, in order to*
60. **con** *with*
61. **sin** *without*
62. **hasta** *until*
63. **durante** *during*
64. **desde** *since, from*
65. **contra** *against*
66. **según** *according to*
67. **acerca de** *about, concerning*
68. **a pesar de** *despite*
69. **a causa de** *because of*

### PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

70. **entre** *between*
71. **hacia** *towards*
72. **alrededor de** *around*
73. **junto a** *beside*
74. **al lado de** *next to*
75. **cerca de** *close to*
76. **lejos de** *far from*

77. **sobre** *on, above*
78. **encima de** *over, on top of*
79. **debajo de** *below, beneath*
80. **delante de** *in front of, ahead*
81. **detrás de** *behind*
82. **dentro de** *inside*
83. **fuera de** *outside (of)*
84. **a través de** *through, across*

### QUANTIFIERS/AMOUNTS

85. **más** *more*
86. **muy** *very*
87. **mucho** *a lot*
88. **un poco** *a little*
89. **bastante** *enough, quite*
90. **demasiado** *too much*
91. **tanto** *so much*
92. **todo** *everything, all*
93. **todos** *everybody*
94. **todos los días** *every day*
95. **por todas partes** *everywhere*
96. **nada** *nothing*
97. **algo** *something*
98. **un montón de** *a whole lot of*

### PRONOUNS

99. **yo** *I*
100. **tú** *you (familiar)*
101. **él** *he*
102. **ella** *she*
103. **usted (Ud.)** *you (formal)*
104. **nosotros** *we*
105. **ellos** *they (masculine)*
106. **ellas** *they (feminine)*
107. **ustedes (Uds.)** *you (all)*
108. **alguien** *somebody*
109. **nadie** *nobody*
110. **conmigo** *with me*
111. **contigo** *with you*

QUESTION WORDS

112. **¿Qué?** *What?*  
 113. **¿Quién?** *Who?*  
 114. **¿Por qué?** *Why?*  
 115. **¿Dónde?** *Where?*  
 116. **¿Cómo?** *How?*  
 117. **¿Cuál?** *Which?*  
 118. **¿Cuándo?** *When?*  
 119. **¿Cuántos?** *How many?*

MISCELLANEOUS NOUNS

120. **un rato** *a little while*  
  
 121. **cosa** *thing*  
 122. **palabra** *word*  
 123. **un cuento** *a story*

124. **desayuno** *breakfast*  
 125. **almuerzo** *lunch*  
 126. **cena** *dinner, supper*

127. **la bicicleta** *bicycle*  
 128. **un carro** *a car*  
 129. **el dinero** *money*

130. **la mañana** *the morning*  
 131. **mañana** *tomorrow*  
 132. **la tarde** *the afternoon*  
 133. **la noche** *the evening, night*  
 134. **esta noche** *tonight*

135. **un gato** *a cat*  
 136. **un perro** *a dog*  
 137. **un caballo** *a horse*

PEOPLE

138. **un chico** *a boy*  
 139. **una chica** *a girl*  
 140. **un hombre** *a man*  
 141. **una mujer** *a woman*  
 142. **la familia** *the family*  
 143. **un hermano** *a brother*  
 144. **madre** *mother*  
 145. **padre** *father*  
 146. **un amigo** *a friend*  
 147. **un niño** *a little boy*  
 148. **un policía** *a police officer*

PLACES

149. **la casa** *house*  
 150. **la sala** *living room, big room*  
 151. **el dormitorio** *bedroom*  
 152. **la cocina** *kitchen*  
 153. **la cama** *bed*  
 154. **la calle** *street*  
  
 155. **la escuela** *school*

156. **el campo** *countryside*  
 157. **el país** *country*  
 158. **la montaña** *mountain*  
 159. **el lago** *lake*  
 160. **el mar** *sea*  
 161. **la playa** *beach*

162. **el parque** *park*  
 163. **la ciudad** *city*  
 164. **el pueblo** *town*

ADJECTIVES

165. **bueno** *good*  
 166. **malo** *bad*

167. **mejor** *better, best*  
 168. **mejor que** *better than*

169. **joven** *young*  
 170. **viejo** *old*  
 171. **nuevo** *new*

172. **ese/esa** *that*  
 173. **este/esta** *this*

174. **guapo** *handsome, good-looking*  
 175. **bonito** *pretty*  
 176. **hermoso** *beautiful*  
 177. **chulo** *cute*  
 178. **feo** *ugly*

179. **cada** *each, every*  
 180. **igual** *equal, the same*  
 181. **maravilloso** *marvelous*

182. **triste** *sad*  
 183. **feliz** *happy*  
 184. **contento** *content, happy*

185. **grande** *big*  
 186. **mediano** *medium*  
 187. **pequeño** *small*

188. **delgado** *skinny*  
 189. **gordo** *fat*

190. **chistoso** *funny*  
 191. **cómico** *funny*  
 192. **simpático** *nice*  
 193. **antipático** *mean*

194. **rico** *rich*  
 195. **pobre** *poor*

196. **tonto** *dumb, stupid*  
 197. **loco** *crazy*  
 198. **inteligente** *smart*

199. **enojado** *angry*  
 200. **cansado** *tired*

201. **sucio** *dirty*  
 202. **limpio** *clean*

203. **aburrido** *boring*  
 204. **interesante** *interesting*  
 205. **exigente** *demanding*

206. **suave** *soft, smooth*  
 207. **fuerte** *strong, hard, loud*  
 208. **débil** *weak*

209. **caro** *expensive*  
 210. **gratis** *free*  
 211. **barato** *inexpensive*

212. **lleno** *full*  
 213. **vacío** *empty*

214. **mismo** *same*

215. **menor** *younger*  
 216. **mayor** *older*

217. **fácil** *easy*  
 218. **difícil** *difficult, hard*

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_  
Fecha \_\_\_\_\_  
Clase \_\_\_\_\_

## **PALABRAS IMPORTANTES — STUDENT HANDOUT**

### **IN ORDER OF WORD FREQUENCY      English to Spanish**

*This list is in a different order than the other Palabras Importantes handouts. This one is in the order of word frequency. The lower the frequency number, the more often a word is used. As with the other lists, it does not contain all of the high frequency words in Spanish. The first list is the most useful function words and second list is the nouns and adjectives that are commonly used in Spanish classes. The high frequency verbs are on a different list. The numbering is from A Frequency Dictionary of Spanish, by Mark Davies.*

#### **FUNCTION WORDS = SHORT, ABSTRACT, GRAMMATICAL WORDS—THE SKELETON OF THE LANGUAGE**

Similar to “sight words” in elementary school: High frequency vocabulary that everyone needs to know instantly

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>#1-50 by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. de (#2) _____</li> <li>2. que (#3) _____</li> <li>3. y (#4) _____</li> <li>4. a (#5) _____</li> <li>5. en (#6) _____</li> <li>6. por (#12) _____</li> <li>7. con (#13) _____</li> <li>8. para (#15) _____</li> <li>9. como (#16) _____</li> <li>10. todo (#22) _____</li> <li>11. todos (#22) _____</li> <li>12. todos los días (#22 ) _____</li> <li>13. pero (#23) _____</li> <li>14. más (#24) _____</li> <li>15. o (#26) _____</li> <li>16. si (#34) _____</li> <li>17. ya (#36) _____</li> <li>18. ya no (#36) _____</li> <li>19. porque (#38) _____</li> <li>20. él (#41) _____</li> <li>21. muy (#42) _____</li> <li>22. sin (#43) _____</li> <li>23. una vez (#44) _____</li> <li>24. muchas veces _____</li> <li>25. a veces _____</li> <li>26. otra vez _____</li> <li>27. en vez de _____</li> <li>28. tal vez _____</li> <li>29. mucho (#45) _____</li> <li>30. sobre (#48) _____</li> </ol> <p>-----</p> <p><b>#50-100 by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31. yo (#52) _____</li> <li>32. también (#53) _____</li> <li>33. hasta (#54) _____</li> <li>34. así (#59) _____</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35. entre (#58) _____</li> <li>36. así que (#59) _____</li> <li>37. desde (#61) _____</li> <li>38. por eso (#63) _____</li> <li>39. ni... ni (#64) _____</li> <li>40. ella (#69) _____</li> <li>41. bien (#73) _____</li> <li>42. un poco (#74) _____</li> <li>43. entonces (#76) _____</li> <li>44. tanto (#79) _____</li> <li>45. tan (#83) _____</li> <li>46. ahora (#85) _____</li> <li>47. por todas partes (#86) _____</li> <li>48. después de (#87) _____</li> <li>49. después (#87) _____</li> <li>50. siempre (#90) _____</li> <li>51. nada (#95) _____</li> </ol> <p>-----</p> <p><b>#100-200 by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>52. algo (#101) _____</li> <li>53. solamente (#102) _____</li> <li>54. pues (#105) _____</li> <li>55. sino (#109) _____</li> <li>56. aunque (#117) _____</li> <li>57. hacia (#125) _____</li> <li>58. aquí (#129) _____</li> <li>59. luego (#132) _____</li> <li>60. ellos (#144) _____</li> <li>61. ellas (#144) _____</li> <li>62. casi (#146) _____</li> <li>63. durante (#148) _____</li> <li>64. nunca (#151) _____</li> <li>65. mientras (#154) _____</li> <li>66. por fin (#156) _____</li> <li>67. además (#159) _____</li> <li>68. solo (#160) _____</li> <li>69. hoy (#164) _____</li> <li>70. al lado de (#165) _____</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>71. allí (#169) _____</li> <li>72. contra (#172) _____</li> <li>73. dentro de (#174) _____</li> <li>74. sin embargo (#180) _____</li> <li>75. nosotros (#191) _____</li> </ol> <p>-----</p> <p><b>#200-300 by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76. todavía (#211) _____</li> <li>77. según (#257) _____</li> <li>78. antes de (#236) _____</li> <li>79. usted (Ud.) (#269) _____</li> <li>80. ustedes (Uds.) (#269) _____</li> <li>81. bastante (#270) _____</li> <li>82. tampoco (#279) _____</li> <li>83. aún (#282) _____</li> <li>84. nadie (#283) _____</li> <li>85. incluso (#294) _____</li> <li>86. quizás (#297) _____</li> </ol> <p>-----</p> <p><b>#300-400 by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>87. allá (#324) _____</li> <li>88. demasiado (#335) _____</li> <li>89. a través de (#347) _____</li> <li>90. a pesar de (#366) _____</li> <li>91. cerca de (#391) _____</li> <li>92. pronto (#396) _____</li> </ol> <p>-----</p> <p><b>#400 + by Frequency</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93. encima de (#436) _____</li> <li>94. fuera de (#451) _____</li> <li>95. lejos de (#469) _____</li> <li>96. alguien (#480) _____</li> <li>97. a causa de (#546) _____</li> <li>98. tú (#554) _____</li> <li>99. alrededor de (#556) _____</li> <li>100. apenas (#587) _____</li> <li>101. detrás de (#701) _____</li> <li>102. junto a (#729) _____</li> </ol> |
|---|--|--|



- |                           |                        |                         |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 103. debajo de (#820)     | 133. la tarde (#242)   | 176. pequeño (#184)     |
| 104. delante de (#885)    | 134. la calle (#248)   | 177. igual (#239)       |
| 105. más tarde (#1046)    | 135. un amigo (#262)   | 178. malo (#275)        |
| 106. acerca de (#1288)    | 136. madre (#278)      | 179. viejo (#281)       |
| 107. igualmente (#1431)   | 137. el dinero (#291)  | 180. difícil (#314)     |
| 108. conmigo (#1845)      | 138. el campo (#295)   | 181. menor (#334)       |
| 109. un montón de (#1946) | 139. la mañana (#401)  | 182. pobre (#373)       |
|                           | 140. un policía (#506) | 183. joven (#442)       |
| 110. de repente (#2183)   | 141. la escuela (#532) | 184. lleno (#508)       |
| 111. contigo (#3017)      | 142. un hermano (#539) | 185. fácil (#514)       |
|                           | 143. el mar (#645)     | 186. rico (#627)        |
|                           | 144. un caballo (#780) | 187. interesante (#762) |

**QUESTION WORDS**

(In order of frequency)

- |                          |                            |                          |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 112. ¿Qué? (#47)         | 145. la sala (#811)        | 188. feliz (#956)        |
| 113. ¿Por qué? (#12, 47) | 146. un perro (#939)       | 189. fuerte (#1010)      |
| 114. ¿Cómo? (#126)       | 147. un chico (#1079)      | 190. hermoso (#1224)     |
| 115. ¿Quién? (#292)      | 148. la cama (#1185)       | 191. débil (#1284)       |
| 116. ¿Cuál? (#395)       | 149. la montaña (#1212)    | 192. triste (#1314)      |
| 117. ¿Dónde? (#421)      | 150. mañana (#1235)        | 193. loco (#1377)        |
| 118. ¿Cuántos? (#723)    | 151. un cuento (#1357)     | 194. limpio (#1397)      |
| 119. ¿Cuándo? (#1199)    | 152. un gato (#1412)       | 195. inteligente (#1447) |
|                          | 153. un rato (#1478)       | 196. barato (#1470)      |
|                          | 154. la cocina (#1673)     | 197. vacío (#1532)       |
|                          | 155. la playa (#1713)      | 198. contento (#1647)    |
|                          | 156. el parque (#1760)     | 199. bonito (#1707)      |
|                          | 157. un carro (#1871)      | 200. maravilloso (#1743) |
|                          | 158. una chica (#1907)     | 201. caro (#1876)        |
|                          | 159. el lago (#2680)       | 202. sucio (#1994)       |
|                          | 160. cena (#2971)          | 203. cansado (#2147)     |
|                          | 161. almuerzo (#3104)      | 204. tonto (#2191)       |
|                          | 162. desayuno (#3157)      | 205. gordo (#2217)       |
|                          | 163. el dormitorio (#3382) | 206. feo (#2381)         |
|                          | 164. la bicicleta (#3955)  | 207. simpático (#2590)   |

• Many of the nouns and adjectives below are NOT high frequency words.

• They are on this list because they are interesting and/or useful in language class.

• These words are included in most standard language programs.

[ ] = Words not in the top 800 most frequent Spanish words  
 (\*\*\*) = Words not in top 5,000

**COMMON SPANISH CLASS****NOUNS**

(in order of frequency)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 120. cosa (#78)        | 165. este/esta (#29)  |
| 121. un hombre (#80)   | 166. ese/esa (#32)    |
| 122. la casa (#116)    | 167. mismo (#51)      |
| 123. una mujer (#127)  | 168. grande (#62)     |
| 124. el país (#133)    | 169. suave (#84)      |
| 125. un niño (#178)    | 170. cada (#96)       |
| 126. palabra (#176)    | 171. nuevo (#99)      |
| 127. padre (#182)      | 172. bueno (#115)     |
| 128. la noche (#196)   | 173. mejor (#121)     |
| 129. la ciudad (#197)  | 174. mejor que (#121) |
| 130. esta noche (#196) | 175. mayor (#138)     |
| 131. familia (#201)    |                       |
| 132. pueblo (#241)     |                       |

**COMMON SPANISH CLASS****ADJECTIVES**

(in order of frequency)

- |                       |
|-----------------------|
| 210. mediano (#3103)  |
| 211. cómico (#3485)   |
| 212. exigente (#3530) |
| 213. guapo (#4140)    |
| 214. chulo (***)      |
| 215. chistoso (***)   |
| 216. antipático (***) |
| 217. enojado (***)    |
| 218. gratis (***)     |



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