

Learn Spanish

Lesson 1

Spanish courses London

Private Spanish tuition, small group Spanish courses and in-company language training

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International words or “cognados”

festival	internacional	cine
música	profesión	social
economía	octubre	patio
fiesta	educación	café
clase	picnic	restaurante

Words that are similar in Spanish and English are called cognates or “cognados” in Spanish.

Task

I. Get a copy of the Spanish newspaper El Pais (or read it online on <http://www.elpais.es>) and look for 10 cognados. The next time you do this activity you may organise a word map using as many categories as you need: society, politics, culture, tourism, etc.

Using cognados

There are about 4.000 cognados. If you start recognizing them, you already have an intermediate level vocabulary.

II. Combine cognados with question words to start asking simple questions:

¿Qué festival es?

What festival is it?

¿Dónde está el restaurante?

Where is the restaurant? (Here “está” is used to refer to place, location).

¿Qué música escuchas?

What music do you listen to?

¿Cuál es tu teléfono?

“Which” is your telephone number?

Write 3 more questions that can be useful in your daily life. This means the phrases have to be meaningful, autobiographical and true to be relevant.

III. Now combine verbs in present tense with cognados:

Quiero un café.

I want a coffee.

Pablo está en el patio.

Pablo is in the patio.

Me interesa la economía.

I'm interested in economics.

Using the words you have found in the newspaper, write 5 more sentences.

IV. Practise these questions and sentences saying them to a Spanish speaking neighbor, friend or colleague.

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