

COGNATES

Cognates are words in two languages that share similar meaning, spelling, and pronunciation. English has many cognates because it is mostly a Germanic language, but is also very influenced by Latin-based or Romance languages like Spanish, French, and Italian.

If you are studying English as you are now, you may recognize a word because you know its cognate in Spanish. This helps you learn the language because you may be able to understand a lot of what you are reading or studying even if you do not know all the words.

There are three types of cognates that are easy to recognize:

1. Words that are spelled exactly the same.
2. Words that are spelled slightly differently.
3. Words that are spelled differently but sound similar.

WORDS THAT ARE SPELLED EXACTLY THE SAME

ENGLISH	SPANISH
Accidental	Accidental
Animal	Animal
Banana	Banana
Cable	Cable
Cereal	Cereal

WORDS THAT ARE SPELLED SLIGHTLY DIFFERENTLY

ENGLISH	SPANISH
Restaurant	Restaurante
Music	Música
Group	Grupo

Camera	Cámara
Information	Información

WORDS THAT ARE SPELLED DIFFERENTLY BUT SOUND SIMILAR

ENGLISH	SPANISH
Equal	Igual
Hypothesis	Hipótesis
Garden	Jardín
Initial	Inicial
Photograph	Fotografía

REFERENCE:

Texas Gateway for online resources by TEA. (n.d.). Cognates (English II Reading). Retrieved from:
<https://texasgateway.org/resource/cognates-english-ii-reading>

