

75 Words Beginners Don't Realize They Need

Many Spanish learners focus heavily on nouns (words that name things, people, or concepts). However, their conversations often sound unnatural because they overlook adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and phrases that **add detail** and **connect ideas**. Below, you'll find 75 words to help improve this aspect of your Spanish.

1. **Siempre** - Always
2. **Al menos** - At least
3. **Incluso** - Even
4. **Según** - According to
5. **Todavía** - Still
6. **Sólo** - Only

Siempre corro **al menos** diez minutos. **Incluso** si está lloviendo.
I always run at least ten minutes. Even if it's raining.

Según yo, Juan **todavía** trabaja los fines de semana, pero **sólo** en las mañanas.
According to me, Juan still works on the weekends, but only in the mornings.

Synonyms: a) Al menos b) Por lo menos

7. **En** - In/On/At
8. **Hoy** - Today
9. **Todo el día** - Every day

Juan está **en** una reunión. De hecho, **hoy** va a estar **en** la oficina **todo el día**. Pero puedes dejarle ese reporte **en** su escritorio.
Juan is in a meeting. In fact, today, he's going to be at the office all day. But you can leave that report on his desk.

Take Note: In Spanish, the preposition *en* is used to talk about parts of the day and it also expresses location.

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10. **Entonces** - Then/So 11. **También** - Too/Also/As well 12. **Tarde** - Late

Entonces is a common Spanish word used to express consequences, but it can also serve as a time marker for the imperfect tense:

Entonces, hoy **también** va a llegar **tarde**.
So, he's also going to be late today.

En ese **entonces** Cecilia todavía no conocía a Juan.
Back then, Cecilia didn't know Juan yet.

In the previous example, **también** adds information to an affirmative statement but can also show agreement. Its opposite, **tampoco**, serves the same purpose but is used with negative statements:

13. **Tampoco** - Neither/Nor 14. **Cerca** - Near/Close by 15. **Lejos** - Far

No vivo **cerca**, pero **tampoco** vivo **lejos**.
I don't live nearby, but I don't live far away either.

16. **Muy** - Very/Too

17. **Tan** - That/So/As...as

No vivo **muy** cerca, pero tampoco vivo **tan** lejos.
I don't live very close, but I don't live that far away either.

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Muy and *tan* are Spanish adverbs and, as such, they intensify the qualities that other adverbs or adjectives describe. *Tan* is also used in comparisons. Do not confuse it with *tanto*:

18. **Tanto** - As much/So much/That much

19. **Aunque** - Although /Even if

20. **Temprano** - Early

Aunque ya no trabajo *tanto*, me sigo despertando muy *temprano*.
Although I don't work as much anymore, I still wake up very early.

21. **Apenas** - Barely/Just

22. **Mañana** - Tomorrow

23. **Anoche** - Last night

Apenas llegamos *anoche* y *mañana* tenemos que ir a trabajar.
We just arrived last night, and tomorrow we have to go to work.

24. **Ayer** - Yesterday

25. **Antier** - The day before yesterday

26. **Pasado mañana** - The day after tomorrow

27. **Después** - After

28. **Quizá(s)** - Maybe

29. **Ni** - Neither/No

Toby no vino *ayer ni antier*, pero *pasado mañana* tiene más tiempo. *Quizás* va a venir *después* de la escuela.

Toby didn't come yesterday or the day before, but the day after tomorrow he has more time. Maybe he will come after school.

Take Note: As a conjunction, *ni* helps you connect two elements in a negative statement.

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30. **Desde** - Since/From

31. **Pero** - But/For

32. **Pronto** - Soon

Desde expresses the starting point of an action and you can combine it with the preterite, present, and future tenses:

Trabajo aquí **desde** el año pasado, **pero** voy a cambiar de trabajo muy **pronto**.
I've worked here since last year, but I'm going to switch jobs very soon.

33. **Sino** - But/Except

34. **Adentro** - Inside

35. **Afuera** - Outside/Out

El bote de basura no va **adentro** de la casa, **sino afuera**.
The trash can doesn't go inside the house, but outside.

Take Note: 'Sino' is used in negative statements to correct inaccurate information.

36. **Abajo** - Below/Downstairs

37. **Bajo** - Under/Quietly

38. **Sin embargo** - However

La vecina de **abajo** dice que hacemos mucho ruido. **Sin embargo**, hablamos muy **bajo**.

The neighbor downstairs says we make a lot of noise. However, we speak very quietly.

39. **Encima** - On top/On top of/Around the corner

40. **Lento** - Slow

41. **Bien** - Well

Encima de que trabajas muy **lento**, no haces las cosas **bien**.
On top of working very slowly, you don't do things well.

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As an **adverb**, *bien* describes how an action is done. But it can also be used to emphasize qualities.

Comes *bien* rápido.
You eat very fast.

42. **Aquí** - Here 43. **Allá** - There 44. **Atrás** - Behind 45. **Así** - Like this/This way

Las flores no van *aquí*, van *allá*, *atrás* del frutero. Ponlas *así*.
The flowers don't go here; they go over there, behind the fruit bowl. Place them like this.

Synonyms: a) *Atrás* b) *Detrás*

46. **Casi** - Almost 47. **Mientras** - In the meantime 48. **Enfrente** - In front

Ya *casi* llego, pero por *mientras*, espérame *enfrente* del parque.
I'm almost there, but in the meantime, wait for me in front of the park.

Take Note: '*Mientras*' is never directly followed by a gerund.

49. **Cuando** - When

50. **Más** - More

51. **Antes** - Before

52. **Además** - In addition/Besides

Cuando tiene *más* tiempo, Marta prepara de comer *antes* de irse a trabajar. Esto la relaja mucho y, *además*, tiene comida para la semana.

When she has more time, Marta prepares meals before going to work. This relaxes her a lot, and she also has food for the week.

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53. **Poco** - Little/Not much

54. **Durante** - During/For

55. **Alrededor** - Around/About

56. **Luego** - Late

In Spanish, *alrededor* expresses location, but it can also indicate **approximate amounts** (such as time, money, or distance).

Camino *alrededor* de la escuela.

I walk around the school.

Durante los veranos mi prima trabaja muy *poco*. Después, lee *alrededor* de dos horas y, *luego*, ve la tele.

During the summers, my cousin works very little. After that, she reads for about two hours and then watches TV.

57. **Al lado** - Next to

58. **A la derecha** - During/For

59. **Derecho** - Straight

Al lado de la panadería hay una tienda de helados. Y *a la derecha* del banco está la biblioteca. Si caminas *derecho* por dos cuadras, vas a llegar al museo.

Next to the bakery, there is an ice cream shop. And to the right of the bank, there is the library. If you walk straight for two blocks, you will reach the museum.

Los vecinos de *al lado* son muy amables.

The neighbors next door are very nice.

Antonyms: a) A la derecha b) A la izquierda

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60. **A veces** - Sometimes 61. **Adelante** - In front/Forward 62. **Mal** - Badly/Bad
63. **Nunca** - Never 64. **Entre** - Between

A veces, Antonio se estaciona **adelante** de mí y siempre se estaciona **mal**. **Nunca** deja su carro **entre** las líneas.

Sometimes, Antonio parks in front of me and always parks badly. He never leaves his car between the lines.

Synonyms: a) Delante b) adelante

Take Note: As an adjective, *mal* goes before singular masculine nouns.

Rocío está teniendo un **mal** día.

Rocío is having a bad day.

65. **Actualmente** - Currently/Nowadays 66. **Menos** - Less/Except
67. **Nada** - Nothing (at all) 68. **Por fin** - Finally

Actualmente, Miguel no hace **nada** en las tardes porque, **por fin**, está trabajando **menos**.

Currently, Miguel does nothing in the afternoons because, finally, he is working less.

Me gustan mucho los animales **menos** los gatos.

I really like animals except for cats.

75 Key Spanish Words Lesson Notes



69. **En realidad** - Actually

70. **Ahora** - Now/Right now

71. **Rápido** - Fast

72. **Que** - That/Who/Which

73. **Despacio** - Slowly/Quiet/Softly

En realidad, Nadia habla muy **rápido**, pero **ahora que** es maestra tiene que hablar más **despacio**.

Actually, Nadia speaks very quickly, but now that she's a teacher, she has to speak more slowly.

Take Note: 'Despacio' can also refer to something or someone's volume.

La bebé está dormida, ¡habla más **despacio**!

The baby is asleep, speak more quietly!

74. Como

Below are some of the most common applications of the word *como*:

a. Compare

Quiero un perro **como** el tuyo.

I want a dog like yours.

b. Role & Function

Usé mi teléfono **como** regla.

I used my phone as a ruler.

c. Manner

Hice las galletas **como** me dijiste, pero se me quemaron.

I made the cookies as you told me to, but they burned.



d. Cause

Como Mayra está enojada, Eva no la invitó a su fiesta.
Since Mayra is angry, Eva didn't invite her to the party.

e. Approximate amounts

Llevo viviendo aquí **como** tres años.
I've been living here for about three years.

75. Ya

Below are some of the most common applications of the word *como*:

a. **Already**

Ya terminé el libro.
I already finished the book.

b. **Now**

Ya dame mi teléfono.
Give me my phone now.

c. **Enough!**

¡Ya! No me dejan escuchar.
Enough! I can't listen!



d. Later/Soon

Ya tendremos tiempo de descansar, pero por ahora tenemos que trabajar.
We'll have time to rest later, but for now, we have to work.

e. Intensify

Ya sé.
I know.

Ya veré que hago.
I'll figure out what to do.

f. Surprise/Disbelief

-No pude venir porque estaba ocupadísima.
-Ya

Resources

- [This YouTube Video: 75 Spanish Words Beginners Don't Realize They Need](#)
- [YouTube Playlist: Spanish Vocabulary Lessons](#)