

## QUICK TIDBITS

- ✓ When writing the word **más** (more), you should always write an accent mark. While the word **mas** (no accent), does exist, it is an archaic conjunction, (but), that you will not use.
- ✓ To make words that end in a stressed vowel plural, add **-es**: **hindú** → **hindúes**
- ✓ Writing a letter home to parents? When you begin your letter change the comma to a colon. Compare:  

<u>English</u>	<u>Spanish</u>
Dear Parents,	Estimados padres:
- ✓ Official titles are not capitalized, only the proper noun. Compare:  

<u>English</u>	<u>Spanish</u>
President Bush	el presidente Bush
- ✓ If a proper name INCLUDES an article, it, too, should be capitalized, as in **El Paso**, **Las Vegas**, **Los Ángeles**.
- ✓ Compound words are masculine and do not have a plural form;  
**el cumpleaños** and **los cumpleaños**      **el sacapuntas** and **los sacapuntas**
- ✓ Words that have been “borrowed” from other languages tend to be masculine.  
**el sofá**    **el kleenex**    **el jazz**    **el software**
- ✓ Both **el Internet** and **la Internet** are correct. **El Internet** is more common.
- ✓ The words **agua**, **acta** and **asma** are feminine nouns that take the masculine, singular article, **el**. Be cautious of adjective agreement: **el agua fría**    **el asma severa**
- ✓ When your translation includes animals, most do not need to be gender specific if the animal is undomesticated or wild. For example, if you are translating a sentence with the word ‘fox,’ you will write **el zorro**, because the noun is inherently masculine. If you need to be specific, however, and translate ‘a female fox,’ you will then write **un zorro hembra**. By contrast, if you needed to translate ‘a male hare,’ you will write **una liebre macho**. Exceptions to this are made when there is a separate word for the male and female, for example; **el toro** versus **la vaca**    **el pollo** versus **la gallina**, etc.
- ✓ To form the plural of nouns and adjectives that end in the letter **-z**, change the **-z** to **-c** before adding **-es**: **feliz** becomes **felices**, **lápiz** becomes **lápices**, etc.
- ✓ **Substituto** is **NOT** a word in Spanish. The correct Spanish word is **sustituto**.
- ✓ **Circular** means “to circulate.” When requesting that parents “circle one” on a school document or form, use “**poner un círculo**,” or “**trazar un círculo**”(trazar- to draw)
- ✓ **Nuevo** before the noun means ‘another.’ **Tengo nuevo libro**. (I have another book). **Nuevo** after the noun means ‘new.’      **Tengo un libro nuevo**. (I have a new book).
- ✓ While **absentismo** is a Spanish word (used instead of **ausentismo** primarily in Spain), **absente** is **NOT** a word in Spanish. The correct Spanish word is **ausente**.
- ✓ **Investigación** means investigation, but it is also the Spanish word for ‘research.’
- ✓ The dieresis or umlaut, (that diacritical mark that occasionally appears over a **-ü** in Spanish) is called ‘**una diéresis**’ or ‘**una crema**.’ While it does not occur with a lot of frequency, it is important to include it in such words as **bilingüe**, **lingüística**, **vergüenza**, etc. The dieresis gives the word its inherent sound of {gwe} and {gwi}.

## More Considerations

Be careful with adjectives that express nationalities. Remember that, unlike English, they are **not** capitalized. With so many families of different nationalities in our school system today, it is important to translate these adjectives correctly. You should also make sure that they follow the rules for modification. If they end in a vowel, there are four forms (ending in either **-o**, **-a**, **-os** or **-as**). If the adjective ends in a **consonant**, an **-a** is added to reflect the feminine gender. If ending in **-e**, no gender is reflected. Here is a list of some of the more commonly used adjectives of nationality.

<b>American</b>	-	<b>estadounidense; norteamericano</b> (commonly used in Mexico)
<b>Asian</b>	-	<b>asiático</b>
<b>Canadian</b>	-	<b>canadiense</b>
<b>Chinese</b>	-	<b>chino</b>
<b>Costa Rican</b>	-	<b>costarricense</b>
<b>Dominican</b>	-	<b>dominicano</b>
<b>Ecuadorian</b>	-	<b>ecuatoriano</b>
<b>Guatemalan</b>	-	<b>guatemalteco</b>
<b>Honduran</b>	-	<b>hondureño</b>
<b>Indian</b>	-	<b>indio</b>
<b>Korean</b>	-	<b>coreano</b>
<b>Laotian</b>	-	<b>laosiano</b>
<b>Mexican</b>	-	<b>mexicano</b>
<b>Native American</b>	-	<b>indígena (m./f.)</b>
<b>Nicaraguan</b>	-	<b>nicaragüense</b>
<b>Panamanian</b>	-	<b>panameño</b>
<b>Paraguayan</b>	-	<b>paraguayo</b>
<b>Salvadorian</b>	-	<b>salvadoreño</b>
<b>Taiwanese</b>	-	<b>taiwanés</b>
<b>Thai</b>	-	<b>tailandés</b>
<b>Puerto Rican</b>	-	<b>puertorriqueño</b>
<b>Uruguayan</b>	-	<b>uruguayo</b>
<b>Vietnamese</b>	-	<b>vietnamita</b>



**Reminder:** The proper noun is always capitalized. Example, **Costa Rica, Panamá**, etc.



**THINK ABOUT IT:** As often as we use the word *migrante*, some Spanish-English dictionaries and Spanish dictionaries (including the dictionary of *The Academia Real Española*), do not yet consider *migrante* a Spanish word! See if you can find it in your dictionary.

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Labor Day	el día de los trabajadores; el Día de Trabajo
Thanksgiving Day	el día de Acción de Gracias
Christmas	la Navidad
New Year's Day	el día de Año Nuevo
Martin Luther King Day	el día de Martin Luther King
Presidents' Day	el día de los presidentes
Good Friday	el Viernes Santo
Easter	la Pascua
Memorial Day	el día conmemorativo



## A

ADA	-	la Ley de Americanos con Discapacidades (f.)
API	-	Indice de Funcionamiento Académico (m.)
ASAP	-	tan pronto como sea posible
AYP (Annual Yearly Progress)	-	progreso anual adecuado
ability	-	capacidad (f.); habilidad (f.)
above average	-	por arriba del promedio; por encima de la media
absence	-	ausencia
absent	-	ausente
absentminded	-	distraído/a; despistado/a
absorbent cotton	-	algodón absorbente (m.)
abstract reasoning	-	razonamiento abstracto
abuse	-	abuso
academic achievement	-	logros académicos; rendimiento académico
academic achievement award	-	premio por logros académicos
academic performance	-	desempeño académico
academic scholarship	-	beca académica
ace (in a deck of cards)	-	as (m.)
achievement	-	logro
acronym	-	sigla
active learning	-	aprendizaje activo (m.)
adaptive behavior	-	conducta adaptativa
adaptive skills	-	habilidades de adaptación (f.)
adhesive tape	-	cinta adhesiva
adjusted gross income	-	ingresos brutos ajustados
administrator	-	administrador/a
adult education	-	educación para adultos (f.)
advisory opinion	-	opinión consultiva (f.)
advocate	-	asesor legal (m./f.); defensor/a; persona que aboga (m./f)
affidavit	-	declaración jurada (f.)
after school program	-	programa realizado después de las horas de clase (m.)
age appropriate activities	-	actividades apropiadas para las diferentes edades (f.)
age norm	-	norma de edad (f.)
age requirements	-	requisitos de edad
age waiver	-	excepción de edad (f.)
agreement	-	acuerdo
Alice in Wonderland	-	Alicia en el país de las maravillas
alley	-	callejón (m.)
allowance	-	asignación (f.); domingo (Mexico)
almanac	-	almanaque (m.)
amber	-	ámbar
American Red Cross	-	La Cruz Roja Americana
Americans with Disabilities Act	-	el Acta de los Norteamericanos con Discapacidades (f.)
apostrophe	-	apóstrofo
applesauce	-	puré de manzanas (m.); compota de manzanas
appointment	-	cita
archery	-	tiro al arco; tiro con arco
armrest	-	apoyabrazos (m.)
art supplies	-	materiales de arte (m.); artículos de arte
assembly	-	asamblea; reunión (f.)
assessment	-	evaluación (f.)
Assistant Principal	-	asistente al director (m./f.); asistente a la directora (m./f.)
asterisk	-	asterisco
asthmatic	-	asmático/a
athletic scholarship	-	beca atlética
atlas	-	atlas (m.)
attendance	-	asistencia
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)	-	Trastorno por Déficit de la Atención (m.)

