

PALABRAS IMPORTANTES INSTRUCTOR HANDOUT

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 class)

(#) = 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?

• 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.

• Many of these words are included in standard curricula.

[] = Words NOT in the top 800 most frequent Spanish words
 (***) = 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 HANDOUT

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 = ABSTRACT GRAMMATICAL MARKER WORDS

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

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>#1-50 by Frequency</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. de (#2) of, from 2. que (#3) that 3. y (#4) and 4. a (#5) to, at 5. en (#6) in, on 6. por (#12) for, through 7. con (#13) with 8. para (#15) for, in order to 9. como (#16) like, as 10. todo (#22) everything, all 11. todos (#22) everybody 12. todos los días (#22) every day 13. pero (#23) but 14. más (#24) more 15. o (#26) or 16. si (#34) if 17. ya (#36) already, now 18. ya no (#36) not anymore, no longer 19. porque (#38) because 20. él (#41) he 21. muy (#42) very 22. sin (#43) without 23. una vez (#44) one time, once 24. muchas veces many times, often 25. a veces at times, sometimes 26. otra vez another time, again 27. en vez de instead of 28. tal vez perhaps 29. mucho (#45) a lot, much 30. sobre (#48) on, above <p>-----</p> <p>#50-100 by Frequency</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 31. yo (#52) I 32. también (#53) also 33. hasta (#54) until 34. así (#59) like that 35. entre (#58) between 36. así que (#59) so 37. desde (#61) since, from 38. por eso (#63) so, for this reason 39. ni... ni (#64) neither... nor | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 40. ella (#69) she 41. bien (#73) well, fine 42. un poco (#74) a little 43. entonces (#76) then, so 44. tanto (#79) so much 45. tan (#83) so 46. ahora (#85) now 47. por todas partes (#86) everywhere 48. después de (#87) after 49. después (#87) afterwards, then 50. siempre (#90) always 51. nada (#95) nothing <p>-----</p> <p>#100-200 by Frequency</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 52. algo (#101) something 53. solo (#102; #160) only, just; lonely 54. pues (#105) then, well 55. sino (#109) except, rather 56. aunque (#117) although 57. hacia (#125) towards 58. aquí (#129) here 59. luego (#132) then, later 60. ellos (#144) they (m) 61. ellas (#144) they (f) 62. casi (#146) almost 63. durante (#148) during 64. nunca (#151) never 65. mientras (#154) while 66. por fin (#156) finally, at last 67. además (#159) besides, as well 68. hoy (#164) today 69. al lado de (#165) next to 70. allí (#169) there 71. contra (#172) against 72. dentro de (#174) inside 73. sin embargo (#180) nevertheless 74. nosotros (#191) we <p>-----</p> <p>#200-300 by Frequency</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 75. todavía (#211) still, yet 76. según (#257) according to 77. antes de (#236) before | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 78. usted (Ud.) (#269) you (formal) 79. ustedes (Uds.) (#269) you (all) 80. bastante (#270) enough, quite 81. tampoco (#279) neither 82. aún (#282) still, yet 83. nadie (#283) nobody 84. incluso (#294) including 85. quizás (#297) maybe <p>-----</p> <p>#300-400 by Frequency</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 86. allá (#324) over there 87. demasiado (#335) too much 88. solamente (#336) only 89. a través de (#347) through, across 90. a pesar de (#366) in spite of 91. cerca de (#391) close to 92. pronto (#396) soon <p>-----</p> <p>#400 + by Frequency</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 93. encima de (#436) over, on top of 94. fuera de (#451) outside (of) 95. lejos de (#469) far from 96. alguien (#480) somebody 97. a causa de (#546) because of 98. tú (#554) you (familiar) 99. alrededor de (#556) around 100. apenas (#587) barely, hardly 101. detrás de (#701) behind 102. junto a (#729) beside |
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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
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- 131. la familia (#201) the family
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- 139. la mañana (#401) the morning
- 140. un policía (#506) police officer
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- 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 CLASS 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
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- 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
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- 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

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