

Enrich your vocabulary through Spanish



Learning a foreign language will help you communicate with people of other nationalities. It will also help you improve your knowledge of English. As you have certainly noticed by now, there are many Spanish words which closely resemble English words. Many others are related, although the connection may not immediately be as obvious.

For example, in this chapter you learned the numbers. Maybe you didn't understand them all at first, but you could figure out many of them. Perhaps you remembered that **cuatro** meant "four" because you thought of the English words "quart" ($\frac{1}{4}$ gallon) and "quarter" ($\frac{1}{4}$ dollar).

As you progress through this book, you will note more and more similarities between Spanish and English. These workbook sections, titled "Enrich your vocabulary through Spanish," will help you expand your knowledge of English while making it easier for you to remember the meanings of Spanish words.

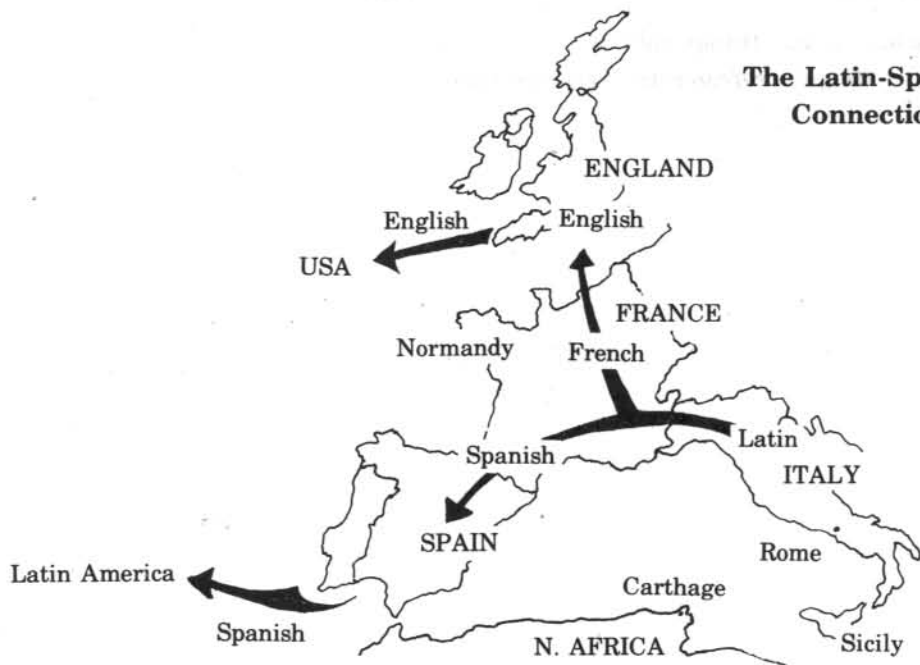
English and Spanish: The Latin Connection

Why are there similarities between so many English and Spanish words? The reason is that many words in both languages have the same Latin roots.

To understand the linguistic connection which exists between Spanish and English, we have to go back in history to the second century B.C. At that time, Rome was engaged in a fierce war against Carthage, an ancient city in North Africa which then controlled Sicily and Spain. Carthage lost and had to relinquish Spain to Rome. In order to reach Spain by land, the Roman troops had to go through the southern part of France — Provence — which they also colonized. By the end of the first century A.D., Roman control over the western part of the

Mediterranean was complete. Roman rule brought political unity, law, and economic prosperity. It also brought a common language: Latin.

The Spanish which is spoken today is directly derived from the Latin dialect spoken centuries ago in Spain. Another Latin dialect, spoken in France, became French. Although Romans occupied England for three centuries beginning in 43 A.D., most everyday words of Latin origin entered the spoken English language through French, with the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. This explains why there are many words of Latin origin in the English language. If English and Spanish are related, it is through this common Latin connection.



Most Spanish words relating to weather come directly from Latin. Many English words are related to these same Latin roots. Match the English words in parentheses with their corresponding definitions.

1. **viento** (from the Latin **ventus**: *wind*)

- a. an opening through which air may escape: a _____
- b. a fan for moving air: a _____
- c. to admit fresh air: to _____
(ventilate vent ventilator)

2. **sol** (from the Latin **sol**: *sun*)

- a. energy from the sun: _____ energy
- b. the longest day of the year, when the sun is highest in the sky: the summer

- c. a very sunny room or gallery: a _____
(solar solarium solstice)

3. **calor** (from the Latin **calor**: *heat*)

- a. an apparatus for measuring heat: a _____
- b. the amount of heat needed to raise the temperature of one gram of water by 1°
centigrade: a _____
- c. name of a stove which generates heat: a _____ range
(caloric calorie calorimeter)

4. **frío** (from the Latin **frigidus**: *cold*)

- a. very cold water: _____ water
- b. to keep foods cold: to _____ foods
- c. an appliance which keeps things cold: a _____
(frigid refrigerate refrigerator)