

NCEA Level 1 Spanish Revised Vocabulary List 2025 Easy-print PDF version

Updated NCEA Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Vocabulary Lists for Asian and European languages were published on the NCEA Education website in December 2024.

Below is the revised Level 1 Spanish Vocabulary List that should be used with students in 2025 (and thereafter).

The Vocabulary List indicates language which will guide the setting of Level 1 Spanish external assessments. Words outside of the approved Vocabulary List will be glossed if their meaning is not evident from the text.

The vocabulary lists belong to the Ministry of Education. The list in this document has been **formatted by NZALT** to make it easier for teachers to print and photocopy for students. NZALT has provided two versions:

1. A PDF that can be printed and photocopied for students.
2. A Word document for teachers who would like to do further formatting.

This version of the vocabulary list is arranged by **grammatical category**.

The complete (and authoritative) alphabetical list can be found online (in several configurations) [here](#).

Alternatively, you can navigate to the revised vocabulary lists by following this pathway:

ncea.education.govt.nz > New Zealand Curriculum > Learning Languages: Spanish > Teaching

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Cognates or near cognates			
Nouns			
	Article	Spanish	English
A	los	ancestros	ancestors
	(el)	arte	Art (school subject)
	el	atletismo	athletics
	el	autobús (Sp)/el bus (LA)	bus
B	la	bicicleta	bike
	la	botella	bottle
C	el	café	coffee
	el	celular (LA)/el móvil (Sp)	mobile phone
	el	centro	centre, downtown
	el	ciclismo	cycling
	(las)	ciencias	Sciences (school subject)
	el	cine	cinema, movies
	la	clase	class
	el	concierto	concert
	el	curso	course, school year
D	el	descendiente	descendant
	la	discoteca	disco
	el	director	director, school principal
E	el	ejercicio	exercise
	el	esquí	skiing
	la	estación	station, season
	el	estómago	stomach
	el	estudiante	student
F	la	familia	family
	la	farmacia	pharmacy, chemist
	la	frase	sentence
	la	fruta	fruit
	el	funeral	funeral
	el	fútbol	soccer, football
G	la	generación	generation
	(la)	geografía	Geography (school subject)
	la	gimnasia	gymnastics
H	(la)	historia	history, History (school subject)
I	la	identidad	identity
	el	interés	interest
J	el	jardín	garden
M	(las)	matemáticas	Maths, Mathematics (school subject)
	la	medicina	medicine
	el	mensaje	message
	el	momento	moment
	la	moto, motocicleta	motorbike
	el	museo	museum

	(la)	música	Music (school subject)
N	la	nacionalidad	nationality
	el	norte	north
		Nueva Zelanda/ia	New Zealand
	el	número	number
O	la	oficina	office
P	el	paquete	package
	la	parte	part, share
	el	patio	patio, playground
	la	persona	person
	la	personalidad	personality
	la	policía	police
	el	problema	problem
	el	programa	programme
	los	protocolos	protocols
	los	proverbios	proverbs
R	la	reserva	booking, reservation
	los	rituales	rituals
S	el	santo	saint
	el	supermercado	supermarket
T	las	tapas	tapas, bar snacks
	el	té	tea
	el	teatro	theatre
	la	terrace	terrace, patio
	la	tostada	toast
	la	tradición oral	oral tradition
	el	tren	train
	el	turista	tourist
U	la	universidad	university
V	las	vacaciones	vacation, holiday
	el	voleibol	volleyball

Cognates or near cognates	
Verbs	
Spanish	English
celebrar	to celebrate
decidir	to decide
invitar	to invite
practicar	to practice, to do (sport/activity)
repetir	to repeat
visitar	to visit

Cognates or near cognates	
Adjectives and adverbs	
Spanish	English
común	common
falso	false
finalmente	finally
increíble	incredible
inmediatamente	immediately
latinoamericano/de América Latina	Latin American
magnífico	magnificent, great
neozelandés	New Zealander, of New Zealand
práctico	practical
precioso	precious, valuable, beautiful
prohibido	prohibited, forbidden
puntual	punctual
rápido	rapid, fast
varios	various, several

Cognates or near cognates	
Other useful words and expressions	
Spanish	English
por ejemplo	for example

Non-cognates

Nouns

	Article	Spanish	English	
A	el	abuelo	grandfather	
	el	aceite	oil	
	el	adiós	goodbye	
	el	agua	water	
	el	amor	love	
	el	amigo	friend	
	los	anteojos(LA)/las gafas (Sp)	glasses	
	los	antepasados	ancestors	
	el	año	year	
	el	apellido	last name, surname	
	el	árbol	tree	
	el	arroz	rice	
	la	asignatura (Sp)/la materia (LA)	school subject	
	el	aula	classroom	
	el	avión	aeroplane	
	B	el	balón	ball (football, basketball, etc)
el		baloncesto	basketball	
el		baño	bath, bathroom	
el		barco	boat	
el		barrio	neighbourhood	
la		basura	rubbish	
la		bebida	drink	
la		biblioteca	library	
la		bienvenida	welcome	
el		billete	ticket, bank note	
la		boca	mouth	
el		bocadillo	sandwich (Sp), snack (LA)	
el		bolígrafo	ballpoint pen	
la		bolsa	bag	
el		bosque	forest	
la		bota	boot	
el		brazo	arm	
C		el	caballo	horse
		la	cabeza	head
	la	caja	box, cash register	
	el	calcetín	sock	
	la	calle	street	
	el	calor	heat, hot	
	la	cama	bed	
	el	camarero	waiter	
	la	camisa	shirt	
	la	camiseta	T-shirt	
	el	campo	countryside, field	
	la	canción	song	

	la	cara	face
	la	carne	meat
	el	carro (LA)/el coche (Sp)	car
	la	carta	letter, card
	la	casa	house
	el	castillo	castle
	la	cebolla	onion
	el	chico	boy
	la	ciudad	city
	la	cocina	kitchen, cuisine
	el	comedor	dining room, dining hall
	la	comida	food
	la	computadora (LA)/ordenador (Sp)	computer
	el	conductor	driver
	el	contrario/lo contrario	contrary, opposite
		Correos, la oficina de correos	National Post, post office
	el	correo	mail
	la	cosa	thing
	la	costa	coast
	la	costumbre	custom, habit
	el	cuarto de baño	bathroom
	la	cuenta	bill, account
	el	cuento	story, tale
	el	cuerpo	body
	el	cumpleaños	birthday
D	los	deberes/la tarea	chores, homework
	el	dependiente	shop assistant
	el	deporte	sport
	el	día	day
	el	diario	diary, newspaper
	el	diente	tooth
	el	dinero	money
	la	dirección	address
	el	dolor	pain
	el	dormitorio	bedroom
E	la	edad	age
	el	edificio	building
	(la)	educación física	Physical Education, PE (school subject)
	la	ensalada	salad
	la	entrada	entrance, ticket
	el	equipo	team
	la	equitación	horse riding
	la	escalera	stairs, ladder
	la	escuela	school
	la	espalda	back (body part)
		España	Spain
		español	Spanish language, Spanish person

	el	espectáculo	show, performance
	la	estrella	star
	la	esquina	corner
	el	este	east
	el	extranjero	foreign person, foreign country, abroad
F	la	falda	skirt
	la	fecha	date
	la	fiesta	party, festival
	el	fin de semana	weekend
	el	final	final, the end
	el	frío	cold
G	la	galleta	biscuit
	la	garganta	throat
	el	gato	cat
	la	gente	people
	la	granja	farm
	la	gripe	cold, flu
H	la	habitación	room
	el	helado	ice cream
	el	hermano	brother
	el	hermanastro	stepbrother
	el	hijo	son
	(la)	historia	story
	el	hogar	home
	el	hombre	man
	el	hombro	shoulder
	la	hora	hour, time
	el	horario	timetable, schedule
	el	huevo	egg
	I	el	idioma
la		iglesia	church
(la)		informática	Digital Technologies (school subject)
el		instituto	school, institute
el		intercambio	exchange
el		invierno	winter
el		invitado	guest
la		isla	island
J	el	jamón	ham
	el	joven	young person, youth
	el	jugo (LA)/el zumo (Sp)	juice
L	el	lado	side
	el	lago	lake
	la	leche	milk
	la	lectura	reading
	el	legado	legacy
	la	librería	bookstore
	el	libro	book

	la	llave	key
	la	lluvia	rain
	el	lugar	place
	la	luna	moon
	la	luz	light
M	la	madera tallada	carving
	la	madrastra	stepmother
	la	madre	mother
	la	maleta/las maletas	suitcase/luggage
	la	mano	hand
	la	mañana	morning, tomorrow
	la	manzana	apple
	el	mar	sea
	el	marido	husband
	el	marisco	seafood
	el	médico	doctor
	la	medianoche	midnight
	el	mediodía	midday
	la	mentira	lie, fib
	el	mercado	market
	el	mes	month
	la	mesa	table/desk
	la	mitad	half, middle
	la	mochila	backpack
	la	moda	fashion
la	montaña	mountain	
el	muchacho	boy	
la	mujer	woman, wife	
el	mundo	world	
N	la	nariz	nose
	la	natación	swimming
	la	Navidad	Christmas
	la	nieve	snow
	el	niño	child, (little) boy
	la	noche	night
	la	Nochebuena	Christmas Eve
	la	Nochevieja	New Year's Eve
	el	nombre	name
	la	nota	mark, grade, note
	las	noticias	news
	el	novio	boyfriend
	O	el	oeste
el		ojo	eye
las		oraciones	prayers
la		oreja	ear
el		oro	gold
el		otoño	Autumn

P	la	oveja	sheep
	el	padraastro	stepfather
	el	padre	father, priest
	los	padres	parents
	la	página	page
	el	país	country
	el	pájaro	bird
	la	palabra	word
	el	pan	bread
	la	pantalla	screen
	los	pantalones	pants
	la	papa (LA)/la patata (Sp)	potato
	el	papel	paper, role
	la	pared	wall
	el	partido	match, sports game
	el	pasado	past, last
	el	pasatiempo	hobby
	la	Pascua	Easter
	el	pastel	pie, pastry, cake
	las	patatas fritas (Sp)	fries, chips
	la	película	film, movie
	el	peligro	danger
	el	pelo	hair
	la	pelota	ball (tennis, golf, etc)
	el	periódico	newspaper
	el	perro	dog
	el	pescado	fish (food)
	el	peso	weight, peso (currency)
	el	pez	fish (animal)
	el	pie	foot
	la	pierna	leg
	la	pimienta	pepper
	la	piscina	swimming pool
	el	piso	flat, apartment, floor
	la	planta	plant, ground floor
	la	plata	silver, money (LA)
	el	plátano	banana
	el	plato	plate, dish
	la	playa	beach
	la	plaza	plaza, public square
	el	polideportivo	sports centre
el	pollo	chicken	
la	postal	postcard	
el	postre	dessert	
el	precio	price	
el	premio	prize, reward	
la	primavera	spring	

	el	primo	cousin	
	el	profesor	teacher, professor	
	la	prueba	test, proof	
	el	pueblo	village, town	
	el	punte	bridge	
	la	puerta	door	
	el	puerto	port, harbour	
	el	punto	point, full stop	
Q	el	queso	cheese	
R	el	rato	short time, little while	
	el	ratón	mouse	
	el	recreo	school recess	
	el	refresco (Sp)/la soda (LA)	soft drink	
	el	regalo	present, gift	
	la	regla	ruler (measurement), rule (norm)	
	el	respeto	respect	
	la	revista	magazine, review	
	el	río	river	
	la	risa	laugh	
	la	rodilla	knee	
	la	ropa	clothes	
	S	la	sal	salt
		la	salida	exit
el		salón	large room, hall, family room	
la		salsa	sauce, dance (LA)	
la		salud	health	
el		saludo	greeting	
la		sangre	blood	
la		semana	week	
el		señor	Mr, sir, gentleman	
la		señora	Mrs, lady	
la		señorita	Miss, lady	
la		siesta	rest, nap	
el		siglo	century	
la		silla	chair	
el		sol	sun	
la		sonrisa	smile	
la		sopa	soup	
la		sorpresa	surprise	
el		sueño	dream, sleep	
la		suerte	luck, fortune	
el		sur	south	
T		la	talla	size (clothing)
		la	tarde	afternoon
	la	tarea	homework, task	
	la	tarjeta (postal)	card (post)	
	el	tema	theme, subject	

	el	tiempo	time, weather
	la	tienda	shop, store, tent
	la	tierra	earth, land, ground, soil
	el	tío	uncle
	el	tipo	type, kind, guy
	la	toalla	towel
	la	tormenta	storm
	el	toro	bull
	la	torre	tower, turret
	la	tortilla española (Sp)/la tortilla mexicana (LA)	Spanish omelette/Mexican tortilla
	el	trabajo	work, job
	el	traje	suit
U	la	uva	grape
V	la	vaca	cow
	los	vaqueros	jeans (Sp), cowboys
	el	vecino	neighbour
	la	vela	candle, sail, sailing
	el	vendedor	salesperson
	la	ventana	window
	el	verano	summer
	la	verdad	truth
	las	verduras	green vegetables
	el	vestido	dress, clothing
	la	vez	time, occasion
	el	viaje	trip, travel, voyage
	la	vida	life
	el	viento	wind
	el	vino	wine
	la	vista	view, sight
	el	vuelo	flight
	la	vuelta	turn, return
Z	las	zapatillas de deporte	trainers, sports shoes
	el	zapato	shoe

Non-cognates		
Verbs		
	Spanish	English
A	abrir	to open
	acabar (de + Past Part.)	to end (to have just + Inf.)
	acordarse (de)	to remember
	acostarse	to go to bed

	estar de acuerdo	to agree
	almorzar	to eat
	andar	to walk, to function (machine)
	aprender	to learn
	arreglar	to arrange, to fix
	ayudar	to help
B	bailar	to dance
	bañarse	to take a bath, to swim
	beber	to drink
	besar	to kiss
	buscar	to look for
C	caer	to fall
	cambiar	to change
	caminar	to walk
	cantar	to sing
	cargar	to charge (an electronic device)
	cenar	to eat dinner
	cerrar	to close
	charlar	to chat
	cocinar	to cook
	coger (Sp)/tomar (LA)	to get, catch, or take (transport)
	comenzar	to begin
	comer	to eat, to have lunch (Sp)
	comprar	to buy
	comprender	to understand
	conocer	to know, to be acquainted, to meet for the first time
	contar	to count, to tell
	contestar	to answer
	correr	to run
	cortar	to cut, to cut off
	costar	to cost
creer	to believe, to think	
cruzar	to cross	
cuidar	to look after, take care of	
D	dar	to give
	dar un paseo	to take a walk
	deber	should, to have to
	decir	to say, to tell
	dejar	to leave (behind), to stop doing something
	desayunar	to eat breakfast
	descansar	to rest
	descargar	to download
	describir	to describe
	desear	to desire, to wish, to want
	despertarse	to wake up
	dibujar	to draw
	discutir	to discuss, to argue

	divertirse	to have fun
	doler	to hurt, to have pain
	dormir	to sleep
	ducharse	to shower
	durar	to last, to endure
E	echar de menos (Sp)/extrañar (LA)	to miss a thing or person
	empezar	to begin
	encantar	to like a lot, to love
	encontrar	to meet, to find
	enfadarse	to get angry
	enseñar	to teach
	entender	to understand
	entrar	to enter
	enviar	to send
	escribir	to write
	escuchar	to listen
	esperar	to wait, to hope for, to expect
	estar	to be
	explicar	to explain
F	faltar	to be lacking, to be missing
G	ganar	to win, to earn
	gastar	to spend, to use up
	gritar	to shout, to yell
	gustar	to like, to be pleasing
H	hay	there is, there are
	hablar	to speak, to talk
	hacer	to do, to make
I	ir	to go
	ir de compras	to go shopping
	ir de excursión	to go on a trip or excursion
J	jugar	to play
	juntarse	to get together
L	lavar(se)	to wash
	leer	to read
	levantarse	to get up
	limpiar	to clean
	llamar(se)	to call (oneself-name)
	llegar	to arrive
	llevar	to take, to carry, to wear
	llorar	to cry
	llover	to rain
M	mandar mensajes	to send messages
	merendar	to have afternoon tea
	mirar	to look at, to watch
	estar de moda	to be in fashion
	montar	to ride

	morir	to die
	mudarse	to move, to shift house
N	nacer	to be born
	nadar	to swim
	navegar por internet	to browse the internet
	necesitar	to need
	nevar	to snow
O	odiar	to hate
	oír	to hear
	olvidar(se)	to forget
P	pagar	to pay
	parecer	to seem, to appear
	pasar	to pass, to spend time
	pasarlo bien	to have a good time
	pedir	to ask for, to order
	pensar	to think
	pescar	to fish
	perder	to lose, to miss (transport)
	pintar	to paint
	poder	to be able to
	poner(se)	to put, to put on
	preferir	to prefer
	preguntar	to ask
	presentar(se)	to introduce (oneself)
	probar	to try, to taste
Q	quedar(se)	to stay, to remain
	querer	to want, to love
	quitar(se)	to take off, to remove
R	recibir	to receive
	regalar	to give a present
	reír(se)	to laugh
	relajar(se)	to relax
	responder	to answer, to reply
	robar	to rob, to steal
	romper	to break
S	saber	to know, to know how to
	sacar	to take out
	salir	to leave, to go out
	secar(se)	to dry
	seguir	to follow, to continue
	sentar(se)	to sit down
	sentir(se)	to feel
	ser	to be
	servir	to serve, to be of use
	significar	to mean, to signify
	sonreír	to smile
	subir	to climb

T	tener	to have
	tener que	to have to
	tener ganas (de)	to feel like doing
	tener hambre	to be hungry
	tener miedo	to be afraid
	tener prisa	to be in a hurry
	tener razón	to be right (correct)
	tener sed	to be thirsty
	tener sueño	to be sleepy
	terminar	to end, to finish
	tirar	to throw
	tocar	to touch, to play an instrument
	tomar	to take, to drink, to have (food), to take (transport)
	trabajar	to work
	traer	to bring
U	usar	to use
V	valer la pena	to be worthwhile, to be worth the effort
	valer	to be worth, to value
	vender	to sell
	venir	to come
	ver	to see, to look
	vestirse	to get dressed
	viajar	to travel
	vivir	to live
	volver	to return

Non-cognates			
Adjectives and adverbs			
	Spanish	English	
A	abajo	down, below	
	aburrido	bored, boring	
	adelante	forward, ahead	
	adentro	(towards) inside	
	adonde	(to) where	
	afuera	outside	
	agradable	pleasant, nice	
	ahí/allí	there	
	alegre	cheerful, bright	
	alto	high, tall	
	animado	lively, cheerful	
	antiguo	ancient, old, former	
	antipático	unfriendly	
	aquí	here	
	arriba	above, up	
	así	so, like this	
	B	barato	cheap
		bastante	quite
bien		well	
bonito		pretty	
bueno		good	
C	cada	each, every	
	caliente	hot, warm	
	cansado	tired	
	caro	expensive	
	casi	almost	
	castaño	brown (haired)	
	castellano	Spanish language	
	cerca	near, close	
	claro	clear, light colour, of course	
	cómodo	comfortable	
corto	short		
D	delgado	thin, slender	
	demasiado	too much	
	deportivo	sporting	
	después	after, later	
	difícil	difficult, hard	
	divertido	fun, funny	
	dulce	sweet	
	duro	hard, firm, difficult	
E	emocionante	exciting	
	enfermo	sick, ill	

	entonces	then, so
	español	Spanish
	estupendo	great
	extranjero	foreign
F	fácil	easy
	feliz	happy
	fenomenal	amazing, great
	feo	ugly
	fresco	cool, fresh
	fuerte	strong, loud
	G	gordo
gracias		thank you
grande		big
gratis		free (no cost)
gris		grey
guapo		handsome
H	hermoso	beautiful
	hispano	Hispanic
I	igual	equal, same
	inglés	English
J	junto	together, joined
L	largo	long
	lejos	far
	lento	slow
	libre	free
	limpio	clean
	lindo (LA)	pretty, nice personality
	liso	straight
	listo	clever, ready
	loco	crazy, mad
	lleno	full
M	mal	badly
	malo	bad, poorly
	maravilloso	wonderful, marvellous
	más	more
	mayor	older, larger, greater
	mejor	better
	menor	less, least, younger
	menos	less, fewer
	mientras	while
	mismo	same, self
	moreno	brunette, dark-haired, dark-skinned
mucho	a lot, much	
	muy	very

N	nada	nothing
	nublado	cloudy
	nuevo	new
O	ocupado	busy
	oscuro	dark
	otro	other, another
P	pelirrojo	red-haired
	peor	worse, worst
	pequeño	small, little
	perezoso	lazy
	picante	spicy
	pobre	poor
	poco	a little, few, some
	preocupado	worried
	primero	first
	principal	principal, main
	pronto	soon, quickly
	próximo	next, near to
	en punto	o'clock, on the dot
Q	querido	Dear (letter), beloved
	quizás	perhaps, maybe
R	raro	rare, strange
	rico	rich, delicious
	rizado	curly, wavy
	rubio	blond
	ruidoso	noisy
S	salado	salty, savoury
	seguro	sure, secure, certain, safe

	sencillo	simple, plain
	serio	serious, grave, formal
	siempre	always
	siguiente	next, following
	simpático	nice, pleasant, friendly
	solo	alone, only, lonely
	sucio	dirty
	suficiente	sufficient, enough
T	tal	such
	también	also
	tampoco	either, neither
	tan	so, as
	tanto	much, many
	tarde	late
	temprano	early
	todavía	still, yet, even
	todo	every, all
	todo el mundo	everyone, everybody
	tonto	silly, foolish
	tranquilo	tranquil, peaceful
	triste	sad
U	último	last, final, latest
	único	only, unique
	útil	useful
V	vivo	alive, living, lively

Non-cognates	
Prepositions	
Spanish	English
con	with
sin	without
desde	from, since
durante	during
a	to, at
acerca de	about
a la derecha de	to the right of
a finales de	at the end of
a la izquierda de	to the left of
al lado de	next to
a principio de	at the beginning
bajo	under, short (person)
contra	against
de	of, from
debajo de	under

delante (de)	in front of
dentro	inside
detrás de	behind
en	in
encima de	above, on top of
enfrente (de)	opposite
en medio de	between, in the middle of
entre	between
fuera de	outside
hacia	toward
hasta	until
para	for, in order to
por	for, through, by
sobre	about, over, above

Non-cognates	
Conjunctions	
Spanish	English
aunque	although
porque	because
pero	but
sin embargo	however
y	and

Non-cognates	
Pronouns	
Spanish	English
algo	something
alguien	someone
alguno	some, any
nadie	nobody
ninguno	not one, none, not any

Non-cognates	
Time	
Spanish	English
ahora	now
anoche	last night
anteayer	day before yesterday
antes	before
a veces	sometimes
ayer	yesterday
de vez en cuando	now and then
dos veces	twice
de repente	suddenly
hoy	today
luego	later, then, after
normalmente	normally
nunca	never
pasado mañana	day after tomorrow

Non-cognates	
Question words/Relative pronouns	
Spanish	English
cuál/cual	which
cuándo/cuando	when
cuánto/cuanto	how much
dónde/donde	where
por qué/porque	why/because
qué/que	that/what
quién/quien	who
cómo/como	how

Non-cognates	
Interaction phrases	
Spanish	English
¡No me digas!	You don't say!
¡En serio?	Seriously?
No me extraña	I'm not surprised
De nada	You're welcome
¡Qué lástima!	What a shame!
¡Qué suerte!	How lucky!
¡Qué bueno!	That's nice!
pues	well
¿Qué quieres decir?	What do you want to say? What do you mean?
según	according to
por favor	please
¡No puede ser!	It can't be!
No me importa	I don't care

Non-cognates	
Other useful words and expressions	
Spanish	English
conmigo	with me
ni	neither, nor
si	if
sí	yes
por supuesto/claro	of course
tener calor	to be hot
Hace calor.	It is hot.