

Spanish/English Cognate Patterns

#	General Rule of Thumb	Examples
Rule #1	Words that end in –ous change to –oso	curious to curioso, delicious to delicioso, glorious to glorioso, mysterious to misterioso
Rule #2	Words that end in –al are <i>usually</i> the same in English	hospital, medical, animal, casual
Rule #3	Words that end in –ct change to –cto	act to acto, insect to insecto, perfect to perfecto, conflict to conflicto, product to producto
Rule #4	Words that end in –ance change to –ancia	ambulance to ambulancia, France to Francia, distance to distancia, elegance to elegancia, importance to importancia
Rule #5	Words that end in –ic change to –ico	alcoholic to alcohólico, basic to básico, fantastic to fantástico, generic to genérico, organic to orgánico, romantic to romántico
Rule #6	Words that end in ar are <i>usually</i> the same in English	familiar to familiar, lunar to lunar, muscular to muscular, regular to regular, similar to similar, popular to popular
Rule #7	Words that end in –ary change to –ario	canary to canario, diary to diario, glossary to glosario, primary to primario, salary to salario, vocabulary to vocabulario
Rule #8	Words that end in –ant change to –ante	distant to distante, elegant to elegante, important to importante, mutant to mutante, vacant to vacante, tolerant to tolerante, instant to instante
Rule #9	Words that end in –ble are <i>usually</i> the same in English	audible to audible, cable to cable, terrible to terrible, horrible to horrible, flexible to flexible, impossible to imposible, visible to visible
Rule #10	Words that end in –ence change to –encia	coincidence to coincidencia, competence to competencia, difference to diferencia, excellence to excelencia, intelligence to inteligencia, presence to presencia, violence to violencia
Rule #11	Words that end in –id change to –ido	fluid to fluido, rapid to rápido, solid to sólido, valid to válido, stupid to estúpido, liquid to líquido, vivid to vívido,
Rule #12	Words that end in –ment change to –mento <i>Note: some words such as departamento may have other minor spelling changes.</i>	argument to argumento, cement to cemento, department to departamento, document to documento, element to elemento, moment to momento.