

Spanish/English Cognate Patterns

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