

Oxford Spanish Dictionary Skills Resource Pack

Glossary

Abbreviation A shortened form of a word or **phrase**: **Sr.** = *Mr*

Active In the active form the **subject** of the **verb** performs the action: **Pedro besa a Ana** = *Pedro kisses Ana*. See **Passive**.

Adjectival phrase *loc adj* A **phrase** that functions as an **adjective**: **a ultranza** = *out-and-out, fanatical*; **es nacionalista a ultranza** = *he's a fanatical* o *out-and-out nationalist, he's a nationalist through-and-through*

Adjective *adj* A word describing a **noun** or **pronoun**: **un lápiz rojo** = *a red pencil*

Adverb *adv* A word that modifies a **verb**, an **adjective**, or another **adverb**: **corrió rápidamente** = *he ran quickly*; **muy bonito** = *very pretty*; **canta muy mal** = *she sings very badly*

Adverbial phrase *loc adv* A **phrase** that functions as an **adverb**: **motu proprio: lo hizo (de) motu proprio** = *he did it on his own initiative*

Apocope The omission of the final sound of a word, as in Spanish **algún** (*alguno*), **tan** (*tanto*)

Article *art* The **definite article**, **el/la/los/las** = *the*, and **indefinite article**, **un/una** = *a/an* are used before the **noun**

Attributive An **adjective** or **noun** is **attributive** when it is used directly before a **noun**: **un buen vino** = *a good wine*. See **Predicative**.

Auxiliary verb *v aux* A **verb** used with another **verb** to form **compound tenses**; in Spanish **haber** and **estar**: **he comido** = *I have eaten*; **estaba durmiendo** = *he was sleeping*

Cardinal number A whole number representing a quantity: **uno/dos/tres** = *one/two/three*. See **Ordinal number**.

Clause A self-contained section of a **sentence** that contains a **subject** and a **verb**

Collective noun A **noun** that is **singular** in form but refers to a group of individual persons or things, e.g. **realeza, gobierno** = *royalty, government*

Collocate A word that regularly occurs with another; for example, typical collocates of the **verb leer** in Spanish are *<libro/texto>*; in the *Oxford Spanish Dictionary*, **subject** collocates are shown in double angled brackets and **object** collocates are shown in single angled brackets.

Comparative *comp* The form of an **adjective** or **adverb** that makes it "more" or "less": **más/menos pequeño** = *smaller/less small*

Compound A unit of two or more separate words with a specific meaning: **zona cero** = *ground zero*; **cirugía estética** = *cosmetic surgery*

Compound tense A **tense** made up of two parts, **auxiliary verb** and **past participle**: **lo ha comido** = *he has eaten it*

Conditional tense A **tense** that expresses what might happen if something else occurred: **iría, si...** = *he would go, if...*

Conjugation Variation of the form of a **verb** to show **tense**, **person**, **mood**, etc.

Conjunction *conj* A word used to join clauses together: **y** = *and*; **pero** = *but*; **porque** = *because*

Consonant All the letters of the alphabet other than **a, e, i, o, u**

Countable (count) noun [C] A **noun** that forms a **plural** and can take the **indefinite article**, e.g. **a book, two books**. See **Uncountable noun**.

Definite article *def art*: **el/la/los/las** = *the*

Demonstrative adjective *adj dem* An **adjective** indicating the person or thing referred to: **esta mesa** = *this table*

Demonstrative pronoun *pron dem* A **pronoun** indicating the person or thing referred to: **ésta es mi hermana** = *this is my sister*

Direct object The **noun** or **pronoun** directly affected by the **verb**: **compré un libro** = *I bought a book*

Direct speech A speaker's actual words or the use of these in writing: **He said, "Be quiet!"** = *Dijo «¡Cállense!»*

Elliptical Having a word or words omitted, especially where the sense can be guessed from the context

Ending Letters added to the **stem** of a word to show a change in function, e.g. **verb amar**; **stem am-**; in **amaba, -aba** is the ending

Feminine *f* One of the **genders** in Spanish, applied to **nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and articles**: **la casa blanca** = *the white house*; **ella** = *she*

Future tense The **verb tense** that refers to something that will happen: **llegaré tarde** = *he will arrive late*

Gender Spanish **nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and articles** almost all fall into two genders, **masculine** and **feminine**; in addition, Spanish uses the **neuter pronouns esto, eso, and aquello**, and the **neuter article lo**

Gerund *ger* The part of a **verb** used in Spanish to form continuous tenses: **muriendo** = *dying*; **cantando** = *singing*. See **Present participle**.

Imperative A **verb form** that expresses a command: **¡ven aquí!** = *come here!*

Imperfect tense The **tense** that refers to an uncompleted or habitual action in the past: **los niños jugaban** = *the children were playing*; **iba allí los lunes** = *I went/used to go there on Mondays*

Impersonal verb *v impers* A **verb** used without a **personal pronoun**: **está lloviendo** = *it is raining*

Indefinite article *indef art*: **un/una** = *a/an*. There is no **plural form**.

Indefinite pronoun A **pronoun** that does not identify a specific person or **object**: **uno, alguien** = *one, someone*

Indicative form The **verb form** used when making a statement of **fact** or asking questions in various **tenses**: **no tengo hambre** = *I'm not hungry*

Indirect object The **noun** or **pronoun**

indirectly affected by the **verb**: **le escribí una carta a mi madre** = *I wrote a letter to my mother*

Indirect speech A report of what someone has said which does not reproduce the exact words: **dijo que habían salido** = *she said that they had gone out*; **he told me to be quiet** = *me dijo que me callara*

Infinitive The base form of a **verb**: **cantar** = *to sing*

Inflect To change the ending or form of a word to show its **tense** or its grammatical relation to other words: **canto** and **cantaba** are inflected forms of **cantar**

Interjection *interj* A sound, word, or remark expressing feelings (such as anger, fear, or joy), or attracting attention: **¡ay!** = *ouch!*; **¡Dios mío!** = *good heavens!*

Interrogative An **adjective, adverb, or pronoun** that asks a question: **¿qué?** = *what?*; **¿cuánto?** = *how much?*; **¿quién?** = *who?*

Intransitive verb *vi* A **verb** without a **direct object**: **murió repentinamente** = *he died suddenly*

Invariable adjective *adj inv* An **adjective** that is unchanged in the **singular** and the **plural**, as in the Spanish **beige**

Invariable noun *n inv* A **noun** that is unchanged in the **singular** and the **plural**, as in English **sheep, species**

Irregular verb A **verb** not following one of the set patterns, which has its own individual forms, e.g. Spanish **ser**; English **to be**

Masculine *m* One of the **genders** in Spanish applied to **nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and articles**: **el perro negro** = *the black dog*; **él** = *he*

Modal verb *v mod* A **verb** used with another **verb** to express necessity or possibility, e.g. **might, should, will**

Mood A category of **verb** use, expressing fact (**indicative**), command (**imperative**), or wish or conditionality (**subjunctive**)

Negative *neg* Expressing refusal or denial

Neuter One of the **genders** in Spanish, used only in the **pronouns esto, eso, and aquello**, and the **article lo**

Noun *n* A word that names a person or a thing or a concept

Number The state of being either **singular** or **plural**

Object The word or words naming the person or thing acted on by a **verb**: **John estudia geografía** = *John studies geography*. **Object collocates** are shown in single angled brackets.

Ordinal number A number that shows a person's or thing's position in a series: **primero** = *first*. See **cardinal number**

Part of speech The name for the function of a word: **noun, verb, adjective, etc.**, are parts of speech

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Passive In the passive, the **subject** of the **verb** experiences the action rather than performs it; it is used more in English than in Spanish: **Ana is kissed by Pedro** = *Ana es besada por Pedro*. See **Active**.

Past participle *past p* The part of a **verb** used to form past compound tenses: **she had gone** = *había ido*.

Perfect tense The perfect tense in Spanish is used to refer to events in the recent past: **he comido** = *I have eaten*.

Person Any of the three groups of **personal pronouns** and forms taken by verbs; the **first person** (e.g. **yo/I**) refers to the person(s) speaking, the **second person** (e.g. **tú/you**) refers to the person(s) spoken to; the **third person** (e.g. **él/he**) refers to the persons spoken about. The corresponding plural forms are **nosotros, -tras/we**, **vosotros, -tras (informal Spain)**, **ustedes/you, ellos, ellas/they**.

Personal pronoun *pron pers* A **pronoun** that refers to a person or thing: **yo/él/ella** = *I/he/she*.

Phrasal verb A **verb** in English combined with a **preposition** or an **adverb** to give a particular meaning: **run away; go past**. There are no phrasal verbs in Spanish.

Phrase *locución* A self-contained section of a **sentence** that does not contain a full **verb**.

Pluperfect tense The **tense** that refers to something that happened before a particular point in the past: **había salido** = *he had left*.

Plural *pl* More than one: **las casas** = *the houses*.

Possessive adjective An **adjective** that shows **possession**, belonging to someone or something: **mi/tu** = *my/your*.

Possessive pronoun A **pronoun** that shows possession, belonging to someone or something: **mío/tuyo** = *mine/yours*.

Predicative An **adjective** is predicative when it comes after a **verb** such as **be, ser**, or **estar**: **es hermosa** = *she is beautiful*. See **Attributive**.

Prefix *pref* A letter or letters at the beginning of a word that change its meaning: **possible - impossible; afortunado - desafortunado**.

Preposition *prep* A word standing in front of a **noun** or **pronoun**, usually indicating movement, position, or time: **con** = *with*; **sin** = *without*.

Prepositional phrase *loc prep* A **phrase** that consists of a **preposition** and a **complement**: **acerca de** = *about*.

Present participle *pres p* The part of a **verb** that in Spanish ends in **-ando, -iendo** (English **-ing**), and is used in continuous tenses: **está hablando** = *she's talking*. See **Gerund**.

Present tense The **tense** that refers to something happening now: **abro la puerta** = *I open the door*.

Preterite tense A **tense** referring to a completed action in the past: **lo hice ayer** = *I did it yesterday*.

Pronominal verb *v pron* A Spanish **verb** conjugated using the **pronouns me, te, se, nos, and os**, in which the pronoun refers to the **subject** of the **verb**: **(yo) me equivoqué** = *I was wrong*. A subgroup of these verbs are **Reflexive verbs**.

Pronoun *pron* A word that stands instead of a **noun**: **él/ella** = *he/she*; **alguien** = *someone*; **el mío/la mía** = *mine*.

Proper noun The name of a person, place, institution, etc., generally written with an initial capital letter: **Spain, the Atlantic, London, Juan, Madrid, el Ebro** are all proper nouns.

Reflexive pronoun A **pronoun** that refers back to the **subject** of the clause in which it is used: **myself** = *me*; **themselves** = *se*.

Reflexive verb *v refl* A **verb** whose **object** is the same as its **subject**; it is used with a **reflexive pronoun**: **se lavó** = *he washed himself*.

Regular verb A **verb** that follows a set pattern in its different forms.

Relative pronoun *pron rel* A **pronoun** that introduces a **subordinate clause**, relating to a person or thing mentioned in the main clause: **el hombre que nos visitó** = *the man who visited us*.

Reported speech Another name for **Indirect speech**.

Sentence A sequence of words, with a **subject** and a **verb**, that can stand on their own to make a statement, ask a question, or give a command.

Singular *sing* Of **nouns** etc., referring to just one: **la casa** = *the house*.

Stem The part of a word to which **endings** are added: **habl-** is the stem of **hablar**.

Subject In a **clause** or **sentence**, the **noun** or **pronoun** that causes the action of the **verb**: **John estudia geografía** = *John studies geography*. **Subject collocates** are shown in double angled brackets.

Subjunctive A **verb** form used to express wishes or conditionality: **long live the King!** = *¡viva el Rey!*; **if it were possible** = *si fuera posible*.

Subordinate clause A **clause** which adds information to the main clause of a **sentence** but cannot be used as a sentence by itself, e.g. **she answered the phone when it rang**.

Suffix *suf, suff* A group of letters added to a word to make another word, e.g. **-mente** or **-ly** in **rápido, rápidamente**; *quick, quickly*.

Superlative *superl* The form of an **adjective** or **adverb** that makes it "most" or the "least": **el más pequeño** = *the smallest*; **el menos caro** = *the least expensive*.

Syllable A division of a word that contains a **vowel** sound pronounced as a single unit: **bala** has two syllables, **ba-la**.

Tense The **verb** form that tells when the action takes place: **present, future, imperfect, perfect, pluperfect** are all tenses.

Transitive verb *vt* A **verb** used with a direct object: **leyó el libro** = *she read the book*.

Uncountable (uncount) noun [U] A **noun** without a **plural** in ordinary usage, which cannot take the **indefinite article**; furniture and news are uncountable in English, but their translations **muebles mpl, noticia f** are countable in Spanish.

Verb *v, vb* A word or group of words that describes an action: **los niños están jugando** = *the children are playing*.

Vowel One of the following letters: **a, e, i, o, u**.