

Spanish Words to Keep in Mind when Composing Written Material

\$COP	Peso Colombiano
\$USD	Dólar EE.UU. (please don't refer to them as "pesos")
₡ (NIO)	Córdoba Nicaragüense (Córdoba de Oro)
abastecer	to replenish
aceite	oil, usually from seeds, fruits, animals; aceite de oliva – see lubricante
acetato	acetate a type of acid that is used in making clear plastics, like for windshields
acrílico	acrylic; the stuff our windshields are actually made of
activos fijos	fixed assets; «activos fijos de \$100.000 USD»
aerografiar	applying paint by aerosol; "spray painting"
agente corredor	general term for financial broker
agente de bienes raíces	term for real estate broker
agua corriente	running water
aislante	insulation, insulating stuff
aislar	to isolate, to insulate
al por menor	to sell at retail; ("menorista" is only in México, PR, prob Cuba)
alquilar	to rent something
alto rendimiento	high performance
amarradero	place where you tie a boat, like at a pier
amortiguador	shock absorber; Dispositivo que sirve para compensar y disminuir el efecto de choques, sacudidas o movimientos bruscos en aparatos mecánicos
anfitrión	host
anticipo, anticipado	dinero anticipado; downpayment on a sales agreement
apertura	grand opening
aplicar	to apply ON TO something; as in applying paint on to wood; "llenar una aplicación" is non-sensible
aranceles	import duties; currently 10% for our boats Los aranceles los rebajarán 2% todos los años hasta que lleguen al 0% en 5 años
arrecife	a coral reef
arrendamiento	the lease
arrendar	to lease something
atracadero	place where you sort of beach a boat
auge	climax; point of maximum movement or benefit
auto	automobile
aviso	a sign used for non-commercial stuff; like a speed limit sign

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barcaza	a big barge that is usually towed or pushed by a tugboat
bienes raíces	real estate
blindaje	a shielding against something; usually bullets or fire
bollo	a dinner bun; not a part of the female anatomy
botar	to throw something out; to fire someone; to dump away
bote	general word for a small container
brindar	to offer to supply or give something – implication is from your heart
bronce	bronze
C\$ (NIO)	Córdoba Nicaragüense (Córdoba de Oro)
calcomanía	self adhesive gizmo; what we call stickers
camión remolcador	A truck that tows other trucks or cars; as opposed to a remolcador (tugboat), semi-remolque (semi-trailer)
caña	a hollow tube, like a pipe or bamboo
caña de timón	the tiller, the stick attached to the rudder or the motor to steer boats
cantón	a subdivision, like a “township”; «vivimos en el cantón Slowcala»
capacitación	to educate someone in a manner that makes them more qualified at a job; as opposed to «entrenar»
carro	cart, what a horse pulls
centro	the downtown
centro comercial	shopping center
césped	manicured lawn
chófer	the guy that drives a car
chorro	the stream of water coming out of a hose, spigot, faucet, tube, etc
ciénaga	a swampy area; 2 in Cartagena
coche	automobile
cochera	the garage at the house
cochero	the guy that drives a horse driven cart
coger	to grab something, usually by force; to have sex
compañía	the company of others like you, “los perros les gusta la compañía de otros perros”
compartimiento	compartment
conducir	drive a car
conductor	the guy that drives a car
constituir	the act of constituting, usually when referred to a corporation, it is the act of creating the corporation

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contenedor	general word for any large container
contraseña	password
corriente	electrical or water current; also means “not high class”
cortacésped	lawnmower; not a «máquina de cortar yerba»
cuenca	a bowl, like for salad (“fuente”, also correct but not in much use)
decenas	tens of anything; similar to docenas (dozens)
desechable	disposable, or of low quality or cost
disponible	available (not disposable)
dispositivo	device, specially an electronic device
doblar	to fold; like what you do to a bedsheet
E.U.	Unión Europea
E.U.M.	Estados Unidos Mexicanos
echar	the nice way of saying “botar”; almost always used when getting rid of personnel
EE.UU.	Los Estados Unidos de América
eficaz	Efficient; «los hélices de Piranha son eficaz»
eficiencia	Efficiency; «ellos trabajan con eficiencia»
eje	an axle on a vehicle; a geometrical axle around which a shape revolves
embalaje	a shipping box, a container used to pack something inside, like for transport
embalar	to pack something, like for transport
embarcación	general term for any type of vessel
embrague	clutch
empresa	a business enterprise, a “company”
enlace	a union between two things
entrenar	non-mental training; what you do for sports, athletic events, or how a dog or other animal is taught. Increasing the human mental capacity is “capacitación”
exención	exemption; free of an obligation; from the verb eximir
exoneración	the actual relief of an obligation; an exoneration
exonerar	to relieve of an obligation; usually a fiscal body does this
fábrica	a factory (factoría is ghetto)
fabricación	fabrication, “nuestros barcos son de fabricación Estadounidense”
fabricante	the maker of something
fiable	said of a person or thing that is reliable
fibra de vidrio	the actual fiberglass matting, insulation, or cloth; also used for the hard finished product, GRP

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flota	a group of boats
flotilla	a small group of boats
fluvial	having to do with river flows, river waters not sea
fontanero	the guy who works with plumbing; plumber; see plomero
freno	brake
fuelle	a fountain, a source of something → Cartagena es una fuente de ...
furgón	the rectangular train or over the road thing we call a “container”; a general word for a truck carrying a large rectangular payload
furgoneta	a vehicle that is squarish (we call a “van”)
garaje	the taller
gerencia	management
gerente	manager
girar	to turn; like when you get to a corner; “gire a la izquierda”
giro bancario	bank transfer; wire transfer
golpear	to hit or to hit repeatedly; not “dar golpes”
goma	rubber
gozar	enjoy, usually a fiscal enjoyment as opposed to «disfrutar»
gremio	Trade union; professional association; Conjunto de personas que tienen un mismo ejercicio, profesión o estado social
grifo	the faucet usually used for water (in some places, “to be intoxicated”)
GRP	the spanish acronym for “plástico reforzado con vidrio” from the english, glass reinforced plastic, which is the correct term for the hard substance made when combining fiberglass material with a plastic, usually polyester, resin, and a hardener.
hélice	a helix; also used for propellers
hípico	equine; having to do with horses; lots in Cartagena and surrounding
hipódromo	a place to go race horses; a horse track
hipopótamos	literally Latin for “river horse”; related to horses
huésped	guest
impuesto sobre rentas	corporate income tax
impuestos	taxes, usually percentage, like sales tax or IVA
incorporar	to blend one thing into another to create a new body
inferior	the bottom part of something; la parte inferior del casco
ingreso	personal income, corporate revenue
instituir	to create a new enterprise; like when creating a new business or a new S.A.
interruptor	switch that interrupts electricity (like the gizmo on the wall)

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introducir	ONLY used to place one thing inside another; introducir la salsa de tomate a la olla; me quiero introducir means you wish to place yourself inside (very sexual connotation)
inversionista	also inversor, an investor
IVA	Impuesto sobre Valor Agregado (Value Added Tax) <i>Value added tax is not the same as sales tax, since it is added in each and every step of the manufacturer to consumer path, not just at the end, like in a true sales tax</i>
lata	tin, or a can
latón	the metal brass (<u>not a big can</u>)
ligero	not having much weight; de poco peso
liviano	not having much weight; de poco peso
lubricante	lubricant; things like motor oil, hydraulic fluid, axle grease
llanta	the tire
manatí	manatee; a “river elephant”
manejar	manage
manglar	a mangrove grove
mango	an elongated device, used for holding something steady – a handle; YES it is also a fruit
mango de timón	the tiller, the stick attached to the rudder or the motor to steer boats
maqueta	a scale model
marítimo	having to do with ocean flows and sea water
mayorista	an actual wholesaler
mercadeo	marketing
meta	a goal
monograma	monograms; like the letters and logos we want on the boat cushions
muelle	a small mechanical spring; also the word for man made area where boats are likely to tie up or anchor; similar to port but smaller
muelle	pier
muralla	those big walls surrounding and protecting the town
muro	big wall
naviera	company or ship that carries containers at sea
occidente	the west; think “hemisferio occidental” or “Occidental Petroleum”
oriente	the east; think “Orient Express”
pantano	a swamp
patrocinar	to sponsor, as in “patrocinar un torneo”; not negative as “to patronize”
patrón	A pattern, as in el patrón de los colores en la cortina; NOT a boss, as in México; NOT a

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	customer as in English
piloto	the guy that drives a plane, a race car, or a boat (I know it's weird)
plazos	terms, time sections, places
plomero	guy who works with plomo, a pipe-layer; see fontanero
poliéster	not only good for 70's pants, also the stuff used to bind glass fibers into the finished material called glass reinforced plastic GRP (which people colloquially call fiberglass or "fibra de vidrio"). So YES, <i>resinas de poliéster</i> is the liquid mixed with the glass fibers to make GRP
poliestireno	Polystyrene – YES it is used for Styrofoam; YES it is used to make hard almost indestructible plastic like our "escotillas"; hatches
pomo	a handle for doors and for drawers; a doorknob, a drawer pull
posee	to own, possess
predice	to predict
presentar	used to introduce yourself or someone else; "me gustaría presentar Sr. José"
proporcionar	guy or place who supplies finished, punctual stuff
proveedor	guy or place who supplies all kinds of stuff to people or groups
puerto comercial	commercial port; shipping port
refacción	incorrectly used as "spare part" in Central America; literally means "rations"
régimen	a group of laws and norms that govern something; usually political
remitir	to send something to someone; to send, ship to a particular person; «¿tenés que remitir las compras al contador?»
remolcador	A device that tows; usually in reference to a tug boat; as opposed to a camión remolcador
remolcar	to tow something
remolque	general word for a thing that is towed (a trailer); see barcaza
remover	to move something from one place to another; to mix something
rendimiento	Efficiency; Proporción entre el resultado obtenido y los medios utilizados
rentable	said of something that pays for itself
rentar	to provide a benefit
repuesto, recambio	spare part
requisitos	prerequisites
resina epoxídica	epoxy resin; used to create our awesome space foam in conjunction with poliestireno; some makers use it instead of polyester resin for a much stronger finished GRP (fiberglass)
resorte	a large spring; usually for mechanical devices, trucks, cars, etc
retirar	to remove something, like "retirar los platos sucios"
retirar	to remove something that is not wanted or in the way; like when the waiter removes the

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	dirty plates, or the used coffee mug
retorno de inversión	return on investment
ría	the inlet that looks like a river, but has salt water in it
rueda	rim; usually of steel or wood (like in a carreta)
sacar	to remove something from where it should be; to “stick it out”
sede	headquarters
sociedad anónima	a corporation
solicitar	to apply or to look for something; a job application is a solicitud; solicitar ayuda means to look for help
sueldo	salary
sumergido	submerged
superior	the top part of something; la parte superior del casco
suplidor	general term for a wholesaler, a quantity supplier
supuesto	an assumption
taller	the garage that fixes the car
tarifas	fees, usually fixed, like corporate license
timón	a rudder; a stick to steer boats and oxen; not to steer cars
tina	a bigger container usually of water (like a bath tub)
tinaja	a medium sized container usually for water (usually of clay, about 1 meter high)
toma-corriente	gizmo that you plug stuff in to get electricity (wall outlet)
torcer	to twist, as when opening a hose faucet, or what a propeller does
torneo	tournament
tractocamión	Other than Colombia; a truck with a trailer; a semi, an 18 wheeler; see camión remolcador
tractomula	In Colombia, a truck with a trailer; a semi, an 18 wheeler; see camión remolcador
trasladar	to more or less permanently move something from one place to another, like in “nos trasladamos a Costa Rica”
tubo de escape	the exhaust
U.S.A.	The ENGLISH abbreviation; in SPANISH it is EE.UU.
ubicación	a specific location, usually geographical; «la ubicación del puerto de Cartagena es ideal»
ubicar	to place in a specific location
umbral	threshold
vajilla	the general word for bowls and plates on the table for eating
valla	a sign used for commercial stuff; like a billboard or a big sign
vasija	a small container usually of water

Spanish Words to Keep in Mind when Composing Written Material

vínculo	a link between two people or two things
vinilo	vinyl; the stuff our big stickers are made of, the ones on the sides of boats
volante	the steering wheel; that circle thing
voltear	to turn around; to put upside down; to dump like a dump truck
yerba	general word for tall weed like grass; « <i>caballos comen yerba, mi casa tiene un césped</i> »
zarpados	trips; El puerto de Cartagena tiene más de 900 zarpados
zarpar	when a boat leaves, goes underway, heaves anchor
zona franca	duty free zone
semi-remolque	A trailer that is semi-supported by the towing truck; as opposed to a remolque (trailer), tractocamión (the truck that pulls a semi-trailer); see also furgón and contenedor