

Webster's Contemporary Spanish-English Dictionary

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Preface

The book you are holding is a new edition of a dictionary designed to meet the needs of English and Spanish speakers in a time of ever-expanding communication among the countries of the Western Hemisphere. It is intended for language learners, teachers, office workers, tourists, business travelers—anyone who needs to communicate effectively in the Spanish and English languages as they are spoken and written in the Americas. This new dictionary provides accurate and up-to-date coverage of current vocabulary in both languages, as well as abundant examples of words used in context to illustrate idiomatic usage. The selection of Spanish words and idioms was based on evidence drawn from a wide variety of modern Latin-American sources and interpreted by trained Merriam-Webster bilingual lexicographers. The English entries were chosen by Merriam-Webster editors from the most recent Merriam-Webster dictionaries, and they represent the current basic vocabulary of American English.

All of this material is presented in a format which is based firmly upon and, in many important ways, is similar to the traditional styling found in the Merriam-Webster monolingual dictionaries. The reader who is familiar with Merriam-Webster dictionaries will immediately recognize this style, with its emphasis on convenience and ease of use, clarity and conciseness of the information presented, precise discrimination of senses, and frequent inclusion of example phrases showing words in actual use. Other features include pronunciations (in the International Phonetic Alphabet) for all English words, full coverage of irregular verbs in both languages, a section on basic Spanish grammar, tables of the most common Spanish and English abbreviations, and a detailed Explanatory Notes section which

Spanish Grammar

Accentuation

Spanish word stress is generally determined according to the following rules:

- Words ending in a vowel, or in *-n* or *-s*, are stressed on the penultimate syllable (*zapato*, *llaman*).
- Words ending in a consonant other than *-n* or *-s* are stressed on the last syllable (*perdiz*, *curiosidad*).

Exceptions to these rules have a written accent mark over the stressed vowel (*fácil*, *hablará*, *último*). There are also a few words which take accent marks in order to distinguish them from homonyms (*si*, *sí*; *que*, *qué*; *el*, *él*; etc.).

Adverbs ending in *-mente* have two stressed syllables since they retain both the stress of the root word and of the *-mente* suffix (*lentamente*, *difícilmente*). Many compounds also have two stressed syllables (*limpiaparabrisas*).

Punctuation and Capitalization

Questions and exclamations in Spanish are preceded by an inverted question mark ¿ and an inverted exclamation mark ¡, respectively:

¿Cuándo llamó Ana?
Y tú, ¿qué piensas?
¡No hagas eso!
Pero, ¡qué lástima!

In Spanish, unlike English, the following words are not capitalized:

- Names of days, months, and languages (*jueves*, *octubre*, *español*).

Spanish-English Dictionary

A

a¹ *nf* : first letter of the Spanish alphabet

a² *prep* **1** : to <nos vamos a México> : we're going to Mexico **2** (used before direct or indirect objects referring to persons) <¿llamaste a tu papá?> : did you call your dad?> <como a usted le guste : as you wish> **3** : in the manner of <papas a la francesa : french fries> **4** : on, by means of <a pie : on foot> **5** : per, each <tres pastillas al día : three pills per day> **6** : at <a las dos : at two o'clock> <al principio : at first> **7** (with infinitive) <enséñales a leer : teach them to read> <problemas a resolver : problems to be solved>

ábaco *nm* : abacus

abad *nm* : abbot

abadesa *nf* : abbess

abadía *nf* : abbey

abajo *adv* **1** : down <póngalo más abajo : put it further down> <arriba y abajo : up and down> **2** : downstairs **3** : under, beneath <el abajo firmante : the undersigned> **4** : down with <abajo la inflación!> : down with inflation! **5** ~ **de** : under, beneath **6** **de** ~ : bottom <el cajón de abajo : the bottom drawer> **7** **hacia** ~ **or** **para** ~ : downwards **8** **cuesta abajo** : downhill **9** **rio abajo** : downstream

abanzarse {21} *vr* : to hurl oneself, to rush

abanderado, **-da** *n* : standard-bearer
abandonado, **-da** *adj* **1** : abandoned, deserted **2** : neglected **3** : slovenly, unkempt

abandonar *vt* **1** **DEJAR** : to abandon, to leave **2** : to give up, to quit <abandonaron la búsqueda : they gave up the search> — **abandonarse** *vr* **1** : to neglect oneself **2** ~ **a** : to succumb to, to give oneself over to

abandono *nm* **1** : abandonment **2** : neglect **3** : withdrawal <ganar por abandono : to win by default>

abanicar {72} *vt* : to fan — **abanicarse** *vr*

abanico *nm* **1** : fan **2** **GAMA** : range, gamut

abaratamiento *nm* : price reduction
abaratar *vt* : to lower the price of — **abaratarse** *vr* : to go down in price

abarcar {72} *vt* **1** : to cover, to include, to embrace **2** : to undertake **3** : to monopolize

abarronado, **-da** *adj* : baritone

abarroto, **-da** *adj* : packed, crammed

abarroter *vt* : to fill up, to pack

abarrotería *nf* **CA, Mex** : grocery store

abarrotero, **-ra** *n* **Col, Mex** : grocer

abarrotos *n* **mpl** **1** : groceries, supplies

2 **tienda de abarrotes** : general store, grocery store

abastecedor, **-dora** *n* : supplier

abastecer {53} *vt* : to supply, to stock — **abastecerse** *vr* : to stock up

abastecimiento — **abasto**

abasto *nm* : supply, supplying <no da abasto : there isn't enough for all>

abatido, **-da** *adj* : dejected, depressed

abatimiento *nm* **1** : drop, reduction **2** : dejection, depression

abatir *vt* **1** **DERRIBAR** : to demolish, to knock down **2** : to shoot down **3** **DEPRIMIR** : to depress, to bring low —

abatirse *vr* **1** **DEPRIMIRSE** : to get depressed **2** ~ **sobre** : to swoop down on

abdicación *nf*, *pl* **-ciones** : abdication

abdicar {72} *vt* : to relinquish, to abdicate

abdomen *nm*, *pl* **-dómenes** : abdomen

abdominal *adj* : abdominal

abecé *nm* : ABC's *pl*

abecedario *nm* **ALFABETO** : alphabet

abedul *nm* : birch (tree)

abeja *nf* : bee

abejorro *nm* : bumblebee

aberración *nf*, *pl* **-ciones** : aberration

aberrante *adj* : aberrant, perverse

abertura *nf* **1** : aperture, opening **2**

AGUJERO : hole **3** : slit (in a skirt, etc.)

4 **GRIETA** : crack

abeto *nm* : fir (tree)

abierto¹ *pp* → **abrir**

abierto², **-ta** *adj* **1** : open **2** : candid, frank **3** : generous — **abiertamente**

adv

abigarrado, **-da** *adj* : multicolored, variegated

abigeato *nm* : rustling (of livestock)

abismal *adj* : abyssal, vast

abismo *nm* : abyss, chasm <al borde del

abismo : on the brink of ruin>

abjurar *vi* ~ **de** : to abjure — **abjuración** *nf*

ablandamiento *nm* : softening, moderation

ablandar *vt* **1** **SUAUZAR** : to soften **2**

CALMAR : to soothe, to appease — *vi*

: to moderate, to get milder — **ablandarse** *vr* **1** : to become soft, to soften

2 **CEDER** : to yield, to relent

ablución *nf*, *pl* **-ciones** : ablution

abnegación *nf*, *pl* **-ciones** : abnegation, self-denial

abnegado, **-da** *adj* : self-sacrificing, selfless

abnegarse {49} *vr* : to deny oneself

abobado, **-da** *adj* **1** : silly, stupid **2** : bewildered

abocarse {72} *vr* **1** **DIRIGIRSE** : to head, to direct oneself **2** **DEDICARSE** : to dedicate oneself

abochornar *vt* **AVERGONZAR** : to embarrass, to shame — **abochornarse** *vr*

abofetear *vt* : to slap

abogacía *nf* : law, legal profession

abogado, **-da** *n* : lawyer, attorney

abogar {52} *vi* ~ **por** : to plead for, to defend, to advocate

English-Spanish Dictionary

A

- a** ['eɪ] *n. pl a's or as* ['eɪz] : primera letra del alfabeto inglés
- a²** [ə, 'eɪ] *art* (an /ən, 'æn) before vowel or silent h) 1 : un *m.*, una *f* <a house : una casa> <half an hour : media hora> <what a surprise! : ¡qué sorpresa!> 2 **PER** : por, a la, al <30 kilometers an hour : 30 kilómetros por hora> <twice a month : dos veces al mes>
- ardvark** ['ɑːrd,vɑːrk] *n* : oso *m* hormiguero
- aback** [ə'bæk] *adv* 1 : por sorpresa 2 **to be taken aback** : quedarse desconcertado
- abacus** ['æbəkəs] *n, pl abaci* ['æbəsai, -ki:] or **abacuses** : ábaco *m*
- abaft** [ə'bæft] *adv* : a popa
- abalone** [ˌæbəlɔːni] *n* : abulón *m.*, oreja *f* marina
- abandon¹** [ə'bændən] *vt* 1 **DESERT, FORSAKE** : abandonar, desamparar (a alguien), desertar de (algo) 2 **GIVE UP, SUSPEND** : renunciar a, suspender <he abandoned the search : suspendió la búsqueda> 3 **EVACUATE, LEAVE** : abandonar, evacuar, dejar <to abandon ship : abandonar el buque> 4 **to abandon oneself** : entregarse, abandonarse
- abandon²** *n* : desenfreno *m* <with wild abandon : desenfrenadamente>
- abandoned** [ə'bændənd] *adj* 1 **DESERTED** : abandonado 2 **UNRESTRAINED** : desenfrenado, desinhibido
- abandonment** [ə'bændənmənt] *n* : abandono *m.*, desamparo *m*
- abase** [ə'beɪs] *vt* **abased; abasing** : degradar, humillar, rebajar
- abash** [ə'bæʃ] *vt* : avergonzar, abochornar
- abashed** [ə'bæʃt] *adj* : avergonzado
- abate** [ə'beɪt] *vt* **abated; abating** : amainar, menguar, disminuir
- abattoir** [ˌæbətwaɪə] *n* : matadero *m*
- abbess** [ˌæbɪs, -bɛs, -bəs] *n* : abadesa *f*
- abbey** [ˌæbi] *n, pl -beys* : abadía *f*
- abbot** [ˌæbət] *n* : abad *m*
- abbreviate** [ə'brɪ:vɪeɪt] *vt* **-ated; -ating** : abreviar
- abbreviation** [ə'brɪ:vɪeɪʃən] *n* : abreviación *f.*, abreviatura *f.*
- ABC's** [ˌeɪ,bɪ:'si:z] *npl* : abecé *m*
- abdicate** [ˌæbdɪ'keɪt] *v* **-cated; -cating** : abdicar
- abdication** [ˌæbdɪ'keɪʃən] *n* : abdicación *f.*
- abdomen** [ˌæbdəmən, æb'do:mən] *n* : abdomen *m.*, vientre *m*
- abdominal** [ˌæb'dəmənəl] *adj* : abdominal — **abdominally** *adv*
- abduct** [ˌæb'dʌkt] *vt* : raptar, secuestrar
- abduction** [ˌæb'dʌkʃən] *n* : rapto *m.*, secuestro *m*
- abductor** [ˌæb'dʌktər] *n* : raptor *m.*, -tora *f.*; secuestrador *m.*, -dora *f.*
- abed** [ə'bed] *adv & adj* : en cama
- aberrant** [æ'berənt, 'æbərənt] *adj* 1 **ABNORMAL** : anormal, aberrante 2 **ATYPICAL** : anómalo, atípico
- aberration** [ˌæbərɪ'eɪʃən] *n* 1 : aberración *f.* 2 **DERANGEMENT** : perturbación *f* mental
- abet** [ə'bet] *vt* **abetted; abetting** **ASSIST** : ayudar <to aid and abet : ser cómplice de>
- abeyance** [ə'beɪəns] *n* : desuso *m.*, suspensión *f.*
- abhor** [əb'hɔːr, æb-] *vt* **-horred; -horring** : abominar, aborrecer
- abhorrence** [əb'hɔːrəns, æb-] *n* : aborrecimiento *m.*, odio *m*
- abhorrent** [əb'hɔːrənt, æb-] *adj* : abominable, aborrecible, odioso
- abide** [ə'baɪd] *v* **abode** [ə'bo:d] or **abided; abiding** *vt* **STAND** : soportar, tolerar <I can't abide them : no los puedo ver> — *vi* 1 **ENDURE** : quedar, permanecer 2 **DWELL** : morar, residir 3 **to abide by** : atenerse a
- ability** [ə'bɪləti] *n, pl -ties* 1 **CAPABILITY** : aptitud *f.*, capacidad *f.*, facultad *f.* 2 **COMPETENCE** : competencia *f.* 3 **TALENT** : talento *m.*, don *m.*, habilidad *f.*
- abject** [ˌæb,dʒekt, æb-] *adj* 1 **WRETCHED** : miserable, desdichado 2 **HOPELESS** : abatido, desesperado 3 **SERVILE** : servil <abject flattery : halagos serviles> — **abjectly** *adv*
- abjure** [ˌæb'dʒʊr] *vt* **-jured; -juring** : abjurar de
- ablaze** [ə'bleɪz] *adj* 1 **BURNING** : ardiendo, en llamas 2 **RADIANT** : resplandeciente, radiante
- able** ['eɪbəl] *adj* **abler; ablest** 1 **CAPABLE** : capaz, hábil 2 **COMPETENT** : competente
- ablution** [ə'blu:ʃən] *n* : ablución *f.* <to perform one's ablutions : lavarse>
- ably** ['eɪbəlɪ] *adv* : hábilmente, eficientemente
- abnormal** [ˌæb'nɔːrməl] *adj* : anormal — **abnormally** *adv*
- abnormality** [ˌæb'nɔːrmlɪ'ti, -nɔːr-] *n, pl -ties* : anomalía *f.*
- aboard¹** [ə'bɔːrd] *adv* : a bordo
- aboard²** *prep* : a bordo de
- abode¹** → **abide**
- abode²** [ə'bo:d] *n* : morada *f.*, residencia *f.*, vivienda *f.*
- abolish** [ə'bolɪʃ] *vt* : abolir, suprimir
- abolition** [ˌæbəlɪ'ʃən] *n* : abolición *f.*, supresión *f.*
- abominable** [ə'bɒmə'nəbəl] *adj* **DETESTABLE** : abominable, aborrecible, espantoso
- abominate** [ə'bɒmə'neɪt] *vt* **-nated; -nating** : abominar, aborrecer
- abomination** [ə'bɒmə'neɪʃən] *n* : abominación *f.*
- aboriginal** [ˌæbɔːrɪ'dʒɪnəl] *adj* : aborígen, indígena
- aborigine** [ˌæbɔːrɪ'dʒɪni] *n* **NATIVE** : aborígen *mf.*, indígena *mf.*