



# Slow

## Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

Like its opposite, *fast*, *slow* is most often used as an adjective to describe an aspect of speed, in this case, low speed. A sore muscle caused the jogger to run at a slow pace. The day was warm and sunny, so the couple took a slow stroll through the park. The slow traffic was the result of an accident on the highway. A public bus is usually a slower mode of transportation than a car. The word *slow* often appears in combinations such as “a slow-moving train” or “slowpoke” (a person who moves slowly).

The verb *slow* means to decelerate or to reduce progress. The heavy snow slowed the hikers’ climb up the mountain. The broken computer slowed the student’s progress on her report. As an adverb, *slow* means in a slow manner and usually takes the form *slowly*. A leopard might creep slowly toward its prey. A grandmother might wake slowly from her nap.

## Follow-Ups

- In many games, being fast or finishing first is how players win. What are some games where the last person to reach the end wins?
- Being a fast reader is a great skill, but when would reading slowly be more appropriate?
- When we are eager for something to happen, like recess or summer break, we want time to fly. When might someone want time to move slowly?
- What does it mean for a clock to be slow?

## The Spanish Connection

*Slow* comes from an Old English word, *slaw*, meaning “slow-witted, sluggish,” and deriving from an Old High German word for “blunt, or dull.” Over time, *slow* developed to also mean “to move at a low speed.” The Spanish word for *slow* (moving at a low speed) is *lento*.

## Word Changes

- The original meaning for *slow*, having to do with intelligence or ability to learn, is still common today. Often it is used as an indirect or less harsh way to refer to a person, instead of calling him dim, unperceptive, or even stupid. However, referring to someone as slow is very often considered an insult.
- Some idioms and common phrases retain that aspect of mental dullness. For instance, someone who is “slow on the draw” or “slow on the uptake” would be someone who catches on later than others, perhaps the last person to understand the punchline of a joke.



# Slow



## Slow as in to take it easy

- relax
- rest
- chill
- calm

## Slow as in to take a long time

- time-consuming
- long-winded
- long-drawn-out
- protracted
- lengthy
- lingering
- gradual

## Slow as in to hold something/them back

- to delay
- to retard
- to block
- to hinder
- to detain
- to stall
- to hold up
- to hold back
- to stonewall

## Slow as in to decelerate

- decelerate
- brake
- lag

## Slow as in to move at a low speed

- dawdle
- sluggish
- unhurried
- leisurely

## Slow as in to complete a task with deliberation

- measured
- deliberate
- cautious
- careful
- methodical



# Slow

## COMMON PHRASES

- Slow poke
- Slow mo/motion
- Slow down
- Slow as molasses
- Slow down
- Slow pitch
- Slow lane
- Bugged down
- Slow going

## IDIOMS

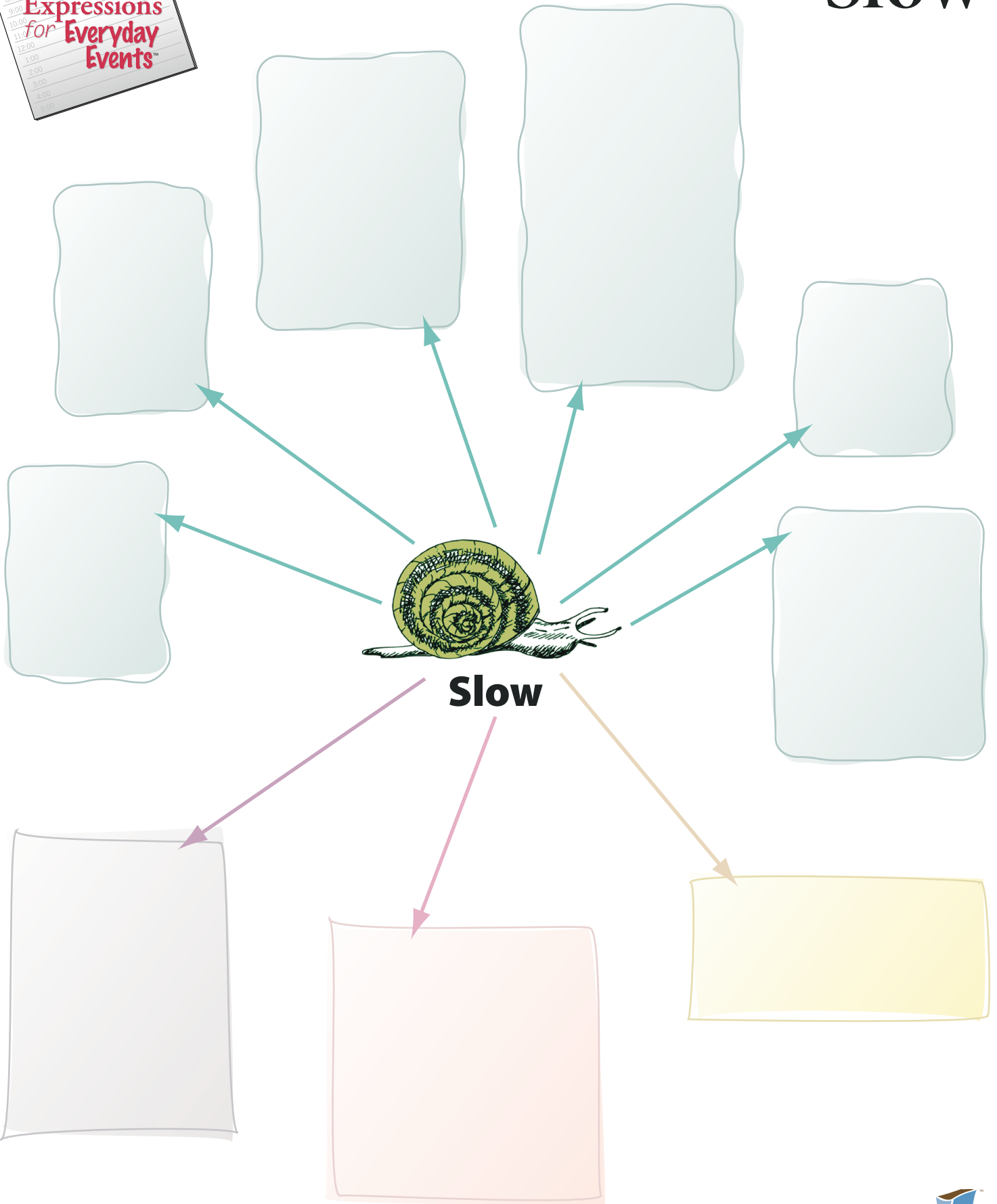
- At a snail's pace
- Slowly but surely
- Slow going
- Slow on the draw/uptake
- Slow off the mark
- Take it slow
- A slow burn
- Take it easy

## THE SPANISH CONNECTION

- to decelerate / decelerar
- gradual / gradual
- methodical / metódico(a)



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## Inflected Endings

- slows<sup>v</sup>
- slowed<sup>v</sup>
- slowing<sup>v</sup>
- slowly<sup>adv</sup>
- slower<sup>adv</sup>
- slowest<sup>adv</sup>

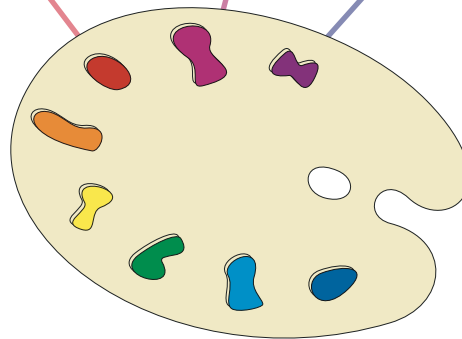
## Derivational Suffix

- slowness<sup>adv</sup>

## Compound Words

*Slow used as an adverb*

- slow pitch
- slow down
- slow cooker
- slow dancing
- slow pitch
- slow lane
- slow poke



## Morphological Family for Slow

<sup>adv</sup> Slow used as an adverb

<sup>v</sup> Slow used as a verb



# Slow

