

25 Common Spanish Words & Their Relationship to English Literary Words

| Latin root | Spanish common word | English literary/academic words | English common word | German word |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|
| arbor (tree) | árbol | arbor, arborous, arboreal, Arbor Day, arboretum | tree | Baum |
| avis (bird) | ave | avian, aviary, aviation aviator/aviatrix | bird | Vogel |
| bonus (good) | bonitas | bonus, bonanza, bonny <i>Phrases:</i> bon voyage, bonafide: in good faith; bon vivant: person who enjoys good food/luxuries, bon mot: clever comment | beautiful | schön |
| cavus (hollow) | cavar | cavern(ous), cave, cavity | dig | graben |
| detinere (to keep back) | detenerse | detain, detention, detente | stop | halten |
| scribere (to write) | escribir | scribe, script, Scripture, scribbler, scribble | write | schreiben |
| frigus (coldness, frost) | frío (el) | frigid. Frigid Zones: South & North, Frigidaire (fridge), Freon: trademark for low-boiling refrigerants and solvents | cold | kalt |
| grandis (great) | grande | grand, grandiose, grandeur, grandiloquent, grandiflora, grandstand, grand tour <i>Phrases:</i> grande dame, grand monde (great world--fashionable society) | big | gross |
| insectum | insecto | insect, insecticide, insectivore, insectile | bug | Wanze |
| lavare (to wash) | lavar | lather, lathery, lavender (originally used as a bath perfume), lavatory, lavation, laver (large basin, also water plant), lavish | wash | waschen |
| liber (book) | libro | library, librarian, libretto | book | Buch |
| luna (the moon) | luna | lunar, Luna, lunacy, lunatic, lunation, lunarian <i>phrases:</i> lunar month, lunar year, lunatic fring, | moon | Mond |
| necessitas | necesitar | necessity, necessary, necessitate, necessarily | need | brauchen |
| noctis (night) | noche | nocturnal, nocturne | night | Nacht |
| observatio (attention) | observar | observe, observation, observance, obsequious | watch | wachen |
| primus (first) | primero | prime, primate, primal, primacy, primary, primarily, primer, primitive, primeval, primogeniture, primordial <i>French/Latin phrases used in literary/scholarly text:</i> prima facie (at first view) | first | erster |

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|-----------------------------------|------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| | | prima donna | | |
| rapidus (rush) | rápido | rapid <i>phrases:</i> rapid-fire, rapid transit | quick | schnell |
| re (back) spondere (pledge) | responder | response, respond; respondent; responder, responsibility, responsible | answer | Antwort |
| regis (king) | rey/reina | regent regal, regalia, reign related words: regime, regimen, regiment, region, Rex: official title of a reigning king | king/ queen | König/ Königin |
| significans (meaning) | significar | significance, significant | mean | meinen |
| sol (the sun) | sol | solar, solstice, solarium | sun | Sonne |
| sufficiere (to provide) | suficiente | sufficient, suffice, sufficiency | enough | genug |
| terra (earth) | tierra | terrain, subterranean, terrace, terrestrial, terrene, terrarium <i>phrases:</i> terra firma (solid ground), terra incognita (unexplored territory), terra cotta | ground | Boden |
| vacare (to be empty) | vacía | vacant, vacate, vacancy, vacation | empty | leer |
| valere (to be strong) | valiente | valiant, valid , value, valorous, valor | brave | tapfer |
| venus (sale) | vender | vender, vender, vend, venal (can be bribed, corrupted), vending machine | sell | verkaufen |