

# Shortcut to Spanish Mnemonic Flashcards System

*How To Learn Spanish Words 3-5 Times Faster*

By Marcus Santamaria / Edited by Elena Chagoya

## How to increase you ability to remember Spanish Words 3-5 Times

"Repetition is the mother of learning" Tony Robbins

I want to share with you a simple technique. I discovered it by chance, but it had a profound effect on my Spanish ability. I later discovered that I was combining two concepts essential to fast and permanent learning, imagination and repetition.

### **The humble but powerful Flashcard.**

I am sure you have seen them... and maybe even used them. You put English on one side of a card and Spanish on the other. Then you look at the Spanish word and try to guess it's meaning in English.

### **Add a mnemonic and suddenly 1+1=3 or 4 or 5**

This is what I stumbled on. When I wrote a mnemonic on the flashcard my ability to remember the Spanish increased 4 or 5 times. I was able to learn thousands of words in no time flat.

If you use this system you will find this happening

You can look at a **Spanish** word and remember the meaning almost every time.

But, when you can look at an **English** word you only sometimes remember how to say it in Spanish.

### **Do this to make remembering how to say Spanish words permanent.**

When you don't remember how to say the Spanish word read the mnemonic. Do this for a few days and you will find you soon remember how to say the word in Spanish.

That's the system, I hope it helps you as much as it helped me. If it does we'll be talking together in Spanish soon. If you want to communicate with me in English or Spanish with questions, suggestions or anything I can help you on your journey to learn Spanish my email is [marcus@how-to-speak.com](mailto:marcus@how-to-speak.com)

Saludos

Marcus Santamaria  
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P.S. My book Shortcut to Spanish teaches you 132 of the most frequently used Spanish words with mnemonics. Plus I show you 31 ways to make 3013 Spanish words instantly from English words and how to put all the words together to Speak Spanish.

## Make your flashcards

- 1) Printout pages 3-31
- 2) Cut along the outside lines.
- 3) Fold the page in half.
- 4) Cut into individual flashcards with Spanish on the front. English with mnemonics are on the back.

### Example

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>Dinero</b><br/>(din air oh)</p> | <p><b>Money</b></p> <p>Robert <b>di nero</b> has a lot of money</p> |
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|-----------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Tengo</b></p>         | <p><b>I have</b></p> <p>Imagine a child saying, "<u>I have</u> a video game and I <u>have ten goes</u> a day."</p> |
| <p><b>Necesito</b></p>      | <p><b>I need</b></p> <p>Imagine saying, "<u>I need</u> it because it's a <b>necessity</b>."</p>                    |
| <p><b>Hay</b><br/>(eye)</p> | <p><b>There is</b></p> <p>Imagine a cyclopes says, "<u>there is</u> something in my <b>eye</b>."</p>               |
| <p><b>El centro</b></p>     | <p><b>Downtown</b></p> <p>The <u>downtown</u> area is usually in the <b>center</b> of the city.</p>                |
| <p><b>Sombra</b></p>        | <p><b>Shade</b></p> <p>A <b>sombrero</b> gets its name because it gives <i>shade</i>.</p>                          |

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**Quiero**  
KEY AIR OWE)

**I want**

Imagine a friend says, I want to help I **care oh** so much

**Nuevo**

**New**

Imagine you are bionic and have a new **elbow**

**Tiene**

**You have**

Imagine an Englishman in America desperate for a good cup of tea asking do you have good **tea anywhere?**

**Mujer**  
(moo hair)

**Woman**

Imagine kids teasing the old woman and call her a cow and they **Moo** at **her**

**Hombre**

**Man**

Imagine a lazy **man** who is always **on break**

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| <p><b>Con</b></p>     | <p><b>With</b></p> <p>Imagine a <b>con</b> man <u>with</u> a pack of cards</p>                           |
| <p><b>Mi Casa</b></p> | <p><b>My House</b></p> <p><b>mi casa</b> es su casa</p>  |
| <p><b>Su</b></p>      | <p><b>Your</b></p> <p>mi casa es <b>su</b> casa</p>  |
| <p><b>Es</b></p>      | <p><b>Is</b></p> <p>mi casa <b>es</b> su casa</p>  |
| <p><b>Por</b></p>     | <p><b>For</b></p> <p>Imagine a <b>poor</b> turkey that 's going to be eaten <u>for</u> thanksgiving.</p> |

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| <p><b>Traducción</b></p>  | <p><b>Translation</b></p> <p>think of needing to <b>track down</b> a <i>translation</i></p>   |
| <p><b>Explicación</b></p> | <p><b>Explanation</b></p> <p>Think of a grumpy teacher saying I need an <i>explanation</i> because your behavior is <b>inexplicable</b></p> |
| <p><b>Habitación</b></p>  | <p><b>Room</b></p> <p>Hotel <i>rooms</i> are the natural <b>habitation</b> of rock stars</p>  |
| <p><b>Población</b></p>   | <p><b>Population</b></p> <p>This is very close just change the second P to bl.<br/><i>Popu</i>lation <b>población</b></p>                   |
| <p><b>Decepción</b></p>   | <p><b>Disappointment</b></p> <p>If a friend were to play a <i>deception</i> on you that would be pretty <b>disappointing</b>.</p>           |

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| <b>Contaminación</b> | <b>Pollution</b><br><br>The <u>pollution</u> causes <b>contamination</b> of the city. |
| <b>De</b>            | <b>Of</b>   |
| <b>Mucho/Mucha</b>   | <b>A lot/ many/ much</b>  |
| <b>Y</b>             | <b>And</b>  |
| <b>El/La</b>         | <b>The</b>  |

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| <p><b>Para</b></p>                | <p><b>For</b></p> <p>Imagine a <b>parrot</b> saying <i>for for for</i>.</p>   |
| <p><b>Comer</b><br/>(COM AIR)</p> | <p><b>To Eat</b></p> <p>Imagine your mum saying to you "<b>come here to eat</b>".</p>                                   |
| <p><b>Aquí</b><br/>(A key)</p>    | <p><b>Here</b></p> <p>Imagine coming to a big locked door, someone has a key and says, <i>here</i> is a <b>key</b>.</p> |
| <p><b>Qué</b></p>                 | <p><b>What</b></p> <p>O.K. you know how to say <i>what</i> in Spanish now.</p>  |
| <p><b>Suficiente</b></p>          | <p><b>Enough</b></p> <p>When you have had <i>enough</i> you have had <b>sufficient</b>.</p>                             |

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| <p><b>Usted</b></p>       | <p><b>You</b></p> <p><i>you said <u>you</u> would speak Spanish and <u>you</u> will.</i></p>   |
| <p><b>Comida</b></p>      | <p><b>Food</b></p> <p><i>Imagine an Italian restaurateur says, <b>come eat a</b> Italiana <u>food</u> ina mya Italiana restaurant.</i></p> |
| <p><b>Algo</b></p>        | <p><b>Something</b></p> <p><i>we don't have any food <b>I'll go</b> and get <u>something</u>.</i></p>                                      |
| <p><b>Dónde esta</b></p>  | <p><b>Where is</b></p> <p><i>it's Don's birthday <u>Where is</u> Don, <b>Don's the star</b>.</i></p>                                       |
| <p><b>Maravillosa</b></p> | <p><b>Wonderful</b></p> <p><i>Something <u>wonderful</u> is something marvelous</i></p>  |

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| <p><b>Feliz</b><br/>(FELL LEASE)</p> | <p><b>Happy</b></p> <p>Imagine <b>Felix</b> the cat with a <u>happy</u> face.</p>  |
| <p><b>Navidad</b></p>                | <p><b>Christmas</b></p> <p>Imagine asking you father at Christmas "Where will we put the <b>nativity</b> scene, <b>dad</b>?"</p> |
| <p><b>Afuera</b></p>                 | <p><b>Outside</b></p> <p>An agoraphobic has a <b>fear of</b> going <u>outside</u>.</p>   |
| <p><b>Mesa</b></p>                   | <p><b>Table</b></p> <p>Imagine a <b>mess</b> on a <u>table</u>.</p>  |
| <p><b>Pan</b></p>                    | <p><b>Bread</b></p> <p>Imagine cooking <u>bread</u> in a <b>pan</b>.</p>   |

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| <p><b>Porque</b></p>             | <p><b>Because</b></p> <p><u>Poor Kay</u> suffered in Spanish class <u>because</u> she didn't use mnemonics.</p>   |
| <p><b>Me Gusta</b></p>           | <p><b>I like</b></p> <p>Imagine a cave man eating a goose and saying "<u>Me like</u> the <u>goose today</u>".</p> |
| <p><b>Siempre</b></p>            | <p><b>Always</b></p> <p>Imagine going to a church on Sundays where you <u>always see em pray</u>.</p>             |
| <p><b>Los Estados Unidos</b></p> | <p><b>The United States</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Por qué</b></p>            | <p><b>Why</b></p> <p>Imagine a Canadian saying "It tastes good that's <u>why</u> I eat <u>pork ay</u>."</p>       |

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| <p><b>Le gusta</b></p>           | <p><b>You Like</b></p> <p>Imagine a Frenchman cooked a goose and asks you do <u>you like</u> "<b>le goose</b>"</p>                                   |
| <p><b>Pero</b></p>               | <p><b>But</b></p> <p>Imagine someone eating a round Asian pear and saying "I thought it was a <b>pear oh</b> <u>but</u> it looks like an apple".</p> |
| <p><b>Gente</b><br/>(HENTAY)</p> | <p><b>People</b></p> <p>Imagine 20 <u>people</u> giving <b>hens tea</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Muy</b><br/>(moo ee)</p>   | <p><b>Very</b></p> <p>Imagine a farmer's cows mooing and he says, "The cows are <u>very</u> <b>mooley</b> today"</p>                                 |
| <p><b>Raro</b></p>               | <p><b>Strange</b></p> <p>If something is <u>strange</u> it's <b>rare</b>.</p>  |

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| <p><b>Polvo</b></p>                 | <p><b>Dust</b></p> <p>Imagine <b>pulverizing</b> something into <u>dust</u>.</p>   |
| <p><b>Bueno</b></p>                 | <p><b>Good</b></p> <p><b>Buenos</b> Aires is a <u>good</u> city</p>  |
| <p><b>Película</b></p>              | <p><b>Film</b></p> <p>Imagine a French man watching a movie about <b>pelicans</b> and saying <b>oh la la</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Seguro</b></p>                | <p><b>Insurance</b></p> <p>Imagine that you feel <b>secure</b> because you have <u>insurance</u></p>   |
| <p><b>Mañana</b><br/>(MUN YANA)</p> | <p><b>Morning</b></p> <p>Your friend's brain is slow to start in the <u>morning</u> and he keeps making mistakes you say, "<b>man ya na</b> good in the <u>morning</u>."</p> |

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| <p><b>Como</b></p>      | <p><b>I eat</b></p> <p>I can't eat with messy hair so I put a <b>comb</b> over my hair before <u>I eat</u>.</p>                   |
| <p><b>Lo mismo</b></p>  | <p><b>The same</b></p> <p>Imagine a monk chanting <u>the same</u> thing over and over<br/><b>lomm ismmo lomm ismmo</b></p>        |
| <p><b>Nada</b></p>      | <p><b>Nothing</b></p> <p>You have probably already heard <b>nada</b> used in TV or in films to mean <u>nothing</u> in English</p> |
| <p><b>Sólo</b></p>      | <p><b>Only</b></p> <p>If someone is a <b>solo</b> performer they are the <u>only</u> one performing</p>                           |
| <p><b>Está bien</b></p> | <p><b>All right</b></p> <p><u>it's all right</u> for <b>a star Ben</b> Affleck to make an occasional bad movie like Gigli.</p>    |

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| <p><b>Más</b></p>       | <p><b>More</b></p> <p>Arnold has <u>more</u> muscles than me</p>   |
| <p><b>Carne</b></p>     | <p><b>Meat</b></p> <p>Even had chili con <b>carne</b> = chili with <u>meat</u></p>                                       |
| <p><b>Tengo que</b></p> | <p><b>I have to</b></p> <p>Imagine a dance and a guy says, "<u>I have to</u> tango with <b>kay</b>."</p>                 |
| <p><b>Hacer</b></p>     | <p><b>To do</b></p> <p>Imagine an army sergeant asking "who wants <u>to do</u> it and two guys say, "<b>us sir</b>."</p> |
| <p><b>Comprar</b></p>   | <p><b>To buy</b></p> <p>Imagine <b>comparing</b> prices when you want <u>to buy</u> something new</p>                    |

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| <p><b>Playa</b><br/>(Ply a)</p> | <p><b>Beach</b></p> <p>Imagine going to <b>play</b> at the <u>beach</u></p>                                     |
| <p><b>Todo</b></p>              | <p><b>All</b></p> <p>Imagine putting <u>all</u> your <b>toes</b> in <b>dough</b></p>                            |
| <p><b>Ahora</b></p>             | <p><b>Now</b></p> <p>Imagine a hippie saying <u>now</u> I see you have <b>a auro</b></p>                        |
| <p><b>Tiene que</b></p>         | <p><b>You have to</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Ir</b></p>                | <p><b>To go</b></p> <p>Imagine saying "I need <u>to go</u> to the doctor because I have a sore <b>ear</b>."</p> |

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| <p><b>Norte Americano</b></p>     | <p><b>American</b></p> <p>Just think of those <b>naughty Americans</b> on spring break</p> |
| <p><b>Otro</b></p>                | <p><b>Another</b></p> <p>Yes, I <b>ought to</b> give you <u>another</u> Spanish word.</p>  |
| <p><b>Abrir</b></p>               | <p><b>To open</b></p> <p>To drink <b>a beer</b> you have <u>to open</u> a beer</p>         |
| <p><b>Maleta</b></p>              | <p><b>Suitcase</b></p> <p>Imagine hitting your <u>suitcase</u> with a <b>mallet</b></p>    |
| <p><b>Puedo</b><br/>(Pwed oh)</p> | <p><b>I can</b></p> <p><u>I can</u> go to <b>Puerto Rico</b></p>                           |

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| <p><b>Ver</b></p>    | <p><b>To see</b></p> <p>Look at something on your desk you need <u>to see</u> it up <b>very</b> close</p>                   |
| <p><b>Grande</b></p> | <p><b>Big</b></p> <p>The Rio <b>Grande</b> on the Texas/Mexico border is a <u>big</u> river</p>                             |
| <p><b>O</b></p>      | <p><b>Either/or</b></p> <p>Very similar to Or</p>   |
| <p><b>Hola</b></p>   | <p><b>Hello</b></p> <p>He's a bit deaf so you have to <b>holla</b> when you say <u>hello</u></p>                            |
| <p><b>Amigo</b></p>  | <p><b>Friend</b></p> <p>Hollywood and TV made sure you already knew this. Los three <b>amigos</b> were 3 <u>friends</u></p> |

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| <p><b>Puede</b><br/>(Pwed ay)</p>     | <p><b>You can</b></p> <p>Imagine Winnie the <b>Poo had a</b> hard day and Tiger said "<u>you can</u> rest now".</p>      |
| <p><b>Quiere</b><br/>(Key air ay)</p> | <p><b>You want</b></p> <p>Do <u>you want</u> to watch the Drew <b>Carey</b> show?</p>                                    |
| <p><b>Pronto</b></p>                  | <p><b>Soon</b></p> <p>I am sure you have heard people in movies say "do it <b>pronto</b> meaning do it <u>soon</u>".</p> |
| <p><b>Cuando</b><br/>(qu one doh)</p> | <p><b>When</b></p> <p><u>When</u> are you going to start tae <b>kwon do</b>?</p>   |
| <p><b>Esta noche</b></p>              | <p><b>Tonight</b></p> <p><u>Tonight</u> I am going to get a <b>star noche</b> on my belt</p>                             |

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| <p><b>Chico</b></p>                 | <p><b>Little</b></p> <p>A <b>chick</b> is a <u>little</u> chicken</p>  |
| <p><b>Así</b><br/>(ah see)</p>      | <p><b>Like that</b></p> <p>Oh <b>I see</b> it is <u>like that</u> is it you <u>so</u> and <u>so</u></p>  |
| <p><b>Esta</b></p>                  | <p><b>This</b></p> <p>Remember you learned <b>esta</b> noche means tonight.<br/>Literally we could translate <b>esta</b> noche as <u>this</u> night.</p> |
| <p><b>Lo agradezco</b></p>          | <p><b>I appreciate it</b></p> <p>A student says to the teacher "<b>low grades go</b> to hell,<br/>give me good grades and <u>I appreciate it.</u>"</p>   |
| <p><b>Cuantas</b><br/>(Quantas)</p> | <p><b>How many</b></p> <p>How much is a flight to Australia on <b>qantas</b> airlines</p>  |

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| <p><b>Sentir</b></p>        | <p><b>To feel</b></p> <p>I don't know how <u>to feel</u> about the fact you were <b>sent here</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Asegurar</b></p>      | <p><b>To Insure</b></p> <p><b>To insure</b> your car makes for <u>A secure car</u></p>   |
| <p><b>Como se llama</b></p> | <p><b>What 's it called</b></p> <p>A communists asks his mum <u>what is it called</u>, a <b>como says ya ma</b> what's it called</p>                   |
| <p><b>Si</b></p>            | <p><b>If</b></p> <p>Imagine someone trying to hit a baseball. He misses the ball and says, "<u>if</u> I could <b>see</b> the ball I would hit it."</p> |
| <p><b>Él</b></p>            | <p><b>He</b></p> <p><b>Elvis</b> <u>he</u> was a man</p>   |

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| <p><b>Días</b></p>          | <p><b>Days</b></p> <p>Oh happy <i>days</i> I just saw Cameron <b>Diaz</b>.</p>  |
| <p><b>Casi</b></p>          | <p><b>Almost</b></p> <p>A mother says to her son who drives fast, "what are you a kamik<b>aze</b> you <u>almost</u> killed yourself."</p> |
| <p><b>Pienso</b></p>        | <p><b>I think</b></p> <p>I have a <b>pen so</b> <u>I think</u> I will scribble</p>  |
| <p><b>Voy</b><br/>(Boy)</p> | <p><b>I am going</b></p> <p><u>Boy</u> a party tonight <b>I am going</b> to really enjoy that.</p>  |
| <p><b>Va</b><br/>(Ba)</p>   | <p><b>You are going</b></p> <p><u>You are going</u> so <b>far</b> away</p>  |

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| <p><b>Bien</b></p>               | <p><b>Well</b></p> <p>How is <b>Ben</b>. He is <u>well</u></p>   |
| <p><b>Tarde</b><br/>(Tardeh)</p> | <p><b>Late</b></p> <p>Some people say don't be <b>tardy</b> for don't be <u>late</u></p>                                   |
| <p><b>Cual</b></p>               | <p><b>Which</b></p> <p><u>Which</u> is cuter the <b>Koala</b> or the kangaroo?</p>   |
| <p><b>Aún</b><br/>(Ah oon)</p>   | <p><b>Still</b></p> <p>Bill Gates <u>still</u> <b>owns</b> Microsoft and is <u>still</u> the richest man in the world.</p> |
| <p><b>Sé</b><br/>(Say)</p>       | <p><b>I know</b></p> <p>I <b>say</b> <u>I know</u> how to say I know</p>   |

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| <p><b>Museo</b><br/>(Moo say oh)</p>    | <p><b>Museum</b></p> <p>This is easy almost an instant Spanish vocabulary word just remember to pronounce it <b>Moo say oh.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Quien</b><br/>(key en)</p>        | <p><b>Who</b></p> <p>Someone left the key in the lock of your house you say "<u>who</u> left the <b>key in</b> the lock."</p>       |
| <p><b>Tiempo</b></p>                    | <p><b>Time</b></p> <p>Music with a slow <b>tempo</b> has a slow <i>time</i></p>   |
| <p><b>Boleto</b></p>                    | <p><b>Ticket</b></p> <p>Imagine a <u>ticket</u> with a <b>bullet</b> on it.</p>   |
| <p><b>Antes de</b><br/>(ant es deh)</p> | <p><b>Before</b></p> <p>Your mom says, "You'd better put the sugar away <u>before</u> there are <b>ants there</b>".</p>             |

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| <p><b>Como</b></p>                | <p><b>How</b></p> <p>Com on <u>how</u> easy is that?</p>   |
| <p><b>Despues de</b></p>          | <p><b>After</b></p> <p>The people <b>despise the</b> president <u>after</u> what he has done</p>   |
| <p><b>Primero</b></p>             | <p><b>First</b></p> <p>This is an easy one. <b>Prime</b> rib is <u>first</u> class.</p>  |
| <p><b>Lugar</b><br/>(Loo gar)</p> | <p><b>Place</b></p> <p>Imagine you are backpacking. You <b>lug a</b> backpack from <u>place</u> to <u>place</u>.</p>                               |
| <p><b>Otra vez</b></p>            | <p><b>Again</b></p> <p>Imagine your friend has a bright red vest. You say, "please don't wear that <b>ultra</b> red <b>vest</b> <u>again</u>."</p> |

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| <p><b>Año</b><br/>(An yo)</p> | <p><b>Year</b></p> <p>An <b>ya know</b> just like that there goes another <u>year</u>.</p>                        |
| <p><b>Nuestra</b></p>         | <p><b>Our</b></p> <p>This is a <b>new strain</b> on <i>our</i> eyes because your friend has a bright red vest</p> |
| <p><b>Cosa</b></p>            | <p><b>Thing</b></p> <p>This <u>thing</u> it's <b>causa</b> you.</p>   |
| <p><b>Vengo</b></p>           | <p><b>I come</b></p> <p><i>I come</i> to work in the morning <b>then go</b> home in the evening</p>               |
| <p><b>encontrar</b></p>       | <p><b>To find</b></p> <p>In close <b>encounters</b> of the third kind the army go <i>to find</i> the aliens</p>   |

Fold here



**Último**

**Last**

Like an **ultim**tum is the last chance

**Muchas veces**

**Often**

Do you remember that veces is times. Therefore **muchas veces** = many times or often.

**Debajo**

**Under**

Imagine Santa Claus drinking too much, he falls under **de bar** singing **ho ho ho**

**Amo**  
(A mow)

**I love**

I love to be **among** the trees.

**Decir**

**To tell**

Imagine an old man saying "I am a little deaf you need to tell me in **dis ear**

Fold here



**Adiós**

**Goodbye**

You've heard this in the movies I am sure goodbye  
**adiós**

**La mayoría**

**The most**

In most elections the person who gets **the majority** of  
votes wins

**A veces**

**Sometimes**

We learned that veces is times. **A veces** is at times or  
sometimes

**Semejante**

**Such**

A truck such as a **semi has to** turn carefully.

**Arriba**

**Up**

Imagine going up a **river**

Fold here



**Mano**

**Hand**

Imagine that you hurt you hand and say, "**Man o man** my hand is sore."

**Durante**

**Over / During**

The band duran **duran** have lasted over the years

**Luego**

**Then**

I drink coffee then to the **loo I go**

