

Cognates in Spanish, Arabic, and English

Cognate: (of a word) having the same linguistic derivation as another; from the same original word or root.

The modern language Spanish is essentially a hybrid of Arabic and Latin due to the mix of Muslims and Christians on the Iberian Peninsula in the Middle Ages. English is a Germanic language that soaked up words from many other European language roots- Latinate French, Celtic, Greek, Norse, etc. During the Crusades and interactions with Spain, the English language absorbed many Arabic and Spanish words as well. Here are just a few cognates in each language.

Spanish	Arabic	English
café	(qahwah) قهوة	coffee
cero	(sifr) صفر	zero
jarra*	(jarrah) جرّة	jar
algodón	(qutn) قطن	cotton
naranja	(naarinj) نارنج**	orange
alcohol	(al-kuhuul) الكحول	alcohol
máscara	(maskarah) مسكّرة	mask
álgebra	(aljabr) الجبر	Algebra
carmesí	(qirmizyy) قرمزي	crimson
elixir	(aliksiir) الإكسير	elixir
gacela	(ghazaalah) غزالة	gazelle
jirafa	(zaraafah) زرافة	giraffe
limón***	(laymuun) ليمون	lemon
luffa	(liifah) ليفة	luffa/loofah
laúd	(al'uud) العود	lute
safari	(safar) سفر	safari
sorbete	(sharbaat) شربات	sherbet
zumaque	(summaq) سُمّاق	sumac
talismán	(Tilsam) طلسم	talisman