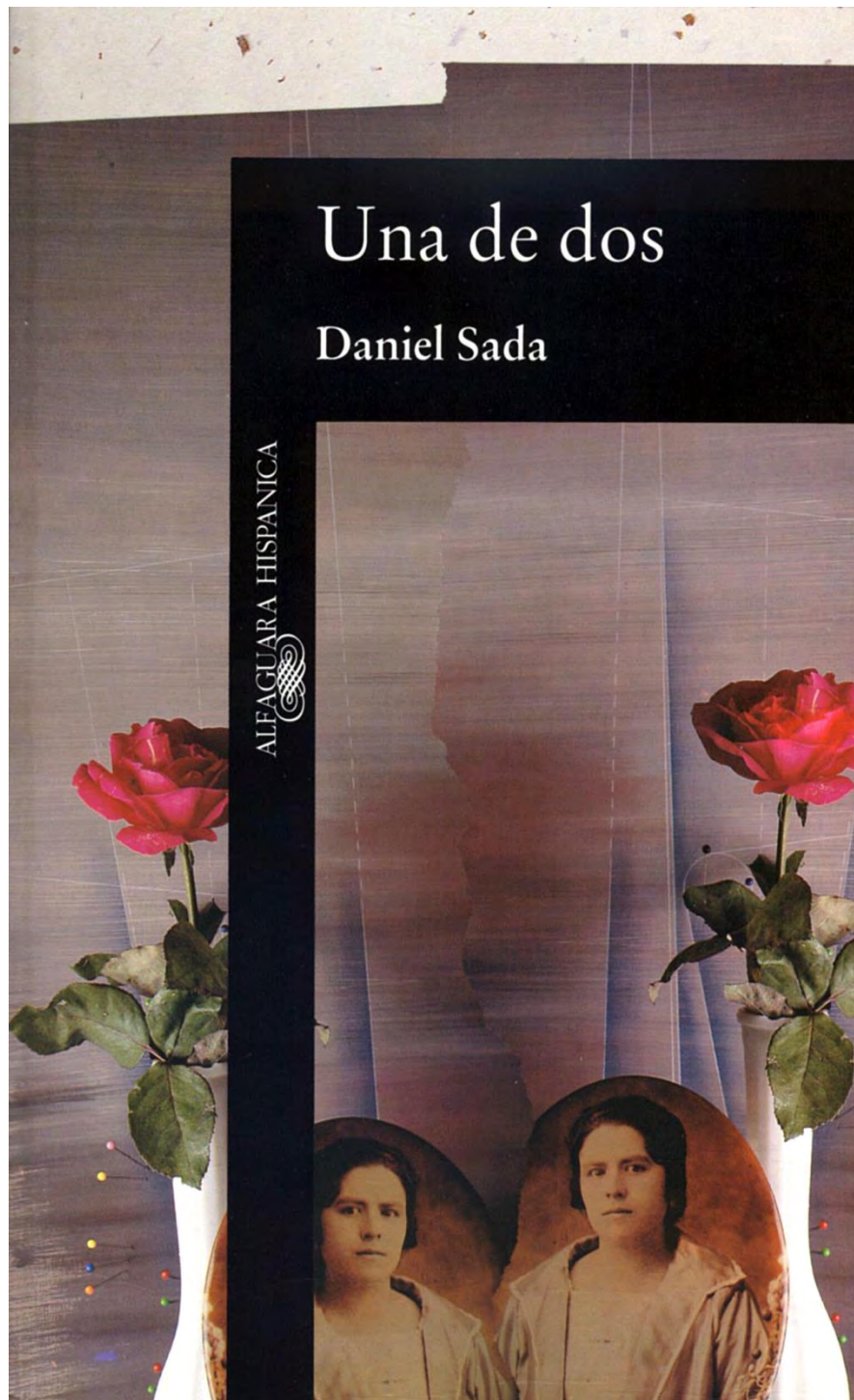


The following vocabulary was developed by TC Rindfleisch for the Alfaguara Hispanica edition of the Daniel Sada short novel *Una de dos* (Aguilar, Altea, Taurus, Alfaguara S.A., 1994). The vocabulary content was selected for advanced students and emphasizes words or meanings unique to Sada's writing about a community in northern Mexico.

TCR, 9/6/13





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Daniel Sada (Mexicali, Baja California, México, 1953), es poeta y narrador. Algunos de sus textos han sido traducidos al inglés, al alemán y al holandés. Ha sido catedrático de literatura universal y de literatura mexicana. En 1992 recibió el Premio Xavier Villaurrutia por el libro *Registro de causantes*. Asimismo, ha sido becario del Centro Mexicano de Escritores, del Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes y del Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, y se ha desempeñado como jurado en diversos certámenes literarios de su país, al cual ha representado en encuentros internacionales de escritores. Entre sus obras destacan *Los lugares* (poesía), *Lampa vida* (novela), *Albedrío* (novela) y *Juguete de nadie* (cuentos).

***Una de dos*** es una novela de la reciente narrativa mexicana en la cual Daniel Sada observa con singular virtud la vida de una pequeña localidad del norte de México, al tiempo que se sumerge en la riqueza lingüística a través de una exploración devastadora de las diferentes jergas, cambiantes e inverosímiles, a la vez tan próximas y tan lejanas del centro del país. ***Una de dos*** es también una historia de dualidades, de la unión y lucha de los contrarios. El eje es la vida de las hermanas Gamal, gemelas cuya "única importancia de por vida ha radicado en su similitud, ese doble sentido que a lo mejor es uno". "La una es la otra, y la otra lo niega algunas veces, desde luego en secreto, pues porque es muy molesto tener doble, casi casi pegoste, pero la culpa es de ellas que al paso de los años, pretenden imitarse más y más".

## ABBREVIATIONS

adj.	adjective	f.	feminine
adv.	adverb	inf.	infinitive
cf.	compare, see	interj.	interjection
coll.	colloquial	m.	masculine
conj.	conjunction	pl.	plural
dimin.	diminutive	p. p.	past participle

## A B C D E F G H I J K L M N Ñ O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

## VOCABULARY

### — A [[^top](#)]

**abarrotero**, —a *m/f.* grocer, storekeeper  
**abocarse** to focus on, throw oneself into  
**abono** *m.* down payment, installment  
**abordar** to approach; broach, take up  
**abridor**, —a *adj.* that opens, opening;  
 — *m.* opener (can, bottle); stud earring  
**abuqueo** *m.* booing, jeering, catcall  
**acatrinarse, encatrinarse** to make OS elegant  
**acecho** *m.* stalking, spying  
**al** — being in wait, watching  
**acerbo**, —a *adj.* harsh, bitter  
**acertijo** *m.* riddle, puzzle, conundrum  
**acicate** *adj.* sharp; stimulating  
**acta** *f.* affidavit, certificate  
**acullá** *adv.* over there, yonder  
**adrede** *adv.* on purpose, intentionally  
**adusto**, —a *adj.* gloomy, sullen, austere,  
 forbidding  
**afanoso**, —a *adj.* eager, industrious, pains-  
 taking  
**aguijado**, —a *adj.* spurred on, hurried along  
**águila** *f.* eagle  
 ¿— o sol? heads or tails?  
**ahínco** *m.* earnestness, ardor, determination

**ahíto**, —a *adj.* fed up, sick of; full, sated  
**alabastrino**, —a *adj.* of alabaster; treasured,  
 dreamed of  
**alado**, —a *adj.* winged; quick; flying  
**alarde** *m.* showing off, boasts  
**albricias** *f. pl.* present, gift  
**albur** *m.* risk, chance, fate  
**alcance** *m.* pursuit, spying, encounter  
**alegato** *m.* allegation, dispute  
**aleve** *adj.* treacherous, with skullduggery  
**alevoso**, —a *adj.* premeditated  
**almagrado**, —a *adj.* tinted w red ochre  
**almizcate** *m.* shared patio between two houses  
**alumbrado**, —a *adj.* lit up, chosen  
**alzarse** to raise/lift  
 — **el cuello** to strut one's stuff, put on airs  
**amacizar** to make stronger; to get a hold on  
 oneself  
**amaño** *m.* trickery, deception; cleverness  
**amodorrado**, —a *adj.* half asleep, bleary eyed  
**ancho**, —a *adj.* wide; lax  
**a sus** —s at ease, w/o pressure, relaxed  
**antojito** *m.* bite to eat, snack  
**añagaza** *f.* lure, decoy; ruse  
**añejo**, —a *adj.* mature, aged; old, stale  
**apache** *m.* crook, bandit  
**apartado**, —a *adj.* set aside, reserved

**apechugado**, —a *adj.* tight, passionate  
**aperramiento** *m.* tenacity, insistence, digging heels in  
**aplomo** *m.* self-possession, coolness, assurance  
**apostilla** *f.* footnote, annotation  
**apremio** *m.* pressure, compulsion  
**apretado**, —a *adj.* close, crowded; tight  
**apriete** *m.* pursing, pressing together  
**arañar** to scratch, to scrape the surface; to be close to (age), be pushing  
**arañón**, —a *adj.* like a spider  
**archimaduro**, —a *adj.* over-ripe  
**arete** *m.* earring  
     —s de bolita tear-drop earrings  
**arisco**, —a *adj.* gruff, unfriendly  
**arraigo** *m.* roots; ancestry, wealth  
**arrayán** *m.* myrtle, bayberry  
**arriscamiento** *m.* boldness, resolution, forwardness  
**arrodillado**, —a *adj.* kneeling, begging  
**arrojo** *m.* boldness, daring, fearlessness  
**asaz** *adv.* very, rather; extremely  
**asentado**, —a *adj.* settled, agreed, established  
**asomo** *m.* appearance  
**atar** to tie  
     —se bien un dedo to remember, be reminded  
**atáxico**, —a *adj.* uncoordinated; related nervous disorder ataxia  
**atento**, —a *adj.* attentive, courteous  
**atiborrarse** to overload, stuff  
**atirantado**, —a *adj.* having shoulder straps  
**atisbar** to see, check (if/whether); to take a look at, sneak a peek at  
**atragante** *adj.* choking, having something down the wrong pipe  
**atropello** *m.* outrage, abuse  
**aventarse** to throw oneself into, escape to  
**avorazarse** to become ambitious, go beyond the call  
**azaroso**, —a *adj.*, timid, fearful; unlucky risky, hazardous

— B [[^top](#)]

**bagaje** *m.* experience, grounding; baggage  
**bagatela** *f.* trifle, knick-knack  
**bajeza** *f.* nasty/mean thing to do  
**balde**  
     en — in vain, for nothing  
**banqueta** *f.* sidewalk, pavement  
**bañar** to bathe, take a bath  
     mandar a ALGN a — to tell SO to get lost/to go to hell  
**barajeo** *m.* shuffling; niggling  
**baratero**, —a *adj.* at a cut rate, at an advantageous price  
**barrabás** *m.* Barabbas (Biblical person)  
**batahola** *f.* racket, hullabaloo  
**batalloso**, —a *adj.* upsetting, disputed  
**batidero** *m.* continual beating of one thing against another, bickering; reinforcement of fabric/sail at seam; uneven ground  
**bebeleche** *adj.* staggering, moving in zigzag (as in hopscotch)  
**boca** *f.* mouth  
     a — de jarro *adv.* point blank, directly  
**bola** *f.* ball; fib  
     ¡bolas! *interj.* Holy cow!, Jeez!  
**bregar** to struggle, persevere  
**bullá** *f.* row, quarrel  
**burdo**, —a *adj.* coarse, rough, clumsy  
**burla** *f.* taunt, mockery  
**burro** *m.* donkey  
     aire de — brutishness, crudeness

— C [[^top](#)]

**cabal** *adj.* complete, perfect, exact, full  
**cabecear** to nod off, shake one's head  
**cabida** *f.* space, room, place (for)  
**cachano** *m.* devil, evil spirit  
**cachete** *m.* cheek (face); buttock  
**cajeta** *f.* fudge, caramel, toffee  
**calco**, —a *m/f.* copy, imitation  
**caliente** *adj.* hot  
     en — then and there, while things are hot

**campante** *adj.* relaxed, as if nothing happened  
**camposanto** *m.* cemetery  
**cándido**, —**a** *adj.* naïve, stupid; snow-white; candid, simple, straightforward  
**canijo**, —**a** *adj.* sly, manipulative; weak, puny  
**cantaleta** *f.* nagging, same old story  
**canto** *m.* song, singing; thickness  
**al** — in the course of things, in response  
**capitalón** *m.* large sum of money, nest egg  
**capotear**, **capear** to dodge, duck; bamboozle  
**caprichudo**, —**a** *adj.* whimsical; stubborn  
**careo** *m.* confrontation, show-down  
**carnal**, —**a** *m/f.* pal, buddy  
**carraco**, —**a** *m/f.* old, sickly wreck  
**carrizo** *m.* spindly leg; reed  
**casco** *m.* bottle, container  
**caso** *m.* case, situation, chance  
**tener** — to matter, make sense, be appropriate  
**casorio** *m.* wedding; unwise marriage;  
 —, **a** *adj.* wedded  
**casquivano**, —**a** *adj.* scatterbrained, giddy, flighty  
**caudal** *m.* wealth, fortune; flow rate  
**cazuz** *m.* ivy (plant)  
**cerciorarse** to check, assure oneself  
**chachalaco**, —**a** *adj.* loud, insistent, irritating  
**chalado**, —**a** *adj.* crazy, nuts  
**chamaco**, —**a** *m/f.* youngster, kid  
**chamorro** *m.* leg (of animal), calf (of leg, esp. of animal)  
**chancludo**, —**a** *adj.* wearing sandals/flip-flops  
**chango** *m.* mischievous/annoying thing  
**chanza** *f.* chance, opportunity; prank, teasing, joke  
**chaparro** *m.* short squat person, midget  
**chapuza** *f.* trick, deception; botched job  
**charro**, —**a** *m/f.* hick, peasant; traditional Mex cowboy; flashy/gaudy adornment  
**charro**, —**a** *adj.* rustic, rural, traditional; showy/gaudy  
**chascarrillo** *m.* witty anecdote, joke  
**chasco** *m.* trick, hoax; disappointment

**chicotazo** *m.* blow; lash of whip  
**chingadera** *f.* mess, screw-up; piece of crap  
**chiquiador**, —**a** *m.* home remedy, small poultice with herbs, snake skin, or various ingredients  
**chiquirringa** *f.*, **chiquirrín** *m.* cricket  
**chirrión**, —**a** *adj.* making whip-like sound; screeching; annoyingly loud/sharp sound  
**chismoseo** *m.* gossiping  
**choteo** *m.* kidding, joking  
**chulado**, **achulado**, —**a** *adj.* cute, sweet; cocky  
**chunga** *f.* fun, joke  
**churro** *m.* fluke, accident; mess  
**ni de** — not even by accident  
**cierne** *m.* budding, blossoming  
**en** —**s** just starting, in infancy  
**cierre** *m.* ending, closing; closure, clasp, fastener  
**cierto**, —**a** *adj.* true, certain  
**por** — **que mejor** by far the best/better  
**cintura** *f.* waist  
**con la mano en la** — confidently, self-assured, w/o fear  
**clave** *f.* key, code  
**clavo** *m.* nail  
**atinar al** — to hit the nail on the head  
**Club 45** *m.* 8-year-old scotch whiskey  
**coacción** *f.* compulsion, persistent impulse  
**cochambroso**, —**a** *adj.* filthy  
**cochinada** *f.* dirty/inappropriate action  
**colanchón**, —**a** *adj.* in the same boat/life-boat  
**colmar** to fill up, finish off  
**comadreo** *m.*, **comadrería** *f.* nattering, chattering  
**combinarse** to take things in turns; to get together  
**comedido**, —**a** *adj.* reticent, restrained  
**comedimiento** *m.* restraint, moderation; helpfulness  
**competencia** *f.* rivalry, competition  
**compungido**, —**a** *adj.* sorrowful, sad, contrite  
**condescendiente** *adj.* obliging, acquiescent  
**consecución** *f.* obtaining, attainment, reaching (goals)

**consigna** *f.* remanding, forcing back (Mex.); instructions; watchword; temporary storage in depot (for traveler)

**contorno** *m.* outline, contour

**contrasentido** *m.* inconsistency, contradiction, paradox

**contratiempo** *m.* mishap, accident, misfortune

**contrincante** *m.* rival, opponent

**convenenciero, —a** *adj.* self-serving, ego-centric

**copete** *m.* lock/tuft of hair near forehead

**copeteado, —a** *adj.* filled to the brim, forming a crown

**coraje** *m.* anger, irritation; courage

**corajudo, —a** *adj.* quick-tempered; gutsy

**corazonada** *f.* hunch, feeling; impulse

**coronelón, —a** *adj.* commanding, like colonel, authoritative

**correlón, —a** *adj.* running, moving quickly

**correntida** *f.* strong impetuous current

**correoso, —a** *adj.* difficult, tricky; flexible

**correspondencia** *f.* connection, link, relationship

**correvedile, correveidile** *f.* tattle-tale, gossip

**cosquilla** *f.* itch, urge

**costal** *m.* sack, bag

**covacha** *f.* hell-hole, attic storage room

**criterio** *m.* judgment, opinion, view

**crítico** *m.* fault-finder, nitpicker

**cromo** *m.* color lithograph, picture card

**cuadrar** to square, fit  
— **con** to square/tally with; to fit/go with

**cuan**  
**tan <adj> — <adj>** *adv rel.* as, just as, even as (e.g., Él es tan gracioso cuan fuerte.)  
**cuán** *adv (intensifier)* how (¡Cuán rápido corrió!)

**cuate, —a** *m/f.* twin (fraternal); buddy; guy

**cucaña** *f.* sense/illusion of prosperity, advantage

**cuentagotas**  
**a** — *adv.* bit by bit

**cuento** *m.* story, tale; joke, trick;  
**crear a** — to bring up/create out of the blue

**cuerda** *f.* bowstring; cord, rope  
**dar — a ALGN** to encourage SO

**cuita** *f.* domestic strife, trouble; worry

**cúmulo** *m.* heap, accumulation

**cundir** to spread, multiply

## — D [[^top](#)]

**dale** *interj.* repeated, again  
**estar/seguir — que** — to go/keep on and on

**dejadez** *f.* abandon, sloth, neglect

**dengue** *m.* swinging/wiggling of hips; prudery, coyness; dengue fever

**denuedo** *m.* energy, focus, effort

**departir** to converse, mingle

**derrochar** to be bursting with, full of

**derrotero** *m.* direction, path, course

**desabrido, —a** *adj.* tasteless, bland; disagreeable, harsh

**desacuerdo** *m.* mistake, unwise action

**desbalague** *m.* scattering dispersing, separation,

**desbancar** to oust, supplant

**desbarajuste** *m.* disorder, mess, confusion

**desbaratar** to put in disarray; spoil, ruin

**desbarrado, —a** *adj.* foolish, trashy

**desbocada** *f.* faux pas, improper advance, slip of the tongue

**desbocarse** to absorb/occupy oneself; run loose

**descarapele** *m.* peeling, cracking

**descarsarse** to be cheeky, behave badly

**descuido** *m.* oversight, carelessness  
**en un** — *adv.* in a moment of distraction, if you take your eye off the ball

**desdibujo** *m.* blurred memory, image, outline

**desembrollo** *m.* unraveling, sorting out, clarifying

**desemejarse** to alter the appearance of, to make look different

**desgarramiento** *m.* tearing apart, upheaval

**desgarriate, desgarreate** *m.* jumble, mess; gibberish

**designio** *m.* design, plan  
**desmentidero** *m.* refutation, denial  
**desmenuzar** to analyze thoroughly, pick apart  
**desmoronamiento** *m.* collapse, break-down  
**desoír** to ignore, turn a deaf ear to  
**desolado**, —*a adj.* desolate, sad  
**desperzarse** to stretch, stretch one's limbs  
**desplante** *m.* insolence, affront, rebuff  
**desplazarse** to move about  
**despropósito** *m.* senseless nonsense  
**desprovisto**, —*a adj.* lacking, without  
   — *de* devoid of  
**desquite** *m.* revenge, payback  
**destete** *m.* weaning  
**desveladón**, —*a m/f.* insomniac  
**desvelarse** to not be able to sleep; to take  
   great care  
**desviación** *f.* deviation, detour  
**detallista** *adj.* perfectionist; thoughtful,  
   considerate  
**detentar** to hold unlawfully  
**devaneo** *m.* fling, affair; delirium  
**devenir** *m.* progression, development, process  
**devolverse** to return, come back  
**diablura** *f.* mischief, devilry  
**difusión** *f.* diffusion, spreading  
**dilatarse** to take a long time, be late  
**dilogía** *f.* using a word with two meanings in the  
   same sentence; two-sided choice, dilemma  
**disimularse** to conceal, hide; pretend nothing  
   happened  
**dizque** *adv.* apparently, so-called, as they say  
**dormir** to sleep  
   — *a pierna suelta* to sleep tight/soundly  
**dos** *m.* two  
   **en un — por tres** quickly, in a flash  
**duermevela** *f.* light sleep, nap  
**dundo, dundeco**, —*a adj.* silly, stupid

— **E** [\[<sup>^</sup>top\]](#)

**echadizo**, —*a adj.* secret, clandestine  
**elevación** *f.* ascent, rising (to heaven)

**embarrar** to spatter with mud; to besmirch; to  
   make a mess of things  
**embebido**, —*a adj.* saturated, soaked with  
**emborrnarse** to get smudged/blotched  
**embozo** *m.* covering, mask, concealment  
**embrollarse** to get tangled/wrapped-up in  
**empañado**, —*a adj.* blurred, out of focus, misty  
**emparrillado** *m.* grill-work, bars  
**empero** *conj.* but, yet, however  
**encarrerado**, —*a adj.* put back on track,  
   oriented  
**encerrona** *f.* trap, predicament  
**enchilado**, —*a adj.* red in face, pissed off;  
   seasoned with chili  
**encomio** *m.* praise, tribute  
**enconcharse** to go into one's shell, to retire  
   into seclusion  
**encono** *m.* spite, bitterness, animosity  
**ende**  
   **por** — *adv.* therefore, hence, in that way  
**enfilarse** to head toward, be directed toward  
**engarce** *m.* link, connection; mount (gem)  
**engorro** *m.* hassle, bother, nuisance  
**enjabonadura** *f.* soaping/lathering up, washing  
**enjuague** *m.* rinsing  
**enmienda** *f.* correction, adjustment  
**enredijo** *m.* tangle, mess  
**enredoso**, —*a adj.* complicated; trouble-  
   making, mischievous  
**ensalce** *m.* exaltation, flight  
**enseñar** to show, exhibit; instruct, teach  
   — *el cobre* to show one's true self/colors  
**enseres** *m pl.* equipment, goods  
**entelerido**, —*a adj.* flickering, dancing;  
   trembling  
**entendible** *adj.* understandable, intelligible  
**entereza** *f.* integrity, fortitude, composure  
**enternecido**, —*a adj.* tender, compassionate  
**entrecejamiento** *m.* frowning, scowling  
**entrega** *f.* dedication, devotion  
**entresacable** *adj.* able to be extracted,  
   selected, deduced; or surmised  
**entresacar** to extract, take from, obtain

**entretenido**, —a *adj.* distracted, keeping oneself entertained  
**entreverado**, —a *adj.* admixed, mixed with different types, patchy  
**envolvencia** *f.* clothing; wrapping; involvement  
**equis** *adj.* certain amount; average, fair to middling  
**escollo** *m.* reef, shoal; hang-up, pitfall, snag; risk, danger  
**escorzo** *m.* perspective, foreshortening  
**escribidero**, —a *m/f.* bad writer  
**escueto**, —a *adj.* simple, succinct  
**escupitajo** *m.* gob of spit, hawker  
**esgrimirse** to argue that, put forward  
**esparcimiento** *m.* amusement, recreation; dissemination  
**espectral** *adj.* ghostly, like a specter  
**esperanzado**, —a *adj.* hopeful, optimistic  
**esquema** *m.* outline, schema; way of thinking  
**estado** *m.* state; status  
 — **civil** marital status  
**estampa** *f.* image, figure  
**estarcido**, —a *adj.* stenciled, masked  
 — *m.* stencil, stenciled sketch  
**estilarse** to be in fashion, be customary to do  
**estire** *m.* stretch, pressing issue  
**estridule** *m.* creaking, squeaking  
**estropicio** *m.* rumpus; breakage, mess  
**ex profeso** *adv.* on purpose, by design  
**expectación** *f.* anticipation, excitement

### — F [[^top](#)]

**fabulación** *f.* invention, creation  
**factible** *adj.* practicable, feasible  
**falacia** *f.* fallacy; deceitfulness  
**fantoche** *m.* loud-mouth, braggart; puppet  
**faramalla** *f.* lie, deception, bragging  
**festín** *m.* party, banquet  
**fidedigno**, —a *adj.* reliable, trustworthy  
**figuración** *f.* imagination  
**filípica** *f.* harangue, tirade

**filo** *m.* direction, line; blade edge; sword  
**al — de <time>** at the stroke of <time>  
**firulín, firulete** *adj.* superfluous, in bad taste  
**figón** *m.* snooper, nosey one, curious one  
**flagrante** *adj.* flagrant, glaring  
**flamante** *adj.* splendid; brand new  
**flojera** *f.* faintness, weakness  
**dar** — to not feel like/up to  
**foco** *m.* light, spotlight; focus; focal point  
**folión** *m.* silent fart  
**foráneo**, —a *adj.* foreign  
**franco**, —a *adj.* open, natural, exposed  
**fregadero**, —a *m/f.* pain in the neck, nuisance  
**friega** *f.* rubbing; nuisance  
**en** — *adj.* irritating, annoying  
**frijolerío** *m.* preparation of beans  
**fuereño**, —a *m/f.* outsider, foreigner  
**fulminado**, —a *adj.* struck as if by lightning, stricken

### — G [[^top](#)]

**gacho**, —a *adj.* down on all fours  
**galancete** *m.* actor playing a younger person; dapper little man  
**gallardo**, —a *adj.* graceful, elegant; brave, bold  
**gandul** *m/f.* idler, good-for-nothing  
**gane** *m.* win, advantage, benefit  
**ganga** *f.* bargain  
**garduño**, —a *adj.* given to petty theft  
**garete**  
**al** — adrift, w/o supervision  
**garlito** *m.* trap, snare  
**garrapateo** *m.* scribbles, scribbling  
**gatazo** *m.*  
**dar el** — to look younger than one is, to not show one's age  
**gatería** *f.* cattiness, maliciousness; false modesty  
**glosa** *f.* brief explanation (often erroneous), annotation, comment  
**gnosis** *f.* certain spiritual knowledge  
**godeño** *m.* prized/valued belongings, gifts



**grado** *m.* rank, grade, degree  
 — **enfermizo** point of clinical concern  
**grana**  
**de** — deep red, cochineal  
**greña** *f.* mop of hair; lock of hair  
**grisura** *f.* grayness; unresponsiveness, dullness  
**guaje** *adj.* silly, stupid  
**hacerse** — to fool SO, take SO in  
**guasa** *f.* jest, joke, mockery  
**gubio**, —**a** dark, gloomy, depressing  
**güirigüiri**, **güiri-güiri** *m.* nattering, idle chatter  
**guitón**, —**a** *m/f.* slacker, lazy person  
**gusto** *m.* pleasure; good taste  
**en —s se rompen géneros y en [petates](#) buenos culos** to each his own, there's no accounting for taste (in matters of good taste, classes/types are broken, in bed good asses/virginity.)

## — H [\[<sup>^</sup>top\]](#)

**hablantín**, —**a**, **hablanchín**, —**a** *adj.* talkative, garrulous  
**hablar** to speak  
**no — ni pío** not to breathe a word  
**hado** *m.* fate, destiny  
**hálito** *m.* breath  
**hartazgo** *m.* surfeit, bellyful  
**harto** *adv.* quite, a good deal, rather, pretty much  
**hilazón** *f.* link, connection; joining, stitching  
**hilo** *m.* thread; linen  
**tener mucho** — to be highly likely/possible  
**hiriente** *adj.* hurtful, cutting  
**hondura** *f.* profundity  
**horadar** to perforate, pierce, drill  
**huerco**, —**a** *m/f.* youth; girl, chick  
**huizache**, **huisache** *m.* shyster, unqualified lawyer  
**hurtadilla**  
**a —s** *adv.* furtively, on the sly

## — I [\[<sup>^</sup>top\]](#)

**idilio** *m.* idyll, romantic relationship  
**importuna** *f.* inconvenience, inopportuneness  
**por** — *adv.* annoyingly, inopportunately  
**impudicia** *f.* immodesty, lewdness  
**inabarcable** *adj.* vast, extensive, uncontainable  
**inconsecuencia** *f.* inconsistency  
**íncubo** *m.* incubus (devil); nightmare  
**índole** *m.* nature, type, kind  
**infame** *adj.* disgusting, awful  
**infrangible** *adj.* unbreakable  
**íngrimo**, —**a** *adj.* alone, abandoned, lonely  
**inopinado**, —**a** *adj.* unexpected  
**insulso**, —**a** *adj.* insipid, dull  
**interiorista** *adj.* interior, internal; inward  
**interiorista** *m/f.* interior decorator/designer  
**interpelada** *f.* questioning, imploring  
**inverosímil** *adj.* improbable, incredible, far-fetched; misleading  
**ipso facto** *adv.* by that act, as a result  
**irse** to leave, take off  
 — **a pique** to sink, go to ruin

## — J [\[<sup>^</sup>top\]](#)

**jalar** to pull, tug; to count, have pull  
 — **el pelo** to tease, pull one's leg  
**jalonar** to pull, tug, yank  
**jaloncito** *m.* tug, pull  
**jaloneo** *m.* haggling; pull, tug  
**jaque** *m.* check (chess);  
**mantener en** — to keep in check; to put SO on the defensive  
**jilito**, **hilito**, —**a** *adj.* thin, threadlike  
**jugado**, —**a** *adj.* over, done, played out; won  
**justificación** *f.* reason, excuse

## — L [\[<sup>^</sup>top\]](#)

**lapso** *m.* interval, period (time)  
**lasca** *f.* small stone chip/piece  
**lelo**, —**a** *adj.* stupid, dull  
**lerdo**, —**a** slow; slow-witted

**licenciar** to permit, allow; to license

**línea** *f.* figure; line

**lineamiento** *m.* guideline; distinguishing or characteristic feature

**luchador**, —**a** *adj.* determined, persistent, tenacious

**luengo**, —**a** *adj.* long, prolonged

**lujo** *m.* excess, abundance; luxury

## — M [[^top](#)]

**macaco**, —**a** *adj.* homely, ugly

**machaca** *f.* crushed/mashed stuff

**machacón**, —**a** *adj.* insistent, repetitive

**macuco**, —**a** *adj.* crafty, cunning; old, useless

**magín** *m.* mind, imagination

**mago**, —**a** *m/f.* magician, wizard/sorceress

**magro**, —**a** *adj.* poor; meager, lean

**maguer** *conj.* (**aunque**), although, even though, but

**magullado**, —**a** *adj.* worn, wrinkled, rumped; bruised, injured

**majadería** *f.* silliness, absurdity

**mal** bad

— **que bien** *adv.* somehow or other

**manga**

**dar — ancha** to give free rein, broad permission

**mango** *m.* Mango tree; handle; good-looking fellow

**manicomio** *m.* insane asylum

**manido**, —**a** *adj.* trite, hackneyed

**manoseo** *m.* groping, feeling up

**maña** *f.* skill, care

**mañana** *f.* morning; tomorrow

— *m.* near future, future

**maquiscóatl** *m.* the “frightful snake” — a two-headed snake (one at each end) from which the Indians read various omens. Also the name of a “tale-bearer”, said to have two tongues and two heads.

**maquiscoatlaco**, —**a** *adj.* related to maquiscóatl

**marmaja** *f.* dough, money

**marrano**, —**a** *m/f.* pig, swine

**matalotaje** *m.* jumble, mess

**matiz** *m.* shading, hue

**mayatón**, —**a** *adj.* Mayan; fruity, gay, homosexual

**mazorca** *f.* corn cob, ear of corn

**pelar la — de los dientes** to smile (showing one’s teeth)

**media** *f.* half

— **naranja** *f.* better half (spouse)

**medrar** to grow; to thrive, prosper

**medroso**, —**a** *adj.* fearful, timid

**mellizo**, —**a** *m/f.* twin (esp. fraternal)

**memo**, —**a** *adj.* silly, stupid, daft

**mendaz** *adj.* untruthful, mendacious

**menos** *adv.* less

**cuando** — at least

**no es para** — rightly so, quite right too

**mentado**, —**a** *m/f.* aforementioned one

**menudencia** *f.* trifle, detail, unimportant event

**meollo** *m.* pith, heart, core; marrow

**mesarse** to pull at, tweak (hair)

**miramiento** *m.* circumspection; consideration, regard

**mirujeada** *f.* glance, second look

**mofa** *f.* mockery, ridicule

**mohíno**, —**a** *adj.* depressed, sulky, annoyed

**mono**, —**a** monkey-like; cute, adorable (child)

**montonal** *m.* large heap, huge amount

**moño** *m.* ribbon, bow; bun (hair)

**ponerse los —s** to put on airs, show off

**morbo** *m.* morbid/perverse curiosity; sexiness

**mordaz** *adj.* scathing, caustic, biting

**mosquiento**, —**a** *adj.* fly-bitten

**motu**

**de — propio** *adv.* of one’s own accord

**muchachil** *adj.* boyish/girlish

**mugrero** *m.* dirtiness, messiness

**murrio**, —**a** *adj.* depressed, sad

**mustio**, —**a** *adj.* hypocritical; withered; depressed

**mutismo** *m.* silence

—N [[^top](#)]

**nefasto**, —a *adj.* unlucky, ill-fated  
**negociazo** *m.* business deal  
**neto**, —a *adj.* distinct, clear  
**niña** *f.* eye, pupil; girl  
**nocivo**, —a *adj.* injurious, noxious  
**nogal** *m.* walnut tree  
**nogaleda** *f.* walnut grove  
**nombrar** to discover, designate; name, appoint  
**nopalerío** *m.* patch of nopal cactus.  
**notición** *f.* extraordinary news, heads-up, bombshell  
**noviar** to be dating, courting

—Ñ [[^top](#)]

**ñoño**, —a *adj.* insipid, dull

—O [[^top](#)]

**obcecado**, —a *adj.* obstinate, mentally blinded  
**obnubilación** *f.* blurring, confusion  
**obviado**, —a *adj.* evaded, omitted  
**occiso**, —a *m/f.* victim, deceased  
**ociosidad** *f.* idleness, shiftlessness  
**olvidadizo**, —a *adj.* forgetful; ungrateful  
**omóplato** *m.* shoulder blade, scapula  
**onírico**, —a *adj.* dreamlike  
**ordenamiento** *m.* ordering, arranging  
**orla** *f.* border, fringe, trimming  
**orondo**, —a *adj.* calm, serene, smug; rotund  
**otredad** *f.* otherness, being different

—P [[^top](#)]

**pajarear** to listen/watch intently  
**pajarero**, —a *adj.* merry; meddlesome  
**pajarraco** *m.* rogue, rascal; big ugly bird  
**palique** *m.* chat, chitchat  
**palmarío**, —a *adj.* clear, evident, manifest  
**palpar** to caress, fondle  
**pandeado**, —a *adj.* bent over, slouching

**pandorga** *f.* nuisance; prank; fat woman

**pañoleta** *f.* kerchief, scarf

**paquete** *m.* packaging, wrapping

**darse** — to put on airs

**dejar el** — to leave with the work load; to leave in a family way (pregnant)

**pardear** to look/turn brownish/yellowish

**parecido**, —a *adj.* similar, alike

**parejadura** *f.* pairing, similarity

**paseador** *m.* traveler, tourist

**patillas** *f.* pl. side whiskers, side burns

**pátina** *f.* patina, surface appearance with age; slippage, skating

**patrimonio** *m.* inheritance, assets

**paulatinamente** *adv.* gradually, bit by bit

**pauta** *f.* standard, pattern, guideline

**pegoste** *m.* parasite, scrounger

**pelota** *f.* ball

**hacerse** —s to cozy up to, suck up to; to hurt emotionally

**pelotón**, —a *adj.* full, rounded

**pendiente** *m.* pending matter

**al** — waiting, at service

**percatarse** to notice, realize

**perentorio**, —a *adj.* with fixed limit, pressing, urgent

**pergeño** *m.* aspect, appearance

**perrada** *f.* pack of dogs (people); dirty trick

**pese a pese** *adv.* in spite of everything, at all costs

**peso** *m.* weight; influence

**razón de** — an important/decisive reason

**pesquisa** *f.* inquiry, investigation

**petate** *m.* bed mat, bedroll

**peyorativo**, —a *adj.* pejorative, disparaging  
**piache**

**tarde** — *m.* late comer; one too late for business opportunity

**pichicato**, —a *adj.* stingy, mean

**pichón**, —a *adj.* like pigeon; dear

**picotazo** *m.* peck, sting

**pie** *m.* foot

**dar** — a **ALGO** to cause, give rise to

**pierde**

**no tener/encontrar** — **ALGO** to be easy to find something following given instructions

**piernerío** *m.* set of legs

**pillo**, —**a** *m/f.* sneak thief, pickpocket

**pilón** *m.* trough, basin (of a fountain); bonus, tip  
**de** — as a bonus/extra/tip

**pilongo**, —**a** *m/f.* tall, thin; dried (chestnut); person baptized in same font as another

**pimpante** *adj.* flattering, spruced up

**pinabete** *m.* fir tree

**pingajo** *m.* remnant/scrap of cloth

**pingo** *m.* scamp, devilish kid

**pinturreo** *m.* careless smudging of color

**pisteo** *m.* drinking, tipsiness

**pisto** *m.* alcoholic drink

**pituso**, —**a** *m/f.* small, cute kid

**pizca** *f.* bit, whit, slightest trace

**plano**, —**a** *adj.* flat, level

**de** — *adv.* plain and simple

**plaste** *m.* plaster, gesso

**ponzoña** *f.* poison, venom

**porfiar** to strive, endeavor, persist

**postrer** *adj.* last, final

**premiosidad** *f.* urgency, pressure

**premisa** *f.* premise

**prestancia** *f.* poise, elegance, grace

**pretendido**, —**a** *m/f.* one being courted, sought after

**pretérito**, —**a** *adj.* past, previous

**principio** *m.* start; principle

**en un** — *adv.* initially, at first

**probadita** *f.* tentative test, feeling out

**proclive** *adj.* given to, inclined to, prone to

**procura** *f.* obtaining, getting; caution and shrewdness in business

**prodigarse** to overexpose oneself, squander oneself

**prolijo**, —**a** *adj.* perfect, fit for; detailed, meticulous

**propiciatorio**, —**a** *adj.* appeasing, conciliatory

**provechoso**, —**a** *adj.* beneficial, advantageous

**prurito** *m.* itching, urge; pride

**pudrición** *f.* decomposition, decay

**puerco**, —**a** *adj.* filthy, dirty; coarse

**pulla** *f.* nasty comment, cutting remark

**pulso** *m.* steady hand; pulse; wrist  
**a** — by hand, with skilled hand

**punto** *m.* point; mark; stitch

**a** — at the ready

— **Q** [[^top](#)]

**quedado**, —**a** *adj.* left as bachelor/spinster, left behind, left on shelf

**quema** *f.* burning, fire

**querendón**, —**a** *adj.* very loving, affectionate

**quihubo** that were, who have been

**quinto** *m.* nickel (coin)

— **R** [[^top](#)]

**rajador**, —**a** *adj.* cutting, splitting

**rampa** *f.* ramp, slope; launching pad

**ranchear** to stop here and there, meander; to have a meal; to pillage

**rastra** *f.* pulling, tearing; act of dragging along

**rata** *f.* rat

— **cuerera** experienced/street-wise rat, crafty one

**rauco**, —**a** *adj.* hoarse, suffering laryngitis

**raudo**, —**a** *adj.* swift, rapid

**rebajar** to reduce, thin, cut

**rebane** *m.* sexual/amorous adventure

**al** — on the make, seeking sexual/amorous adventure

**rebose** *m.* state of bursting, overflowing

**recalar** to appear in, end up in

**recargado**, —**a** *adj.* leaning against; overwhelmed

**recomendación** *f.* advice, recommendation

**recomponer** to mend, repair; to reset

**reconcentrarse** to focus, become totally absorbed

**reconcomio** *m.* suspicion; urge, itch; resentment

**recuento** *m.* retelling, recounting

**redil** *m.* sheepfold, corral, enclosure; fold  
**redila** *f.* stall, stanchion, small enclosure  
**redondear** finish up; round off; put on sound footing  
**redondez** *f.* fullness, entirety; roundness  
**reducto** *m.* bastion, stronghold  
**reelaborado**, —**a** *adj.* re-made, re-implemented, re-developed,  
**refile, refilón**  
**de** — *adv.* in passing, incidental; to one side; at a glance, out of the corner of one's eye  
**refine** *m.* refinement; purity (alcoholic content)  
**refreno** *m.* restraint, holding back  
**regañadientes**  
**a** — *adv.* unwillingly, reluctantly, through clenched teeth  
**regar** *v.* to water; to wash; to sprinkle  
 —**la** (**cajeta**) *v.* (Mex.) to screw it up, make a mess of it  
**regentear** to manage, oversee  
**regla** *f.* rule  
 —**s de tres** multiplication by rule of ratios  
**regocijo** *m.* rejoicing, joy, pleasure  
**relumbroso**, —**a** *adj.* shining, dazzling  
**rematar** to auction; to conclude; to finish off  
**remate** *m.* coup de grace; end, finish, conclusion  
**remiso**, —**a** *adj.* reluctant; slow  
**rendimiento** *m.* output, yield; efficiency  
**reparo** *m.* objection, criticism, doubt  
**repaso** *m.* review, revision; mending  
**replantear** to raise/pose again, reconsider  
**repuje** *m.* relief, outline, being embossed  
**repunte** *m.* turning of the tide; rise; rounding up  
**repunteado**, —**a** *adj.* starting to show, increasing, rebounding  
**reserva** *f.* caution, reserve; back seat, reserve bench  
**retahíla** *f.* string, sequence, stream  
**retintinear** to jingle, echo, resound  
**retoño** *m.* kid, child; shoot, sprout  
**reuma** *m.* rheumatism  
**revuelo** *m.* stir, commotion

**revuelque** *m.* romp in hay  
**rezagarse** to fall behind, lag  
**risueño**, —**a** *adj.* smiling, pleasing  
**robadero** *m.* theft; kidnapping; elopement  
**rollizo**, —**a** *adj.* chubby, plump  
**rompedor**, **a** *adj.* earth-shaking, upsetting  
**rozagante** *adj.* showy, proud  
**rucio**, —**a** *adj.* like an ass/donkey; gray-haired  
**rugosidad** *f.* roughness, having creases/wrinkles  
**rulo**, —**a** *adj.* circular, rounded, looped  
**rumia** *f.* rumination, pondering  
**runrún** *m.* rumor, buzz, murmur

## —S [\[<sup>^</sup>top\]](#)

**sabedor**, —**a** *adj.* knowledgeable, aware  
**sahumerio** *m.* incense, aromatic substance  
**sajadura** *f.* cut, incision  
**salar** to bring bad luck to, curse  
**saleroso**, —**a** *adj.* charming, witty  
**saltón**, —**a** *adj.* half-baked; bulging  
**sangrón**, —**a** *adj.* stuck-up, disagreeable  
**santo** *m.* saint; name  
 — **y seña** name and password; identifying information  
**secatura** *f.* tasteless/bothersome issue  
**secuela** *f.* sequel, proceedings  
**semblante** *m.* face, countenance; demeanor  
**sembradío** *m.* sown field  
**semiaceitunado**, —**a** *adj.* half-stained with olive oil  
**seno** *m.* breast, bosom; heart, core, bosom; womb  
**sentencioso**, —**a** *adj.* judgmental, dogmatic; pithy  
**señero**, —**a** *adj.* unequalled; solitary  
**sibilino**, —**a** *adj.* mysterious, prophetic  
**signado**, —**a** *adj.* marked; crossed  
**sinsentido** *m.* absurdity, senselessness  
**soberbio**, —**a** *adj.* haughty, arrogant; proud  
**sobra** *f.* excess, surplus

**sobrando** *adv.* excessively, more than appropriate  
**sobrentenderse, sobreentenderse** to understand perfectly, be implicit in  
**sobrentendido** *m.* unspoken/implicit state  
**socarrón, —a** *adj.* sarcastic, snide  
**sofaldar** to uncover/reveal hidden thing; to raise skirts  
**somero, —a** *adj.* superficial, shallow, summary  
**sonámbulo, —a** *m/f.* sleep-walker  
**sondeo** *m.* exploration, trying, sounding out  
**sonrojo** *m.* blush, flush  
**sonsacar** to worm/wheedle out of  
**sopesar** to weigh, judge, consider  
**sopetón** *m.* punch  
**de** — suddenly, unexpectedly  
**sorna** *f.* (malicious) coolness; scorn, sarcasm  
**sortilegio** *m.* spell, charm  
**soslayar** to dodge, sidestep  
**soso, —a** *adj.* tasteless, boring  
**subrepticio, —a** *adj.* surreptitious, stealthy  
**suertudo, —a** *adj.* lucky, fortunate  
**suficiencia** *f.* smugness, self-importance; competence  
**súpito, —a** *adj.* dumbfounded, out of it; thunderstruck  
**suposición** *f.* supposition, assumption, surmise  
**susodicho, —a** *adj.* afore-said, above-mentioned

## — T [[^top](#)]

**tacañez** *f.* stinginess, meanness  
**tacha** *f.* blemish, stain, flaw  
**tajo** *m.* cut, slash; cutting edge  
**de un solo** — *adv.* all at once, in one fell swoop  
**talacha** *f.*, **talache** *m.* mattock; hard work  
**hacer la** — to have a job, be working (hard)  
**tallarse** to rub, open (~eyes)  
**tamañaje** *m.* size, dimensions, proportions  
**tanteo** *m.* feeling one's way, sounding out, using trial and error  
**tapujo** *m.* deceit, secrecy

**tardado, —a** *adj.* late (in time, day, life)  
**tartana** *f.* wreck, clunker, rattle-trap  
**tarugo, —a** *m/f.* blockhead; dummy  
**teatrero, —a** *adj.* theatrical  
**templanza** *f.* calmness, harmony, temperance  
**temple** *m.* mettle, level-headedness  
**tendajo, tendejón** *m.* small shop, stall  
**tenebroso, —a** *adj.* gloomy, dark  
**terregoso, —a** *adj.* covered with dirt clods  
**testa** *f.* head  
**tiesura** *f.* stubbornness; conceit  
**tijeretazo** *m.* snip, scissor cut  
**tirantez** *f.* strain, tension  
**tiro** *m.* shot; throw  
**de a** — at once, then and there; completely, entirely  
**títtere** *m.* puppet  
**—s** puppet show  
**tololoche** *m.* traditional musical instrument like double bass  
**tope** *m.* limit, end  
**hasta el** — to the fullest extent  
**toque** *m.* shock, discharge; touch; stroke  
**traba** *f.* obstacle, hindrance  
**trabaja** *m.* big load of work  
**trabajillo** *m.* chore, task  
**trágala** *m.* taunt, pressure (against will)  
**traída** *f.* carrying, bringing  
**trailerero, —a** *m/f.* trucker, truck driver  
**trance** *m.* critical moment, occasion, crisis, ordeal  
**traqueteado, —a** *adj.* hectic, busy, bustling about  
**trascendencia** *f.* import, gravity  
**trasero, —a** *adj.* back, rear, on the backside  
**traslucir** to show, reveal  
**trastada** *f.* prank, mischief, dirty trick  
**trastrueque** *m.* switch over, change around, inversion  
**trasunto** *m.* copy, likeness  
**traza** *f.* type, aspect

**trecho** *m.* space, distance; while (time); bit, part  
**a —s** here and there, now and again, by fits and starts

**tregua** *f.* truce; respite

**treta** *f.* trick, ruse, stratagem

**tris** *m.* trice, short time

**a un —** in a moment, about to, in danger of

**triza** *f.* shred, bit, piece

**trolis** *adj.* tipsy, drunk, high

**trompicarse** to trip

**tupetear** to finish off, drain

**tupidero** *m.* thicket, grove

### —U [\[^top\]](#)

**ufano**, —**a** *adj.* smug, vain

**urbanidad** *f.* politeness, courtesy

### —V [\[^top\]](#)

**vago**, —**a** *adj.* vague, uncertain, indefinite, undefined

**a lo —** slowly, uncertainly

**vendeja** *f.* public/commercial sale

**venia** *f.* consent, permission

**ventanero**, —**a** *adj.* watching women through window; showing off in window

**verde** *adj.* fresh; risqué; green

**vespertino**, —**a** *adj.* evening

**vetarro**, —**a** *m/f.* old/geriatric person

**vez** *f.* time

**hacer las veces de** to act as, take the part of

**vibra** *f.* good vibes, good feelings

**vilanchón**, **villanchón**, —**a** *adj.* crude, coarse, villainous

**vilipontente**, **viripotente** *f.* marriageable woman

**vislumbre** *m.* glimpse; vague idea

**viso** *m.* aspect, appearance, suggestion, symptom

**vivencia** *f.* experience

**viveza** *f.* brilliance, brightness, sparkling

**vividor**, —**a** *m/f.* free-loader, playboy/girl

**volado** *m.* coin toss

**voltear** to turn around, turn

**vuelco** *m.* upset, sudden change

### —Y [\[^top\]](#)

**yerro** *m.* mistake, error

### —Z [\[^top\]](#)

**zafar** to free, release; undo, separate; beautify, make pretty

**zángano**, —**a** *m/f.* idler, good-for-nothing, ditz

**zonzos**, —**a** *adj.* silly, stupid

**zopenco**, —**a** *m/f.* nitwit, clod

**zopilote** *m.* vulture, buzzard

**zopo**, —**a** *adj.* twisted; crippled, maimed

**zorra** *f.* whore, tart; vixen

**zorrez** *f.* astuteness, caution

**zorro** *m.* fox

**no de —** not crafty/sly

**zote** *m/f.* dimwit

**zozobra** *f.* start, fear; anguish, anxiety

**zumbadero** *m.* fly, snooper

**zumbar** to buzz, whirr

**— le a ALGO** to take an interest in, work on

**zumo** *m.* benefit, use, substance; juice

**zurda** *f.* left hand