

***Damn, So That's How
You Say That!!***

Part One

***Interesting Spanish
Words, Phrases,
Idioms and Proverbs
Translated into
English***

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no se mama el dedo

to be pretty smart

***meter el dedo en la
boca a uno***

***to try to get someone
to talk***

***pillarse los dedos/
pillar en flagrante***

***to get caught red
handed***

pescar en flagrante

to burn one's fingers

***no moverse un dedo/
no dar golpe***

not to lift a finger

***Un dedo no hace
mano, ni una
golondrina verano***

***One swallow doesn't
make a summer***

estar por demás

to be useless

por demás

excessively

por lo demás

furthermore

***hacerse el
desentendido***

***to pretend not to
notice***

deshacer

to undo

deshacerse

to put oneself out

deshacerse de

to get rid of

deshacerse en

to break out in

por despecho

out of spite

desprender

to detach/

desprenderse de

to give away

desvivirse

to be very eager

desvivirse por

to do one's utmost

vivir al día

***to live from hand to
mouth***

a diestra y siniestra

right and left

partir la diferencia

to split the difference

nadar en dinero

***to be swimming in
the money/ to be
rolling in the money***

***Al que madruga Dios
le ayuda***

***The early bird
catches the worm***

***Se va a armar la de
Dios es Cristo***

***The fur is going to
fly/ all hell is going
to break out***

a disgusto

against one's will

estar a disgusto

to be ill at ease

tener un disgusto

to have a fall out

disponer de

***to have at one's
disposal***

disponerse a

to get ready to

estar dispuesto a

to be willing to

por distracción

absent mindedly

la docena del fraile

a baker's dozen

***estar con el dogal a
la garganta***

to be in a terrible fix

tener don de gentes

***to have a way with
people***

***tener el don de
mando***

to be a born leader

en dos por tres

in a flash/ in a jiffy

echar

to throw

echarse a

to burst out

echar a perder

to spoil

echar chispas

to be hopping mad

echar todo a rodar

to spoil everything

echarse atrás

to back out

echarse hacia atrás

to lean back

echarse en la cama

***to lie down on the
bed***

echarse encima

to take on

echárselas de

to boast of being

sin ejemplo

***without precedent/
unparallel***

quitarse el embozo

***to drop one's mask/
to show one's hand***

***abrirse paso a
empellones o
empujones***

***to push one's way
through***

entrar a empellones

to push one's way in

empeñar

to pledge or pawn

empeñarse en

***to insist on or to
persist***

tener empeño en

to be eager to

***dar por bien
empleado***

***to consider well
worth the trouble***

emprender

to undertake

emprenderla

***to get into or to set
out***

encargar

to entrust

encargarse de

to take charge of

el encargo

job or commission

por encargo

to or on order

hacer la encorvada

to malingering

llamarse a engaño

***to call foul/ to allege
fraud***

comerse de envidia

to be eaten with envy

armar un escándalo

to make a scene

escapar

to escape

escapar a

to escape from

escondido

hidden

a escondidas

on the sly

a escondidas de

without knowledge of

pagar a escote

to go Dutch

***Entre la espada y la
pared***

***Between the devil
and the deep blue
sea/ Between a rock
and a hard place***

***mandar a freír
espárragos***

***to tell someone to go
jump in the lake***

darle mala espina

***to arouse one's
suspicions / to worry
one***

algo por el estilo

something like that

estrenar

***to use (wear, show,
perform) for the first
time***

estrenarse

to open/ to debut

***estar con un pie en el
estribo***

***to have one foot in
the grave/ to be about
to leave***

perder los estribos

to get rattled

***de etiqueta/ con
etiqueta***

formally

ponerle en evidencia

to show someone up

el descaro

***effrontery,
imprudence***

tener el descaro de

***to have the nerve or
audacity to***

disparar

***to shoot, to fire,
throw, to hurl, to let
fly***

dispararse

***to go off, to fly off
the handle***

disparatar

***to talk or do
something silly, to
make a blunder***

disparate

***foolish or silly
remark, blunder***

qué disparate!

What rubbish!

estar en la expectativa

***to be on the lookout
for***

***estar cosido a las
faldas de***

***to be tied to the
apron strings of***

No faltaba más!

It's the last straw

por fas o por nefas

by hook or by crook

***Cada uno cuenta de
la feria según le va
en ella***

***Everyone sees things
from their
perspective***

la fiera

wild animal

como una fiera

furiously

ser una fiera

***to be a fiend or
demon for***

***trabajar como una
fiera***

to work like a dog

estar de fiesta

***to be in a holiday
mood***

no estar para fiestas

***to be in no mood for
joking***

tener un flechazo

***to become
infatuated/ to fall in
love at first sight***

a flor de labio

***on the tip of one's
tongue***

echar flores

***to flatter/ to sweet
talk***

ponerse a flote

***to get on one's feet
again/ to get out of
the jam***

el fondo

bottom, fund

a fondo

thoroughly

del fondo

back

en el fondo

at heart

Al freír será el reír

Time will tell.

al frente de

in charge of

dar frente a

to face

en frente a

in front of

frente a

***across from, in the
face of***

frente a frente

face to face

hacer frente a

to face up to

ponerse al frente

to head

el frente

front

la frente

forehead

***traer escrito en la
frente***

***to be written all over
one's face***

estar frito

to have had it

sin fruto

in vana

a fuego vivo

over a high flame

***poner a fuego y
sangre***

to lay waste

fuera

out or outside

estar fuera de sí

to be beside oneself

por fuera

***on the outside or
outside***

la fuerza

strength, force

a fuerza de

by dint of

a la fuerza

***against one's will or
by force***

a viva fuerza

by sheer force

***sacar fuerzas de
flaqueza***

***to make a
tremendous effort***

hecho una furia

mad as a hornet

***como gallina en
corral ajeno***

***like a fish out of
water***

***en menos que canta
un gallo***

***a quick as a wink/ in
the twinkle of an eye***

reventar de ganas de

***to be dying to (to
really want to)***

caer en las garras de

***to fall into the
clutches of***

***sacar de las garras
de***

***to free from
someone's clutches***

***Aquí hay gato
encerrado***

***There's something
fishy here/ There's
more than meets the
eye***

dar gato por liebre

***to put something
over, to deceive***

***No se deje dar gato
por liebre***

***Don't let them put
anything over on you***

a gatas

crawling, on all four

entrar a gatas

***to crawl in, to go in
on all four***

***Genio y figura, hasta
la sepultura***

***You can't make a silk
purse out of a sow's
ear/ A leopard can't
change his spots***

***tomar un giro
favorable***

***to take a turn for the
better***

el globo

globe

en globo

***as a whole, all
together***

***a puros golpes de
suerte***

at first glance

***al primer golpe de
vista***

at first glance

cerrar de golpe

to slam

dar golpe

to beat

de golpe

all of a sudden

de un golpe

in one gulp

el golpe de gracia

the coup de grâce

Se armo la gorda

***There was a terrible
fight.***

vivir de gorra

***to sponge off other
people/ to live at
other people's
expense***

no ver gota

***not to be able to see
a thing***

sudar la gota gorda

***to sweat blood, to
make a superhuman
effort***

***la gota que colma el
vaso***

***the straw that
breaks the camel's
back/ the last straw***

***parecerse como dos
gotas de aguas***

***to be like two peas in
a pod/ the spitting
image of***

***ahogarse en un vaso
de agua***

***to make a mountain
out of a mole hill/ to
get all worked up for
nothing***

***ir al grano/ dejarse
de historias***

to get to the point

a gritos

***at the top of one's
voice***

dar gritos

to shout

lanzar un grito

to cry out

***poner el grito en el
cielo***

***to hit the ceiling or
roof/ to cry bloody
murder***

el guante

glove

arrojar el guante

***to throw down the
gauntlet***

con guante blanco

with kid gloves

guardar

to keep or to guard

guardarse de

to refrain from

***salir de Guatamala y
entrar a Guatapeor***

***to go from bad to
worse/ to jump from
the frying pan into
the fire***

***Sobre gustos no hay
nada escrito***

***Everyone to his own
taste/ to each his
own/ one man's meat
is another man's
poison***

Allá se las hay

***That's his headache/
That's his problem/
Let him take the
consequences***

***El hábito no hace al
monje***

***Clothes don't make
the man***

no hablarse

***not to be on speaking
terms***

ser mal hablado

to be ill-spoken

hacer

to do or make

hacer de

to act as

hacer resaltar

***to emphasize or bring
out***

hacerse

to become

hacerse a

to get used to

hacerse con

to get hold of

hacerse de rogar

***to play hard to get or
to have to be coaxed***

***ser harina de otro
costal***

***to be a horse of
another color***

estar harto de

***to be fed up with/ to
be sick and tired of***

hecho y derecho

***every inch grown/
mature***

***El que a hierro mata
a hierro muere***

***those that live by the
sword die by the
sword***

***marcharse en hierro
frío***

***to labor in vain/ to
beat one's head
against a wall/ to
flog a dead horse***

quitar el hierro

***to minimize an issue/
to cut things down to
their proper size***

la higuera

fig tree

estar en la higuera

***to be daydreaming/
to have one's head in
the clouds***

***como cualquier hijo
de vecino***

***just like everybody
else***

el hilo

thread

cortar el hilo

to interrupt

***estar pendiente de un
hilo***

***to be hanging by a
thread***

***perder el hilo de la
conversación***

***to lose the thread of
the conversation***

***hombre prevenido
vale por dos***

***forewarned is
forearmed***

arrimar el hombro

***to put one's shoulder
to the wheel/ to lend
a hand***

***encogerse de
hombros***

***to shrug one's
shoulder***

A buenas horas

It's about time

a la hora

on time

a la hora de la hora

***when the time
actually comes/ at
the moment of truth***

a primera hora

early

a última hora

at the last minute

estar de última hora

luckily

horas libres

free time

llegarle la hora

***to have one's hour
come***

marcar la hora

to keep time

no ver la hora

not to able to wait

***hallar la horma del
zapato***

***to meet one's match/
to find just what one
wanted***

de hoy a mañana

***(just about) any time
now***

de hoy en adelante

from now on

hoy por hoy

***under the present
circumstances***

dejar huella

***to make an
impression***

seguir las huellas de

***to follow in
someone's footsteps***

estar en los huesos

***to be nothing but
skin and bones***

***estar mojado hasta
los hueso***

***to be drenched to the
skin***

***partírsele los huesos
de frío***

***to be freezing to
death***

***ser un hueso duro de
roer***

***to be a tough nut to
crack***

soltar la sin hueso

***to let one's tongue
wag/ to talk too
much***

***tener los huesos
molidos***

to be exhausted

bajarle los humos

***to take someone
down a notch or two***

tener humos

to put on airs

irse en humo

to go up in smoke

La ida del humo

Good riddance!

a humo de pajas

***lightly/ without good
reason/ without
reflexion***

***forjarse ilusiones/
hacerse ilusiones***

***to build castles in
the air***

de improviso

***offhand/
unexpectedly***

el inconveniente

obstacle or drawback

***no ver ningún
inconveniente***

to see no objection

tener inconveniente

***to mind or to object
to***

incorporar

to incorporate

incorporarse

to sit up

la indirecta

hint

echar indirectas

to make insinuations

informe

***report, statement,
announcement***

informar

to inform

informarse de

***to get information
about***

***aguzar el ingenio/
afilarse el ingenio***

to sharpen one's wits

instalar

to install

instalarse en

to move into

la instancia

request

a instancia de

at someone's request

el instante

instant

el instante

instant

a cada instante

at every moment

al instante

immediately

***llegar a una
inteligencia***

***to react or to come to
an understanding***

***obrar con segunda
intención***

***to have an ax to
grind or to have
ulterior motives***

tener la intención de

to intend to

el interés

interest

***tener mucho interés
en que***

to be eager for

la inversa

opposite

a la inversa

the other way around

en lo que va de

so far

irle a uno bien

***to turn out well or to
be becoming***

ir por

***to go after or to go to
get***

ir tirando

to get by

ni le va ni viene nada

***not to concern one in
the least***

ya ir para

to go on for nearly

Qué va!

What nonsense!

***Vaya una
surgerencia!***

What a suggestion!