

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

***Part Three***

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

***Carrala Ficklin-McClain***

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***estar de moda***

***to be in style***

***pasarse de moda***

***to go out of style***

***poner de moda***

***to make fashionable***

***ponerse de moda***

***to become, to come  
into style fashionable***

***a su modo***

***after a fashion***

***a su modo de ver***

***to one's way of  
thinking, in one's  
opinion***

***de algún modo, de un  
modo u otro***

***one way or another***



***de este modo***

***this way, in this  
manner***

***de modo que***

**SO**

***de ningún modo***

***by no means, not at  
all***

***de todos modos***

***at any rate***

***Anque la mona se  
vista de seda, mona  
se queda***

***Fine feathers don't  
make a fine bird/ You  
can't make a silk  
purse out of a sow's  
ear***

***dormir la mona***

***to sleep it off, to sleep  
off a hangover***

***el moño***

***bun of hair***

***estar hasta el moño***

***to have had it up to  
here/ to be fed up***



***el monte***

***mountain/ woods***

***No todo el monte es  
orégono***

***You've got to take the  
rough with the  
smooth/ Things aren't  
always the way we'd  
like them to be***

***montón***

***heap/ pile***

***a montones***

***in abundance***

***ser del montón***

***to be very ordinary/ a  
dime a dozen***

***morirse por, estarse  
muriendo por***

***to be dying to***

***el moro***

***Moor***

***Hay moros en la costa***

***The coast isn't clear***



***el morro***

***snout***

***tener un morro que se  
lo pisa***

***to have a lot of nerve***

***cazar moscas?***

***to do useless things***

***Más moscas se cazan  
con miel que con  
vinagre***

***You can catch more  
flies with honey than  
with vinegar***

***No se oía ni una  
mosca***

***You could hear a pin  
drop***

***por si las moscas***

***just in case***

***Qué mosca te ha  
picado?***

***What's eating you/  
What's bugging you***

***el motivo***

***reason***



***con motivo de***

***on the occasion***

***por motivo de***

***no account of***

***por ningún motivo***

***under no  
circumstances***

***ni con mucho***

***not by a long shot***

***de mala muerte***

***third-rate***

***emborracharse a  
muerte***

***to get dead drunk***

***cargar con el muerto***

***to be left holding the  
bag***

***El muerto al pozo y el  
vivo al gozo***

***Let the dead bury the  
dead***



***hacerse el muerto***

***to play possum***

***no tener donde caerse  
muerto***

***not to have a penny  
to one's name/ to be  
as poor as a church  
mouse***

***tocar a muerto***

***to toll the bell***

***la muestra***

***sample***

***dar muestra de***

***to show signs of***

***para muestra, basta  
un botón***

***It only takes a small  
sample***

***desde que el mundo  
es mundo***

***since the world began***

***medio mundo***

***a lot of people***



***tener mucho mundo***

***to be very  
sophisticated***

***todo el mundo***

***everybody***

***ver mundo***

***to see the world***

***así nada más***

***just like that***

***como si nada***

***as if there were  
nothing to it***

***De nada***

***You're welcome/ Don't  
mention it***

***en nada***

***very nearly/ within  
an inch of***

***nada más***

***just, the minute***



***Peor es nada***

***It's better than  
nothing***

***media naranja***

***better half***

***hablar por las  
narices***

***to talk through one's  
nose***

***delante de las narices***

***right under one's nose***

***delante de las narices***

***right under one's nose***

***no ver más allá de  
sus narices***

***not to be able to see  
past the end of one's  
nose***

***meter las narices en  
todo***

***to stick one's nose  
into everything***

***nave***

***ship***



***quemar las naves***

***to burn one's bridges/  
to burn one's boats***

***negar***

***to deny***

***negarse a***

***to refuse to***

***negarse a sí mismo***

***to deny oneself***

***tener los nervios de  
punta***

***to have one's nerves  
on edge, to be edgy***

*ni que*

*as if*

***ni siquiera***

***not even***

***la niña***

***girl/ pupil of the eye***



***la niña de sus ojos***

***the apple of one's eye***

***desde niño***

***from childhood on***

***no bien***

***not sooner***

***no ya***

***not only***

***cerrar la noche***

***for night fall***

***dar las buenas  
noches***

***to say good night***

***de la noche a la  
mañana***

***overnight, all at once***

***De noche todos los  
gatos son pardos***

***At night all cats are  
gray***



***hacerse de noche/  
muy noche/ hasta  
muy por la noche***

***late at night, into the  
wee small hours***

***pasar la noche en  
blanco/ pasar la  
noche de claro en  
claro***

***to have a sleepless  
night***

***no tener nombre***

***to be unspeakable***

***atrasado de noticias***

***behind the times***

***sin novedad***

***as usual***

***el novillo***

***young bull***

***hacer novillo***

***to play hooky***

***estar en la nubes***

***to be daydreaming***



***poner en las nubes***

***to praise to the skies***

***por las nubes***

***sky high***

***sentir un nudo en la  
garganta***

***to get a lump in one's  
throat***

***de nuevo***

***again***

***Qué hay de nuevo?***

***What's new?***

***sin número***

***countless***

***obedecer***

***to obey***

***obedecer a***

***to arise from, to be  
based on***



***la objeción***

***objection***

***hacer objeciones a***

***to raise objections to***

***el objeto***

***object***

***con objeto de***

***in order to***

***de palabra y de obra  
en obra de***

***in word and deed***

***en obras***

***under construction***

***Obras son amores,  
que no buenas  
razones***

***Actions speak louder  
than words***

***poner por obra***

***to put into execution***



***ponerse a la obra***

***to go to work***

***obstante***

***standing in the way***

***en obstante***

***however, in spite of  
nevertheless,  
notwithstanding***

***A la ocasión la pintan  
calva***

***Opportunity knocks  
but once***

***de ocasión***

***second-hand***

***en ocasiones***

***at time, on occasion***

***Hay que tomar la  
oportunidad por los  
cabellos***

***You've got to seize the  
opportunity when it  
comes***

***la ociosidad***

***idleness***



***La ociosidad es la  
madre de todos los  
vicios***

***An idle brain is the  
devil's workshop/ the  
devil finds mischief  
for idle hands***

***ocupar***

***to occupy, to use, to  
seize***

***ocuparse***

***to concern oneself  
with/ to pay attention  
to/ take care of/ to  
look after***

***ocuparse de***

***to look out for, to  
look after***

***la ocurrencia***

***occurrence/ clever  
thought***

***tener la ocurrencia de***

***to have a bright idea***

***ocurrir***

***to occur***

***ocurrírsele***

***to occur to one***



***no se me ocurriría  
nunca***

***I wouldn't dream of it***

***nunca se me había  
ocurrido***

***it had never crossed  
my minds***

***aguzar los oídos***

***to prick up one's ears***

***corto de oído***

***hard of hearing***

***dar oídos***

***to listen***

***decirle al oído***

***to whisper in one's  
ear***

***entrar por un oído y  
salir por el otro***

***to go in one ear and  
out the other***

***llegar a oídos de***

***to reach the ears of***



***ser todo oídos***

***to be all ears***

***tener buen oído***

***to have a good for***

***tocar de oído***

***to play by ear***

***oír/ oír decir***

***to hear***

***oír hablar de***

***to hear of***

***la ojeada***

***glance***

***echar una ojeada a***

***to glance at/ to take  
a quick look at***

***a ojos cerrados***

***blindfolded/ with  
one's eyes closed***



***comerse con los ojos***

***to ogle/ to look one up  
and down/ to undress  
one with one's eyes***

***costar un ojo de la  
cara***

***to cost a fortune/ to  
cost an arm and a leg***

***Dichosos los ojos!***

***How nice to see you!***

***echar el ojo a***

***to have one's eye on***

***el ojo derecho***

***the darling***

***en un abrir y cerrar  
de ojos***

***in the twinkling of an  
eye/ in a wink/ in a  
flash/ look out for/ to  
pay close attention to***

***Más ven cuatro ojos  
que dos***

***Two heads are better  
than one***

***mirar con buenos ojos***

***to look favorably on***



***no pegar los ojos***

***not to sleep a wink***

***Ojo con lo que dice!***

***Watch what you're  
saying***

***Ojo por ojo, diente por  
diente***

***An eye for an eye  
and a tooth for a  
tooth***

***Ojos que no ven,  
corazón que no siente***

***Out of sight, out of  
mind***

***tener buen ojo***

***to have a good eye***

***tener mucho ojo con***

***to look out for, to pay  
close attention to***

***oler***

***to smell***

***oler a***

***to smell like***



***operar***

***to operate***

***operarle...***

***to operate on one***

***operarle de ...***

***to operate on one's ...***

***cambiar de opinión/  
mudar de opinión/  
variar de opinión***

***to change one's mind***

***optar por***

***to decide in favor of/  
to choose to***

***ordinario***

***ordinary***

***de ordinario***

***usually***

***verle las orejas al  
lobo***

***to be in great distant***



***con las orejas gachas***

***ashamed/  
embarrassed***

***No es oro todo lo que  
reluce***

***All is not gold that  
glitters***

***Vale tanto oro como  
pesa***

***It's worth its weight  
in gold***

***Paciencia y barajar***

***If at first you don't  
succeed, try, try  
again***

***probarle la paciencia***

***to try one's patience***

***una pelea de padre y  
muy señor mío***

***a fight to end all  
fights***

***pagar***

***to pay/ to pay off,  
out, for or out on***

***estar muy pagado de  
sí mismo***

***to have a high  
opinion of oneself***



***pagársela***

***to get even with  
someone***

***me las pagarás***

***I'll get you for this***

***pagarse con algo***

***to be contented with  
something/ to be  
pleased with  
something/ to boast of  
something***

***pagarse de sí mismo***

***to be conceited or  
smug***

***Más vale pájaro en  
mano que ciento  
volando***

***A bird in the hand is  
worth two in the bush***

***matar dos pájaros de  
un tiro***

***to kill two birds with  
one stone***

***quedarse como un  
tiro***

***to die peacefully***

***tener pájaros en la  
cabeza/ tener la  
cabeza a pájaros***

***to be featherbrained***



***palabras gruesas***

***strong words***

***medias palabra***

***hints/ insinuation***

***palabra por palabra***

***word for word/  
verbatim***

***a palabras necias,  
oídos sordos***

***it's best not to listen  
to such nonsense***

***comerse las  
palabras***

***to mumble***

***dejar a uno con la  
palabra en la boca***

***to leave someone in  
mid sentence/ to  
interrupt somebody***

***gastar palabras***

***to waste words***

***medir las palabras***

***to weigh or measure  
one's words***



***negar la palabra a  
Dios a uno***

***to concede absolutely  
nothing to somebody***

***Es un hombre de  
palabra***

***He is a man of his  
word***

***no entiendo palabra***

***it's Greek to me***

***dirigirle la palabra a***

***to address***

***ligero de palabra***

***a loose talker/ a  
blabbermouth***

***pesar las palabras***

***to weigh one's words***

***sin cruzar la palabra***

***not to say a word to  
each other/ not to  
speak to each other***

***tener la palabra***

***to have the floor***



***tomarle la palabra***

***to take one at one's  
word***

***Creo en tu palabra***

***I take you at your  
word***

***Siempre cumple su  
palabra***

***He always keeps his  
word***

***de palabra***

***by word of mouth***

***la palanca***

***lever***

***tener palanca***

***to have a pull***

***palanca de cambios***

***gearshift***

***palanca de freno***

***brake lever***



***la palmada***

***pat/ slap***

***dar unas palmadas***

***to clap one's hands***

***darle unas palmadas  
en la espalda***

***to pat someone on the  
back***

***el palmo***

***span***

***palmo a palmo***

***inch by inch***

***De tal palo, tal  
astilla***

***A chip off the old  
block/ Like father,  
like son***

***Con su pan se lo  
coma***

***That's his problem,  
It's his funeral***

***Contigo, pan y cebolla***

***You and I together,  
come what may/ I'll  
go through thick and  
thin with you***



***llamar al pan pan al  
vino vino***

***to call a spade a  
spade***

***ser un pedazo de pan***

***to have a heart of  
gold***

***estar en pañales***

***to be a babe in arms***

***hacer buen papel***

***to make a good  
impression***

***hacer el papel de/  
desempeñar el papel***

***to play the role or  
part of***

***representar su papel  
de***

***to play one's role as***

***al par que***

***at the same time***

***abierto de par en par***

***wide open***



***sin par***

***incomparable***

***parecer***

***to seem/ to appear***

***a su parecer***

***in one's opinion***

***al parecer***

***apparently***

***parecerse a***

***to look like***

***Qué le parece?***

***What do you think?***

***Las paredes oyen***

***Wall have ears***

***vivir pared por medio***

***to live next door***



***entre parenthésis***

***incidentally/ by the  
way***

***hacer un paréntesis***

***to digress***

***el pare***

***unemployment***

***estar en paro***

***to be unemployed***

***echar un párrafo***

***to have a little chat***

***párrafo aparte***

***not to change the  
subject***

***la parranda***

***sprees***

***andar de parranda***

***to go out on a spree***



***el parte***

***dispatch/  
communiqué***

***dar parte de***

***to notify***

***la parte***

***part***

***a ninguna parte***

***nowhere***

***de parte de***

***on ...'s side***

***en alguna parte***

***somewhere***

***en gran parte***

***to a great or large  
extent***

***en ninguna parte***

***not anywhere,  
nowhere***



***en parte***

***in part***

***En todas partes  
cuecen habas***

***Things are about the  
same all over/ It's the  
same everywhere you  
go***

***la mayor parte de***

***most of, the majority  
of***

***por otra parte***

***on the other hand***

***por su parte***

***as far as one is  
concerned***

***por todas partes***

***on all sides***

***tomar parte en***

***to take part in***

***en particular***

***especially/ in  
particular***



***nada de particular***

***nothing unusual***

***la partida***

***game***

***echar una partida de  
 dados***

***to shoot dice***

***el partidario***

***supporter/ follower***

***ser partidario de***

***to be in favor of***

***el partido***

***political party,  
advantage, profit,  
resolve, decision***

***sacar partido de***

***to derive benefit from***

***tomar partido***

***to take sides/ to take  
a stand***