

# Spanish Words Used in English

In “Cowboy Clothes and Equipment,” Russell Freedman states that Mexican cowboys invented leather leggings without seats to protect their legs as they rode their horses through mesquite thickets. *Mesquite* is a Spanish word that means “any of several thorny shrubs or trees of southwest North America.”

Here are some other words from the Spanish language that are used by English language speakers.

<b>armadillo</b>	a mammal with an armor-like covering of jointed, bony plates
<b>adobe</b>	brick made of clay and straw that is dried in the sun
<b>arroyo</b>	a small stream
<b>bonanza</b>	a rich mine or vein of ore
<b>lariat</b>	a long rope with an adjustable loop at one end
<b>mesa</b>	a high land area with a flat top and steep sides common in southwest United States
<b>plaza</b>	a public square or similar open area in a town or city
<b>poncho</b>	a cloak with a hole in the center for the head

Read each clue below. Draw a line from each clue to the word on the right that best matches it. Use the definitions above.

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|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. It's a likely place for an outdoor concert.     | <b>armadillo</b> |
| 2. You can build a house with it.                  | <b>adobe</b>     |
| 3. It's handy when rounding up cattle.             | <b>arroyo</b>    |
| 4. It's an odd creature.                           | <b>bonanza</b>   |
| 5. You can make one from a blanket.                | <b>lariat</b>    |
| 6. You can cool your feet in it.                   | <b>mesa</b>      |
| 7. It can bring you wealth.                        | <b>plaza</b>     |
| 8. Climbing it is tough, but the view is worth it. | <b>poncho</b>    |

## Challenge

The words *aficionado*, *bravado*, *embargo*, *armado*, and *renegade* also come from the Spanish language. Look up these words in a dictionary. On a sheet of paper, write a clue (like those numbered 1–8 above) for each word. Then write a description like those above for each challenge word. Exchange papers with a partner and identify the challenge word that matches each clue.