



*Disclaimer: This post includes native words and expressions commonly used in Baja and Mexico, some of which may be considered informal or even rude in certain contexts. Language evolves with culture, so we encourage travelers to use these words with awareness and respect for local customs and under their own responsibility.*

We present here a list of local Mexican words divided by categories.

Keep in mind these basic Spanish pronunciation rules: "Ch" is pronounced like in English "Cheese". "Qu..." is pronounced like K in English. "J" is like the H sound in English. "LL" is similar to Y in English.

## ▼ COLLOQUIALISM

- "**No manches!**" / "**Neta!**", both words meaning "really?" or "what da hell!" with a sense of surprise. The "no manches" being probably the one that you can try to say without too many worries.
- "**Cuate**" / "**Compa**" / "**Camarada**" / "**Carnal**", all meaning "brother" or "mate" and used as "Bro".
- "**Morro - Morra**" / "**Chavo - Chava**", are the equivalents to "young man or young woman" mostly referred to teenagers.
- "**Bato**", is used the same way as "Dude" mostly when talking indirectly about someone like "that dude..." or "there was a dude sitting there ..."
- "**Chamaco**" means "boy"
- "**Plebes**" / "**Chamacos**", are used like "Kids"
- "**Viejo**" is used to refer to someone's wife.
- "**Jefe**", literally "the boss" is often used to refer to someone's dad.
- "**Palomilla**" / "**Raza**", meaning "Guys" / "Folk" / "People"
- "**Simón**", you'll hear this from someone answering "Yes!" to a question as if he was saying "Yes....terday!" to make a funny "Si....món!" with turns out to be a name.
- "**Guero**", person with blondish hairs.
- "**Onda**", is the "Vibe" of a person or place ("**Buena onda**" / "**Mala onda**" - "Good vibe" / "Bad vibe"). Also used in the very common "Hey, que onda?" meaning "Hey, what's up!"
- "**Pareja**", literally "Couple" is used to refer to someone's partner.
- "**Chisme**" / "**Chismoso**", meaning "Rumor / Gossip" and of a person "Gossipy / Tattletale"
- "**Chiste**" / "**Chistoso**", respectively "Joke" and "Funny"
- "**Metiche**", means of a person "Busybody / Nosy"
- "**Chido**" / "**Curado**" / "**Suave**", all three used for saying "Cool!", the first one probably one of the most popular words in all Mexico.
- "**Arre**" / "**Arre pués**" / "**Sobres**" used as a quick "Right-on!" or "Sounds good!"
- "**Chamba**" / "**Jale**", they both mean someone's "Job".
- "**Machín**", very colloquial way for saying "A lot".
- "**Pistiar**", means "Drinking alcohol".
- "**Choyer**", person born in South Baja.
- "**la Chota**" a word used to refer in an unpleasant way to the Police.
- "**Un montón**", another way to say "A lot".
- "**Wacha...**", used the same way as when you start speaking with someone saying "Look...".
- "**Canico**", when something is "Tough".
- "**Cochino**" a person, animal or space "Dirty".

## ▼ MECHANICAL

- "**Herramienta**", practice your pronunciation with this one because you will need to use this word meaning "Tool" a lot.
- "**Baica**", colloquial for "Bicycle".
- "**Bomba**", meaning "Bomb" but also "Pump".
- "**Ule**", means "Rubber".
- "**Chicote**", the "Metal cable" like the one for brakes or cars accelerator.
- "**Cuadro**", means "Frame".
- "**Horquilla**", the bike "Fork".
- "**Rayo**", it's a "Spoke".
- "**Rin**", one "Rim".
- "**Maza**", bike's wheel "Hub".
- "**Eje**", means "Axe".
- "**Mecate**", used all over Mexico for "Rope".
- "**Cinta**", whatever type of "Tape".
- "**Soldar**", means "Welding".
- "**Tornillo**" meaning "Screw" or "Bolt".
- "**Tuerca**", a "Nut" for a screw or bolt.
- "**Remache**", means "Rivet".
- "**Fuga**", it's a "Leak".
- "**Manguera**", means "Hose" and works for brakes "Tube".
- "**Apretar**", meaning "to squeeze".
- "**Pinzas**", the "Pliers".
- "**Destornillador**", is the "Screwdriver".
- "**Taladro**", means a "Drill".
- "**Llave**", literally "Key" is used for "Spanner" and "Wrench".
- "**Llave exagonal**" is used for "Allen key".

## ▼ FIRST AID

- "**Golpe de calor**" means "Heatstroke".
- "**Infarto**" is "Heart attack".
- "**Emorragia**" meaning "hemorrhage".
- "**Herida**" means "Wound".
- "**Sangre**" is "Blood".
- "**Deshidratado**" meaning "Dehydrated".

## ▼ FOOD

- "**Hambre**"... means "Hunger" and is not to be confused with "Hombre" meaning "Man" or "Hombro" meaning "Shoulder".
- "**Enchiloso**" is when some food is "Spicy hot".
- "**Hervir**" means "Boiling" ( ex. water ).
- "**Olla**" is a "Pot".
- "**Sartén**" means "Frying pan".
- "**Puesto**", it's a food "Stand" of any kind.
- "**Hate**" it's a "Hot-dog" in Baja.
- "**Jarra**" means "Jar".

## ▼ ON TRAIL

- "**Arena**", means "Sand" and is not to be confused with "Harina" that means "Flour".
- "**Esquina**", is a "Corner".
- "**Cuadra**", means "Block" ( between two streets ) of a town or village.
- "**Gota**", literally "Drop" is used very colloquially for "Gasoline".
- "**Raite**", hopefully you not going to need it but....it means "Lift / Ride" that you ask for or hitchhike.
- "**Ejido**", is a form of social property, meaning is not privately owned but rather belong to the community.
- "**Lote**" / "**Lote baldío**" they mean "Lot" and "Empty lot".
- "**Brecha**" used similar to "Camino" meaning a "Trail" or "Ranch road".
- "**Cuesta**" used as a noun means "Slope / Hill / Climb".
- "**Empinado**", means "Steep".
- "**Atascoso**", referring to a sandy road it means "Sticky / Boggy".
- "**Lodo**" is the "Mud".
- "**Arroyo**", means "River" or "Creek".
- "**Ojo de agua**" is a "Water spring" that pops out from the ground.
- "**Lion**", is used to refer to wild "Pumas" or "Cougars".
- "**Chiva**" the ever present "Goat".
- "**Alacrán**" means "Scorpion".
- "**Cachorro**" is an animal "Puppy".
- "**Camión**" / "**Colectivo**", are different kind of "Bus". First one the bigger size that circulate in towns and cities and the second one the smaller ones that fit up to 12 people. For long distance bus the word is "**Autobus**".
- "**Troca**" is used all over Mexico for "Pickup truck".
- "**Ponchada**" / "**Ponchadura**" they mean "Punctured" and "Puncture" and can be used to refer to a flat tire.
- "**Oollo**" / "**Hueco**" both meaning pretty much "Hole".

## ▼ AT THE SHOP

- "**Bote**", is used for "Jar / Container" but can also mean colloquially "Jail" or "Boat".
- "**Cobrar**" is "to charge money".
- "**FERIA**" refers to the "Change" or the money returned after paying for something with more money than it costs. Also refers to coins, small bills or to ask if you have the exact amount.
- "**Chamarra**" means "Jacket".
- "**Navaja**" meaning "Knife" / "Pocket knife" / "Razor blade".

## ▼ BAD WORDS

- "**No mames**", same as the colloquial "No manches" but more rude. Easily translatable in one of the many ways the word "F...ck" is used in English.
- "**Mamón**" meaning "Sucker / Di...khead"
- "**Lana**", not really a bad word but considered a more rude and aggressive way to refer to "Money".
- "**Baros**" used like "Bucks" for Pesos.
- "**Wey**" a soft bad word referring to someone a bit dumb but that can be said between close friends without an offensive meaning.
- "**Pinchi**", Another very popular word all over Mexico placed before any "Dang / Fu...king" thing.
- "**A huevo**" a soft bad word used to say "Of course!" or "Hell yeah!".
- "**Chingar**" / "**Un chingo**" the first pretty much used like the English verb "Fu...king" in its aggressive way and also with a "Bothering" meaning. The second one is a soft bad word used to say "A lot".
- "**Vete a la chingada / verga**" means "Fu...k you".
- "**Que la chingada**" a rude way to exclaimate "Oh well!"
- "**Chorro**" a very rude way to call "Diarrhea".
- "**Un chorro**" another rude way to say "A lot".
- "**Bavoso**" probably the worst bad word used in Mexico, if you hear this one it may be a good time to get away because people may start engaging a fight.
- "**Maña**" a colloquial way to call the "Cartel".
- "**Chingadazo**" / "**Putazo**", both a rude way to say "Punch / Blow"
- "**Al Chingazo!**", used when something fits just right ( in time or space ) like when saying "Right there!" or "Perfect!" with no exact translation.
- "**Chingón**", a more rude version of "Chido" meaning "Cool / Good"