



# Shepherd Care<sup>®</sup>

*To Care for People Where They Live and Work*

Revision Date:  
May 22, 2023

## COMMUNITY Care TOPIC

### Everyday Spanish Tips

Have you ever walked into a Mexican Restaurant and were intimidated about the menu language? Or experienced the challenge of communicating to a Latino co-worker? You may be surprised that you are already some Spanish words- rodeo, burrito, señorita, amigo, and Los Angeles.

Here are some helpful thoughts on the Spanish language.

### Spanish Guidelines

Spanish and English have a number of cognates. Cognates are words that sound and look similar or exactly the same in two different languages. For example, the word “café” is the word “coffee.” The “pharmacy” is “farmacia” in Spanish.

You don’t have to sound like Antonio Banderas when you speak Spanish. Many Americans won’t speak Spanish because they sound like “Americans.” When native-Spanish speakers speak English, they don’t sound like Harrison Ford.

The question “¿Cómo se dice... en español?” (COH-moh say DEE-say en e-SPAHN-yole) can be your best friend. It translates to mean “How do you say...in Spanish?” If you don’t know how to say “sweater” in Spanish, you would ask “¿Cómo se dice ‘sweater’ en español?”

There are four keys to learning any language. They are speaking (hablando), listening (escuchando), reading

(leyendo), and writing (escribiendo). Try listening to a TV show in Spanish or put Spanish subtitles on a movie.

### Some Common Phrases

Hello!	¡Hola! (OH-lah)
Thank you!	¡Gracias! (GRA-see-ahs)
Yes!	Si! (SEE)
No!	No!
What is your name?	¿ Cómo se llama usted? (COH-moh say YAH-mah OO-sted)
My name is...	Me llamo... (may YAH-moh...)
Water	Agua (AH-gwah)
Sir	Señor (sehn-YORE)
Ma’am (married)	Señora (sehn-YORE-ah)
Ma’am (unmarried)	Señorita (sehn-yore-EE-tah)

Lastly, do not be afraid to try!

Introducing your  
Community Chaplain

### Co-Authored Article Series:

Co-authored by Jim Woods, Martinsville, VA, and Chaplain Eric Kieselbach

“So likewise, ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.”

**Eric Kieselbach**  
(pronounced “key-sill-baa”)

**Email:**  
eric@shepherdcare.us

All Scripture quotations, except otherwise noted, are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769. Public Domain.

*This Community Care Topic can be distributed electronically and shared as a photocopy. Please contact your Community Chaplain at any time for additional resources and for any type of personal crisis support. The service is provided by Shepherd Care and is completely confidential. Please also visit the Shepherd Care website for more helpful resources.*