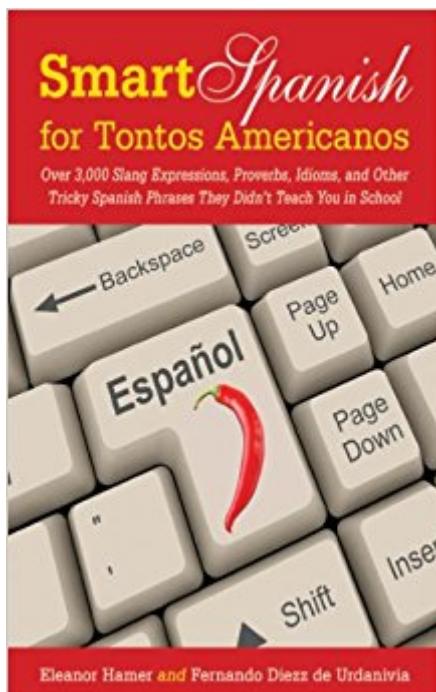


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# 3,000 Spanish Words And Phrases They Won't Teach You In School (Skyhorse Pocket Guides)



## **Synopsis**

There's a difference between learning a language and being able to speak it with the familiarity of a native speaker. This book fills that gap, clarifying tricky words and expressions and illuminating the finer points of Spanish wordplay and double meanings.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is the book that has been missing for many years and that fills in the huge gaps where the textbooks and other slang books leave off. Most slang books don't really go into depth into the expressions and words that are peculiar to Mexican Spanish and the Spanish spoken in the southwestern part of the U.S. This book does. The title is terrible. I urge the authors to come up with something better and more descriptive of what the book is - a guidebook for those who want to learn Mexican Spanish. It is broken up into several sections and deals with standalone words and words used in a certain way in sentences and phrases. It covers slang as well as the rich lexicon derived from Nahuatl (the language of the Aztecs). It has a section on common dichos (sayings or proverbs which, in my experience, are more commonplace in Spanish than in English). This book is very

thorough and defines words that tend to be ignored even in other books that claim to focus exclusively on Mexican Spanish. I have searched the Internet high and low for a book like this one, and I am happy to have found this book. I grew up in the American southwest and have lived on the border and traveled in Mexico extensively and speak both Spanish and English fluently. I have studied both languages on a formal basis at the graduate level and informally my whole life, and I can definitely say that this book is the best I have found that covers Mexican Spanish. There are a few entries that I probably would have translated slightly differently, and I think there are some words that are so common in Mexico (but not used like they are in Mexico in other parts of Latin America) and used in so many different ways - like "onda" to name one example - that I would have placed the word in a section all by itself in order to explain its many uses and the origins of the use of the word in these expressions. Aside from that, I applaud the authors in being thorough. I like the way the book is subdivided. It also has a section on greetings and abbreviations that are valuable to folks interested in Mexican Spanish. I recommend this book to intermediate and advanced to students who want to go beyond the textbook in learning Mexican Spanish. For beginning and intermediate students, I also recommend an older book put out by UT Press called *Breaking out of Beginner's Spanish*. If you can get beyond the silly title of this book (*Smart Spanish for Tontos Americanos*), you will find much of practical value between its covers. The thing that I really like about this book is that it includes several common expressions that are not found in other slang books and dictionaries of Mexican Spanish (I should know as I own almost all of them and there are many good ones and a few not so good ones as well).

This is a good book to browse through to pick up a phrase that could be useful in the future if you can remember it when you need to use it. That's the problem with this class of books. But the book seems to be accurate with good explanations and plenty of examples. There are also sections on false cognates and topics like *por/para*. For beginners: No. For intermediate: Possibly. For advanced: Yes.

A multitude of terms to convey a meaning! It is difficult to translate from one language to any other but this book has lots of phrases to fit many situations. Thank you, there is a pleasant lack of grammar tenses to memorize. That might be a downside for the professional student but frankly some of the terms used by eggheads weren't invented when I was in high school! The last section, "Living in Mexico" I found very useful and informative being that I spend most of my time south of the border. I can judge this book easily by how often I pick it up day after day for a brief

search and how I get drawn from one word to another! This is one of a few Spanish books I will have close by!

This is a great slang dictionary. The organization takes a little bit to get used to, but the content is good. It's especially full of Mexican phrases that are each marked with a little flag icon. Definitely a good book for the Spanish-learner who is wanting to get away from more word-by-word translations. Even if what you're saying is correct, sometimes it's just not how a native speaker would say it.

Ojo, if you use this to "learn Spanish" then don't be surprised that if you apply your new-found knowledge outside of Mexico, you will be treated to blank stares and suppressed giggles. It would have been beneficial to those alleged tontos if the author had indicated which entries were in somewhat universal use, and which were regionalisms/mexicanismos.

This book is essential for anyone who speaks Mexican Spanish or wants to learn how to speak it authentically. It's like a stroll down memory lane for me. I studied at the National University years ago, and so many of the colorful phrases I learned are in this book. And I am learning a slew of modern ones. One of the neat features of the book is that it indicates what age group the colorful phrases are appropriate for. I agree that the title is unfortunate. No one wants to be called "tonto," or "stupid." The title really detracts from a very well-researched and well presented book. I bought its successor also: "The Street-Wise Spanish Survival Guide." I hope the authors will continue to publish subsequent editions, and most of all, jettison the "tonto."

I work as a math tutor at a high school in Indianapolis. My students include those who recently arrived from Mexico and Central America. The expressions and slang in this book seem to almost always be understood by my students. This book has proven to be much more useful than other Spanish language books or the internet.

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