

Mexican Spanish (Indo-European)

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|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1) mutfatʃo..... ‘boy’ | 7) mutfatʃa..... ‘girl’ | 13) ixo..... ‘son’ |
| 2) tio ‘uncle’ | 8) tia ‘aunt’ | 14) ixa ‘daughter’ |
| 3) sobrino .. ‘nephew’ | 9) sobrina..... ‘niece’ | 15) poeta ‘poet’ |
| 4) madre ‘mother’ | 10) padre ‘father’ | 16) ombre..... ‘man’ |
| 5) muxer ‘woman’ | 11) xente..... ‘people’ | 17) amante ‘lover’ |
| 6) mutfatʃos ‘boys’ | 12) mutfatʃas ‘girls’ | 18) ixos ‘offspring’ |
| 19) buena xente ‘nice people’ | 20) muxeres biexas ‘old women’ | |
| 21) mutfatʃos tʃikos ‘little boys’ | 22) amante guapo ‘handsome lover’ | |
| 23) padres fikos ‘rich parents’ | 24) amantes guapas ‘pretty lovers’ | |
| 25) mutfatʃas tʃikas ‘little girls’ | 26) poetas preferidos ‘favorite poets’ | |
| 27) tia preferida ‘favorite aunt’ | 28) ombres brabos ‘brave men’ | |
| 29) poetas pobres ‘poor poets’ | 30) ombres grandes ‘big men’ | |
| 31) ixo grande ‘big son’ | 32) mutfatʃa pobre ‘poor girl’ | |

Hints for this puzzle.

This puzzle has a lot of information, and no single “solution” like Amharic. But it **does** have some generalizations you can draw (depending on what questions you’re asking, of course). Here are some possibly useful questions and observations:

- 1) There are only two **genders** in Spanish: *masculine* and *feminine*.
How many different ways of marking them are there? Are they always distinguished?
- 2) There are two **numbers** in Spanish: *singular* and *plural*.
How many different ways of marking them are there? Are they always distinguished?
How does number marking interact with gender marking? (Be specific)
- 3) In Spanish, adjectives must be in **agreement** with the nouns they modify.
How does adjective-noun agreement work?
(By the way, no.19 is an idiom; normally the adjective follows the noun it modifies).
- 4) Is *xente* plural? How can you tell?
- 5) What is the gender of *xente*? Of *madre*, *padre*, *poeta*, and *amante*? How can you tell?
- 6) Notice that English uses two words, *handsome* and *pretty*, where Spanish uses one word with two suffixes. Spanish uses more inflection than English, because Spanish **has** more inflection than English,.
- 7) Notice that we use two words, *uncle* and *aunt*, where Spanish uses one word with two **suffixes**. Notice that we use two words, *mother* and *father*, where Spanish uses one word with two **prefixes**.
- 8) Is (7) above a reasonable hypothesis? Why or why not?
- 9) How do you decide what’s a part of the root and what’s an **affix** (i.e, a suffix or a prefix)?