

The  
World's Wackiest

# SPANISH Joke Book

**FEDERAL BURRO  
OF INVESTIGATION**



500 Puns  
Guaranteed  
to Drive You  
Across the  
Río Groan-de!

SUE FENTON



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This book is printed on acid-free paper.

*This book is dedicated to my loving family, my wonderful  
friends, and to the playful spirit in all of us.*

# ¡VOLA!

Welcome to this “puñata” of 500 jokes . . . with a Spanish twist! It’s a celebration of the beautiful Spanish language, and you’re invited to join the fiesta of fun.

The jokes are asked in English and the answers playfully fracture Spanish and warp pronunciations. There is also a big dose of “Spanglish”—words that mix Spanish and English. The jokes are sprinkled with pop culture confetti from Mexico to Spain. From Harry Potter, to Oreos, iPods, Fruit of the Loom, to chile peppers—anything goes!

Some of the jokes are based on America’s general awareness of Spanish and the Spanish-speaking world. Others require some knowledge of Spanish, but if you get stumped there are vocabulary notes to help you. While your mind is being challenged and teased, you can dust off your Spanish or learn some more Spanish, and find out some trivia about the Spanish-speaking world at the same time.

Now it’s time to get “muy loco, ¿comprende?” Put on a CD of salsa, flamenco, or reggaetón music. Break open a bag of tortilla chips and get some salsa. Then relax and let yourself go. Expect the unexpected as you cross the “Río Groande.” May you chuckle with a Spanish accent. Soon you will be able to say . . .

## ¡HABLO ES-PUÑ-OL!

## Did You Know That Spanish . . .

- is the first language of 330 million people in the world and the second language of 100 million people for a total of more than 400 million speakers?
- is the official language of twenty-one countries?
- is tied with English for the second most spoken language in the world after Chinese?
- is an official language of the United Nations?
- is spoken by thirty million Americans or 12 percent of the population of the United States?
- is spoken by so many people in the United States that it is the fifth largest Spanish-speaking country in the world?
- is the most common second language studied in schools?
- is spoken by so many people in Los Angeles that it's the second largest Spanish-speaking city in the world?

**¡OLÉ MOLE!**

# JOKES MENU



## EL MENÚ de Los chistes

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**¡GROAN PROVECHO!**

**(ENJOY!)**

**ON YOUR MARACA, GET SET, GO!**

# ANIMALS



## Los animales

What is a Spanish **squirrel**'s favorite brand of canned spaghetti?

★ Chef Boy-**ardilla** (Chef Boyardee; *una ardilla* = squirrel)

Where in Mexico do the hairy cousins of the llama spend their vacations?

★ in **Alpaca-pulco** (Acapulco; *una alpaca* = relative of the llama with fleece)

**FUN FACT:** The alpaca lives high in the Andes Mountains in Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. It produces twelve pounds of wool, which is used to make blankets, serapes, and ponchos. Alpacas come in twenty-two colors. And before they leave for vacation, they alpaca suitcase.



Why does a Spanish **skunk** drink Coca-Cola?

- ★ *Because it's **zorrillo** thing. (It's the real thing = Coca-Cola slogan; un zorrillo = skunk)*

**FUN FACT:** Roberto C. Goizueta, who started as a bottler in Miami, was the first Latino to serve as the CEO for the Coca-Cola Company.

What *Star Trek* movie is about an angry Mexican **rabbit**?

- ★ The Wrath of **Conejo** (*Khan; un conejo = rabbit*)

**FUN FACT:** The Maya saw a rabbit in the moon. According to the "Smiling Rabbit" legend, a sneaky rabbit outsmarted a jaguar twice and howled with laughter. One day when the rabbit was swinging on a vine, the jaguar pulled the vine back and hurled the rabbit to the moon. The "Ja ja ja-guar" got the last laugh. ("Ja" sounds like "ha.")

Which art museum in Madrid has spots all over it?

- ★ *the **Leo-Prado** (El Prado = one of the world's top art museums; un leopardo = leopard)*

**FUN FACT:** During the Spanish Civil War, 500 valuable works from the El Prado were shipped to Geneva, Switzerland, for safe-keeping. When World War II began, they were sent by train back to Madrid across France, right under the noses of the Germans.

Why doesn't a Mexican **elk** have many friends?

- ★ *It's very **ante-social**. (anti-social; un ante = elk)*

For what crime-fighting organization does a Mexican **donkey** work?

- ★ *the Federal **Burro** of Investigation (Bureau; un burro = donkey)*

**FUN FACT:** "Un mataburros" is slang for a dictionary in Mexico and South America. "Un burro" is also a slang word for someone whose taco, let's say, is "missing a few ingredients."



*The Federal Burro of Investigation.*

What sport in which two Costa Rican **monkeys** hit a ball back and forth across a net for hours is rather boring?

- ★ ***mono** tennis (monotonous; un mono = monkey)*

**FUN FACT:** The howler monkey, the "mono congo," is one of the loudest animals. Its shriek can be heard two miles away. There are howler monkeys in Costa Rica.

What is the favorite TV channel of a South American **porcupine**?

★ **ESPÍN** (*ESPN; un espin = porcupine*)

What do you call a single Mexican **wolf**?

★ **avai-lobo** (*available; un lobo = wolf*)

**FUN FACT:** Los Lobos, a Latin group of the '80s, had the huge hit "La Bamba."

What does a Colombian **pig** use to make coffee?

★ **a puerco-lator** (*percolator; un puerco = pig*)

**FUN FACT:** Hernando de Soto is called the father of America's pork industry. He brought the first thirteen pigs to Florida in 1539. Later he led a herd of 300 pigs from Florida across the southern United States.

What magazine is read by Dumbo's Mexican female cousins?

★ **Elle-efante** (*Elle; un elefante = elephant*)

**FUN FACT:** Elephant figurines bring good luck to Mexican homes. Their trunks must be pointing upward. Trunks pointing downward have lost all their good luck.

What do Argentine magicians say to make a **goat** appear?

★ **"Cabra cadabra."** (*Abra; una cabra = goat*)

Who is the masked king of the South American jungle?

★ **the León Ranger** (*Lone; un león = lion*)

**FUN FACT:** He jumps on his horse and shouts, "Hi ho, Selva!" (Silver; jungle) Castilla-León is the largest region of Spain. León was the capital of Spain in Roman times. "El león no es como lo pintan" means "the lion isn't as fierce as it looks."

What kind of motorcycle does a Peruvian pack animal ride?

★ **a Llama-ha** (*Yamaha; una llama = relative of the camel without a hump*)

**FUN FACT:** The llama is used to transport goods in the Andes Mountains. It's on the coat of arms and flag of Peru. When a llama gets mad, it spits.

What was the name of the final battle between a Spanish **beaver** and the land developers who wanted to bulldoze its dam?

★ **Castor's Last Stand** (*Custer; un castor = beaver*)

What legendary star of Spanish bullfighting ate bananas for snacks?

★ **Mono-lete** (*Manolete = a great Spanish bullfighter; un mono = monkey*)

**FUN FACT:** Manolete, called "El Monstruo," was in the bullring at age twelve. He was gored by a bull named Islero when he was thirty and died.

What clay pot is shaped like a small South American rodent and grows green fur when you water it?

- ★ *a chin-Chia Pet* (*una chinchilla* = small rodent found in the Andes)

**FUN FACT:** The Chia Pet originated in Oaxaca, Mexico, where pottery is a major craft. Three "chias" for its creator.

Why didn't the Mexican sell his car to the lady **giraffe**?

- ★ *Because **jirafa** was too low.* (her offer; *una jirafa* = giraffe)

What does a Spanish **zebra** use to cut wood?

- ★ *a **cebra** saw* (*sabre*; *una cebra* = zebra)

What two-ton Venezuelan animal with a horn never knows the answers?

- ★ *a **ri-no-sé-ron*** (*un rinoceronte* = rhinoceros; *no sé* = I don't know)

What book do Spanish **foxes** consult to look up synonyms?

- ★ *a **thes-zorros*** (*thesaurus*; *un zorro* = fox)

Why does the Mexican **tiger** politician have a good reputation among voters?

- ★ *It has a lot of in-**tigre**-ty.* (*integrity*; *un tigre* = tiger)

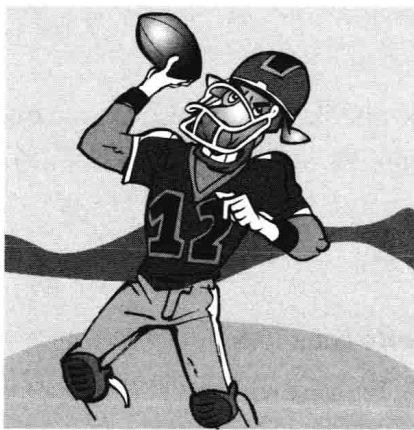
What school do South American **spotted cats** attend to learn magic?

- ★ the **Jaguarts** School of Witchcraft and Wizardry  
(Hogwarts; un jaguar = jaguar)

**FUN FACT:** Jaguar gods of the Central and South American Indians symbolized the power and beauty of nature. An Indian legend says that the jaguar rubbed mud on itself and that's how it got its spots.

Who throws the passes when Spanish farm animals play football?

- ★ the **quarter-vaca** (quarterback; una vaca = cow)



The quarter-vaca throws the winning touchdown pass.

What do you call a cross between a Spanish **cow** and Victor Hugo?

- ★ The **Hunch-vaca** of Notre Dame (Hunchback; una vaca = cow)

Where do Mexican **cows** get their morning coffee?

★ *at Star-**vacas*** (*Starbucks; una vaca = cow*)

What fruity round candies with holes in them are popular with South American **zebras**?

★ *Life **Cebbras*** (*Life Savers; una cebra = zebra*)

What South American holiday honors working **snakes**?

★ ***Culebra** Day* (*Labor Day; una culebra = snake*)

**FUN FACT:** A "teleculebra" is a soap opera in Mexico. Some Mexican soaps are: "El Juego de la Vida" ("The Game of Life"), "Corazón salvaje" ("Wild Heart"), "Amor Real" ("Real Love"), and "Clase 406."

What is in the middle of a Spanish female **boar's** tummy?

★ ***jabalí** button* (*her belly button; un jabalí = wild boar*)

What lullaby does an Argentine gaucho sing to his **horse**?

★ *"Rock **caballo** baby"* (*Rock-a-bye; un caballo = horse*)

**FUN FACT:** The horse was brought to the Americas by Christopher Columbus in 1493. The gaucho is a cattle herder on the South American plains.

What small Spanish animal has spines and sings about R.E.S.P.E.C.T.?

★ ***Eriza** Franklin* (*Aretha; una eriza = female hedgehog*)

Which two microscopic Mexican organisms bark?

- ★ the **perro**-mecium and the **perro**-tozoa (*paramecium; protozoa; un perro = dog*)

**FUN FACT:** Capitán, Moctezuma, Princesa, Cucaracha, Guido, Dogui, Burrito, Chico, Medor, Tango, Tonto, Ortega, Atila, and Diamante are common names for Spanish dogs.

What small furry pet do girls from Latin America put on their heads?

- ★ a **gerbo** (*hair bow; un gerbo = gerbil*)

What did the Spanish husband say (with a Boston accent) when his wife asked who was throwing acorns out of the trees?

- ★ “Squirrels are, dear.” (*una ardilla = squirrel*)

What do you call a **squid** that hikes in the Spanish Pyrenees?

- ★ a mountain **calamar** (*climber; un calamar = squid*)

**FUN FACT:** A restaurant called El Calamar Bravo (The Brave Squid) in Zaragoza, Spain, serves squid sandwiches.

What did the skeptical Mexican at the laundromat say when he found out the **spotted cat** had twenty loads of laundry to do?

- ★ “That’s a lot of **jag-uash**.” (*hogwash; un jaguar = jaguar*)



What large water beast at the Spanish zoo is studying to be a wizard?

- ★ **Harry Hipopótamo** (*Hipo-Potter-mo; un hipopótamo = hippopotamus*)

What NFL team is made up of animals from Peru?

- ★ **the Green Bay Alpacas** (*Packers; una alpaca = member of the camel family*)

**FUN FACT:** The Incas domesticated the alpaca. Alpacas communicate to their babies with a clucking sound. They hum and they shriek when frightened.

What Beatles song did the Mexican pop singer **lizard** record?

- ★ **"Iguana Hold Your Hand"** (*I Want to; una iguana = a tropical lizard*)

**FUN FACT:** In Mexico the iguana is roasted. Its meat is also put in tamales or in stews. Iguana is a Mexican Internet search engine ([www.iguana.com.mx](http://www.iguana.com.mx)).

What Mexican actor played a genetically super-charged reptile in a *Star Trek* film?

- ★ **Lagarto Montalbán** (*Ricardo; un lagarto = lizard*)

**FUN FACT:** Ricardo Montalbán, born in Mexico City, played Mr. Roarke on "Fantasy Island" and made over eighty films. He is best known for playing the ruthless Khan in *Star Trek—The Wrath of Khan*.