

TOP 40 “-IDAD” WORDS (Most Common & Useful)

Spanish words ending in -idad follow one of the most reliable patterns in the language. Here are the key facts:

1. They are almost always feminine.

Because the suffix comes from Latin -itas, these nouns take la: *la comunidad, la realidad, la oportunidad*.

2. They come from adjectives.

Most “-idad” nouns are created from an adjective and express “the quality of being X”: *curioso* → *curiosidad*, *real* → *realidad*, *responsable* → *responsabilidad*.

3. They express abstract ideas.

They describe qualities, states, characteristics, or concepts — which is why they appear constantly in conversation, news, and academic or professional Spanish.

4. They are extremely common and productive.

Spanish has hundreds of “-idad” words, but only about 40–50 show up all the time. If you know the adjective, you can often predict the noun.

5. They’re easy to recognize and easy to use.

Once you see the pattern, you’ll start noticing them everywhere — and you can often guess the meaning even if it’s new to you.

1. Everyday Life & Human Qualities

- **felicidad** — happiness
- **realidad** — reality
- **curiosidad** — curiosity
- **necesidad** — need
- **seguridad** — safety / security

- **libertad** — freedom
- **responsabilidad** — responsibility
- **capacidad** — capacity / ability
- **posibilidad** — possibility
- **oportunidad** — opportunity
- **prioridad** — priority

2. Society, Culture, and Community

- **comunidad** — community
- **sociedad** — society
- **igualdad** — equality
- **diversidad** — diversity
- **unidad** — unity
- **identidad** — identity
- **popularidad** — popularity
- **autoridad** — authority
- **solidaridad** — solidarity

3. Academic, Professional, and Abstract Concepts

- **universidad** — university
- **actividad** — activity
- **productividad** — productivity
- **creatividad** — creativity

- **publicidad** — publicity
- **electricidad** — electricity
- **intensidad** — intensity
- **formalidad** — formality
- **prioridad** — priority
- **estabilidad** — stability

4. Emotional & Psychological States

- **ansiedad** — anxiety
- **tranquilidad** — calmness
- **sensibilidad** — sensitivity
- **personalidad** — personality
- **serenidad** — serenity
- **timidez** → *timidez is not "-idad," but its pair*
- **humanidad** — humanity
- **claridad** — clarity
- **voluntad** — will / intention
- **intimidad** — intimacy