

COWBOYS - VAQUEROS

Origins Of The first American Cowboys

Chapter 11

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Vaquero/Cowboy Lingo

According to Stuart Berg Flexner in his book, *I Hear America Talking*, "American English has borrowed more words from Spanish than from any other language, and is still borrowing them..." Por su parte, el español tomó préstamos en abundancia de las lenguas indígenas, especialmente del nahuatl; por ejemplo, 'coyote', 'chocolate', 'tiza', 'mesquite', 'aguacate' y 'tomate'. La influencia mutua del español y el inglés, en los primeros momentos de contacto el inglés tomó más préstamos del español. To an even greater extent the origin of American cowboy dialect has its roots principally in the Spanish and later Mexican ranching vocabulary which was mispronounced and corrupted into English cowboy lingo.

The following are many of the words considered typically western or American cowboy which grew out of the Spanish lexicon for the original cowboys, the vaqueros. This list consists of mostly western words of Spanish or Mexican origin along with a few other Americanisms which were borrowed from Spanish. Some words like "cowboy" are a transliteration of the original Spanish and may not appear to have any relationship to the English version. Cowboy came from the Spanish - vaquero or "cow man."

Many American "westernisms" have very interesting and entertaining histories following their entomologies from European Middle Age Spanish beginnings to modern day cowboy lingo. Many of these words can be traced even further back thousands of years to Roman, Celtic, Arabic, and other early influences.

Here are a few fun examples. The word *dude* refers to an Easterner, tenderfoot, a man in "store-bought clothes", a word derived from the Spanish phrase "lo dudo" meaning doubtful. Anyone having attempted to teach another person to drive a car knows the frustrations and misgivings we feel. Teaching a tenderfoot "the" ropes of cowboying is far more complicated so it is understandable how and why the Hispanic vaqueros sometimes in despair having tried to teach a Anglo "dude" ranching skills would frequently refer amongst themselves to these Easterners as "los dudos" the doubtful ones. Lo dudo was adopted and corrupted by those same Easterner tenderfeet into "dude" and in turn used to refer to subsequent newcomers. The common word wrangler comes from Spanish caverango, the original Spanish word for wrangler being corrupted from non-Spanish speaking persons corrupted pronunciation from cav-e-rango, then to wrango, which in English eventually became wrangler. The original and correct meaning of a caverango (wrangler) is generally a young inexperienced hand who tended horses, (remudero), on a cattle drive.

A parrot in Spanish is perico. A little perico is the diminutive form - periquito. Drop the letter "o" and you get the English "parakeet." The Spanish word for housefly is mosca. A little mosca is the diminutive form - mosquito.

A few other more frequently used expressions borrowed from the old Spanish Vaquero lexicon and are listed below in greater detail are as follows. Every day words used in preparing our cuisine include such daily words as avocado, barbecue, cafeteria, tomato, calabash, cantina, jerky, and cocoa. Outdoors you may hear expressions using these words, ranch, boots, Bison, bamoose, bolo tie, bonanza, bronco, bucakroo, burro, calaboz, chaps, canada, canyon, cigarette, cockroach, coyote, doggie, lariat, lasso, jacket, marijuana, mustang, Mesta, parade, rodeo, tobacco, tornado and vigilante. These are but a few of the interesting words whose origins stem from the original cowboy culture fifteenth century Spanish. Many others follow below.

Definition List

abra - Spanish for abrir, (to open), a narrow pass between hills, a narrow valley.

acequia - Spanish for irrigation ditch, canal; acequia madre meaning main irrigation - an irrigation canal.

acion - Spanish for stirrup leather.

adios - Spanish Adios, goodbye. literal translation - "to God."

adobe - Spanish for brick made of clay, water and available straw or grass baked in the sun used to construct all manner of buildings where wood was in short supply.

agarita - Spanish - wild currant.

agregado - Spanish for a farm hand.

agrito - Spanish term applied to a variety of thorn bushes from which can be made a delicious jelly.

Aguardiente - Spanish term applied to a number of liquors such as brandy, whiskey, and "high octane" tequila derived from the Mexican cactus plant called maguey.

alfalfa - Spanish from Arabic al-fasfah, good fodder, (Blexner 1976).

alameda - Spanish from alamo - cottonwood tree, grove of trees sometimes along an avenue.

alforja - saddlebag

alamo - Spanish for cottonwood tree, word from which many names are derived, e.g., Alamogordo, (big tree), Alamosa, (tree'd), Los Alamos, (the cottonwood trees), and the Alamo, (the cottonwood tree), a Spanish mission fort in San Antonio, Texas.

Albondigas - meatballs; served with spaghetti or as an appetizer

Alcalde - Spanish; title applied to the town mayor, but sometimes the judge, or chief of police.

algarroba - honey mesquite, (Matthew's, 1951).

alligator - from Spanish words for the lizard "el lagarto."

algodon - Spanish - cotton, sometimes referred to cottonwood tree.

alla - Spanish expression for "over there, yonder."

amansador - Spanish - a horse tamer.

amigo - Spanish - friend.

amole - Spanish - from Nahuatl also amole, amolli - a plant from which soap can be made, such as the yucca root.

Anglo - a person not of Spanish or Indian decent, (Mathews, 1951).

angoras - Spanish - Chaps made from goat hide with wool left on the outside, (P. Watts, 1977).

anquera - Spanish - from Spanish and Mexican saddle style, the rear leather piece over the horses' rump which varies greatly in size and use.

ante - ante-up - from the Spanish word antes meaning before. To get in the poker game you had to "ante-up" before (antes) having cards or a hand dealt to you; also meaning pay up or to hand something over.

antelope - western antelope was actually a pronghorn found in plains areas of the west, (Parksman, 1872; Stansburg, 1852).

aparejo - Spanish for a Mexican pack saddle.

aperitivo - appetizer

apple - a saddle horn from the Spanish manzana - meaning "apple."

appola - the sticks on which small pieces of meat were roasted over an open fire, (Matthews, 1951).

apron-straps - apron strings - straps on leather skirt on saddle to tie bedroll and other such items.

arancel - aransel, from the Spanish - an import tax.

arciones - Spanish for stirrup-leathers.

argolla del enteador - the ring of the saddle rigging straps.

Arizona nightingale - burro donkey

armas - the predecessor of chaps, leather flaps attached to saddle to protect riders legs.

armitas half-chaps riding apron just below the tops of the old Spanish high boots fastened around the legs.

arriero - muleteer, a mule driver.

arroba - Spanish measurement of weight, about 10 kilos used to weigh Corriente or Long Horn cattle.

arroyo - a gully or wash where water runs only when raining; dry most of the year, and also used as trails or horseback roadways.

arroz - rice

atole - Spanish from Nahuatl for blue corn meal/porridge/gruel served as a beverage with sugar. A family name to a clan/member of the Jicarrilla Apache Indians, NM.

avocado - from Spanish "de aguacate."

baile - a dance

bajada - down slope of a hill.

bamoose - corrupted Spanish for "vamos," meaning, "let's go."

banco - a sandbank

band - a bunch of horses, wild or in remuda.

bandana - the neckerchief of a cowboy

bandera - Spanish for flag

bandido - a bandit

barbacoa - barbecue, derived from barba (beard) of the kid goat and cueva (cave)- pit cooked kid goat

barriguera - cinch

barboquejo - (stampede string), chin strap for hat strong enough for the wind, but not so strong so as to choke the wearer.

barranca - 1. a steep wide of a ravine or arroyo 2. a bluff.

barrel - chap guard of a spur, (Mora, 1950), torso of a horse, (Dobie, 1952).

basto/baste - a pad or skirt of a saddle.

bayo - a bay horse dun or smokey color.

bed roll - a cowboy's bedding consisting of a tarpaulin and blankets eventually evolving into modern day sleeping bag.

belduque - a large knife and blade.

bell mare, bell mule, bell weather - lead animal to keep them gathered together.

Biscochitos - Anise-flavored cookies, sprinkled with cinnamon and sugar.

Bisonte - original Spanish word for Bison.

Blue cornmeal - Cornmeal ground from dark blue corn.

bit - the metal part of the bridle inserted into horses mouth.

bodega -Spanish - grocery store/liquore store.

bolero - original Spanish style vaquero hat known today as the Santa Fe style.

bolo tie - from the Spanish bolas, boleadoras, two balled weights at the end of a forked rope, the gauchos,' (cowboys') equivalent of the lariat; a cord tie held together with a concha (shell, in modern times a silver concha) or a turquoise stone.

bonanza - prosperity or success.

bone orchard - cemetery, (P. Watts, 1977).

boots - (from botas), originated by Spanish vaqueros for protection of legs in saddles, knee high came down and changed in style many times from heavy leather to softer more stylish decoration.

bosque - a grove of trees or woodland

bow - weapon composed of haft & string for propelling arrows, (Peter Watts, 1977).

brasada - brush country

bracero - Mexican national farm laborer around WWII, later called migrant farm worker.

breeze - from Spanish briza meaning wind.

brida - bridle:-split ear --California bridle --hackamore, from Spanish juquima - horse halter without a bit used on well-mannered horse.

bronc - from Spanish for an unbroken horse or a cow horse.

bronc buster - breaker of wild horses.

brujo - a wizard

buckaroo - from Spanish vaquero - a cowboy.

bucking strap - rigging around the flank of a rodeo horse to make him more wild and to be held on to by rider.

buffalo - from Spanish bufalo referring to American bison.

bulldogger - a cowhand employed to throw cattle by hand in order to tie and brand the animal.

bull puncher - see cow puncher

buñelo - fry bread, also sopapilla served with icing or dipped in cinnamon and sugar.

Burrito - flour tortilla filled with beans, meat, cheese, or potatoes, served with a chile/salsa garnished with lettuce, tomato, and onion .

burro - donkey

buscadero - someone who seeks, usually applied to lawmen.

caballada - from Spanish meaning remuda, cavallard, cavy, a band of saddle horses.

caberos - from Spanish for cabestro or halter.

cabestro - original horse hair halter.

cabeza del fuste - Spanish for head of the saddle tree.

cabrie - pronghorn antelope.

cabrón - a male goat. According to R. Adams 1944, a man who allows his wife to commit adultery..., an outlaw of the lowest order, an illegitimate child.

cacique - a village leader usually applied to Indian Pueblo clan heads.

cafeteria - from Spanish cafeteria meaning self-serve restaurant.

calabash - squash from Spanish "calabaza."

calabaza - Squash, pumpkin, related vegetables.

calaboze - from the Spanish calabozo, meaning jail.

calaveras - skulls or skull location

calico - 1. a coarse, cotton cloth with a figure design on one side. 2. depending on use, a woman, to court a woman, or a pinto horse.

calzoneras - pants split on the outside of the leg showing white under leggings.

cama - bed, or bed roll

camino real - the original public roadway established by the Spanish Crown, literally meaning, the royal road, crimes committed on the Royal roads were punished more severely.

campana - pommel

canada - a valley or canyon

canelo - from the Spanish "canela," meaning cinnamon color, applied to a similarly colored horse.

cantina - canteen, or a saloon or embibing waterhole.

cantle - the rear back bracing part of a saddle.

canyon - from the Spanish "canon," meaning the same.

capirotada - sweet bread pudding with cinnamon, rasins, nuts, and cheese.

capon - a gelded horse

caponera - a group of gelded horses caporal. Spanish for boss or foreman, ranch manager.

carajo! - an expletive meaning darn, shucks and the like.

carne - meat

carne asada - Mexican food, brazier-cooked meat meat.

carne molida - ground beef.

carrera del gallo - rooster race

carreta - the original wagon with two wheels drawn by oxen, camp cart.

cartucho - a bullet cartridge.

casa - house

cascabel - a rattle, a rattlsnake, a jingle-bob.

cat - short for catamount, (cougar), corrupted Spanish words "gato monte" to "cata mount," - (mountain cat).

cattalo - cross between domestic cattle and buffalo.

cavallo - a horse.

Cavallero - a Spanish gentleman, noble equestrian (knight), upper-class cowboy.

caverango - original Spanish word for wrangler being corrupted from non-Spanish speaking persons, corrupted pronunciation from cav-e-rango to wrango which in English eventually became wrangler. A caverango (wrangler) is generally a young inexperienced hand who tended horses, (remudero), on a cattle drive.

cavraces - (caberos), a hair rope.

cavvy-broke - a wild horse tame enough to run with the remuda.

cayuse - an Indian pony.

cenizo - ash colored.

center fire rig - the Spanish & Mexican saddles with single cinch from which the modern western saddles evolved and are still widely in use in Mexico.

cerro - Spanish for "a hill."

Chalupa - boat-shaped fried corn tortilla filled with beans, cheese, & lettuce.

Chamisa - Rabbitbrush, silver-blue, narrow-leaved, deciduous shrub, 3-5 ft. tall & wide with pungent, yellow flowers in fall.

Chamisal - thicket of chamisa

Chaparral - thick bramble bushes entangled with thorny shrubs in clumps, small scrub oaks, a small thicket of scrub oak.

Chaparro - evergreen oak tree or a small boy

chaps - a corruption of the Spanish chaparreras, chaparajos, chaparejos, leather leggings to protect horsemen from brush and cacti.

chapenton/concha - metal rosette used to secure saddle leather together.

chaqueta - the original word for jacket.

charqui - original word for jerky in English.

charro - a gentleman equestrian

Chicano - from Mexican word originally spelled Mechicano used to refer to a wider spectrum of Southwest people of Hispanic origin.

Chicos - dried sweet corn kernels that are fire roasted.

chile, chili - hot spicy peppers integral to the cuisine of the vaquero; chile Colorado – red chile, chile verde – green chile.

Chile caribe - red chile pods ground and blended with water.

Chile on queso - chile with cheese; served as a dip with tostados.

Chile pequin - thin hot red chiles

Chile relleno - stuffed chile, green chile stuffed with cheese, dropped in egg batter, and fried.

Chicharrones - cracklings made from pork fat with some meat attached.

Chimiichanga - fried burrito topped with salsa and or sour cream.

chinch bug - Spanish "chince," meaning bed bug, (Flexner, 1976).

chinks - armitas, original chaps/chaparreras, a half-legging to just below the knee and laced around the legs.

cholla

chorizo - highly seasoned Mexican pork sausage.

chow - food

chuleta - pork chop with red chile sauce.

coleador - a horseman who throws a bull by twisting its tail

colear - to throw a running bull by twisting its tail

churro - the hardy breed of sheep introduced by the Spanish and responsible for changing the way of live of Navajos from wild nomadic to sheepherders.

cibolo - a buffalo -se exponen una ilustración de 1598 de un bisonte (animal cuyo aspect sorprendió a los españoles, que lo llamaron vaca corcovada.

cienaga - a swampy marsh.

cigarito - a cigarette

cockroach - from Spanish word cucaracha.

comarron - wild.

cinch - cincha - the saddle girth.

cocoa - de cacao.

cocinero - a cook, in English - (cowboy slang) *coosie*.

colear - from Spanish infinitive, "cola" meaning tail, colear meant to throw an animal by the tail.

colt - a young horse, usually male.

Colt - one of the original revolvers of the west.

Comanceros - mestizos who lived wild and as go between for Comanche Indians and Anglos.

Comino - spice cumin

compadre - a Godfather, also used as a reference to anyone considered a partner.

companero - Spanish for buddy/companion.

concha(o) - from Spanish meaning shell, a silver ornament used to decorate all manner of leather gear.

condor - de condor

conquistador - 15th century soldier who conquered lands for Spain.

contraenreatado - latigo

cork - de corcho

corn tortilla - flat bread cooked on a griddle made from yellow or blue corn.

corona - the work crown, also a type of blanket.

corral - a livestock pen.

corrida - from the Spanish infinitive correr, to run, also meet a cattle crew, a hunt/chase or bullfight.

corrido - Mexican folksong

cougar - from the Spanish gatamonte (mountain lion) to cata mount - to cougar.

cowboy - a transliteration of the Spanish word vaquero, (cowman), into the English cowboy; widely applied term used to refer to men who tended livestock on horseback, such as cattle, horses, sheep, etc., also cowhand, cowpoke, or cowpuncher.

cow chips - dry cow droppings used to fuel campfire.

cowhide - the skin leather of a cow.

cow horse - cow pony - a horse used to work cattle.

cowpuncher - cowpoke, term which came with the introduction of the railroad; the men who kept cattle in a railroad car on their feet by poking or punching them with a poke pole.

coyote -Spanish from the Nahuatl coyotl - a prairie wolf, in English cayute, (Ruxton, 1849).

craw - the crop of a bird or the place on a person where someone else's insult gets stuck.

cristianos - Catholics, civilized people of European decent.

cuidado - expression for "look out!"

cuarta - quirt, a horse whip.

cuna - leather cradle used for carrying wood on a wagon.

cure - from currar, to take the cure, to get divorced.

curry comb - a scraper used to clean roughage, bristles from a horse.

dally - dolly welter - from the Spanish expression "dale vuleta," or give it a turnaround, (tie it down). Original vaqueros developed the technique of tying the rope to the saddle horn by giving it a couple of turns to stop the animal at the other end.

desjarretadera - a hocking knife with curved steel blade attached to the end of a 12' pole used to hamstring cattle's hind leg before killing the animal for butchering.

dicho - a saying or proverb.

dinero - money

dogal - doggie, a motherless calf, (also a nose halter).

double rig - the western saddle evolved from the Spanish and Mexican saddle single rig, single cinch. The Modern American saddle with two cinches is double-rigged.

double tree - a wagon hitch for two horses.

drag - rear part of a driven herd of cattle or fall behind animal.

draw - an offshoot arroyo of larger canyon.

drive - move animals like cattle, horse and sheep to market.

drove - a group of animals or people moving along together, a herd of cattle, flock of sheep, a drove of trees, etc.

Drover - herdsman, a person who herds a drove of animals.

dry gulch - ambush someone in camp.

dude - an Easterner, tenderfoot, man in "store-bought clothes", a word derived from the Spanish phrase "lo dudo" meaning doubtful.

dueno - an owner.

enchilada - covered in chile, Mexican dish. Corn tortillas served rolled or flat filled with ground beef and or cheese, onions, and covered with chile and a variety of toppings.

encino - oak.

encomendero - holder of an encomienda, a royal land grant including everything on the land.

enveatados - rigging straps

equalizer - a revolver, (Rossi, 1975).

espuelas - spurs.

estradiota - old Spanish war saddle.

estribo - stirrup iron.

estufa - stove.

faja - a sash worn around the waist.

fandango - a lively dance.

fenders - from Spanish for the part of the saddle called rosaderos, sudaderos.

fetlock - joint

fiador - guarantor, in Mexico and SW bridle strap, sometimes corrupted into English to, "theodore."

Flan - a baked custard with caramel sauce.

Flauta - Spanish for flute, as food fried version of a taco, rolled thin, dopped in sour cream or guacamole.

Frijoles - beans

Flour tortilla - flat bread cooked on a griddle made with flour.

forefooting - the striking of a horses front shoes by it's rear shoes - (P. Watts, 1977)

fork - from the Spanish, "la campana" (the bell), the front part of a saddle tree shaped like a fork or bell.

fracas - pronounced > fray-cuss", from spanish fracaso

freno - a horse's bit.

frijoles - pinto beans.

fuke - a sawed off shotgun.

fuste - the pommel part of a saddle tree.

gaff - to spur a horse, (P. Watts).

gamuza - soft buckskin leather used for making moccasins.

garrocha - long pole used to prod cattle

gorditas - masa stuffed with seasoned meat and fried.

gringo - from griego meaning Greek but used to refer to all non-Indian strangers or newcomers, foreigners.

grullo - from the Spanish word grulla, (a crane) which was a dark gray color.

Guacamole - avocado dip

guajilla - Nahuatl for a small guard.

guava - de guayaba

guia - a guide; vernacular - a pass/manifest for safe passage.

gun - a term loosely used to refer to revolvers and sometimes rifles.

hacendado - the owner of a substantial hacienda or estate.

hacienda - a large ranch or estate.

hackamer - Anglo corruption of the Spanish jaquima bridle, (P. Watts, 1977).

harbor - The early name of Spain, "Iberia", is Celtic and is derived from their word "aber", or "open" as it translates in Spanish, meaning "harbor" or "river".

Harina - flour

head -catch - roping an animal by the head.

headstall - bridle.

hediondilla - a creosote bush.

herrar - to brand or mark with a hot iron.

heel - to rope an animal by the hind feet.

hidalgo - a nobleman of Spanish descent.

hoja - a leaf, also a corn-chuck used as cigarette paper.

hombre - the word for man.

hombre del campo - a rugged outdoorsman.

honda - from Spanish (hondo), the hole or slip ring end of the rope used to catch the animal.

hondo - meaning deep, used to refer to deep places like a deep arroyo.

horn - the knob shaped part of the saddle atop the fork/pommel upon which the rope was tied (dallied). Developed by the Spanish and Mexican vaqueros.

Horno - outdoor oven, made of adobe and beehive shaped introduced to the Iberian Peninsula by the Moors, adopted by the Spanish.

hossegow - from "juzgado" Spanish court which sentenced one to jail.

Huevos rancheros - ranch-style eggs, served with tortillas and salsa; the favorite of Lucy Reyes-Chavez.

huraches - sandals

incommunicado - from Spanish incomunicado.

jacal - a primitive hut or shelter.

jaquima - a headstall corrupted into the English hackamore.

jar - a ceramic jug or pitcher.

juicer - from Nahuatl used to refer to container made by Jicarilla Apache Indians.

jineta - leather saddle style suited to speed and maneuverability introduced to Spain by Moors and brought to Americas by Spanish colonists.

jinete - an excellent horseman, originally from the Moorish jineta saddle riders who introduced la jineta to the Spanish in the 15th century.

jornado - a journey.

key - as in a low island, e.g., Key West, Florida Keys, from Spanish Kay, cayo.

ladino - a wild Corriente (Longhorn).

ladron - a thief

lariat - from la reata - a throw rope.

lasso - a rope from the Spanish, "lazo."

latigo - a strap that attaches saddle riggin to the cinch.

Leche - milk

legaderos - a corruption of the Spanish stirrup straps called rosaderos.

lepero - a gross or vulgar person.

llano - the flats or prairie lands.

lobo - a wolf.

loco - Spanish for crazy, insane.

loco weed - astragalus, a plant with purple or white flowers when eaten drives animals crazy.

loma - a hill.

Longhorn - a wild hardy cattle which originated from the Spanish longhorn, El Corriente.

machero - from "mechero," a fire making tool.

machete - a long chopping knife, diminutive of Spanish macho, ax club, mace (Flexner, 1976).

macho - literally means a male as opposed to female, "la hembra."

marijuana - from Spanish marihuana

mayordomo - a ranch foreman.

maleta - saddle bag

mal pais - bad country, badlands.

manada - bunch of mare horses with a stallion.

manana - tomorrow, later.

mano - a human hand, also short for brother hermano - her-mano.

manga - a poncho cloak; modern Spanish a shirt sleeve.

mangana - forefooting - roping an animal by its front feet.

mantilla - a scarf or head-shawl worn by women.

manzana - apple or horn of a saddle.

marrano - pig, During the time when Spain was under Moorish rule, between 711A.D. and 1492, the word for pig more with greater frequency came to be known as "*Marrano*," the etymology of which evolved from an Arabic root meaning "prohibited thing," or "outsider."

Masa - dough made of dried ground corn and lime water.

Masa harina - dough made of a dried mix to which water is added.

mas alla - further over there.

matanza - the slaughtering of livestock, a killing of an animal.

mecate - a hair rope.

Menudo - in New Mexico, pork skins used in posole, each pueblo (town) has its own specialty – generally a mixture of tripe, stew meat, chile, and local ingredients.

mesa - a plateau of land, literally a table top.

mescal - word used to refer to liquor obtained from the form the maguey/agave plant.

mesquital - a thicket of mesquite

mesquite - a small tree or large bush which grows in southern New Mexico to California.

Mesta - a stockmen's association first organized by the Spanish in Mexico, (New Spain), June 16, 1529.

mesteno - a mustang; from "Mesta."

mestizo - a person of Spanish and Indian ancestry.

metate - a hollowed stone (mortar) used to grind corn, grain, and nuts used with a mano (pestal)

Mexican standoff - a no-win conflict circumstance where neither side will back down; taken from the time of the Mexican Comancheros who were extremely fierce, wild rugged, and would not back down from a fight no matter the odds.

mochila - a loose leather covering for original saddles when saddle trees were covered only with rawhide.

Mollete - anise bread

morral - a feed bag.

mosey - mosed on from Spanish, "vamos," - let's get a move on.

mosquito - diminutive for Spanish word mosca (fly), "de mosquito."

muchacho - boy.

mujer - a woman or wife.

mulada - a herd of mules.

mulero - a muleteer - one who tends pack animals.

Nachos - tostados topped with cheese and green chile baked, served as an appetizer

naja - a small decoration hanging from the headband of a bridle onto the horses face, (Foster-Harris, 1955).

Natilla - pudding sprinkled with cinnamon and nutmeg.

nuece - pecan nut

ocotillo - a stick like cactus.

ojo - meaning eye; in the west used to refer to a spring of water.

orejanos - wild cattle slick eared or unbranded.

padre - father or Catholic priest

palaver - from Spanish slang "pa-hablar," to talk or discuss.

palomino - palomill or cream colored horse with white tail.

paloma - dove, paloma blanca (white dove).

panocha - unrefined brown sugar, candy.

pansaje - a social meal in the open air. Not quite a picnic, more a barbeque including groaning tables and animals roasted whole (mtthews, 1951); like a "matanza" in New Mexico.

parade - from parda, a main herd of cattle on a drive.

Parakeet - de periqito

paso de la muerte - to ride bareback on a wild horse or bull

partida - a subsection or band of men or animals.

pasear - to walk or stroll.

paseo - a walk or ride.

paso - a walk, step, pass-safe passage.

Pastelitos - little pies that are served in square portions

pastor - a shepherd.

piale - underhand rope throw that catches the animals hind legs.

Pollo - chicken

Posole - traditional New Mexican stew made with hominy-corn kernels, pork loin, garlic, oregano, onion salt red chile treated with lime.

poncho - de poncho.

potato - de patata.

patio - de patio, a Spanish courtyard.

patron - the boss or owner.

pedregal - a stony place.

pelado - peeling off, hairless, stripped of possessions.

peon - peasant.

perilla - a pear shaped saddle horn.

pial - a rope thrown underhanded right back of the front legs under the belly of the running quarry, the loop opening ups so that the hind legs stepped into it. (Weseen, 1934).

pickaninny - a corruption of the Spanish "pequeno nin" meaning little child.

piloncilla - brown sugar cone - candy.

pinole - corn flour mixed with sweetened flour from mesquite bean.

pinon - a dwarf pine nut tree. Roasted, the nuts are delicious.

pita - fiber obtained from plants to make ropes, bags, and baskets.

Plaza - de plaza.

poco - little.

poco pronto - meaning right now!

poncho - a blanket with a hole in the middle used to keep warm.

potro - a colt or untamed horse.

presidio - a Spanish fort

pretal - breast band.

pronto - right away, now!

pueblo - a village or town, in New Mexico, Pueblo refers to anyone of the Pueblo Indian tribes.

pulqueria - a liquor store.

quadroon - (from Spanish cuarteron). By 1805 the New Orleans quadroon balls. for white men and their quadroon mistresses were famous (Flexner, 1976).

Quelitas - spinach mixed with pinto beans, bacon, crushed red chile pods.

Queso - cheese

querencia - to love as in loving the land whence you came.

querida - sweetheart.

quien sabe - who knows?

quirt - from cuerda cord, horsewhip.

ramada - a shelter of brush.

ranch - originally meaning the land upon which stock was raised, now the word is used in reference to any rural place one owns.

rancheria - a camp settlement.

ranchero - a rancher.

reata - rawhide rope, anglicized "la reata" to "lariat."

rayar - a horse stepping contest

rebozo - a head and shoulder shawl worn by women.

Refrito - literally – refried; refried beans that are cooked, mased and refried.

remuda - saddle horses or a ranch or cattle drive.

remudero - a wrangler, young man, or boy who cared for the horse herd.

Ristra - a string of chiles.

rodaja - a pointed rowel star at the end of the spur which rolls as the rider's boot heel rakes the horse.

Rodeo - from Spanish word, "rodear," to encircle the herd; later meaning a cowboy skill contest.

rosaderos - saddle fenders.

salea - a soft sheepskin placed between a horses back and saddle blanket, (P. Watts).

salsa - de salsa, chile sauce made with fresh chile, tomatoes and onions.

salsa pequin - very hot salsa made with chile pequin sometimes labeled taco sauce.

salsa rancherita - thick sause (salsa chile) made with onions, green chile, tomatoes, and seasonings.

sandia - watermelon

santo - a saint or image of same.

sarape - a heavy shawl or small blanket sometimes with fringes at ends.

sassafras - from Spanish sassafras referring to sassafras soap, or sassafras tea - a medicinal herb.

savvy - from Spanish word "save" pronounced similarly, meaning to know, infinitive form "saber."

sendero - a clearing for walking

senor - Sir or mister.

sierra - a mountain range or serrated/jagged mountain top.

siesta - nap taken early to mid day, by those whose day begins at dawn.

silla - saddle.

sombrero - a wide-brimmed Mexican hat, from "sombra."

Sopa - sweet bread pudding with raisins, cinnamon, nuts, and cheese.

sopaipilla (So-pie-pia) - fried bread made with yeast or baking powder.

sortija a ring race

spurs - from espuelas worn on boots, used to start a horse.

stampede - from estampida, the mass bolting of a herd of animals.

stirrup - from estribo, used to mount a horse and ride properly.

tabasco - liquor or sauce which is named after the Mexican state of Tabasco.

tablas del fuste - saddle tree slats

taco - a Mexican dish made with corn tortillas filled with minced meat or beans, tomatoes, lettuce, cheese, and topped with hot chili sauce.

talache - a hand hoe, (Dobie, 1930)

tamale - a Mexican dish consisting of minced pork meat chili, corn masa wrapped in corn husks steamed and/or baked.

tapaderos - leather covering over the stirrups to protect against brush.

tapajos - from tapa ojos - a blind for horses and mules.

tasajero - a building in which beef was smoked and dried, (Matthews, 1951)

tasajo - jerky.

tegua - soft moccasin type leather.

teja - cantle.

Tejano - a Texan.

tequila - an alcoholic beverage made from the maguey cactus.

teshuino - teswin or Apache beer made from corn prior to arrival of Spanish.

tienda - store.

tie strings - leather straps behind the cantle on a saddle used to secure bedrolls and other items.

tobacco - de tabaco

tomato - de tomate

tornado - from Spanish tronada the root-word of which is tornar - to twist or screw.

toro - a bull.

torta - stiffly beaten egg, fried and served with red chile.

tortilla - rolled flat bread made of wheat or corn flour cooked on a flat surface.

tostada - open faced taco or tortilla with melted cheese.

tostados - corn tortilla wedges fried crisp.

trigueno - the color brunet or brown applied to a horse.

tule - depending on the region, a name applied to certain plants/trees found far out in the remote country, ergo, the saying, "out in the tules!"

vaca - a cow.

vacada - a herd of cows.

vaciero - a man in charge of a number of sheepherders in a large outfit, (Dobie, 1955).

vamose - from the Spanish "vamos" or let's go!

vanilla - de vainilla.

vaquero - a cowboy

vara - a measurement just under 3 feet.

vereda -a trail.

Wrangler - from the Spanish caverango; original Spanish word for wrangler being corrupted from non-Spanish speaking persons, corrupted pronunciation from cav-e-rango to wrango which in English eventually became wrangler. A caverango (wrangler), is generally a young inexperienced hand who tended horses, (remudero), on a cattle drive.

Xerga - a cloth placed between the salea and pack saddle.

yerba buena - term used to refer to plants and herbs which can be used medicinally, such as mint.

vigilante - meaning guardian of the law, righteous, vigilant.

yucca - a family of cacti which have palm like branches with sharp points.

zapato - shoe.

zorillas - from the word zorillo - skunk used to describe early Longhorn cattle with skunk like markings.