

COWBOYS - VAQUEROS

Origins Of The First American Cowboys

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Chapter 11

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..." Largely 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 etymologies 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, calaboze, 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.

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.

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 and 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.

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 - 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.

atole - Spanish from Nahuatl for blue corn meal/porridge. A family last name to a clan of member of the Jicarrilla Apache Indians, New Mexico.

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

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 - a steep wide of a ravine or arroyo.

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.

bisonte - original Spanish word for Bison.
bit - the metal part of the bridle inserted into horses mouth.
bodega - Spanish - grocery store/liquor 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 or a rodeo horse to make him wilder and to be held on to by rider.
buffalo - from Spanish buffalo referring to American bison.
bulldogger - a cowhand employed to throw cattle by hand in order to tie and brand the animal.
bull puncher - see cowpuncher
bunelo - fry bread, also sopapilla
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.
cabron - a male goat. According to R. Adams 1944, a man who allows his wife to commit adultery..., an outlaw of the lowest order.
cacique - a village leader usually applied to Indian Pueblo clan heads.
cafeteria - from Spanish cafeteria meaning self-serve restaurant.
calabash - squash from Spanish "calabaza."
calaboze - from the Spanish calabozo, meaning jail.
calaveras - skulls or skull location
calico - depending on use, a woman, to court a woman, or a pinto horse.
calico - to court a woman, or a coarse, cotton cloth with a figure design on one side.
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, literally meaning, the royal road.
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.
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, dry meat.
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 rattlesnake, sometimes a rattle or 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, 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."

chamisal - chaparral

chaparro - meaning a small thicket of scrub oak.

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.

chile, chili - hot spicy peppers integral to the cuisine of the vaquero.

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 - cactus with hooked bars so as to cling to anything that bumps it.

chow - food

coleador - a horseman who throws a bull by twisting it's tail

colear - to throw a running bull by twisting it's 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 shepherders.

cibola - a buffalo.

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 - 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.

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 Spanish soldier who conquered the American Indians

contraenreatado - latigo

cork - de corcho

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 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).

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

cristianos - 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 - British and Australian term for 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 - Mexican dish, from *enchilar* to cover, wrap, or coat with chile.

encino - oak.

encomendero - holder of an *encomienda*, 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. Spanish term for kiva.

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."

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

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.

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".

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.

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

huraches - sandals

incomunicado - 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.

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.”
mas alla - further over there.
matanza - the slaughtering of livestock, a killing of an animal.
mecate - a hair rope.
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 used to grind grain and nuts.
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.
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 - meaning boy.
mujer - a woman or wife.
mulada - a herd of mules.
mulero - a muleteer - one who tends pack animals.
naja - a small decoration hanging from the headband of a bridle onto the horses face, (Foster-Harris, 1955).
nuce - 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 (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 - a bareback ride 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.
pastor - a sheepherder.
piale - underhand rope throw that catches the animals hind legs.
poncho - de poncho.
potato - de patata.
patio - de patio, a Spanish courtyard.
patron - the boss or owner.
pedregal - a stony place.
pelado - peeled 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.
pulperia - 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).
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.
remuda - saddle horses or a ranch or cattle drive.
remudero - a wrangler, young man, or boy who cared for the horse herd.
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 horse's back and saddle blanket, (P. Watts).
salsa - de salsa, chile sauce.
sandia - watermelon
santo - a saint or image of same.
sarape - a heavy shawl or small blanket sometimes with fringes at ends.
sassafras - from Spanish sasafra referring to sasafra 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."
sopapilla - fried bread.
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, tomatoes, lettuce, cheese, and topped with hot chili sauce.
talache - a hand hoe, (Dobie, 1930)
tamale - a Mexican dish consisting of minced meat, chili, corn flour masa (dough) wrapped in corn husks and steamed.
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.

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

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 tulees!"

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.