

Extract from

Baker's Spanish-English Dictionary

(in preparation)

THE GOAL OF THIS DICTIONARY is to alert Spanish and English speakers of the connections—and disconnections—between their spoken languages, using cognate pairs as the lexical entry. The dictionary also provides guidelines about usage, both in reference to social class and in reference to frequency of occurrence.

Using a five-point scale, and drawing upon an auditory familiarity with both languages, we offer a frequency guide, where 5 = daily, 4 = 2-3 times a week, 3 = 2-3 times a month, 2 = 2-3 times a year, 1 = rarely, 0 = almost never.

A good example is the cognate pair **cotidiano/quotidian**, the frequency value of which we score 5,0. The Spanish term is heard daily, or almost, and the English term is heard only very rarely, and in socially rarified writing or speech.

Another cognate pair, but going the other way in relation to frequency, is **arguir/argue**, the frequency score of which would be 2,4.

Here are recent entries to the dictionary.

cómodo (adj, n) ≠ **commode** (n) Freq. 5,0

< French <Latin *commodus* convenient, com- + *modus*

These cognates in one place almost touch in meaning. As a noun, the Spanish means bed pan, or, archaically, chamber pot. In one meaning of the English noun, the seldom-heard word refers to a piece of furniture with a cabinet below that contains a chamber pot or wash basin.

SPAN—adj 1 COMFORTABLE. *El bebé está cómodo.* n. 2 bed pan

ENG—n 2 TOILET or rest room, but largely out of use. *Where's the commode?*

Related words: See *comodidad*

comodidad (n, adj, adv) ≠ **commodity** (n, adj, adv) Freq. 5,5

< French <Latin *commodus* convenient, com- + *modus*

These words are in daily use in both Spanish and English, but today have no common meanings. The Spanish refers to **comfort**, whereas the common meaning in English referring to raw or intermediate articles of commerce would be rendered in Spanish by **materias primas**.

Related words: See **cómodo**. English terms out of use are **commodious** and **commodiously**, referring to the spaciousness or convenience of a place, as of a room or apartment.

Interested readers may send similar cognate pairs to info@energia.com

July 5, 2014