

## Musical Terms in Spanish

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### Terms

- m. masculine nouns are preceded by the article, ‘el’ (singular) ‘los’ (plural); f. feminine nouns are preceded by the article, ‘la’ (singular), ‘las’ (plural).
- Most Spanish nouns receive an ‘s’ at the end of the word in its plural form. Nouns ending in consonants, usually receive the ending -es. Diacritical marks can change for the plural version of the noun. In such cases, the entire word has been spelled out in this guide.
- When adjectives describe a noun, they must follow noun gender harmony; these have been labeled accordingly. In the case of gender-neutral nouns, they retain their original form for both genders, as shown below.
- Adjectives also follow singular and plural forms, according to the nouns they describe.

English	Spanish
Accent symbol	Signo/s de accentuación, m.
Accidental/s, n.	Alteración/alteraciones accidental/es, f.
Aeolian (mode)	Eólico
Alla breve, It.	A lo corto
Anacrusis	Anacrusa, f.
Analysis	Análisis
Answer	Respuesta/s, f. (The second half of a musical phrase could be labeled <i>frase final</i> )
Apoggiatura, It.	Apoyatura/s, f.
Articulation	Articulación/articulaciones, f.
Ascending, adj.	Ascendente
Asymmetric	Asimétrico/a, adj.
Augmentation dot	Puntillo/s, m. (blanca con puntillo, negra con puntillo)
Augmented	Aumentado/a, adj.
Bar lines	Línea/s divisoria/s, f.
Baroque	Barroco
Beat	Pulso/s, m.
Beat, semi-strong	Pulso semifuerte
Beat, strong	Pulso fuerte
Beat, subdivision	subdivisión
Beat, weak	Pulso débil
Binary (form)	Forma binaria
Breath	Respiración/respiraciones, f.
Breve	Cuadrada/s, f.
Cadence	Cadencia/s, f.
Cadence, final	Cadencia/s final/es, f.
Cadence, half	Semicadencia/s, f.
Canon	Canon/cánones, m.
Chromatic	Chromático/a, adj.
Circle of fifths	Círculo de quintas, m.
Clap	Palmada/s
Clef	Clave/s, f.; clave de sol: g/treble clef; clave de fa: f/bass clef; clave de do: c/alto clef
Coda	Coda, f.
Consonance, n.	Consonancia/s, f.

Counterpoint	Contrapunto/s, m.
Dance	Danza/s, f.
Degree (scale)	Grado/s, m.
Descending, adj.	Descendente
Diatonic	Diatónico/a, adj.
Dictation	Dictado/s, m.
Diminished	Disminuido/a, adj.
Dissonance, n.	Disonancia/s, f.
Dissonant, adj.	Disonante/s, adj.
Dominant	Dominante, adj.
Dorian (mode)	Dórico
Double bar lines	Doble barra/s, f.
Double flat	Doble bemol
Double sharp	Doble sostenido
Duet	Dúo/s, m.
Duplet	Dosillo
Dynamic/s, n.	Dinámica/s, f.
Echo	Eco/s, m.
Eighth notes	Corchea/s, f.
Enharmonic (notes)	Nota/s enarmónica/s, f.
Exercise	Ejercicio/s, m.
Fermata	Calderón/calderones, m.
Fifth (interval)	Quinta
Flat	Bemol/es, m.
Following	Siguiente/s, adj.
Form	Forma/s, f. o estructura/s, f.
Forte, It.	Fuerte, Sp.
Fourth (interval)	Cuarta
Fragment	Fragmento/s, m.
Half note	Blanca/s, f.
Hand	Mano/s, f.
Hemiola	Hemiolia/s, f.
High (pitch), adj.	Agudo/a
High do'	Do agudo
Imitation, n.	Imitación/imitaciones, f.
Improvisation	Improvisación/improvisaciones, f.
Interval	Intervalo/s, m.
Inverted, adj.	Invertido/a, adj.
Ionian (mode)	Jónico
Issimo, It.	Muy
Key	Clave/s, f.
Key signature	Armadura/s, f.
Leading tone	Tono/s principal/es, m.
Ledger lines	Línea/s adicional/es, f.
Legato	Ligado
Line	Línea/s, f.
Locrian (mode)	Locrio
Long	Largo/a, adj.

Low (pitch), adj.	Grave
Lydian (mode)	Lydio
Major	Mayor/es, adj.
Measure	Compás/compases, m.
Measure, partial	Compás/compases incompleto/s, m.
Melody	Melodía/s, f.
Meter, compound	Compás/compases ternario/s, m.
Meter, simple	Compás/compases binario/s, m.
Metronome	Metrónomo/s, m.
Mezzo, It.	Medio, Sp.
Minor	Menor/es, adj.
Minuet	Minué/minueses, m.
Mixolydian (mode)	Mixolidio
Mode	Modo/s, m.
Modulation	Modulación/modulaciones, f.
Motivic	Motívico/a, adj.
Movement	Movimiento/s, m.
Music score	Partitura/s, f.
Musical phrase	Frase/s musical/es, f.
Natural sign	Becadro, m.
Neighbor tone/note	Nota/s vecina/s, f.
Note	Nota/s, f.
Orchestra	Orquesta
Ornaments	Adornos
Ostinato	Ostinato/s, m.
Passing tones	Nota/s de paso, f.
Pentatonic scale	Escala/s pentatónica/s, f.
Perfect (interval)	Justo/a
Perfect fifth	Quinta justa, f.
Perfect fourth	Cuarta justa, f.
Perfect octave	Octava justa, f.
Period	Período/s, m.
Phrygian (mode)	Frigio
Piano, It.	Suave, Sp.
Polyphonic	Polifónico, adj.
Polyphony	Polifonía/s, f.
Quarter note	Negra/s, f.
Question	Pregunta/s, f. (In music, the first half of a phrase, Q, could be labeled <i>semifrase</i> )
Recorder	Flauta/s dulce/s, f.
Relative major (scale)	Escala relativa mayor
Relative minor (scale)	Escala relativa menor
Repeat sign	Signo/s de repetición, m.
Rest	Silencio/s, m. (silencio de negra, silencio de blanca, silencio de corchea)
Rhythm	Ritmo/s, m.
Rhythm pattern	Fórmula rítmica
Rondo	Rondo

Sarabande	Sarabanda, f.
Scale	Escala/s, f.
Scale, diatonic	Escala/s diatónica/s, f.
Scale, major	Escala/s mayor/es, f.
Scale, minor	Escala/s menor/es, f. (armónico, melódico)
Second (interval)	Segunda
Sections (of a song)	Parte/s, f. (as it relates to form)
Sequence	Secuencia/a, f.
Seventh (interval)	Séptima
Sextuplet	Seisillo
Sharp	Sostenido/s, m.
Short	Corto/a, adj.
Sixteenth note	Semicorchea/s, f.
Sixth (interval)	Sexta
Sixty-fourth note	Semifusa
Song	Canción/canciones, f.
Space	Espacio/s, m.
Staccato	Picado
Staff	Pentagrama/s, m.
Step, half	semitono/s, m.
Step, whole	Tono/s, m.
Subdominant	Subdominante
Subtonic	Subtónica
Supertonic	Supertónica
Symmetric	Simétrico/a, adj.
Symphony	Sinfonía
Syncopa	Síncopa, m. (sin compás: without meter)
Tap	Golpe/s, m.
Ternary (form)	Forma ternaria
Theme & Variations	Tema/s, (m) y Variación/variaciones (f.)
Third (interval)	Tercera
Thirty-second note	Fusa
Tie	Ligadura/s de prolongación, f.
Time signature	Compás/compases, m.
Tonality	Tonalidad/es, f.
Tonic	Tónica/s, f.
Transposition	Transposición/transposiciones, f.
Triad	Triada/s, f.
Triangle	Triángulo/s, m.
Trio	Trio/s, m.
Triplet	Tresillo/s, m.
Unison	Unísono, adj. (sing in unison, canten en unísono)
Value (note)	Valor/es de nota/s, m.
Variant	Variante/s, f.
Voice	Voz/voces, f.
Whole note	Redonda/s, f.
Work (music)	Obra/s, f.

### Useful verbs and phrases to give teaching commands for music instruction

The verbs listed below are often used in music instruction. A teacher can use the imperative commands to compel their student/s to perform a musical activity by using the correct person, singular or plural, of these verbs. A second option, more commonly used in the plural, is to say ‘vamos a (insert verb in its infinitive form), i.e. ‘vamos a marcar el pulso (let’s keep the beat)’, or ‘vamos a jugar (let’s play).

English verbs (inf.)	Spanish verbs (inf.)	Imperative 2 <sup>nd</sup> person, singular	Imperative 2 <sup>nd</sup> person, plural
To accompany	Acompañar	Acompaña	Acompañen
To add	Agregar	Agrega	agreguen
To analyze	Analizar	Analiza	Analicen
To build a chord/interval	Formar (to form)	Forma	formen
To clap	Palmear	Palmea	Palmeen
To classify (intervals)	Clasificar	Clasifica	Clasifiquen
To commission (a music work)	Encargar	Encarga	encarguen
To compare	Comparar	Compara	Comparen
To complete	Completar	Completa	Completen
To create	Crear	Crea	Creen
To follow	Seguir	Sigue (sigue la mano, follow the Curwen hand signs)	Sigan
To give	Dar	Da	Den
To go up	Subir	Sube	Suban
To improvise	Improvisar	Improvisa	Improvisen
To invert	Invertir	Invierte	Inviertan
To jump	Saltar	Salta	Salten
To keep	Mantener	Mantén	Mantengan
To keep the beat	Marcar el pulso	Marca el pulso	Marquen en pulso
To label	Nombrar	Nombra	Nombren
To learn by rote	Aprender de oído	Aprende de oído	Aprendan de oído
To listen	Escuchar	Escucha	Escuchen
To look for, search	Buscar	Busca	Busquen
To lower (a note using a flat)	Bajar	Baja	bajen
To modify	Modificar	Modifica	Modifiquen
To observe	Observar	Observa	Observen
To play (game)	Jugar	Juega	Jueguen
To play (instrument)	Tocar	Toca	Toquen
To put	Poner	Pon	Pongan
To raise (a note using a sharp)	Elevar	Eleva	eleven
To read	Leer	Lee	Lean
To read, sight	Leer a primera vista	Lee a primera vista	Lean a primera vista
To recite rhyme/poem)	Recitar	Recita	Reciten

To resolve	Resolver(se), reflexive	Las notas se resuelven (present), the notes resolve...	
To review	Repasar	Repasa	Repasan
To signal/point	Señalar	Señala	Señalen
To sing	Cantar	Canta	Canten
To solfege	Solfear	Solfea	Solfeen
To transform	transformar	Transforma	Transformen
To transpose	Transportar	Transporta	Transporten
To tune	Entonar	Entona	Entonen
To write	Escribir	Escribe	Escriban
To write down	Anotar	Anota	Anoten

### Phrases

1. ¿De cuántas partes consta la canción? (How many sections does this song have?), or, ¿cuántas partes tiene la siguiente canción? (How many sections does the following song have?)
2. Nómbralas con letras mayúsculas. (Label them with capital letters [in regards to form])
3. Pronouncing time signatures uses the word ‘por’ in between the two numbers, i.e. 4/4 is cuatro por cuatro.

Range

Registro