

“11 Cool People Phrases in Spanish”

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The Spanish are gifted when it comes to describing their fellow human beings, especially when a negative slant is required! Need to describe someone as tight, crazy, annoying, or sneaky? There's a laser-guided phrase for every occasion, designed to cause maximum impact with minimum words. This is the real Street Spanish you'll need next time you want to fit in with (or be rude about) the locals in a hurry...

¡Eres un rata!

You are really tight, stingy, mean

Literally, 'you are a rat!' This expression is used for people that are really tight, stingy, or mean with their money. E.g. '*Juan es un rata, siempre se asegura de no dejar ni un céntimo de más*', meaning, 'Juan is really stingy, he always makes sure he never leaves a cent too much'.

Eres un chorizo

You're a thief!

'Chorizo' is of course a kind of spicy sausage, but it is also used in slang for either a full-blown thief, or someone who just steals little things all the time.

Eres un buitre

You are a vulture!

For people who always grab most of the free stuff first (like free food and drink at a party), or try to live off hand-outs from others.

Es un cantamañanas

He's irresponsible/deceitful

'*Cantamañanas*', literally 'sing-mornings', is used for people who don't keep their word, or brag a lot without substance.

Ese niño da mucha guerra

That kid is a pain in the neck

Literally, 'that kid gives a lot of war', this phrase is used for someone that requires lots of attention, and gives you a real headache.

¡Qué listo eres!

You're a clever one!

As well as being used as a compliment, this is also often used ironically, in a sarcastic tone of voice, to mean 'you are too clever for your own good'.

¡Qué espabilado eres!

To kids: You're so clever! To adults: You sneaky git!

Adults say this lovingly to children when they seem clever for their age. But adults also use it negatively with each other, when a friend exploits a situation for his or her own benefit. For example, when your friend is quickest to take the most comfy seat for watching TV!

Esa chica está zumbada

That girl is crazy

Cool kids pronounce this without the last 'd': *'zumba'o'*.

Está como una regadera

He's totally crazy

'Regadera' means watering can! We're not sure what the connection is!

Este chico va a su bola / Este chico va a su aire

This kid does his own thing

This is used for people who are very independent and generally do what they want, when they want, and usually on their own.

Está en Babia

He's lost in his own world

This phrase comes from a tale about one of Spain's ancient kings, who used to go hunting in an area in the north-west of Spain, called Babia. When people asked to see the king for advice or help, his servants would say, 'He's off in Babia', and that's the origin of the phrase we use today.