

**Zooming in on like and love . . .** Spanish, like Italian and French, is a Romance language, meaning it's derived from Latin. But maybe you don't know that it's also ideally suited to *romance* with a little "r". . . . And it doesn't end there. It's a great vehicle for conveying affection and nonromantic love too. So we thought we'd kick off by looking at the different ways of expressing *like* and *love* in Spanish, along with their various nuances and/or levels of intensity. Ready? Here's how to go about declaring love, like, delight, fondness, and passion.

Te adoro	I adore you ( <i>as in English, this can express nonromantic love too; it can also be used lightly or ironically</i> )
Te amo	I love you ( <i>very romantic and intense; generally reserved for long-term love partners</i> )
Te aprecio	I really like and value you ( <i>conveys the idea of appreciation, respect, and fondness</i> )
Te quiero	I love you ( <i>a catch-all term; can be used with everyone—love partners, family, close friends, pets, and so on</i> )
Me caes bien	I like you ( <i>[var] Me caes genial = I really like you</i> )
Me chiflas [col, Spain]	informal version of <i>me encantas</i> ( <i>old slang, but still common</i> )
Me encantas	I just love you ( <i>basically means, I think you're really great; can be romantic or not. Note that encantar and chiflar are basically more exuberant versions of gustar and are often used to express love for things: Me encanta ir al cine. Me chiflan las películas de Almodóvar.</i> )
Me gustas	I like you ( <i>This has sexual/romantic connotations when used in reference to people. But if you say Me gusta ese escritor—that is, you're referring to someone you don't know personally—gustar doesn't have romantic or sexual connotations. Here it means you like the way the writer writes, not him as a person.</i> )

**Estoy enamorado/a de ti**  
**Estoy loco/a por ti**  
**Estoy quedado/a contigo**  
 [col, Spain]

I'm in love with you  
 I'm crazy about you  
 I'm hung up on you

### More words and expressions

**enamoradizo/a**

someone that falls in love easily or often

**enamorarse (de alguien)**

to fall in love (with someone) (*estar enamorado/a* = to be in love)

**un encanto de persona**

a wonderful person

**un guaperas** [Spain]

a hunk, a good-looking suave guy  
 (generally negative)

**una historia** [col, Spain]

a relationship or affair

**un lío** [col, Spain]

an affair or fling (More generally, *un lío* is a messy or confusing situation.)

**perder la cabeza (por alguien)**

to fall madly in love (with someone)

**romper (con alguien)**

to break up (with someone)

**artimañas**

wiles, cunning

**disfrutar**

to have a good time; to enjoy oneself  
 (*disfrutar de/con algo* = to enjoy something)

**durar**

to last

**¡No me digas!**

No! You're joking!

**¡Qué peligro!** [col, Spain]

Uh oh! Oh dear!

**perdido/a** [col, Spain]

totally (*tonto perdido* = totally stupid)

**un/a pesado/a**

a bore or pain in the neck

**un tío/una tía** [col, Spain]

a guy/gal ([LA] *un tipo/una tipa*.)

*Note that tío and tía are also used informally in Spain to address friends and acquaintances; guapo and guapa are used much the same way, but have a little more punch.)*

**Vale** [col, Spain]

OK; all right

## Get It Right!

### ¿«Amar» con o sin «a»?

Remember that *adorar*, *amar*, *apreciar*, and *querer* are *only* followed by the preposition *a* if the object of your affection, appreciation, or adoration is a person (or a much-loved pet). Note also that, without the preposition *a*, *querer* means *to want*.

Adoro <i>a</i> ese actor.	versus	Adoro el teatro.
Amo <i>a</i> María.	versus	Amo la vida.
A Luis lo <i>aprecio</i> mucho.	versus	Aprecio mucho tu interés.
Quiero mucho <i>a</i> mi madre.	versus	Quiero un café.

## ¡Te toca!

Complete the following sentences using one of the words or expressions below. (Use each word or phrase only once.)

me caen bien	adoro	me gustan	quiero
amo	me encanta	aprecio	estoy loco/a por

- \_\_\_\_\_ viajar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ mucho a mi gato.
- \_\_\_\_\_ tus amigos.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a mi hermano.
- \_\_\_\_\_ los hombres morenos/las mujeres morenas.
- \_\_\_\_\_ mi novio/a.
- \_\_\_\_\_ mucho a mis amigos.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a mi esposo/a.