

Motoring in Spanglish

Many expats wish that they spoke better Spanish but feel restricted by being surrounded by fellow English speakers. I count myself as very fortunate to be able to speak some Spanish borne about by living in a small town where English is rarely heard plus dealing daily with the natives.

Despite re-registering vehicles from all over the world, my clients have had one thing in common and that is the ability to speak English as of course we expect the whole world to do! However a call received last week regarded a client who spoke only French and Spanish so the whole explanation was in my second language. I was chuffed as you can imagine, but take me to a hospital and you may end up with having your appendix removed instead of an ingrowing toenail or ask me to explain the ingredients of paella and you could be eating chicken curry as the vocabulary is outside of my daily usage.

The ITV inspection can be bewildering as you are normally expected to stay with your vehicle and assist in the process alongside inspectors who are not widely renowned for their tact and patience. A lesson learned a long time ago was when an inspector was looking for some data on a car being examined, so being a typical Brit I started to help. The look that I got and the words uttered are roughly translated as “back off dickhead, do you think that I don’t know my job?” Clearly he was a sensitive soul whose machismo had just been bruised by a guri

So a smattering of Spanish may be useful at the ITV. Buying parts can be made easier too; there is no shortage of motor factors normally with the word “recambios” in their title, so to be able to go in and ask for exactly what you want is handy; a useful tip here is to take your ITV card with you as this describes your vehicle exactly

So keep this list handy and have go. A great thing about the Spanish is that they appreciate you trying and will never mock your attempts

English

Spanish

Air Filter	Filtro de Aire
Alignment	Alineacion
Alternator	Alternador
Antifreeze	Anticongelante
Ball Joint	Rotula
Battery	Bateria
Bearing	Cojinete
Bonnet	Capo
Boot	Maletero
Brakes	Frenos
Brake pads	Pastillas de Frenos
Brake discs	Discos de frenos

Bulb	Bombilla
Bus	Autobus
Cable	Cable
Camshaft	Arbol de Levas
Car	Coche
Carburettor	Carburador
Chassis number	Numero de Bastidor
Clutch	Embrague
Coil	Bobina
Controls	Mandos
Dashboard	Salpicadero
Distributor	Distribuidor
Driving licence	Carnet de conducir
Engine	Motor
Exhaust pipe	Tubo de Escape
Fan Belt	Correa de Ventilador
Fuel	Combustible
Fuel Tank	Tanque de Combustible
Fuse	Fusible
Garage (workshop)	Taller
Gasket	Junta
Gauge	Indicador
Gear Box	Caja de Cambios
Handbrake	Freno de Mano
Headlight	Faro
Horn	Klaxon
Horsepower	Caballos de Fuerza
Hub Cap	Tapacubo
Ignition key	Llave de Contacto
Indicator	Intermitente
Injector	Inyector
ITV card	Ficha tecnica
Jack	Gato
Key	Llave
Lights	Luces
Liquid	Liquido
Lock	Cerradura
Mechanic	Mecanico
Mirror	Espejo
Moped or small bike	Motocicleta
Motorbike	Moto
Oil Filter	Filtro de Aceite
Petrol	Gasolina
Power Steering	Direccion Asistida
Pump	Bomba
Puncture	Pinchado
Radiator Hose	Manquera de Radiador
Registration doc'	Permiso de circulación
Reflector	Reflector
Road tax	Impuesto municipal

Seat	Asiento
Seat Belt	Cinturon de seguridad
Service	Revision
Shock Absorber	Amortiguador
Silencer	Silenciador
Spares (parts)	Recambios
Spark Plug	Bujia
Speed	Velocidad
Starter Motor	Motor de Arranque
Steering Wheel	Volante de Direccion
Suspension	Suspension
Thermostat	Termostato
Timing/Drive Belt	Correa de la Distribucion
Transmission	Transmision
Truck	Camión/ Furgon
Tyre	Neumatico
Valve	Valvula
Van	Furgoneta
Water Pump	Bomba de Agua
Wheel (inc. Tyre)	Rueda
Wheel (metal)	Llanta
Window	Ventana
Windscreen	Parabrisa
Windscreen wash	Liquido para limpia parabrisas
Wipers	Limpiaparabrisas

Hasta la proxima vez Until the next time

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