

Supporting Information

1. Symmetric case for eq. (1)

When the commitment supports the old convention \mathcal{O} , eq. (1) takes the form:

$$\begin{aligned} n(t+1) &= (1-c)(1-\gamma)n(t) + (1-c)\gamma E_{\mathcal{N}} \\ o(t+1) &= (1-c)(1-\gamma)o(t) + (1-c)\gamma E_{\mathcal{O}} + c. \end{aligned} \quad [1]$$

The general solution of the system of equations 1 is:

$$\begin{aligned} n(t) &= \frac{B}{(1-A)}(1-A^t) + n_0 A^t \\ o(t) &= 1 - n(t), \end{aligned} \quad [2]$$

where $A = (1-c)(1-\gamma)$, $B = (1-c)\gamma E_{\mathcal{N}}$ and $n_0 = n(t=0)$.

2. Spanish past subjunctive

In Spanish two equivalent forms exist to construct the past subjunctive : the one ending in *-ra* and the one ending in *-se* (as in *pensa-ra* and *pensa-se* ‘had thought’). The form *-se* evolved from the Latin plusquamperfect subjunctive, while the form *-ra* evolved from the Latin plusquamperfect indicative (1).

3. Spanish spelling reforms

We present the complete list of the 23 words examined in the Spanish spelling change case, grouped into their respective reforms (2–8).

- 1815 :

- antiquario → anticuario (antiquarian)
- quaderno → cuaderno (notebook)
- quadro → cuadro (picture)
- quando → cuando (when)
- quanto → cuanto (how much)
- quarto → cuarto (fourth)
- quattro → cuatro (four)
- quociente → cociente (quotient)
- quota → cuota (quote)
- quotidiano → cotidiano (daily)
- Equador → Ecuador (Ecuador)
- iníquo → inicuo (iniquitous)
- obliquo → oblicuo (oblique)

- 1884

- guion → guión (script)
- truhan → truhán (rogue)
- virey → virrey (viceroy)
- vireina → virreina (viceroy’s wife)
- vireinato → virreinato (viceroyalty)

- 1911

- ó → o (or)
- á → a (to)

- 1954

- dió → dio (it gave)
- fué → fue (it was)
- vió → vio (it saw)

4. Persistence in time of the old norm

Fig. S1 shows that typically the frequency of appearance of the old spelling in the case of formal regulation does not go to zero but rather, after a sudden drop, stabilizes on a plateau as if a small number of writers ignored the intervention of the institution (i.e., as if they were committed against the new norm). This is mainly due to the presence of historical books, compendiums of the language as well as re-editions of past books (see Supporting Online Material of (9)). For example the list of Spanish books still containing the word "cuando" after regulation is composed of texts such as "Biblioteca histórica de la filología castellana" ("Historical library of Castilian filology"), published in 1893, "Documentos para la historia de la Revolución de 1809" ("Documents for the history of 1809 revolution") published in 1954 or "Manuscritos litúrgicos de las bibliotecas de España" ("Liturgical manuscripts of Spanish libraries") published in 1977, which clearly refer to its historical use.

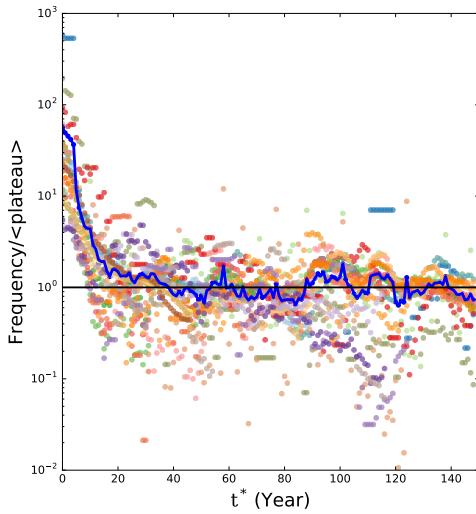


Fig. S1. Frequency of appearance of the old spelling form as a function of the rescaled time t^* for the case of formal regulation. Colored dots represent all the considered words and the blue solid line is the average. The frequency of appearance of each word is divided by the average made on the respective plateau.

5. American Spelling: Important Moments

Important moments in the history of American vs British spelling:

- 1806 - Noah Webster published '*A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language*'
- 1828 - First American Dictionary '*An American Dictionary of the English Language*'
- 1848 - Alexander John Ellis published '*A Plea for Phonetic Spelling*'
- 1876 - American Spelling Reform Association were founded and start to adopt the reforms
- 1883 - The Chicago Tribune newspaper start to adopt the reforms
- 1906 - The Simplified Spelling Board was founded and President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt signed an executive order imposing the use of reformed spelling in the official communications of the Congress.
- 1919 - H.L. Mencken published the first edition of *The American Language*
- 1926 - Henry Fowler published the first edition of *Dictionary of Modern English Usage*
- 1969 - Harry Lindgren published *Spelling Reform: A New Approach*

6. British and American spelling conflict

In our analysis of the case of spelling conflicts, the various inflections of a term, such as singular or plural, or, for a verb, present, past, etc, were considered separately because they do behave differently. As an example, we report in Fig. S2 the evolution of the singular and the plural of the word "behavior/behavior" (American/British spelling). The American spelling of the singular exceeds that of the British almost a century before the plural one. As mentioned in the Main Text, investigating the reasons of this phenomenon is beyond the scope of our analysis, and an interesting starting point for future work.

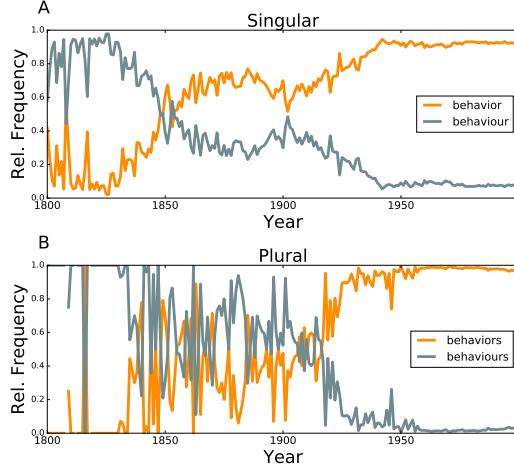


Fig. S2. (A) Evolution of *behavior*, the American form and *behaviour*, the British form. (B) Evolution of the plural *behaviors* and *behaviours*.

7. Individual variations beyond the average

For the case of formal institution, time is rescaled according to the regulation year (i.e., 1815, 1884, 1911 or 1954, in our dataset, see Sec. 3 above), which in all cases mark the sudden adoption of new norm. Fig. S3A, shows how individual pair of norms react to the corresponding regulation event.

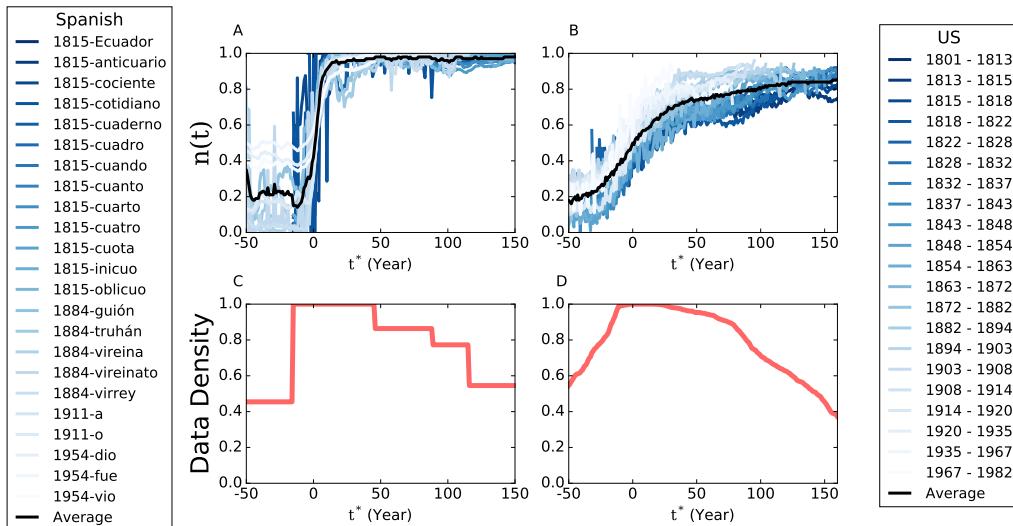


Fig. S3. A, C Formal Regulation Case. A Relative frequency of the new spelling form as a function of the rescaled time t^* . Colored lines represent all the considered pairs of words, while the black line is the average. C shows the density of data that contribute to the average for each year. B, D Informal Regulation Case. B Relative frequency of the new spelling form as a function of the rescaled time t^* . The words are grouped so that each time interval contains 5% of the curves. D shows the density of data that contribute to the average for each year. Colored lines represent the average in these intervals and the black line is the total average.

For the case of informal regulation, a first dictionary proposing the considered spelling reforms was edited in the 1828 following two decades of discussions (Sec. 5). The moment in which each American form surpassed in popularity the corresponding British one is distributed over 1800 and 2000. Fig. S3 B shows how pairs of conventions corresponding to different surpassing times contribute to the global average. For the sake of clarity, individual curves were grouped so that each time window

contains 5% of the data. Thus, for example, the curve labeled as 1837-1843 represents the average over the words for which the American spelling surpassed the British one in that time interval.

Figs. S3 C and D report the density of data contributing to the total average for the corresponding year for the Formal and Informal Regulation cases, respectively.

8. Comparison of the three classes

To further assess the contribution of the individual pairs of conventions to the three classes we identified in the paper (formal institution, informal institution, and unregulated change), Fig. S4 A shows the temporal evolution of the relative frequency of the new forms, $n(t)$, confirming that the time scales involved in the process of norm change are different for the three cases.

We further investigated the variability between cases by using the model discussed in the Main Text as an inspecting tool. Fig. S4 B reports the cumulative distributions of the parameter γ , $C(\gamma)$, obtained by fitting individual curves for the three cases. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov returns $p = 10^{-12}$, $p = 10^{-20}$ and $p = 0.0$, for the first with the second, the first with the third and the second with the third curve respectively. We therefore reject the hypothesis that the three empirical distributions are instances of the same probability distribution.

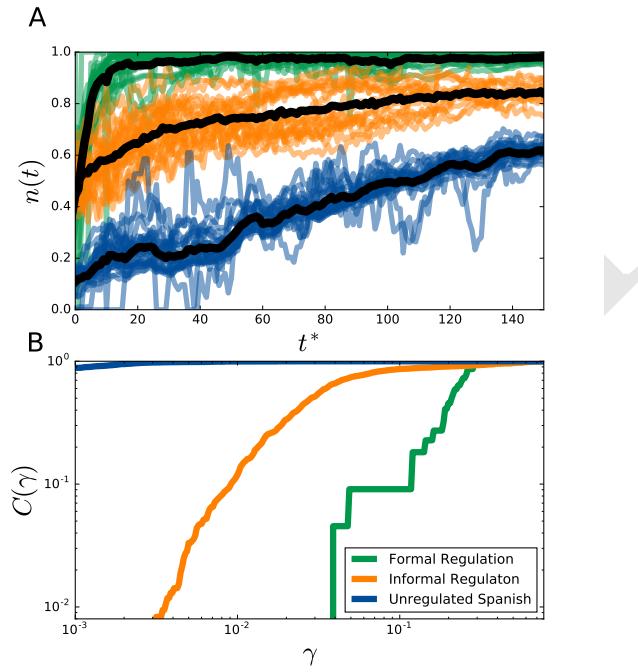


Fig. S4. A Relative frequency of the new forms as a function of the rescaled time $t^* = t - \tau$. For the case of formal regulation, τ is the year of regulation, for the case of informal regulation is the year in which the new norm becomes more frequent than the old one, while for the unregulated case $\tau = 0$ as the curves are not rescaled. Black lines represent the average. B Cumulative distribution of γ , $C(\gamma)$, for each pair of curves for the Formal Regulation, Informal Regulation and Unregulated (Spanish) cases. By comparing the three distributions with the KS test we recover $p = 10^{-12}$, $p = 10^{-20}$ and $p = 0.0$, respectively for the first with the second, the first with the third and the second with the third distribution.

9. Google Books Corpus

Google Ngram Corpora offers an unprecedented opportunity to analyze linguistic and cultural change in a quantitative way (9–14). The dataset is the product of a massive effort in text digitization, in collaboration with thousands of the world's libraries (9). The resulting 5 million books contain over half a trillion words, 361 billion of which are in English (9, 15).

Although Google Ngram can serve as a useful barometer of lexical change (14) it is important to mention some of its limitations. To avoid breaking any copyright laws, the datasets are not accompanied by any metadata regarding the texts the corpora consist of (12) and it does not account for the popularity of a text, namely each text contributes with equal weight to token counts (14, 15). Furthermore, as recently pointed out, the inclusion of scientific texts, which have become an increasingly substantive portion of the corpus after the 1900s risks to artificially skew the statistical composition of the dataset (15).

As far as our analysis is concerned, the problem of increasing scientific publications would affect mainly the American English dataset after the 1900s. However, the fact that (i) 71% of the norm-change events we observe in the American English corpus date before 1900, and (ii) we find no significant change in behavior between the transitions observed before and after

1900s or (iii) between the transitions occurring in American English and Spanish (in the case of unregulated change, where we can compare them) are all indications in favor of the robustness of our results. Moreover, it is reasonable to assume that our American English dataset, thanks to its size (946 cases of norm change, in total), includes words whose frequency of use in the scientific literature vary considerably. Thus, the homogeneity of behavior revealed by the curve-by-curve analysis reported in Figs. S3 and S4 further confirms the validity of our findings.

1. Joseph M Wilson. *The-ra and-se verb forms in Mexico: a diachronic examination from non-literary sources*. 1983.
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10. Dataset composition

A. British and American spelling list .

- Bristish, US
 - acclimatization,acclimatisation
 - acclimatize,acclimatise
 - acclimatized,acclimatised
 - acclimatizes,acclimatises
 - acclimatizing,acclimatising
 - aerogram,aerogramme
 - aerograms,aerogrammes
 - aging,ageing
 - airplanes,aeroplanes
 - almanac,almanack
 - almanacs,almanacks
 - aluminum,aluminium
 - amortization,amortisation
 - amortizations,amortisations
 - amortize,amortise
 - amortized,amortised
 - amphitheater,amphitheatre
 - amphitheaters,amphitheatres
 - analyze,analyse
 - analyzed,analysed
 - analyzes,analyses
 - analyzing,analysing
 - anemia,anaemia
 - anemic,anaemic
 - anesthesia,anaesthesia

- anesthetic,anaesthetic
- anesthetics,anaesthetics
- anesthetist,anaesthetist
- anesthetists,anaesthetists
- anesthetize,anaesthetise
- anesthetize,anaesthetize
- anesthetized,anaesthetised
- anesthetized,anaesthetized
- anesthetizes,anaesthetises
- anesthetizes,anaesthetizes
- anesthetizing,anaesthetising
- anesthetizing,anaesthetizing
- anglicize,anglicise
- anglicized,anglicised
- anglicizes,anglicises
- anglicizing,anglicising
- antagonize,antagonise
- antagonized,antagonised
- antagonizing,antagonising
- appall,appal
- appalls,appals
- appetizer,appetiser
- appetizers,appetisers
- appetizing,appetising
- arbor,arbour
- arbors,arbours
- archeologically,archaeologically
- archelogist,archaeologist
- archeology,archaeology
- ardor,ardour
- armor,armour item armored,armoured
- armorer,armourer
- armorers,armourers
- armories,armouries
- armory,armoury
- artifact,artefact
- artifacts,artefacts
- authorize,authorise
- authorized,authorised
- authorizes,authorises
- authorizing,authorising
- ax,axe
- backpedaling,backpedalling
- balk,baulk
- balked,baulked
- balking,baulking

- balks, baulks
- banister, bannister
- banisters, bannisters
- baptizes, baptises
- bastardize, bastardise
- bastardized, bastardised
- bastardizing, bastardising
- battleax, battleaxe
- bedeviled, bedevilled
- bedeviling, bedevilling
- behavior, behaviour
- behaviorists, behaviourists
- behaviors, behaviours
- behoove, behove
- behooved, behoved
- behooves, behoves
- belabor, belabour
- belabored, belaboured
- belaboring, belabouring
- belabors, belabours
- beveled, bevelled
- biased, biassed
- biasing, biassing
- binging, bingeing
- bougainvillea, bougainvillaea
- bougainvilleas, bougainvillaeas
- bowdlerize, bowdlerise
- bowdlerized, bowdlerised
- bowdlerizes, bowdlerises
- bowdlerizing, bowdlerising
- breathalyzed, breathalysed
- breathalyzers, breathalysers
- brutalizes, brutalises
- busses, buses
- bussing, busing
- caliper, calliper
- calipers, callipers
- calisthenics, callisthenics
- canalize, canalise
- canalized, canalised
- canalizes, canalises
- canalizing, canalising
- cancelation, cancellation
- canceled, cancelled
- canceling, cancelling
- candor, candour

- cannibalize,cannibalise
- canonizes,canonises
- canonizing,canonising
- capitalize,capitalise
- capitalized,capitalised
- capitalizes,capitalises
- caramelize,caramelise
- caramelized,caramelised
- caramelizing,caramelising
- carbonize,carbonise
- carbonized,carbonised
- carbonizes,carbonises
- carbonizing,carbonising
- caroled,carolled
- caroling,carolling
- catalog,catalogue
- cataloged,catalogued
- cataloging,cataloguing
- catalyze,catalyse
- catalyzed,catalysed
- catalyzes,catalyses
- catalyzing,catalysing
- categorize,categorise
- categorized,categorised
- categorizing,categorising
- cauterize,cauterise
- cauterized,cauterised
- cauterizes,cauterises
- cauterizing,cauterising
- caviled,cavilled
- caviling,cavilling
- center,centre
- centered,centred
- centerpiece,centrepiece
- centerpieces,centrepieces
- centers,centres
- centigram,centigramme
- centigrams,centigrammes
- centiliter,centilitre
- centiliters,centilitres
- centralizes,centralises
- centralizing,centralising
- cesarean,caesarean
- cesareans,caesareans
- channeled,channelled
- channeling,channelling

- characterizing,characterising
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- collectivizing,collectivising
- colonizer,coloniser
- colonizes,colonises
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- colorant,colourant
- colored,coloured
- coloreds,coloureds
- colorful,colourful
- coloring,colouring
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- colorless,colourless
- colors,colours
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- compartmentalized,compartmentalised
- conceptualize,conceptualise
- conceptualizes,conceptualises
- conceptualizing,conceptualising
- connection,connexion
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- contextualized,contextualised
- councilor,councillor
- councilors,councillors
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- counseling,counselling
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- cozies,cosies
- coziest,cosiest
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- coziness,cosiness
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- criticizing,criticising
- crueler,crueller
- cruelest,cruellest
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- cudgeling,cudgelling
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- decentralizing,decentralising
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- deputizing,deputising
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- destabilizing,destabilising
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- dialing,dialling
- diarrhea,diarrhoea
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- discolored,discoloured
- discoloring,discolouring
- discolors,discolours
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- disemboweling,disembowelling
- disfavor,disfavour
- disheveled,dishevelled
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- dishonorable,dishonourable
- dishonorably,dishonourably
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- dueling,duelling
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- economizing,economising
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- emphasizes,emphasises
- emphasizing,emphasising
- enameled,enamelled
- enameling,enamelling
- enamored,enamoured
- encyclopedia,encyclopaedia
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- endeavored,endeavoured
- endeavoring,endeavouring
- endeavors,endeavours
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- energized,energised
- energizes,energises
- eon,aeon
- eons,aeons
- epaulet,epaulette
- epaulets,epaulettes
- epicenter,epicentre
- epicenters,epicentres
- epitomize,epitomise
- epitomized,epitomised
- epitomizes,epitomises

- epitomizing,epitomising
- equalize,equalise
- equalizer,equaliser
- equalizers,equalisers
- equalizes,equalises
- esophagus,oesophagus
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- esthetes,aesthetes
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- externalizing,externalising
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- factorizes,factorises
- factorizing,factorising
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- familiarizes,familiarises
- familiarizing,familiarising
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- favorable,favourable
- favorably,favourably
- favored,favoured
- favoring,favouring
- favorite,favourite
- favorites,favourites
- favoritism,favouritism
- favors,favours
- fecal,faecal

- feces,faeces
- feminize,feminise
- feminizing,feminising
- fertilization,fertilisation
- fertilize,fertilise
- fertilizer,fertiliser
- fervor,fervour
- fetal,foetal
- fetus,foetus
- fetuses,foetuses
- fileting,filetting
- filters,philtres
- finalization,finalisation
- finalize,finalise
- finalizes,finalises
- finalizing,finalising
- flavor,flavour
- flavored,flavoured
- flavoring,flavouring
- flavorings,flavourings
- flavorless,flavourless
- flavors,flavours
- flavorsome,flavoursome
- flutist,flautist
- flutists,flautists
- formalization,formalisation
- formalize,formalise
- formalized,formalised
- formalizing,formalising
- fossilization,fossilisation
- fossilize,fossilise
- fossilizes,fossilises
- fossilizing,fossilising
- fraternization,fraternisation
- fraternize,fraternise
- fraternized,fraternised
- fraternizes,fraternises
- fraternizing,fraternising
- funneled,funnelled
- funneling,funnelling
- gage,gauge
- gages,gauges
- gaging,gauging
- galvanize,galvanise
- galvanizes,galvanises
- galvanizing,galvanising

- gamboled,gambolled
- gamboling,gambolling
- gasses,gases
- generalizations,generalisations
- generalized,generalised
- glamor,glamour
- globalization,globalisation
- globalizes,globalises
- gluing,glueing
- goiter,goitre
- goiters,goitres
- gonorrhea,gonorrhoea
- grams,grammes
- graveled,gravelled
- gray,grey
- grayed,greedy
- graying,greying
- grayish,greyish
- grayness,greyness
- grays,greys
- groins,groynes
- groveled,grovelled
- groveling,groveling
- grueling,gruelling
- cruelly,gruellingly
- gynecological,gynaecological
- gynecologist,gynaecologist
- gynecologists,gynaecologists
- gynecology,gynaecology
- gypsies,gipsies
- harbor,harbour
- harbored,harboured
- harboring,harbouring
- harbors,harbours
- hematological,haematological
- hematologist,haematologist
- hematologists,haematologists
- hematology,haematology
- hemoglobin,haemoglobin
- hemophilia,haemophilia
- hemophiliac,haemophiliac
- homeopath,homoeopath
- homeopathic,homoeopathic
- homeopaths,homoeopaths
- homeopathy,homoeopathy
- homogenize,homogenise

- homogenized,homogenised
- honor,honour
- honorable,honourable
- honorably,honourably
- honored,honoured
- honoring,honouring
- honors,honours
- humanizes,humanises
- humor,humour
- humored,humoured
- humoring,humouring
- humorless,humourless
- humors,humours
- hybridized,hybridised
- hybridizes,hybridises
- hybridizing,hybridising
- hypothesize,hypothesise
- hypothesizes,hypothesises
- idealization,idealisation
- idealize,idealise
- idealized,idealised
- idolizing,idolising
- immobilize,immobilise
- immobilizer,immobiliser
- immobilizes,immobilises
- immobilizing,immobilising
- immortalizes,immortalises
- immunize,immunise
- imperiled,imperilled
- imperiling,imperilling
- individualize,individualise
- individualizes,individualises
- individualizing,individualising
- industrialize,industrialise
- industrialized,industrialised
- industrializes,industrialises
- industrializing,industrialising
- inflections,inflexions
- initialed,initialled
- initialing,initialling
- initialize,initialise
- install,instal
- installs,instals
- instill,instil
- instills,instils
- institutionalization,institutionalisation

- institutionalizes,institutionalises
- intellectualize,intellectualise
- intellectualized,intellectualised
- intellectualizes,intellectualises
- intellectualizing,intellectualising
- internalized,internalised
- internationalization,internationalisation
- internationalized,internationalised
- internationalizes,internationalises
- ionization,ionisation
- ionize,ionise
- ionized,ionised
- ionizer,ioniser
- ionizers,ionisers
- ionizes,ionises
- ionizing,ionising
- italicize,italicise
- italicized,italicised
- italicizes,italicises
- italicizing,italicising
- itemizes,itemises
- jail,gaol
- jailbirds,gaolbirds
- jailed,gaoled
- jailer,gaoler
- jailers,gaolers
- jailing,gaoling
- jails,gaols
- jeopardize,jeopardise
- jeopardizing,jeopardising
- jeweled,jewelled
- jeweler,jeweller
- jewelers,jewellers
- jewelry,jewellery
- kilometer,kilometre
- kilometers,kilometres
- labeled,labelled
- labeling,labelling
- labor,labour
- labored,laboured
- laborer,labourer
- laborers,labourers
- laboring,labouring
- labors,labours
- lackluster,lacklustre
- legalizes,legalises

- legalizing,legalising
- legitimize,legitimise
- legitimized,legitimised
- legitimizes,legitimises
- legitimizing,legitimising
- leukemia,leukaemia
- leveled,levelled
- leveler,leveller
- levelers,levellers
- leveling,levelling
- libeled,libelled
- labeling,libelling
- liberalization,liberalisation
- liberalize,liberalise
- license,licence
- licenses,licences
- likable,likeable
- lionization,lionisation
- lionize,lionise
- lionizes,lionises
- lionizing,lionising
- liquidize,liquidise
- liquidized,liquidised
- liquidizer,liquidiser
- liquidizing,liquidising
- liter,litre
- liters,litres
- localize,localise
- localizes,localises
- localizing,localising
- louver,louvre
- louvered,louvred
- louvers,louvres
- luster,lustre
- magnetize,magnetise
- magnetized,magnetised
- magnetizes,magnetises
- magnetizing,magnetising
- maneuver,manoeuvre
- maneuverable,manoeuvrable
- maneuvered,manoeuvred
- maneuvering,manoeuvring
- maneuverings,manoeuvrings
- marginalize,marginalise
- marginalizes,marginalises
- marginalizing,marginalising

- marshaled,marshalled
- marshaling,marshalling
- marveled,marvelled
- marveling,marvelling
- marvelous,marvellous
- marvelously,marvellously
- materialize,materialise
- materialized,materialised
- materializing,materialising
- maximization,maximisation
- maximize,maximise
- maximizes,maximises
- mechanization,mechanisation
- mechanize,mechanise
- mechanized,mechanised
- mechanizes,mechanises
- mechanizing,mechanising
- medieval,mediaeval
- memorialize,memorialise
- memorialized,memorialised
- memorializes,memorialises
- memorializing,memorialising
- memorize,memorise
- memorized,memorised
- memorizes,memorises
- memorizing,memorising
- mesmerize,mesmerise
- mesmerized,mesmerised
- mesmerizes,mesmerises
- mesmerizing,mesmerising
- metabolize,metabolise
- metabolizing,metabolising
- meter,metre
- meters,metres
- militarize,militarise
- militarized,militarised
- militarizing,militarising
- milligram,milligramme
- milligrams,milligrammes
- milliliter,millilitre
- milliliters,millilitres
- millimeter,millimetre
- millimeters,millimetres
- minimize,minimise
- minimized,minimised
- minimizes,minimises

- misbehavior,misbehaviour
- misspelled,misspelt
- miter,mitre
- miters,mitres
- mobilization,mobilisation
- mobilize,mobilise
- mobilizes,mobilises
- modeled,modelled
- modeler,modeller
- modelers,modellers
- modeling,modelling
- modernize,modernise
- modernizes,modernises
- moisturize,moisturise
- moisturizes,moisturises
- mold,mould
- molded,moulded
- molder,moulder
- moldered,mouldered
- moldering,mouldering
- molders,moulders
- moldiest,mouldiest
- molding,moulding
- moldings,mouldings
- moldy,mouldy
- molted,moulted
- molting,moultung
- monologs,monologues
- monopolization,monopolisation
- moralized,moralised
- moralizes,moralises
- multicolored,multicoloured
- nationalization,nationalisation
- nationalizations,nationalisations
- nationalizes,nationalises
- nationalizing,nationalising
- naturalizes,naturalises
- neighbor,neighbour
- neighborhood,neighbourhood
- neighborhoods,neighbourhoods
- neighboring,neighbouring
- neighborliness,neighbourliness
- neighborly,neighbourly
- neighbors,neighbours
- normalized,normalised
- normalizes,normalises

- normalizing,normalising
- odor,odour
- odorless,odourless
- odors,odours
- omelet,omelette
- omelets,omelettes
- optimize,optimise
- optimized,optimised
- optimizes,optimises
- organizer,organiser
- organizers,organisers
- orthopedic,orthopaedic
- orthopedics,orthopaedics
- ostracize,ostracise
- ostracized,ostracised
- ostracizes,ostracises
- ostracizing,ostracising
- outmaneuver,outmanoeuvre
- outmaneuvered,outmanoeuvred
- outmaneuvering,outmanoeuvring
- outmaneuvers,outmanoeuvres
- oxidization,oxidisation
- oxidizes,oxidises
- oxidizing,oxidising
- pajama,pyjama
- pajamas,pyjamas
- paleolithic,palaeolithic
- paleontologist,palaeontologist
- paleontologists,palaeontologists
- paleontology,palaeontology
- paneled,panelled
- paneling,panelling
- paralyze,paralyse
- paralyzed,paralysed
- paralyzes,paralyses
- paralyzing,paralysing
- parcelled,parcelled
- parceling,parcelling
- parlor,parlour
- parlors,parlours
- particularizes,particularises
- pasteurization,pasteurisation
- patronize,patronise
- patronized,patronised
- patronizes,patronises
- patronizingly,patronisingly

- pedaled,pedalled
- pedaling,pedalling
- pederast,paederast
- pederasts,paederasts
- pedestrianized,pedestrianised
- pedestrianizing,pedestrianising
- pediatric,paediatric
- pediatrics,paediatrics
- pedophile,paedophile
- pedophilia,paedophilia
- penalized,penalised
- penalizes,penalises
- penalizing,penalising
- penciled,pencilled
- penciling,pencilling
- personalize,personalise
- personalized,personalised
- personalizes,personalises
- personalizing,personalising
- pharmacopeia,pharmacopoeia
- pharmacopeias,pharmacopoeias
- philosophize,philosophise
- philosophized,philosophised
- philosophizes,philosophises
- philosophizing,philosophising
- phony,phoney
- plagiarize,plagiarise
- plagiarized,plagiarised
- plagiarizes,plagiarises
- plagiarizing,plagiarising
- plow,plough
- plowed,ploughed
- plowing,ploughing
- plowman,ploughman
- plowmen,ploughmen
- plows,ploughs
- plowshare,ploughshare
- plowshares,ploughshares
- polarization,polarisation
- polarized,polarised
- polarizing,polarising
- politicized,politicised
- politicizes,politicises
- politicizing,politicising
- popularize,popularise
- popularized,popularised

- popularizes,popularises
- popularizing,popularising
- pouf,pouffe
- poufs,pouffes
- practicing,practising
- presidium,praesidium
- pretense,pretence
- pretenses,pretences
- prioritize,prioritise
- privatizations,privatisations
- program,programme
- propagandize,propagandise
- propagandized,propagandised
- propagandizes,propagandises
- propagandizing,propagandising
- proselytize,proselytise
- proselytized,proselytised
- proselytizer,proselytiser
- proselytizers,proselytisers
- proselytizes,proselytises
- proselytizing,proselytising
- psychoanalyze,psychoanalyse
- psychoanalyzed,psychoanalysed
- psychoanalyzes,psychoanalyses
- psychoanalyzing,psychoanalysing
- publicize,publicise
- publicized,publicised
- pulverize,pulverise
- pulverized,pulverised
- pulverizes,pulverises
- pulverizing,pulverising
- pummel,pummelled
- pummeled,pummelling
- quarreled,quarrelled
- quarreling,quarrelling
- radicalized,radicalised
- radicalizes,radicalises
- rancor,rancour
- randomized,randomised
- rationalize,rationalise
- rationalized,rationalised
- rationalizing,rationalising
- raveled,ravelled
- raveling,ravelling
- realizable,realisable
- siphon,syphon

- siphoned,syphoned
- siphoning,syphoning
- siphons,syphons
- standardize,standardise
- standardized,standardised
- stenciled,stencilled
- stenciling,stencilling
- sterilization,sterilisation
- sterilizing,sterilising
- stigmatizes,stigmatises
- stigmatizing,stigmatising
- subsidizer,subsidiser
- subsidizers,subsidisers
- subsidizes,subsidises
- subsidizing,subsidising
- succor,succour
- succored,succoured
- succoring,succouring
- succors,succours
- sulfate,sulphate
- sulfates,sulphates
- sulfide,sulphide
- sulfides,sulphides
- sulfur,sulphur
- sulfurous,sulphurous
- summarize,summarise
- summarized,summarised
- summarizing,summarising
- swiveled,swivelled
- swiveling,swivelling
- symbolize,symbolise
- symbolizes,symbolises
- symbolizing,symbolising
- sympathized,sympathised
- sympathizer,sympathiser
- synchronization,synchronisation
- synchronize,synchronise
- synchronized,synchronised
- synchronizes,synchronises
- synchronizing,synchronising
- synthesize,synthesise
- synthesized,synthesised
- synthesizer,synthesiser
- synthesizes,synthesises
- synthesizing,synthesising
- systematized,systematised

B. British and American conflict forms. The list is taken from (16), where it was compiled based on the analysis of various sources. It includes only pairs of words in which one of the members exhibits a significantly higher frequency in either British or American English, i.e. where a norm is clearly dominating. In our case, we double checked that the American variant is dominating in our American English corpus, in agreement with our approach that only considers cases in which a norm change did occur.

- Bristish, US

- railway, railroad
- doctoral thesis, doctoral dissertation
- draughts, checkers
- abseil + abseils + abseiled + abseiling, rappel + rappels + rappelled + rappelling
- antenatal, prenatal
- anticlockwise, counterclockwise
- aubergine + aubergines, eggplant + eggplants
- barrister + barristers, attorney + attorneys
- biscuit + biscuits, cookie + cookies
- car park + car parks, parking lot + parking lots
- caster sugar, confectioner's sugar
- corn flour, corn starch
- cupboard + cupboards, closet + closets
- demister, defroster
- drawing pin + drawing pins, thumbtack + thumbtacks
- Father Christmas, Santa Claus
- handbrake + hand brake, emergency brake
- hire purchase, installment plan
- inside leg, inseam
- mobile phone + mobile phones, cell phone + cell phones
- motorway + motoways, expressway + expressways + freeway + freeways
- nappy + nappies, diaper + diapers
- notice board + notice boards, bulletin board + bulletin boards
- polystyrene, styrofoam
- porridge, oatmeal
- perspex, plexiglass
- pushchair, stroller
- rubbish, garbage
- skirting board, baseboard
- spring onion + spring onions, green onion + green onions
- sticky tape, scotch tape
- sweets, candy
- torch + torches, flashlight + flashlights
- tracksuit + tracksuits, sweatshirt + sweatshirts
- trousers, pants
- valuer + valuers, appraiser + appraisers
- wellington boots + wellingtons, rubbers + rubber boots + rain boots
- windscreen + windscreens, windshield + windshields
- lorry + lorries, truck + trucks
- chemist's, drug store + drug stores
- elastic band + elastic bands, rubber band + rubber bands
- estate agent + estate agents, realtor + realtors + realtor's + realtors'
- cot + cots, crib + cribs
- off-licence, liquor store
- crayfish, crawfish
- capsicum, bell pepper

C. Spanish verbs list. abajar, abalanzar, abanderar, abandonar, abanicar, abaratar, abarcar, abastecer, abatir, abdicar, abjurar, ablandar, abochornar, abofetejar, abolir, abonar, aborrecer, abortar, abrasar, abrazar, abreviar, abrigar, abrir, abrogar, abrumar, absolver, absorber, abstraer, abundar, aburrir, abusar, acabar, acaecer, acallar, acaparar, acariciar, acarrear, acceder, accionar, acechar, acelerar, aceptar, acertar, achacar, achicar, achicharrar, aclimatar, acoger, acometer, acompañar, aconsejar, acontecer, acordar, acostar, acotar, acrecentar, acribillar, acrisol, activar, actualizar, actuar, acuartelar, acuchillar, acudir, acumular, acunar, acuñar, acurrucarse, acusar, a decentar, adecuar, adelgazar, adherir, adiestrar, adivinar, adjudicar, administrar, admirar, adoctrinar, adormecer, adornar, aducir, aduldar, advertir, afeitar, afilar, afinar, afirmar, agarrar, agigantar, agilizar, aglutinar, agobiar, agotar, agradar, agradecer, agredir, agregar, agrupar, aguantar, aguar, aguardar, agujerear, ahogar, ahorrar, ahumar, airear, aislar, ajustar, ajusticiar, alabar, alardear, alargar, albergar, alcanzar, alejar, aletear, aligerar, alimentar, alinear, alisar, alistar, aliviar, allanar, almacenar, almorzar, alojar, alquilar, alterar, alucinar, alumbrar, alzar, amaestrar, amamanantar, amanecer, amansar, amañar, amolar, amontonar, amortajar, amortiguar, amortizar, amparar, ampliar, amplificar, amputar, analizar, andar, anegar, anhelar, animar, aniquilar, anochecer, ansiar, anteceder, anteponer, anticipar, anudar, anular, anunciar, añadir, añorar, apacentar, apaciguar, apadrinar, apagar, apalear, apañar, aparcar, aparear, aparecer, apparentar, apartar, apasionar, apelar, apercibir, apestar, apetecer, aplacar, aplastar, aplaudir, aplicar, aporrar, apoyar, apreciar, aprehender, aprender, apresar, apretar, aprisionar, aprobar, aprovechar, aprovisionar, apuntalar, apuntar, apuñalar, apurar, arañar, arar, arder, arengar, argumentar, armar, arramblar, arrancar, arrastrar, arrear, arrebatar, arreciar, arremeter, arrendar, arrepentirse, arrestar, arriar, arrimar, arrinconar, arrojar, arrollar, arropar, arrostrar, arrugar, arruinar, arrullar, articular, asaltar, ascender, asentir, asir, asociar, asolar, asomar, asombrar, aspirar, asumir, asustar, atacar, atañer, atar, ataviar, atemorizar, atender, atentar, aterrizar, atestar, atestiguar, atisbar, atormentar, atracar, atraer, atrancar, atrapar, atravesar, atribular, atrofiar, atropellar, augurar, aullar, aumentar, auxiliar, avalar, avanzar, avasallar, aventar, averiguar, avisar, avivar, ayudar, azotar, azuzar, bailar, bajar, balar, barrer, basar, bascular, batir, bautizar, beatificar, beber, bendecir, beneficiar, besar, blanquear, bloquear, bogar, bombardear, bombar, bordar, borrar, botar, bramar, brillar, brincar, brotar, bucear, buscar, caber, caer, cagar, calar, calcular, caldear, calentar, calificar, callar, calmar, cambiar, caminar, cancelar, canjear, canonizar, cantar, capar, caracterizar, cardar, carear, carecer, cargar, cartear, casar, castigar, castrar, catar, catear, causar, cauterizar, cavar, cazar, cebar, ceder, cegar, celebrar, cenar, censar, censurar, centrar, cepillar, cercar, cercenar, cerrar, charlar, chilla, chorrear, chupar, circular, circuncidar, circunscribir, clamar, clarificar, clasificar, claudicar, clavar, coadyuvar, coartar, cobrar, cocer, cocinar, codificar, coger, coincidir, cojear, colar, colegir, colgar, colidir, colmar, colocar, colonizar, colorear, columpiar, comentar, comenzar, comer, comercializar, comerciar, compadecer, comparar, comparecer, compartir, compensar, competir, compilar, complacer, complementar, complicar, componer, comprar, comprender, comprimir, comprobar, compulsar, computar, comunicar, conceder, concular, condonar, conducir, conectar, conformar, confundir, congelar, conjugar, conmover, conmutar, connotar, conocer, conquistar, consentir, consistir, consolar, constatar, construir, consumir, contabilizar, contar, contener, continuar, contraatacar, contraer, contraponer, controlar, convalidar, convencer, conversar, convocar, cooperar, coordinar, copar, copiar, corregir, correr, cortar, cortejar, cosechar, coser, costar, costear, cotejar, crear, crecer, creer, criar, cribar, cristalizar, cristianizar, criticar, croar, crujir, cruzar, cualificar, cuantificcar, cubrir, cuidar, culminar, cultivar, cumplir, curtir, custodiar, damnificar, danzar, dañar, dar, deber, decepcionar, decidir, decir, decrecer, deducir, definir, degollar, deletrear, delinear, demarcar, demorar, demostrar, denotar, depender, deponer, deprimir, depurar, derivar, derogar, derrocár, derruir, derrumbar, desaconsejar, desafiar, desahogar, desahuciar, desangrar, desanimar, desaparecer, desayunar, desbarrancar, desbocar, desbrozar, descabalgar, descalabrar, descalificar, descanzar, descargar, descartar, descendr, descolgar, descomponer, desconcertar, desconectar, desconfiar, desconocer, desconsolar, descontrolar, descorazonar, describir, descubrir, desear, desear, desembarcar, desembocar, desempolvar, desencantar, desensillar, desentrañar, desenvolver, desertar, desestimar, desfallecer, desfavorecer, desgarrar, deshacer, designar, desinfectar, desinflar, desintegrar, desmantelar, desmarcar, desmembrar, desmerecer, desmoronar, desnudar, desobedecer, desparramar, despedir, despegar, despertar, desplazar, desplegar, despoblar, despojar, despreciar, desprender, desprestigiar, despuntar, destacar, destapar, desterrar, destilar, destinar, destituir, destronar, destrozar, destruir, desvanecer, desvariar, desvelar, desvestir, desviar, desvincular, desvivirse, determinar, devanar, devolver, devorar, diagnosticar, diezmar, difamar, diferenciar, dificultar, difuminar, difundir, digerir, dignificar, dilucidar, dimitir, dinamizar, dirigir, dirimir, discernir, discriminar, discutir, disecar, diseminar, disentir, diseñar, disertar, disfracar, disfrutar, disgrigar, disimular, disipar, disminuir, disociar, disolver, disparar, dispersar, disponer, distanciar, distinguir, distorsionar, distraer, distribuir, disuadir, divagar, diversificar, dividir, divulgar, doblar, doblegar, doler, dominar, donar, dorar, dormir, drenar, duplicar, echar, economizar, editar, ejemplificar, ejercer, elegir, emanar, emancipar, embadurnar, embarazar, embarrancar, embelesar, embellecer, embravecer, embrutecer, emigrar, empachar, empalar, empalmar, empañar, empapar, empaquetar, emparejar, empatar, empecer, empedrar, empeñar, empeñecer, empezar, emplazar, emplear, empobrecer, empollar, emponzoñar, emprender, empujar, empuñar, enaltecer, encadenar, encandilar, encantar, encarecer, encargar, encender, encerrar, encharcar, encolerizar, encomendar, enconar, encontrar, encuadernar, encumbrar, enderezar, endilgar, endulzar, endurecer, enfermar, enfilar, enfocar, enfrentar, enfriar, enfurecer, engalanar, enganchar, engañar, engarzar, engordar, engullir, enhebrar, enjuagar, enlazar, enmoher, ennegrecer, enorgullecer, enredar, enriquecer, enrojecer, ensalzar, ensamblar, enseñar, enseñorear, ensillar, ensimismarse, entablar, entender, enternecer, enterrar, entonar, entornar, entorpecer, entrar, entregar, entrenar, entresacar, entretenar, entrevistar, entristecer, enturbiar, entusiasmar, enumerar, envenenar, enviar, envilecer, envolver, equilibrar, equivaler, errar, esbozar, escalar, escalonar, escapar, esclarecer, escocer, escoger, esconder, escribir, escuchar, escudriñar, escupir, esgrimir, espabilar, espantar, especializar, especificar, esperanzar, esperar, esquilmar, estabilizar, establecer, estacionar, estar, estimar, estirar, estornudar, estrangular, estrechar, estrellar, estropear, estructurar, estrujar, estudiar, evacuar, evangelizar, evaporar, examinar, excluir, exhumar, existir, experimentar, expirar, explicar, explotar, exponer, exportar, expresar, exprimir, expulsar,

extender, extenuar, exterminar, extirpar, extorsionar, extraer, extralimitarse, extrañar, extraviar, eyacular, fabricar, facilitar, facturar, fallar, fallecer, falsear, faltar, fascinar, favorecer, fecundar, fenece, fermentar, figurar, fijar, filmar, filtrar, flamear, flanquear, flexibilizar, fluir, follar, fomentar, fondear, forjar, formalizar, formar, fornigar, forrar, fortalecer, fortificar, forzar, fregar, freír, frenar, frisar, frotar, fructificar, fruncir, fumar, fumigar, funcionar, fundamentar, fundar, fundir, fungir, fusionar, fustigar, galopar, ganar, gangrenarse, garantizar, gastar, gemir, germinar, girar, glorificar, gobernar, golpear, gozar, grabar, graduar, granizar, gritar, guardar, guarnecer, guiar, guñar, guisar, haber, habilitar, habitar, hablar, hacer, halagar, hallar, hartar, hastiar, hechizar, hendir, herir, herrar, hervir, hilar, hilvanar, hinchar, hipotecar, hojear, holgar, hombrear, hostigar, huir, humear, humedecer, humillar, hundir, hurtar, husmear, idealizar, idear, idolatrar, ignorar, igualar, iluminar, ilusionar, ilustrar, imaginar, imantar, impactar, impartir, impedir, implantar, implementar, implicar, imponer, importar, importunar, imposibilitar, imprimir, improvisar, impulsar, imputar, incendiar, incitar, inclinar, incluir, incorporar, incrementar, incumplir, indemnizar, independizar, indicar, inducir, infectar, inferir, infiltrar, inflamar, inflar, influenciar, influir, ingerir, inhumar, iniciar, injuriar, inmigrar, inmolar, inmovilizar, insertar, inspeccionar, inspirar, instar, instruir, integrar, intentar, intercalar, intercambiar, interceder, interesar, intermediar, interrumpir, intimidar, intrigar, introducir, intuir, invadir, inventar, inventariar, investigar, investir, inyectar, ir, irradiar, irritar, irrumpir, izar, jalar, jamar, jugar, juguetear, juntar, jurar, justar, justiciar, justificar, justipreciar, juzgar, labrar, ladrar, lamer, laminar, lancear, languidecer, lanzar, leer, legalizar, legislar, levitar, liar, liberar, licuar, liderar, lidiar, lijar, limar, limitar, limpiar, lisiar, listar, litar, llamar, llegar, llenar, llevar, llorar, llover, loar, losar, luchar, ludir, macerar, madrugar, maldecir, malparir, malversar, mamar, mancillar, manosear, mantener, marcar, marginar, martirizar, masturbar, matar, materializar, mear, mecer, medir, mejorar, memorizar, mencionar, menoscabar, menospreciar, mentar, mentir, merecer, merendar, merodear, mesar, meter, mezclar, mimar, minar, minimizar, mirar, mitigar, moldear, moler, montar, morar, morder, morir, mostrar, motivar, mover, multiplicar, musitar, mutilar, nacer, nadar, narrar, navegar, necesitar, negar, negociar, nevar, nombrar, nominar, normalizar, notar, notificar, numerar, obcecarse, obedecer, obligar, obsequiar, obstaculizar, obstar, obstruir, obtener, obturar, ocultar, ocurrir, odiar, ofender, ofertar, ofrendar, oír, oler, olfatear, olvidar, omitir, ondear, ondular, operar, opinar, oponer, oprimir, optar, optimizar, orar, ordenar, organizar, orillar, orinar, osar, oscilar, oscurecer, ostentar, otellar, otorgar, pacer, padecer, pagar, paliar, palidecer, palpar, parar, parcelar, parear, parecer, parir, parlar, parodiar, participar, partir, pasar, pasear, patalear, patear, pedir, pegar, peinar, pelar, pelear, pender, penetrar, pensar, percatar, percibir, perder, perdonar, perdurar, perfeccionar, perforar, permanecer, permitir, pernoctar, perorar, personalizar, persuadir, pertenecer, perturbar, pescar, pestañear, picar, picotear, pinchar, pisar, planchar, planear, planificar, plantar, platicar, poblar, podar, poder, ponderar, poner, posicionar, posponer, postergar, potar, preceder, precipitar, precisar, preconizar, predecir, predestinar, predicar, predominar, prefigurar, preguntar, premiar, prender, prensar, preocupar, preparar, preponderar, presagiar, presenciar, presentar, presentir, presidir, presionar, prestar, presumir, pretender, prevalecer, prevaricar, prevenir, primar, priorizar, privar, privatizar, proceder, procesar, proclamar, procurar, profetizar, profundizar, programar, prohibir, prolongar, promocionar, promulgarse, pronunciar, proponer, proporcionar, propugnar, propulsar, proscribir, prosperar, protagonizar, proteger, protestar, proveer, publicar, pugnar, pulir, pulverizar, purificar, quebrar, quedar, quemar, querer, radiar, raer, rajar, rascar, raspar, rastrear, rayar, razonar, rebelar, reblandecer, rebosar, rebotar, rebozar, rebuznar, recabar, recalcar, recalcar, recibir, recitar, recluir, reclutar, recobrar, recoger, recolectar, recomendar, recomendar, recompensar, recomponer, reconciliar, reconocer, reconsiderar, recordar, recorrer, recortar, recostar, recuperar, regular, recuperar, recurrir, recusar, redactar, redefinir, reducir, reemplazar, reestructurar, regalar, regar, regatear, regentar, regir, registrar, regular, regodearse, rehabilitar, rehacer, reinar, reír, relacionar, releer, relevante, relinchar, rellenar, rematar, remediar, rememorar, remendar, remontar, renunciar, reparar, repartir, repasar, repeler, repensar, repetir, replicar, reponer, reprender, representar, reprobar, reproducir, repudiar, repuntar, resaltar, resarcir, resbalar, resistir, resolver, responder, restar, restaurar, restituir, resultar, retener, retirar, retocar, retomar, retorcer, retrae, retrasar, retratar, retribuir, retroceder, retumbar, reunificar, reverenciar, revertir, revivir, revocar, revolucionar, revolver, rezar, rimar, rizar, robar, rodar, rodear, roer, romper, roncar, rozar, rubricar, rumiar, saber, saborear, sacar, sacudir, salar, salir, saltar, saltar, saludar, salvaguardar, salvar, sanar, sancionar, sanear, sangrar, santificar, santiguar, saturar, sazonar, secar, secuestrar, segar, segregar, seguir, seleccionar, sellar, sembrar, semejar, sentenciar, sentir, señalar, separar, sepultar, ser, serenar, serrar, servir, silbar, silenciar, simplificar, simular, sintetizar, sintonizar, situar, sobrar, sobrelevar, sobresalir, sobresaltar, sobreseer, sobrevivir, socavar, sojuzgar, soldar, soler, solicitar, solidificar, soliviantar, sollozar, soltar, solucionar, solventar, someter, sonar, sondar, sonreír, sonsacar, soñar, sopesar, soplar, soportar, sorber, sorprender, sortear, soslayar, sostener, suavizar, subastar, subir, subordinar, subrayar, subyugar, succionar, sudar, sufrir, sugerir, sujetar, sulfurar, sumar, superar, suplicar, suplir, suponer, supurar, surcar, surtir, suspender, suspirar, sustituir, sustraer, susurrar, tachar, talar, tapar, tapiar, telefonear, telegrafiar, temblar, temperar, tender, tener, tensar, terminar, tirar, titilar, titubear, tiznar, tocar, tolerar, tonificar, torcer, tornar, toser, tostar, trabajar, traducir, traer, tragarse, tranquilizar, transcribir, transcurrir, transferir, transformar, transigir, transitir, transmitir, transpirar, transponer, transportar, trasegar, trasladar, trasplantar, tratar, trazar, trenzar, trepar, trillar, triplicar, triturar, tronar, tronchar, tropezar, trotar, truncar, ubicar, ufanarse, ultimar, ultrajar, uncir, ungir, unificar, uniformar, unir, untar, urbanizar, urdir, urgir, usar, usufructuar, usurpar, utilizar, vaciar, vagar, valer, valorar, varear, velar, vender, venerar, venir, ver, vestir, viajar, vibrar, vigilar, vincular, violar, violentar, visitar, vitorear, vituperar, vivificar, vivir, volar, voltear, volver, vomitar, votar, vulnerar, yacer, zafar, zaherir, zambullir, zanjar, zarandear, zarpar, zozobrar, zumbar, zurcir, zurrar.