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English to SpanishRELATED ARTICLESpen(A noun is a word referring to a person, animal, place, thing, feeling, or idea (e.g., man, dog, house).noun, la pluma (f) means that a noun is feminine. Spanish nouns have a gender, which is either feminine (like la mujer or la luna) or masculine (like el hombre or el sol).(F)Have you seen the pens I got at the stationery store?¿Ya viste las plumas que compré en la papelería?b. el bolígrafo (m) means that a noun is masculine. Spanish nouns have a gender, which is either feminine (like la mujer or la luna) or masculine (like el hombre or el sol).(M)This pen doesn't write anymore.Este bolígrafo ya no escribe.c. la lapicera (f) means that a noun is feminine. Spanish nouns have a gender, which is either feminine (like la mujer or la luna) or masculine (like el hombre or el sol).(F) Regionalism used in South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela(South America) need a pen with black ink.Necesito una lapicera con tinta negra.d. la birome (f) means that a noun is feminine. Spanish nouns have a gender, which is either feminine (like la mujer or la luna) or masculine (like el hombre or el sol).(M) Regionalism used in Colombia(Colombia) Regionalism used in Ecuador(Ecuador)I prefer writing with pens rather than pencils.Prefiero escribir con esferos en vez de lápices.f. el lapicero (m) means that a noun is masculine. Spanish nouns have a gender, which is either feminine (like la mujer or la luna) or masculine (like el hombre or el sol).(M) (Andes) Regionalism used in Central America: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama(Central America)Would you lend me a pen?¿Me prestas un lapicero?g. el boli (m) means that a noun is masculine. Spanish nouns have a gender, which is either feminine (like la mujer or la luna) or masculine (like el hombre or el sol).(M) Regionalism used in Spain(Spain)He lost his favorite pen.El perdí su boli preferido.a. la jaula (f) means that a noun is feminine. Spanish nouns have a gender, which is either feminine (like la mujer or la luna) or masculine (like el hombre or el sol).(F)It saddens me to see a big animal in a small pen.Me da tristeza ver un animal grande en una jaula pequeña.b. el corral (m) means that a noun is masculine. Spanish nouns have a gender, which is either feminine (like la mujer or la luna) or masculine (like el hombre or el sol).(M) (horses, cattle)The cowboys spent the night in the pen, next to their horses.Los vaqueros pasaron la noche en el corral, junto a sus caballos.c. el redil (m) means that a noun is masculine. Spanish nouns have a gender, which is either feminine (like la mujer or la luna) or masculine (like el hombre or el sol).(M) (sheep)The shepherd put the sheep in the pen.El pastor metió las ovejas al redil.A transitive verb is a verb that requires a direct object (e.g., I bought a book.).transitive verba, escribir No one knows who penned that sonnet.Nadie sabe quién escribió ese soneto.Copyright © 2025 Curiosity Media Inc.PhrasesMachine TranslatorsTranslate pen using machine translatorsConjugations If you're learning Spanish or planning to visit a Spanish-speaking country, knowing how to say "pen" is essential. Whether you want to buy one at a store, ask someone to borrow it, or simply expand your vocabulary, this guide will provide you with the formal and informal ways to say "pen" in Spanish. We'll also touch on regional variations if necessary. So, let's dive in and explore the various ways to express this common everyday item! Formal Ways to Say "Pen" in Spanish When it comes to formal situations, such as addressing someone you have just met, speaking to an authority figure, or using the language in an official setting, it's important to use the appropriate vocabulary. Here are some formal ways to say "pen" in Spanish: Pluma: This is the most common and widely recognized term for "pen" in Spanish. It is used across many Spanish-speaking countries and regions. For example, you could say "¿Me prestas una pluma, por favor?" (Could you lend me a pen, please?) when asking for a pen in a formal context. Bolígrafo: This term is commonly used in Spain. It refers specifically to a ballpoint pen. So, if you are in Spain or conversing with someone from Spain, using "bolígrafo" would be appropriate. For instance, you may ask "¿Dónde puedo comprar un bolígrafo?" (Where can I buy a pen?) when looking for a pen in a formal setting. Instrumento de escritura: In some formal contexts, you may hear or read the phrase "instrumento de escritura," which literally translates to "writing instrument." While it sounds more formal and less commonly used in everyday conversations, it can be an alternative way to refer to a pen when required. Informal Ways to Say "Pen" in Spanish When interacting with friends, family, or in casual settings, you can use more relaxed and colloquial terms to refer to a pen. Here are some informal ways to say "pen" in Spanish: Pluma: Just like in formal situations, "pluma" is widely used in informal contexts as well. It's the go-to word for most Spanish speakers, regardless of the level of formality. You can easily say "¡Oye, ¿me pasas una pluma?" (Hey, can you pass me a pen?) when speaking casually with someone. Boli: This colloquial abbreviation is more commonly used in Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries like Mexico. "Boli" is short for "bolígrafo" and is widely understood in informal conversations. You might say "Oye, ¿me prestas un boli?" (Hey, can you lend me a pen?) when talking casually with friends. Piloto: In countries like Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay, the term "piloto" is used to refer to a pen. It might not commonly be used in other Spanish-speaking regions, but it's good to be aware of this variation in case you find yourself in one of these countries. Examples and Usage Tips Now that you have learned the formal and informal ways to say "pen" in Spanish, let's explore some examples and usage tips to help you comprehend and use these terms effectively: Example 1: Formal: ¿Podría prestarme una pluma, por favor? (Could you lend me a pen, please?) Informal: Oye, ¿me pasas una pluma? (Hey, can you pass me a pen?) Usage Tip: "Podría" is a polite way to ask in the formal example, while "oye" represents a friendly tone in the informal example. Pro Tip: When learning a new language, it's important to practice speaking with native speakers or language exchange partners. They can provide guidance on the most appropriate way to say "pen" based on your specific situation. Example 2: Formal: ¿Dónde puedo adquirir un bolígrafo? (Where can I buy a pen?) Informal: ¿Dónde puedo comprar un boli? (Where can I buy a pen?) Usage Tip: "Adquirir" in the formal example sounds more refined, while "comprar" in the informal example is a simplified version regularly used in day-to-day speech. Example 3: Formal: Me dejé mi instrumento de escritura en casa. (I left my writing instrument at home.) Informal: Se me olvidó mi boli en casa. (I forgot my pen at home.) Usage Tip: "Dejé" in the formal example denotes leaving something behind deliberately, whereas "se me olvidó" in the informal example suggests forgetting without intention. Summary In summary, here are the various ways to say "pen" in Spanish, both formally and informally: Formal: Pluma Bolígrafo Instrumento de escritura Informal: Pluma Boli Piloto (in some regions) Remember to choose the appropriate term based on the level of formality and the regional variation you may encounter. So, whether you find yourself conversing formally or casually, you now have a range of options to comfortably talk about "pen" in Spanish. ¡Buena suerte! (Good luck!) La carta firmada por los vecinos logró que no derribaran ese edificio histórico. ¡La pluma vale más que la espada! The letter signed by all the neighbors blocked the historical building from being knocked down. The pen is mightier than the sword! I have a quick story for you about when I moved from Chile to Argentina and the confusion of how to say pen in Spanish. But first, the quick answer you're looking for is "bolígrafo" commonly shortened to "boli" for a ballpoint pen. That's the general word that will be understood almost anywhere you go. It may not be the locally used word, but it will get you by. Now here's my story...let's pretend that you are going to be transferred for work to a Spanish-speaking country. You might already know Spanish, so there will be no "language barrier" that will affect your transition to your new company. That was exactly what I thought when I moved from Chile to Argentina in 2001. When I arrived at the office and started asking for basic office supplies, my assistant looked at me with a lost face. Apparently, I was speaking a whole different Spanish language. Don't believe me? Let's take for example all the words in Spanish for pen. This simple and common item can be identified with so many words in Spanish-speaking countries. The saying "la pluma vale más que la espada" translates to "the pen is mightier than the sword," emphasizing the power of words. A writer's pen name is referred to as "nombre de pluma" in Spanish. "To put pen to paper" translates to "ponerse a escribir," literally meaning "to start writing." Spanish Phrase English Equivalent Este bolígrafo escribe muy bien. This pen writes very well. Prefiero los bolígrafos azules. I prefer blue pens. Envíame una carta envenenada. Send me a poison-pen letter. Ella utiliza un nombre de pluma. She uses a pen name. Common pen-related question What is the term for a writing instrument in Spanish? The most widely accepted and understood terms for a writing instrument in Spanish are 'bolígrafo' or 'pluma.' How do you express 'ink pen' in the Spanish language? In Spanish, an 'ink pen' is often referred to as 'pluma fuente' or 'estilográfica.' Could you tell me the Spanish word for a notebook? The Spanish word for 'notebook' is 'cuaderno.' What Spanish vocabulary is used for 'paper' in the context of writing materials? For 'paper' in the context of writing materials, the Spanish vocabulary is 'papel.' Check out these other articles about the Spanish Language. Jared RomeyFounder of the Speaking Latino Spanish Teachers Community, host of the World Language Teacher Summit, and author of 12 books about Spanish varieties. Your browser does not support audio. Spanish Translation More Spanish words for pen la pluma noun feather, quill, plume, hackle el corral noun corral, barnyard, poultry yard, chicken run, shed for sheep escribir verb write, spell, write out, write in, write up, write off encerrar verb enclose, lock up, shut, confine, encase el gallinero noun chicken coop, henhouse, roost, coop, poultry house el aprisco noun fold, sheepfold, pound, cote, sheep-run el toril noun bullpen acorralar verb corral, corner, round up, bay, impound el parque noun park, fleet, grounds, playground, depot la chirona noun stir, nick, jug, quod hacer un dique verb pen la parada noun stop, stopping, stand, standstill, stoppage, halt la hembra del cisne noun pen embretar verb suffocate encorralar verb pen See Also in English Similar Words handwriting noun escritura, letra Nearby Translations Example sentencesAmerican EnglishPlease use a pen to fill out this form. "Pen" in 45 More Languages.Other interesting topics in Mexican Spanish Could I borrow I pen? ¿Me prestas un bolígrafo? I write the letter with the pen. Escribo la carta con el bolígrafo. Thank you, will you lend me your pen also so that I can write her number? Gracias, ¿me prestarás tu bolígrafo también para que pueda escribir su número? Would you lend me a pen, please? ¿Me prestaría una pluma, por favor? I want this pen. (near speaker) Quiero esta pluma. Did you ask for a pencil? Yes, I asked for a pencil but he gave me a pen. I wonder why I wanted a pencil. ¿Pediste un lápiz? Sí, pedí un lápiz pero me dio una pluma. Me pregunto por qué quise un lápiz. You guys have to write the book with the pen. Teneis que escribir el libro con el bolígrafo. I give him a pen (gift). Le regalo un bolígrafo. I give the pen to the student. Yo doy el bolígrafo al alumno. She likes to be in the pen. A ella le gusta estar en el corral. I ask for a red pen. Yo pedí un lapicero rojo. The pen is in the box. El bolígrafo esta en la caja. Do you have a pen? ¿Tienes un bolígrafo? He has a pen and (a) pencil. El tiene una pluma y un lápiz. That is my best pen. Esa es mi mejor pluma. Yet it is a revealing slip of the pen. Pero, a pesar de todo, es un lapsus revelador. That is underlined here with broad strokes of the pen. Esto ha sido destacado abundantemente. That is a revealing slip of the pen. Es un lapsus calami revelador. You have the floor, Mr Le Pen. Se lo ruego, señor Le Pen. But friend Le Pen cannot help himself. Pero el tal Le Pen no puede evitarlo. They are in the ball-point pen I am holding. Están en el bolígrafo que tengo en la mano. Waiver of Mr Le Pen's immunity Suspensión de la inmunidad del Sr. Le Pen No, Mr Le Pen, you have three minutes. No, señor Le Pen, tiene usted tres minutos. Withdrawal of Mr Le Pen's parliamentary mandate Anulación del mandato del Sr. Le Pen (Mr Le Pen: It sounds like Europe in 1938!) (Exclamación del Sr. Le Pen: «¡Suena como Europa en 1938!») They do not spring up from the ground fully formed at the stroke of a bureaucrat's pen. No surgen de la nada completamente formadas o gracias a la escritura de la pluma de un burócrata. Listening to you, Mr Le Pen, I am very glad that this has come to an end. Escuchándole, señor Le Pen, me he sentido muy feliz de que eso haya acabado. Mrs Le Pen, you are asking a hypothetical question. Señora Le Pen, está planteando una pregunta hipotética. She is no longer here, but, Mrs Le Pen, you should revise your information. La señora Le Pen ya no está en el hemiciclo, pero me parece que debería revisar su información. It is not something that we can do with public funding or at the stroke of a bureaucrat's pen. No se trata de algo que podamos hacer con fondos públicos ni gracias a la escritura de la pluma de un burócrata. They were approved by all the Member States and cannot be changed by a stroke of the pen from the Commission. Fueron aprobados por unanimidad por todos los Estados miembros y la Comisión no puede modificarlos de un plumazo. Thank you for your suggestion, Mr Le Pen, which is not the first I have received. Le agradezco, su Señoría, la sugerencia que, por otra parte, no es la primera. Le Pen's most recent statements prove how important that is. Las más recientes declaraciones de Le Pen demuestran precisamente la importancia de este tema. Those little boys found it easier to use a keyboard than a pen. Esos chicos encuentran más fácil pulsar las teclas de un teclado que manejar una pluma. It is not obligatory to maintain Mr Le Pen's immunity. No es obligatorio mantener la inmunidad del Sr. Le Pen. It is not as if Mr Le Pen has said anything new. No hagamos como si las palabras del Sr. Le Pen fueran algo nuevo. I give the floor to Mr Le Pen for three minutes. Doy la palabra al Sr. Le Pen durante tres minutos. Mr Le Pen, I gave you three minutes. Señor Le Pen, le he dado tres minutos. (Protests from Mr Le Pen) Please listen to what I am saying. (Protestas del Sr. Le Pen) Disculpe, sería tan amable de prestar atención a lo que le digo. So I welcome Mr Le Pen's change of heart. Por ello, acojo con satisfacción el cambio que se ha producido en el sentir del Sr. Le Pen. We have full parliamentary immunity, as Mr Le Pen has here. Tenemos plena inmunidad parlamentaria, como el Sr. Le Pen tiene aquí. Are Mr Le Pen and his cronies denying the Holocaust? ¿Acaso el Sr. Le Pen y sus semejantes niegan el holocausto? We have reached an impasse. I fully understand that you want Mr Le Pen to lose his mandate. Estamos en un punto muerto y creo que yo sería la última persona que no comprendería que ustedes desean que el mandato del Sr. Le Pen sea anulado. Mr President, I would like to correct an apparent slip of the pen by means of an oral amendment. Señor Presidente, propongo una enmienda oral para rectificar una aparente errata. This is for the good of us all, certainly not just the good of Mr Le Pen. Y ello, en defensa de todos nosotros y no sólo del Sr. Le Pen. We saw a very high vote for Mr Le Pen in France and similar issues in other countries. Vimos el muy alto porcentaje de votos a favor del Sr. Le Pen en Francia y cosas similares en otros países. Mr Le Pen has been a Member of this House for almost 20 years. El Sr. Le Pen es diputado de esta Cámara desde hace casi 20 años. Immediately after signing, the Canadian Government gave us all a nice ballpoint pen. Inmediatamente después de firmar, el Gobierno canadiense nos dio a todos un bonito bolígrafo. Rather than that the arid scratchings of the bureaucratic Brussels pen-pusher. Mejor eso que las áridas tachaduras de los burócratas de Bruselas. As for what Mr Le Pen said a few moments ago about these men and women, it was pretty disgusting. Y las palabras que he escuchado hace un momento de boca del señor Le Pen sobre esos hombres y mujeres son realmente repugnantes. By it, then, we will judge you, for I was in Rome, where we met, and where I saw you sign the Constitution with a golden pen. Entonces le juzgaremos por él, porque yo estuve en Roma, donde nos reunimos, y le vi firmar la Constitución con una pluma de oro. Please be careful that Mr Brown signs in pen rather than in pencil! ¡Cerciórense de que el señor Brown firma con pluma y no con lápiz! He and his leader, Mr Le Pen, want to come to Ireland in connection with the Treaty. Él y su líder, el señor Le Pen, quieren venir a Irlanda en relación con el Tratado. At the beginning of this vote, Mr Jean-Marie Le Pen took the floor. Al principio de esta votación, intervino el señor Jean-Marie Le Pen. With all due respect to Mrs Le Pen, leaving the euro is simply not an option. Con todo el debido respeto a la señora Le Pen, dejar el euro simplemente no es una opción. He was of Moroccan descent, and last night on television, Mr Le Pen referred to a Moroccan. Esta era de origen marroquí y el Sr. Le Pen, ayer por la noche, en la televisión, habló de un marroquí. Rules specifying pen size in centimetres would make the monitoring operations easier. La fijación de las dimensiones de los recintos, expresada en centímetros, facilitaría el control. She has gone to sit on the right and she votes like Mr Le Pen's group.' Ha ido a ocupar un escaño a la derecha y vota como el grupo del Sr. Le Pen». It was not Jean-Marie Le Pen who said that, it was Chancellor Kohl. No son palabras de Jean-Marie Le Pen, sino el Canciller Kohl. In Paris, as in Brussels and Strasbourg, we must refuse to occupy the ground chosen by Le Pen. Tanto en París como en Bruselas o Estrasburgo, hay que negarse a ir al terreno que desea Le Pen. Therefore it had nothing to do with Mr Le Pen's mandate as a Member of the European Parliament. Esto no tiene nada que ver con el cargo de Le Pen como diputado al Parlamento Europeo. Firstly, is Mr Le Pen guilty under German law of the crime of which he is accused? La primera, ¿según la legislación alemana, es el Sr. Le Pen culpable del delito del que se le acusa? If we were engaged in a programme of persecution against Mr Le Pen, this seems to suggest that we are doing it rather ineffectively. Si hubiéramos emprendido un programa de persecución del Sr. Le Pen, esto parece indicar que no lo estamos haciendo con demasiada eficacia. I am delighted that Mr Le Pen is now in favour of freedom of speech. Me complace que el Sr. Le Pen se muestre ahora partidario de la libertad de expresión. It is not Jean-Marie Le Pen who built the concentration camps. Jean-Marie Le Pen no fue quien construyó los campos de concentración. [view all sentence pairs] ¡Hola! Are you curious about how to say "pen" in Mexican Spanish? You've come to the right place! Whether you want to learn the formal or informal way to say it, we'll explore the various regional variations, provide useful tips, and give you plenty of examples. Let's get started!Formal Ways to Say "Pen" in Mexican Spanish If you are looking for a formal way to say "pen" in Mexican Spanish, you can use the word "bolígrafo." This term is widely recognized and understood across Mexico, making it suitable for formal settings such as business meetings, educational environments, or when conversing with someone you do not know well. Example: ¿Tienes un bolígrafo que pueda utilizar? (Do you have a pen I can use?) Informal Ways to Say "Pen" in Mexican Spanish For a more informal context, Mexicans often use the word "pluma" to refer to a pen. It is commonly used in everyday conversations with friends, family, and colleagues in relaxed environments. Example: Oye, ¿me prestas una pluma para anotar algo rápido? (Hey, can you lend me a pen to quickly jot something down?) Regional Variations While "bolígrafo" and "pluma" are the most universally recognized terms for "pen" in Mexican Spanish, it's worth noting that there can be regional variations. In some areas, you might hear the word "lapicero" instead of "bolígrafo." However, "lapicero" is less common and mostly used in specific Mexican regions. Example: Olvidé mi lapicero en casa. ¿puedo usar tu pluma? (I forgot my pen at home, can I use your pen?) Tips for Using the Term Want to sound more fluent? Here are some additional tips: Context Matters: Always consider the context in which you are speaking. Formal or informal language usage depends on the situation. Pronunciation: To ensure you are understood clearly, emphasize the "o" sound in "bolígrafo" and pronounce the "u" sound in "pluma" more like "oo." Ask for Clarification: If you're unsure what term to use, don't hesitate to ask someone for their preferred word. Mexicans are generally helpful and understanding. Mix and Match: Both "bolígrafo" and "pluma" are widely understood, so feel free to use either depending on your preference or the situation. Conclusion ¡Felicidades! Now you know how to say "pen" in Mexican Spanish. Whether you opt for the formal "bolígrafo" or the informal "pluma," you'll be able to confidently communicate your pen-related needs with the locals. Just remember the regional variation "lapicero" if you come across it. As with any language, practice and immersion will help you become more comfortable using these terms. ¡Buena suerte! Skip to main content Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. 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