

MOST COMMON DOMINICAN SLANG

WRITTEN IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH



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INTRODUCTION

Mastering Dominican Slang:

A Quick Start Guide

Are you ready to take your Spanish to the next level? In the Dominican Republic, everyday conversation is filled with creative idioms and unique vocabulary. For international students, these phrases are the "secret key" to connecting with locals. This PDF breaks down the top 10 most common expressions you'll hear in the streets of Santo Domingo, from greetings to everyday slang. Let's get started!

CHAPTER 1

¡Qué lo qué! (KLK)

English: What's up? / How's it going?

Note: The most famous Dominican greeting. It's informal and used everywhere with friends.

Vaina

English: "Thing," "stuff," or "problem."

Note: A versatile word used to refer to almost anything when you don't remember its name or when something is bothering you.

De lo mío

English: My close friend / One of us.

Note: Used to describe someone who is part of your inner circle or a person you trust deeply.

Tíguere

English: Street-smart / Sharp person.

Note: Literally means "tiger." It refers to someone who is quick-witted, charismatic, and knows how to navigate social situations.

Concho

English: Public transportation (car or motorcycle taxi).

Note: If you need a ride, you "take a concho." It's the most common way to move around the city.

Jevo / Jeva

English: Boyfriend / Girlfriend.

Note: A casual way to refer to a romantic partner or someone you are dating.

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Un chin

English: A little bit.

Note: Used for quantity. Example: "Dame un chin de café" (Give me a little bit of coffee).

¡Pa' lante siempre!

English: Always moving forward!

Note: A very positive phrase used to encourage someone to keep going despite any difficulties

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HABLADOR

ENGLISH: LIAR / SOMEONE WHO TALKS TOO MUCH.

NOTE: USED WHEN SOMEONE IS TELLING A STORY THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE OR IS SIMPLY BOASTING.

¡TO' CHILL!

ENGLISH: EVERYTHING IS COOL / IT'S ALL GOOD.

NOTE: A MODERN EXPRESSION USED TO SAY THAT YOU ARE RELAXED OR THAT A SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL.

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