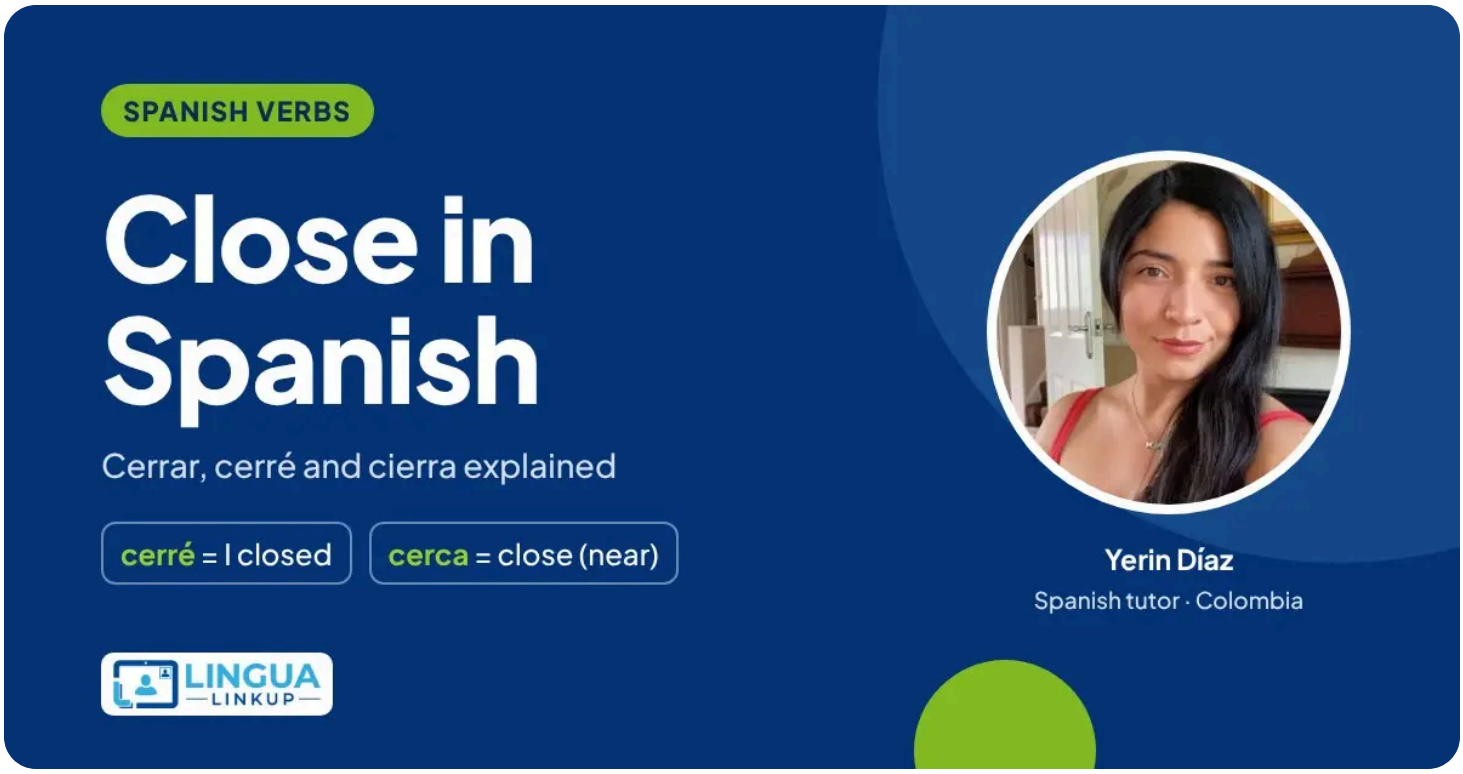
Close in Spanish: Cerrar, Cerré and Cierra Explained

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Quick answer: "To close" in Spanish is **cerrar**. **Cerré** means "I closed" (past tense), and **cierra** means "he/she closes" or "close it!" (a command to *tú*). If you mean "close" as in *near*, the word is **cerca**: *La tienda está cerca* – The store is close.

Lots of people search for *cerré* or *cierra* after seeing them on a sign, in a text or in a song. This guide explains every common form of cerrar, why it changes from *cerr-* to

cierr-, and how to say close-related phrases like “closed,” “close the door,” “we’re closed” and “close to.” There’s a short quiz at the end.

Close in Spanish: the short version

Spanish	English	Example
cerrar	to close, to shut	*Tengo que cerrar la tienda.* – I have to close the store.
cierro	I close	*Siempre cierro con llave.* – I always lock up.
cierra	he/she/you (formal) closes; close! (tú command)	*¡Cierra la puerta!* – Close the door!
cerré	I closed	*Cerré la ventana porque hacía frío.* – I closed the window because it was cold.
cerró	he/she/you (formal) closed	*El banco cerró a las cinco.* – The bank closed at five.
cerrado / cerrada	closed	*Cerrado los domingos* – Closed on Sundays
cerca (de)	close (to), near	*Vivo cerca del trabajo.* – I live close to work.

What does “cerré” mean?

Cerré is the **yo** form of cerrar in the preterite (simple past). It means “I closed” or “I shut.” Always write the accent on the final **é**: *cerre* without it is just a typo. Don’t mix it up with **cierre**, which is the formal command (*Cierre la puerta*), the subjunctive (*Quiere que yo cierre*) or the noun “closing / zipper.”

- *Cerré la puerta con llave.* – I locked the door.

- *Ayer cerré mi cuenta de banco.* – Yesterday I closed my bank account.
- *Cerré los ojos y me dormí.* – I closed my eyes and fell asleep.

What does “cierra” mean?

Cierra has two common uses:

1. **Present tense, él / ella / usted:** *La farmacia cierra a las nueve.* – The pharmacy closes at nine.
2. **Informal command (tú):** *¡Cierra la ventana, por favor!* – Close the window, please!

The formal command is **cierre** (*Cierre la puerta, por favor*), and the plural is **cierren**.

Cerrar conjugation (stem change e → ie)

Cerrar is a stem-changing verb. In the present tense the **e** becomes **ie** in every form except nosotros and vosotros. The preterite is regular.

Pronoun	Present	Preterite (past)	Command
yo	cierro	cerré	–
tú	cierras	cerraste	¡cierra!
él / ella / usted	cierra	cerró	¡cierre!
nosotros	cerramos	cerramos	¡cerremos!
vosotros	cerráis	cerrasteis	¡cerrad!
ellos / ustedes	cierran	cerraron	¡cierren!

For the imperfect, future, subjunctive and more, see our full cerrar conjugation guide or the Spanish verb conjugator.

“Closed” in Spanish: cerrado vs cerrada

Cerrado is the past participle. As an adjective it agrees with the noun:

- *El restaurante está cerrado.* – The restaurant is closed.
- *La puerta está cerrada.* – The door is closed.
- *Las tiendas están cerradas.* – The stores are closed.
- *Hemos cerrado por hoy.* – We’ve closed for the day.

On signs you’ll see **Abierto** (Open) and **Cerrado** (Closed), and sometimes **Cerrado por vacaciones** (Closed for vacation).

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Close as “near”: cerca, cercano, de cerca

English	Spanish	Example
close (to), near	**cerca (de)**	*El hotel está cerca de la playa.* – The hotel is close to the beach.
close, nearby (adjective)	**cercano / cercana**	*el hospital más cercano* – the closest hospital
a close friend	**un amigo cercano / una amiga íntima**	*Es una amiga muy cercana.* – She’s a very close friend.

up close	**de cerca**	*Míralo de cerca.* – Look at it up close.
That was close!	**¡Por poco! / ¡Casi!**	*¡Por poco nos chocamos!* – We almost crashed!

Other ways to say “close” in Spanish

- **Cerrar con llave** – to lock (literally “close with a key”)
- **Cerrar sesión** – to log out / sign out
- **Cerrar un trato** – to close a deal
- **Clausurar** – to close officially (an event, or a business shut down by authorities)
- **El cierre** – the closing, or a zipper (*Súbete el cierre* – Zip up)
- **Hora de cierre** – closing time
- **Apagar** – to close an app or turn off a device (*Apaga la computadora*)

Common mistakes

- **× Yo cerro la puerta → ✓ Yo cierro la puerta.** Don’t forget the e → ie change in the present.
- **× Yo cierré → ✓ Yo cerré.** The preterite has no stem change.
- **× El hotel está cerrado de la playa → ✓ El hotel está cerca de la playa.** “Close to” is *cerca de*, not cerrado.
- **× La tienda es cerrada → ✓ La tienda está cerrada.** Use estar for open/closed.

Quick quiz: cerrar

Fill in the blank with the correct form.

1. La biblioteca _____ (cerrar) a las ocho todos los días.

2. Ayer yo _____ (cerrar) la oficina temprano.
3. ¡_____ (tú, cerrar) la puerta, por favor!
4. Los bancos están _____ (closed) hoy.
5. Mi casa está muy _____ (close) de la escuela.

▼ **Show answers**

1. cierra
2. cerré
3. Cierra
4. cerrados
5. cerca

Keep practicing

Cerrar follows the same e → ie pattern as **pensar**, **empezar** and **entender**. Learn them together and you'll recognize the pattern everywhere.

Frequently asked questions

What does "cerré" mean in English?

Cerré means "I closed." It is the yo form of cerrar in the preterite (simple past): Cerré la puerta – I closed the door.

What does "cierra" mean?

Cierra means "he/she closes" or "you (formal) close," and it is also the informal command "Close it!": ¡Cierra la ventana! – Close the window!

How do you say "closed" in Spanish?

Cerrado (masculine) or cerrada (feminine): La tienda está cerrada – The store is closed. On signs you'll see Abierto / Cerrado.

How do you say "close" as in near?

Cerca, or cerca de before a noun: Vivo cerca de la escuela – I live close to the school. The adjective is cercano: el hospital más cercano.

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