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Watching Your Language

The Essentials of *Madre, Chingar, Cabrón(a), and Pendejo(a)*

Let's face it. Curse words, swear terms, and other lesser-refined vocabulary, called *groserías*, have infiltrated nearly every known language. The truth is that *groserías* are also an important part of the Spanish language, and like it or not, they have become an integral part of everyday conversation in Spanish. I dare say these are terms we should definitely know and become familiar with unless we choose to limit our ability to fully comprehend conversations with native speakers. No offense is intended—it is simply how people talk. I'm not saying you should actually use these words on other people, but in the appropriate company, why not put a few curse words into practice? Don't forget the name of this book—*Speaking Spanish Like a Native*. Believe me, it is only to your advantage to be able to understand these words when you hear them spoken, and you will likely hear them spoken frequently.

Furthermore, I believe that there are few better ways to express the intensity of your emotions or opinions than with the use of *groserías*. Imagine trying to express to your friend the anger you felt during a heated argument with your neighbor, or the frustration you felt with an annoying coworker, but without using a single *grosería*. It's hard to imagine, isn't it? Undoubtedly, many of you have this ability to refrain from using foul language, but believe me when I tell you that a great many of the people with whom you will converse, in any language, do not have the same self-control. We simply need these words to blow off steam and to accentuate our emotions. With that said, we'll concentrate on the big four: *Madre, Chingar, Cabrón, and Pendejo*.