

1. deal a blow to (phrase) – to harm/upset someone or something.
2. prospect (noun) – potential, outlook, chance/expectation, view/thought.
3. far-right (adjective) – relating to the extreme right wing of a political party or group.
4. triumph (noun) – victory, win, success.
5. short of (phrase) – less than.
6. count on (phrasal verb) – rely on, , depend on, bank on.
7. issue-based (adjective) – based on particular problems than an overall ideology.
8. anti-capitalist (adjective) – left-wing, opposed to capitalism (private enterprise/private ownership).
9. nurture (verb) – encourage, promote, assist.
10. stem from (verb) – emerge from, originate from, emanate from.
11. liberal (adjective) – relating to Liberals or a Liberal Party especially (in the UK); radical, progressive, unorthodox.
12. remote (adjective) – unlikely, doubtful, improbable/improbable.
13. proclivity (noun) – liking, inclination, tendency/leaning.
14. cohabit (verb) – live together, live with, coexist.
15. go down (phrasal verb) – be successful, triumph, make an impression.
16. rank and file (phrase) – ordinary members.
17. secessionist (noun) – separatist, breakaway party, dissenting group.
18. Catalan (adjective) – relating to Catalonia region in northeastern Spain, its people, or its language.
19. referendum (noun) – public vote; a direct vote in which people cast ballots to decide on a specific issue or policy.
20. sedition (noun) – incitement (to riot/rebellion), agitation, trouble making/provocation.
21. string (noun) – series, succession, chain/sequence.
22. xenophobic (adjective) – prejudiced, intolerant, bigoted; hyper-nationalist, racist, jingoistic.
23. backlash (noun) – a strong negative reaction; adverse response, counteraction.
24. unfold (verb) – develop, happen, take place.
25. fragmentation (noun) – breaking, separation, disintegration.
26. erosion (noun) – destruction, deterioration, decline.
27. exaggerate (verb) – overstate, overemphasize, overstress; magnify/amplify.
28. bloc (noun) – alliance, association, federation, group/body (of countries).
29. brace (verb) – support, shore up/prop up, buttress.
30. manifest (adjective) – obvious, clear, apparent/evident.
31. populist (adjective) – relating to the politicians who claim that they are representing the common/ordinary people.
32. exemplify (verb) – typify, epitomize, represent/illustrate.
33. centrist (noun) – a person whose political opinions are not extreme, falling between those of liberals and conservatives.
34. extremist (noun) – radical, fanatical, militant.
35. hollow out (verb) – remove, empty, cut out.
36. middle ground (noun) – agreement, understanding, settlement.
37. pander to (verb) – indulge, gratify, fulfil/satisfy.
38. dearly (adverb) – very much/extremely; at great cost/at a high price.
39. perilous (adjective) – dangerous, risky, hazardous.
40. near (adjective) – almost, just about, nearly/virtually.

41. **unambiguity** (noun) – clarity, straightforwardness, transparency.
42. **envy** (noun) – desire, covetousness, jealousy, resentment.
43. **elude** (verb) – evade, avoid, get away from, dodge/escape

## Spanish steps: on Spain's general election

### Election results give Pedro Sanchez an opportunity to deepen ( बढ़ाना) centre-left politics

A **convincing**( ठोस) **victory for the Socialist party** (PSOE) in Spain's general election on Sunday has **dealt a blow to** ( नुकसान पहुँचना )the **prospect** (संभावना )of a rightwing **coalition**( मेल) with the far-right Vox. The **verdict**( फैसला) is a personal **triumph**( जीत) for Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who failed to save his minority government in February despite having regained the party leadership. The PSOE is **short of** (less than)the 176 required for a governing majority. Yet, it is in some ways **spoilt** ( बिगाड़ा हुआ for choice: it can either enter into a formal **alliance**(गठबंधन) or rule on its own. Mr. Sánchez can **count on**(depend on) issue-based support. Encouragingly, the anti-capitalist Podemos has indicated a **readiness**( इच्छा ) to work in a PSOE-led coalition. It had **nurtured** (विकसित करना )ambitions of overtaking the PSOE as the principal force on the political left after the 2015 elections, but now its current **stance**( रवैया )**stems from** ( उभरना , आरंभ होना )what it sees as a larger role to **isolate**( अलग रखना) the conservatives and the far-right. The chances of the liberal Ciudadanos supporting the PSOE are **remote**( दूर), as the former seems set on replacing the conservative Popular Party as Spain's main centre-right alternative. In any case, Ciudadanos's more recent **proclivity**( प्रवृत्ति) to **cohabit** (साथ रहना )in a coalition with the Vox may not **go down**(be successful) well with the PSOE **rank and file**(ordinary numbers). **Collaboration**( सहयोग) with the Catalan **secessionists**( अलगाववादी) would be equally hard. They had in February joined the Opposition to vote out Mr. Sánchez's government, which **insisted on** ( जोर डालना )**negotiating** ( तय करना )a **settlement**( समझौता) within the **framework**( रूपरेखा) of the Constitution. One of the parties has demanded a second Catalan **referendum** (किसी प्रश्न को जनता के सामने उसकी सम्मति लेने के लिये रखना )and the **withdrawal** of the **sedition**( राज-विद्रोह) trial against separatist leaders as a condition for supporting Mr. Sánchez again.

The victory in Spain is the latest in a string of successes for social democrats in the European Union, since the *xenophobic* (fear or hatred of the strange or foreign) *backlash* (प्रतिघात, a strong negative reaction) in many countries after Germany welcomed about a million Syrian refugees in 2015. Yet, the *unfolding* (*develop*) political *fragmentation* (विखंडन) and the *erosion* (loss) of two-party *dominance* (प्रभाव) across Europe also means these gains cannot be *exaggerated* (बढ़ना). As voters in the 28-nation *bloc* (गुट) *brace* (सहारा देना) themselves to elect a parliament this month, this new reality could become more *manifest* (साफ़ दिखाई देना). *Halting* (रोक लगाना) the *populist* (जनवादी) *surge* (तेज़ी से चढ़ना) — as *exemplified* (उदाहरण होना) in Britain's vote to leave the EU — opposed to freedom of movement and closer European *integration* (एकीकरण) is their biggest challenge. Centrist forces have responded to the extremist threat by leaning either too much to the left or to the right, *hollowing out* (हटा देना) the *middle ground* (समझौता). Such *pandering to* (राज़ी करना) populists has cost them *dearly*. (बहुत अधिक) It is time moderate parties *abandoned* (छोड़ देना) this perilous (खतरनाक) course. The *near* (almost)-*unambiguity* (very clear) of Mr. Sánchez's latest *mandate* (आदेश) is the *envy* (जलना) of most governments around Europe. Having been handed one, he must ensure a full term in office, something that has *eluded* (चालाकी से बच निकलना) Spain for some years.