

Diminutives

Languages

The -ito ending, and the four things it actually signals.

Formation and effect.

Word	Diminutive	Signals
casa	casita	Small, or fond
momento	momentito	Softening — just a moment
abuela	abuelita	Affection
poco	poquito	A very little
ahora	ahorita	Right now (or later, in Mexico)
café	cafecito	Friendly, casual

Words ending in -e, -n or -r usually take -cito rather than -ito: **café** → **cafecito**, **joven** → **jovencito**.