

B. El Alfabeto: Alphabet and Pronunciation

El alfabeto: Student Resource Page

Nombre: _____

A	B (be grande)	C	(Ch)	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	L	(Ll)
M	N	Ñ	O	P	Q	R
Rr	S	T	U	V(ve chica)	W	X
Y	Z					

In 1994, the language academies of all Spanish countries voted to stop considering Ch and Ll as separate letters. However, if you look in old dictionaries, you will find that the Ll section comes after the L section and the Ch section comes after the C section.

The short form: Español comparado con el inglés

- B and V are pronounced identically in Spanish
- D isn't exactly the same as the English D—it's like a cross with the TH in "that"
- H is always silent
- J is an H sound
- Ll is a Y sound
- QU is always a K sound
- R doesn't sound like Rr if R is in the middle of the word—it's closer to an English D
- Z is pronounced as an S sound in most Spanish-speaking countries, but it is sometimes the th sound (in Spain, for example)

La canción

ah, be, ce, che, de, e, efe
ge, hache, i, jota, ka
ele...
elle...
eme, ene, eñe...io, pe!
qu, ere, erre, ese, te
u, ve, doble ve, equis
i griega
zeta
Yo sé el alfabeto...iolé!

Vowels in Spanish are always very crisp and clear—they only have one sound (unlike English). Correctly pronouncing your vowels will go a long way to making you sound like a native Spanish speaker. Also remember that there's no such thing as a "silent e" in Spanish.

	a	e	i	o	u
Sound in English	like "father"	shorter version of "late"	shorter version of "see"	shorter version of "no"	like "moo"
Example words in Spanish	<i>mamá</i>	<i>Beto</i>	<i>tipi, mi</i>	<i>Bola</i>	<i>Luca</i>

Knowing those rules, can you correctly pronounce these words and names that look the same or similar to words in English?

red redes Melinda profesor late dragón computadora Chile

Some consonants have pronunciations that are different from the English ones. Sometimes the pronunciation will also be a little different depending on which region or country you're in, but the pronunciations below are pretty standard. Try them out!

1. In most places, the double L, *Ll*, is pronounced like the English *y*.

llama llegar pasillo

2. The single L is pronounced like it is in English.

alma alas pelo

3. The *y* is pronounced mostly like it is in English—a "ya" sound at the beginning or middle of a word (yellow, Maya), and an "oy" sound after an o (like boy in English). At the end of a word in other situations, however, it is pronounced like "ee" (like it is in the English word "happy").

ya mayo soy muy

4. The "ph" combination (in English *photo* or *elephant*) is not used in Spanish. All "f" sounds are written with an f in Spanish.

foto elefante teléfono

5. The "h" in Spanish is silent. It is **never** pronounced.

*Hugo hotel hermano hijo
hospital búho hola huevos*

6. The "h" sound in Spanish comes from the letter j, and sometimes by **ge, gi,** or x.

ejercicio	José	jueves	trabajar	
Virginia	gigante	Geraldo	generoso	México

7. When "g" is in a **ga, go, gu, gue,** or **gui** combination, it is a hard **g** like in the English word "go."

garaje	organizado	guerra	Miguel
gordo	lago	Guillermo	guitarra

8. The ñ is a nasal sound, sort of a "ny" sound like in "canyon."

español	baño	señora	mañana
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9. The k sound can have several spellings. Before **e** or **i**, it's spelled with **qu**. Before the letters **a, o,** and **u**, it's spelled with a **c**. In some words borrowed from other languages, the k sound is actually spelled with a **K**.

café	aquí	que	comedor
kilómetro	quieto	calificar	cucurrú

10. Spelling tip: the only consonants that are ever doubled are **cc, ll, rr**. All three pairs sound differently doubled than they do singly.

lección	llama	perro
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11. Last words on pronunciation:

If there is no written accent mark, words that end in vowels (a, e, i, o, u) or in the consonants **n** or **s** are stressed on the second-to-last syllable.

arte = ARte	domingo = doMINgo	organizado = organiZAdo
hablamos = haBLAmos	llegan = LLEgan	grandes = GRANdes

If there is no written accent mark, words that end in consonants **other than n** or **s** are stressed on the last syllable.

Usted = usTED	practicar = practiCAR	hospital = hospiTAL
director = direcTOR	placer = placER	professor = profeSOR

¡OJO! *There are many exceptions—this is when we use the acute accents! If a word breaks the stress rules, it will have a written accent mark.*

Ejemplos: lápiz, sábado, Tomás, alacrán, televisión, mamá

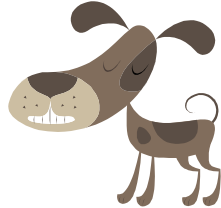
Canciones: the Sounds of Spanish

Nombre: _____

Student resource page

Las Vocales (to the tune of BINGO)

Vocales hay en español
Y los sonidos son
AEIOU
AEIOU
AEIOU
Y yo así los digo.



La Mar:

La mar estaba serena,
Serena estaba la mar.
La mar estaba serena,
Serena estaba la mar.

A) La mar astaba sarana,

Sarana astaba la mar.

E) Le mer estebe serene,

I) Li mir istibi sirini,
Sirini istibi li mir.

O) Lo mor, ostobo sorono,
Sorono ostobo lo mor.

U) Lu mur, ustubu surunu,
Surunu ustubu lu mur.



Voy a Comer:

Voy a comer, comer, manzanas y bananas.

Voy a comer, comer, manzanas y bananas.

Voy a comer, comer, manzanas y bananas.

Voy a comer, comer, manzanas y bananas.

con e...

Voy a comer, comer, menzenes y benenes....

con i...