

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 | (LI) |
| 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...¡olé!

Pronunciation Tips: Student Resource Pages

Nombre: _____

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 |
|---------|------|--------|--------|

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 |
|---------|-------|-------|

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

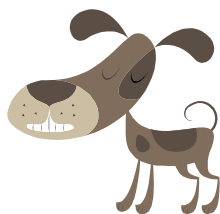
Y los sonidos son

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...