

# El alfabeto

## **Things to note about the Spanish alphabet:**

The Spanish alphabet in Spanish is called "**abecedario.**"

The Spanish alphabet consists of 29 letters according to the most updated version as dictated by the Royal Spanish Academy.

Letter	Spanish Pronunciation	Letter	Spanish Pronunciation
<i>a</i>	ah	<i>n</i>	EH-neh
<i>b</i>	beh	<i>ñ</i>	EH-nyeh
<i>c</i>	seh	<i>o</i>	oh
<i>ch</i>	ch eh	<i>p</i>	peh
<i>d</i>	deh	<i>q</i>	koo
<i>e</i>	eh	<i>r</i>	EH-reh
<i>f</i>	EH-feh	<i>s</i>	EH-seh
<i>g</i>	hheh	<i>t</i>	teh
<i>h</i>	AH-cheh	<i>u</i>	oo
<i>i</i>	ee	<i>v</i>	veh
<i>j</i>	HHOH-tah	<i>w</i>	DOH-bleh veh
<i>k</i>	kah	<i>x</i>	EH-kees
<i>l</i>	EH-leh	<i>y</i>	ee GRYEH-gah
<i>ll</i>	EHL-yeh, EH-yeh	<i>z</i>	SEH-tah, ZEH-tah
<i>m</i>	EH-meh		

# Consonants-- consonantes

- b, d, f, j, k, l, ll, m, n, ñ, p, r, rr, s, t, v, w have consistent sounds

- C followed by an **e** or **i** will have an [s] sound

**ce**na                  **ci**nco                  **ci**erto

in any other situation it will have a [k] sound

**co**mer                  **cu**atro                  **cr**ema

# Consonants-- consonantes

- g can have three sounds– [h], [g], or [w]  
followed by an **e** or **i** it will have an [h] sound  
**g**imelo      **g**enio

the [w] sound occurs in the combination “güe” and “güi” (the two dots over the u is called an umlaut in German or diaeresis in Spanish)

ping**ü**ino

in any other situation it will have a [g] sound  
**g**ato      **g**ordo      **g**rande

# Consonants-- consonantes

- H is always silent  
hola Hector
- Ll sounds like the letter “y”  
Bella– “beya” llama— “yama”
- ñ a nasal sound “en-yeh” the wavy line is called a “tilde”
- r and rr sounds like [r] when in between vowels  
cara morada  
or after a consonant that is not an r  
Crayola premio  
any other time it is the rr sound  
made by rolling the r –start by practicing  
with the word butter  
burrito carro perro

# Consonants-- consonantes

- x can sound like an [x]  
examen  
it can sound like an [h]  
México Texas  
or it can sound like an [ch]  
Xitle Xela
- Y sounds like [i] at the end of a syllable  
Paraguay  
or it can sound like a [y]  
proyecto

## Vowels-- vocales

- In terms of syllable division, Spanish vowels are divided into two categories: **strong vowels** (A, E, O) and **weak vowels** (I, U). To pronounce Spanish correctly, you need to understand strong and weak vowels and how they affect pronunciation.

- **Hiatus** - Two vowels pronounced as two distinct syllables--  
**strong vowels** (A, E, O)
  - empleado impermeable
- **Diphthong** -Two vowels pronounced as a single syllable--  
**weak vowels** (I, U). When this happens, the unstressed weak vowel has a special sound: the letter I sounds like Y (as in yet) and U sounds like W (as in will).
  - abierto baile fuerte suave
- **The letter U** - When U's purpose in a word is to make a consonant hard rather than soft as in portugués and jugueo, it does not count as a vowel and thus the above rules do not apply.



# Práctica

1) Real

2) Paracaídas

3) Camión

4) Aire

5) Poeta

6) Cielo

7) Fuera

8) María

9) Raúl

10) Comía

11) León

12) Suave

13) Industria

14) Después

# Práctica

Alphabet song

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUcu9PUh9\\_A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUcu9PUh9_A)

On your own practice at Studyspanish.com

- <http://www.studyspanish.com/pronunciation/alphabet.htm>