

## SPANISH ALPHABET SOUNDS

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The below chart tells you how to pronounce letters in Spanish. As you'll learn, not only can a letter like 'a' sound a bit different, letters like 'j', 'h', 'e', and 'i' are completely different from English to Spanish. And then there are the double letter sounds, such as the well-known 'rr' and 'll', but also the lesser-known sounds, 'ga', 'ge', 'gi', 'go', & 'gü'.



## How to Pronounce Spanish Letters and Sounds

Letter	Pronunciation in English & Tips for Pronouncing	Words in Spanish w/ this Sound (translation in English)
a	AH (It's a soft "ah" like in "aha!")	<p><b>Acaba</b> (Just)</p> <p><b>Adelante</b> (Ahead/Come in)</p> <p><b>Amistad</b> (Friendship)</p> <p><b>Alumno</b> (Student)</p> <p><b>Avión</b> (Airplane)</p> <p><b>Azul</b> (Blue)</p> <p>El <b>Alumno</b> se fue de vieja en un <b>Avión</b>  <b>Azul</b> (The student travels in a blue airplane)</p>

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b	BEH (like the 'b' in 'bay')	<p><b>Bueno</b> (Ok)  <b>Bacan</b> (Great)  <b>Biblioteca</b> (Library)  <b>Bote</b> (Boat)</p> <p>Leer es <b>bueno</b>. (Reading is good)  La <b>biblioteca</b> esté cerca. (The library is good)</p>
ba	BAH	<p><b>Bailar</b> (To dance)  <b>Ballena</b> (Whale)</p> <p>A Maria le gusta <b>bailar</b>. (Maria likes to dance)</p>
be	BEH	<p><b>Beso</b> (Kiss)  <b>Belleza</b> (Beauty)</p> <p>Ellos se dan un <b>beso</b> al saludarse. (They kiss when greeting each other)</p>
bi	BE	<p><b>Bienvenida</b> (Welcome)  <b>Bigote</b> (Mustache)</p> <p>Mi papa tiene el <b>bigote</b> largo. (My dad has a long mustache)</p>
bo	BOW	<p><b>Bonita</b> (Pretty)  <b>Botella</b> (Bottle)</p> <p>La <b>botella</b> esta vacia. (The bottle is empty)</p>

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bu	BOO	<p><b>Buscar</b> (To look for)  <b>Burro</b> (Donkey)</p> <p>Fui a <b>buscar</b> a mi mamá. (I went looking for my mom)</p>
c	<p>CEH (Like the 'sa' in 'say')            (Like the 'th' in 'thay' in Spain)            This letter has exceptions with Ce and Ci</p> <p>(When is followed by "e" or "i", it is pronounced either as "th" in "think" or as "s" in "son".)</p> <p>In all other cases it is pronounced as "k" in 'key'</p>	<p><b>Carcajada</b> (Loud laugh)  <b>Carro</b> (Car)  <b>Criminal</b> (Criminal)  <b>Celular</b> (Cell Phone)  <b>Cielo</b> (Sky)</p> <p>El <b>carro</b> esta estacionado. (The car is parked)            El <b>celular</b> debe estar apagado. (The cell phone must be turned off)</p>
ca	KAH	<p><b>Cama</b> (Bed)  <b>Calamidad</b> (Calamity)</p> <p>Me voy a mi <b>cama</b>. (I go to my bed)</p>
ce	CEH	<p><b>Cena</b> (Dinner)  <b>Cerebro</b> (Brain)</p> <p>El <b>cerebro</b> es una órgano. (The brain is an organ)</p>

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ci	SEE	<p><b>Cilantro</b> (Cilantro)  <b>Ciudad</b> (City)</p> <p>La <b>ciudad</b> que nunca duerme. (The city that never sleeps)</p>
co	COH	<p><b>Coco</b> (Coconut)  <b>Compromiso</b> (Commitment)</p> <p>El helado de <b>coco</b> es mi favorito.</p>
cu	KOO	<p><b>Cuerpo</b> (Body)  <b>Cupido</b> (Cupid)</p> <p>Me duele el <b>cuerpo</b>. (My body hurts)</p>
ch	CHE (Like the 'ch' in chair)	<p><b>Chocolate</b> (Chocolate)  <b>Chao</b> (Bye)</p> <p><b>Chao!</b> Nos vemos mañana. (Bye! See you tomorrow)</p>
d	<p>DEE (Like the 'da' in 'day')</p> <p>Sounds similar to the d in english but the thought should be against your upper teeth instead of the roof of your mouth when pronouncing it.</p>	<p><b>Dios</b> (God)  <b>Decisión</b> (Decision)  <b>Dado</b> (Dice)  <b>Dedo</b> (Finger)  <b>Dormir</b> (Sleep)</p> <p>El matrimonio es una <b>decisión</b> importante. (Marriage is an important decision)  Anoche me <b>dormi</b> tarde (Last night i went to sleep late)</p>

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e	EH (Pronounced like the 'e' in 'bet')	<p><b>Elefante</b> (Elephant)  <b>Educación</b> (Education)  <b>Economy</b> (Economía)  <b>Eliminar</b> (Delete)  <b>Ejercicio</b> (Exercise)</p> <p>No me gusta hacer <b>ejercicio</b>. (I don't like to exercise)  La <b>economía</b> se ve afectada por la cuarentena. (The economy is affected by quarantine.)</p>
f	EFE (EH-fay phonetical) (In words it's similar to the english f, like 'f' in 'fox')	<p><b>Fuerza</b> (Force/Strength)  <b>Firma</b> (Firm/Signature)  <b>Fuerte</b> (Strong)  <b>Fantasma</b> (Ghost)  <b>Ferreteria</b> (Hardware store)</p> <p>Unidos somos más <b>fuerte</b>. (United we are stronger)  Necesito una buena <b>firma</b>. (I need a good signature)</p>

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g	<p>HEH (The pronunciation depends on its position in the word. This letter usually sounds much like an English g.)</p> <p>(Before e or i, it sounds like a harsh English h. It's very similar to the j in Spanish.)</p>	<p><b>Gracias</b> (Thanks)  <b>Gritar</b> (Scream)  <b>Globos</b> (Balloons)  <b>Gramatica</b> (Grammar)  <b>Gigante</b> (Giant)</p> <p>Muchas <b>gracias</b> por la ayuda. (Thank you very much for the help.)  Compre <b>globos</b> morados (I bought purple balloons.)</p>
ga	GAH	<p><b>Gato</b> (Cat)  <b>Galleta</b> (Cookies)</p> <p>El <b>gato</b> es negro. (The cat is black)</p>
ge	HEH	<p><b>Gente</b> (People)  <b>Gelatina</b> (Jelly)</p> <p>Me gusta la <b>gelatina</b>. (I like jelly)</p>
gi	HE	<p><b>Gigante</b> (Giant)  <b>Girasol</b> (Sunflower)</p> <p>El <b>girasol</b> esta en el jardin. (The sunflower is in the garden)</p>
go	GOH	<p><b>Gordo</b> (Fat)  <b>Gorila</b> (Gorilla)</p> <p>El hombre es <b>gordo</b>. (The man is fat.)</p>

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gu	GOO	<p><b>Guapo</b> (Handsome/Gorgeous)  <b>Guante</b> (Glove)</p> <p>Juan se quitó el guante. (Juan took his glove)</p>
gue	GEH	<p><b>Guerra</b> (War)(war)  <b>Guepardo</b> (Cheetah)</p> <p>Nadie gano a guerra (No one won the war.)</p>
gui	GHEE	<p><b>Guitarra</b> (Guitar)  <b>Guión</b> (Script)</p> <p>Quiero aprender a tocar la <b>guitarra</b>. (I want to learn to play the guitar.)</p>
h	<p>AAH-cheh (but in words it is silent, like in “honour” in English.)</p> <p>(However, in words from other languages, the breathy aspiration is maintained. For example Hawaii)</p>	<p><b>Hola</b> (Hello)  <b>Hornilla</b> (Burner)  <b>Hechizo</b> (Spell)  <b>Huevo</b> (Egg)  <b>Hada</b> (Fairy)</p> <p><b>Huevos</b> revueltos. (Scrambled eggs)  Las <b>hadas</b> existen (Fairies are real)</p>

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i	EE (Like 'ee' in 'see' but shorter)	<p><b>Iguana</b> (Iguana)  <b>Iglesia</b> (Church)  <b>Isla</b> (Island)  <b>Invierno</b> (Winter)  <b>Impuesto</b> (Tax)</p> <p>La <b>iglesia</b> esté cerrada. (The church is close)  Los <b>impuestos</b> se paga el final del año. (The taxes are paid at the end of the year.)</p>
j	HOTA (Sounds close to the English h sound)	<p><b>Joven</b> (Young)  <b>Jirafa</b> (Giraffe)  <b>Joya</b> (Jewel)  <b>Jugo</b> (Juice)  <b>Juguete</b> (Toy)</p> <p>El <b>joven</b> toma <b>jugo</b> de manzana. (The young man drinks apple juice.)  Las <b>jirafas</b> viven en África. (Giraffes live in Africa.)</p>



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k	<p>KAH (is an uncommon letter in Spanish, but sounds much like the English k. Like the 'k' in 'ask')</p>	<p><b>Kiwi</b> (Kiwi)  <b>Kayak</b> (Kayak)  <b>Koala</b> (Koala)  <b>Kiosko</b> (Kiosk)  <b>Kimono</b> (Kimono)</p> <p>El <b>koala</b> es muy tierno. (The koala is very tender.)</p> <p>Los <b>kiwis</b> son una excelente fuente de vitamina C. (Kiwis are an excellent source of vitamin C.)</p>
l	<p>ELE Phonetically EH-leh (In words like "l" in "line" but shorter.)</p> <p>(Instead of the tongue touching the roof of the mouth behind the teeth, it should touch the tip of the teeth themselves.)</p>	<p><b>Lago</b> (Lake)  <b>Limón</b> (Lemon)  <b>Leche</b> (Milk)  <b>Láminas</b> (Sheets)  <b>Lingote</b> (Ingot)</p> <p>La vaca da <b>leche</b>. (The cow gives milk)  Las <b>láminas</b> son cobre. (The sheets are copper.)</p>

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ll	<p>ELLE (in most places, pronounced as Y. In certain dialects, pronounced as S sound in English word "vision")</p> <p>(It's not considered a letter anymore by the RAE)</p>	<p><b>Llave</b> (key)  <b>Me llamo</b> (My name is...)  <b>Lluvia</b> (rain)  <b>Llama</b> (Llama)  <b>Pollo</b> (Chicken)</p> <p>Se me han perdido las <b>llaves</b>. (I've lost the keys)            Quiero comer <b>pollo</b>. (I want to eat chicken.)</p>
m	<p>EME Phonetically EH-may</p> <p>(Like "m" in "mine".)</p> <p>(In words sounds similar to the english M)</p>	<p><b>Madre</b> (Mother)  <b>Milagro</b> (Miracle)  <b>Mapa</b> (Map)  <b>Montaña</b> (Mountain)  <b>Mano</b> (Hand)</p> <p>Las <b>montañas</b> son altas. (The mountains are tall)            Mi <b>madre</b> cree en los milagros. (Mi mother believes in miracles.)</p>
n	<p>ENE Phonetically EH-neh</p> <p>(Like "n" in "now".)</p> <p>(In words sounds similar to the english M)</p>	<p><b>Nachos</b> (Nachos)  <b>Nombre</b> (Name)  <b>Naranja</b> (Orange)  <b>Niño</b> (Kid)  <b>Nube</b> (Cloud)</p> <p>Mi <b>nombre</b> es Diego. (My name s Diego)            El <b>niño</b> es muy amable. (The kid is very kind).</p>

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ñ	<p>ENYE Phonetic EH-nyay</p> <p>(Like “gn” in the Italian word “gnocchi” or in english this letter sounds much like the ni in onion or the ny in canyon.)</p>	<p><b>Ñame</b> (Yam)</p> <p><b>Piñata</b> (Piñata)</p> <p><b>Mañana</b> (Morning/Tomorrow)</p> <p><b>Español</b> (Spanish)</p> <p><b>Ñandú</b> (Rhea - animal)</p> <p>El <b>ñandú</b> es una ave sudamérica. (The rhea is a South American bird)</p> <p>En <b>España</b> se habla <b>español</b>. (Spanish is spoken in Spain)</p>
o	<p>OH</p> <p>(Close to “aw” in “saw”.)</p> <p>(This letter sounds close to the o in so, but shorter.)</p>	<p><b>Oso</b> (Bear)</p> <p><b>Oscuridad</b> (Darkness)</p> <p><b>Organizar</b> (Organize)</p> <p><b>Orgullo</b> (Pride)</p> <p><b>Ojo</b> (Eye)</p> <p>Ella tiene los <b>ojos</b> cerrados. (She had the eyes closed.)</p> <p>No me gusta la <b>oscuridad</b>. (I don’t like darkness.)</p>

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p	<p>PE</p> <p>(Like “p” in “park”.)</p> <p>(This letter sounds close to the English p, but with less breath.)</p>	<p><b>Papa</b> (Potato)</p> <p><b>Publicidad</b> (Advertising)</p> <p><b>Pera</b> (Pear)</p> <p><b>Pez</b> (Fish)</p> <p><b>Payaso</b> (Clown)</p> <p>Las <b>papas</b> crecen en el suelo. (Potatoes grow in the soil.)</p> <p>El <b>pez</b> nada en el océano. (The fish swims in the ocean)</p>
q	<p>KOO</p> <p>(sounds like English k when used in a word.)</p>	<p>This letter must be with an “u” To create a word.</p>
que	<p>KEH</p>	<p><b>Queso</b> (Cheese)</p> <p><b>Quemar</b> (To burn)</p> <p>El <b>queso</b> esté caliente (The cheese is hot.)</p>
qui	<p>KEY</p>	<p><b>Quito</b> (The capital of Ecuador)</p> <p><b>Quieto</b> (Still)</p> <p>Es mejor quedarse <b>queto</b>. (It’s better to stay still.)</p>

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r	<p>ERE (pronounced as a shortened eh reh)</p> <p>This letter has two different sounds, this depends on its position</p> <p>Rosa (Rose), if it's at beginning sounds like rr with a strong sound.</p> <p>Caro (Expensive), if it's in the middle of word sounds softer</p>	<p><b>Primo</b> (Cousin)</p> <p><b>Caminar</b> (Walk)</p> <p><b>Gris</b> (Grey)</p> <p><b>Caro</b> (Expensive)</p> <p><b>Jugar</b> (Play)</p> <p>El rinoceronte es <b>gris</b> (The rhino is very gray)</p> <p>Voy a <b>jugar</b> (I will play)</p>
rr	<p>ERRE Phonetically eh reh (This is a very unique sound to spanish. The key is practice. Practice tip: you can practice it by saying the tt sound in butter over and over.)</p> <p>Trilled R sound. Trills can also occur at the beginning of words that start with R.</p>	<p><b>Carro</b> (Car)</p> <p><b>Rueda</b> (Wheel)</p> <p><b>Radio</b> (Radio)</p> <p><b>Rey</b> (King)</p> <p><b>Tierra</b> (Earth/dirt/land)</p> <p>El <b>rey</b> se sienta en su trono (The king sits on his throne)</p> <p>La <b>tierra</b> de las maravillas. (The land of wonders.)</p>

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s	<p>ESE Phonetically EH-seh</p> <p>(It sounds like the English letter "S")</p>	<p><b>Sopa</b> (Soup)</p> <p><b>Sabiduria</b> (Wisdom)</p> <p><b>Sandia</b> (Watermelon)</p> <p><b>Silla</b> (Silla)</p> <p><b>Sol</b> (Sun)</p> <p>El <b>sol</b> esta brillando hoy (The sun is shining today)</p> <p>La <b>silla</b> es de madera. (The chair is of wood.)</p>
t	<p>TEH or TAY (It's softer in sound to the english T. Like 't' in 'table')</p>	<p><b>Tomate</b> (Tomato)</p> <p><b>Taza</b> (Cup)</p> <p><b>Teléfono</b> (Phone)</p> <p><b>Tiger</b> (Tiger)</p> <p><b>Tenedor</b> (Fork)</p> <p>Mañana te llamaré por <b>teléfono</b>. (Tomorrow I will call you over the phone.)</p> <p>La <b>taza</b> de té esté caliente. (The tea cup is hot)</p>

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u	OOH (Like 'oo' in 'food')	<p><b>Uva</b> (Grape)  <b>Uña</b> (Nail)  <b>Unicornio</b> (Unicorn)  <b>Universo</b> (Universe)  <b>Util</b> (Useful)</p> <p>La <b>uva</b> está en el viñedo. (The grape is in the vineyard)  El <b>universo</b> se sigue expandiendo (The universe continues to expand)</p>
v	OOH-bay (This letter sounds much like the Spanish b. The lips do not touch and there is less aspiration.)	<p><b>Vaso</b> (Glass)  <b>Vaca</b> (Cow)  <b>Ventana</b> (Window)  <b>Viento</b> (Wind)  <b>Vino</b> (Wine)</p> <p>Quiero un <b>vaso</b> con agua. (I want a glass of water)  El <b>viento</b> sopla fuerte (The wind blows strong)</p>

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w	<p>DOH-blai OOH-bay (This letter is not native to Spanish most of the words with this letter come from different languages.)</p> <p>(sounds similar to English 'w'.)</p>	<p><b>Whisky</b> (Whisky)  <b>Wi-fi</b> (Wi-fi)  <b>Waffle</b> (Waffle)  <b>Web</b> (Web)  <b>Watt</b> (Watt)</p> <p>La <b>web</b> es muy grande. (The web is very big.)            Quiero la clave del <b>wi-fi</b>. (I want the wi-fi password.)</p>
x	<p>EH-kees (This letter is pronounced like the 'ks' in 'socks'.)</p>	<p><b>Xilofonista</b> (A person who plays the xylophone)</p> <p>El <b>xilofonista</b> es muy talentoso. (The xylophone player is very talented.)</p>
y	<p>YAY (or 'i griega' in spanish)</p> <p>(Most of the time, this letter sounds like the 'y' in English 'yes'. At the end of a word, it sounds like the letter i in spanish.)</p>	<p><b>Yate</b> (Yacht)  <b>Yeso</b> (Cast)  <b>Yegua</b> (Mare)  <b>Yema</b> (Egg yolk)  <b>Yelmo</b> (Helmet)</p> <p>El <b>yelmo</b> estaba en el suelo (The helmet was on the floor)            Me compre un <b>yate</b> lujoso. (I bought a luxurious yacht.)</p>



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z	ZETA (Sounds just like s, but can sound like the th in English in parts of Spain.)	<p><b>Zebra</b> (Zebra)  <b>Zapato</b> (Shoe)  <b>Zanahoria</b> (Carrot)  <b>Zorro</b> (Fox)  <b>Zurdo</b> (Left handed)</p> <p>Migue es <b>zurdo</b>. (Miguel is left handed)  ¿Donde esté el <b>zorro</b>? (Where is the fox?)</p>