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Spanish pronunciation





El alfabeto

To have a good pronunciation is important in any language, it simply makes it easier to communicate. Spanish is a language that most people can learn to pronounce well, and I am sure you will too.

Click on the headsets in the table below to listen to the letters are pronounced. Repeat them and practice yourself until you are satisfied with your pronunciation!


(To listen to the audio files you need the **Free Real Player** software. It can be downloaded for free from www.real.com)


1. The alphabet

Letter	Called	Listen!	Letter	Called	Listen!
A	a		M	eme	
B	be		N	ene	
C	ce		Ñ	eñe	
CH	che		O	o	
D	de		P	pe	
E	e		Q	ku	
F	efe		R	erre	
G	ge		S	ese	
H	hache		T	te	
I	i		U	u	
J	jota		V	uve	
K	ka		W	uve doble	
L	ele		X	equis	
LL	elle		Y	i griega	
			Z	zeta	

2. Special pronunciations

What I mean with "special pronunciations" are letters and combinations of letters that you should pay extra attention to. This course teaches the Spanish language as spoken in Spain. There are, however, local and regional dialects also within Spain. The Spanish spoken in Latin America is also slightly different.

Letter or combination	Pronounced	Example	Listen!
b/v	[b] no difference!	Barcelona Valencia	

ca/co/cu	[k]	Castellón Córdoba Cuenca	
ce/ci	[th] like in "thin"	Cáceres Palencia	
ga/go/gu gue/gui	[g]	Málaga Tarragona Segur Guernika Guipúzcoa	
ge/gi	[h]	Gerona Gibraltar	
h	[-] always mute!	Honduras	
ja/je/ji/jo/ju	[h]	Jamaica Jerez Méjico Castillejos Ajurrianea	
ll	[j]	Mallorca	
ñ	[ni]	Doñana	
o	[oh]	Orense	
que/qui	[k]	Quesada Quito	
r/rr	[r]	Ronda Mérida Ferrol	
u	[oo]	Burgos	
w	[b] not common	Water	
x	[s] next to a consonant or [ks] between vowels	Extremadura Texas	
y	[y] in the beginning or between vowels or [i] alone or at the end	Yemen Mayo Monterrey	
z	[th] like in "thin" (pronounced [s] in Southern Spain and on the Canaries)	Zaragoza	

