

El Alfabeto Guía de Pronunciación

<u>Letra</u>	<u>Nombre</u>	<u>Pronunciación</u>
a	a	As in “father”: <i>hablo, mano</i>
b	be	As in English, when in the initial position or preceded by “m”: <i>bota, tumba</i> . In all other positions, pronounced like an English “v,” except the lips do not close tightly (sort of a combination of “b” and “v”): <i>haber</i>
c	ce	Like “s” when followed by “e” or “i”: <i>cinco</i> ; otherwise, like “k”: <i>cin<u>c</u>o, catorce</i>
ch	che	As in “such”: <i>leche</i>
d	de	As in “dull,” except when between two vowels or the last letter in a word; then it’s pronounced like the “th” in “this”: <i>lado</i>
e	e	As in “gate” when followed by a single consonant or vowel or as the last letter in a word: <i>tema, verde</i> . When followed by more than one consonant or a single consonant at the end of a word, pronounced as in “net”: <i>verde, viven, ochenta</i>
f	efe	As in English. (Note: there is no “ph” combination in Spanish; “f” is used instead: <i>teléfono</i> .)
g	ge	As in English, except when followed by an “e” or “i” when it is pronounced like an English “h”: <i>Gitano, gesto</i> . (But <i>gusto, goma</i>).
h	hache	Always silent: <i>hombre, hambre</i>
i	i	As in “machine”: <i>isla, cinco</i>
j	jota	As the “h” in “hope”: <i>jugo, jardín</i>
k	ka	As in English
l	ele	As in English
ll	elle	As the “y” in “yet”: <i>ella, ellos</i>
m	eme	As in English
n	ene	As in English, except when it’s followed by “b” or “p”; then “n” is pronounced “m”: <i>un peso, un beso</i>
ñ	eñe	As in “canyon”: <i>año, baño</i>
o	o	As in “go” but cut short: <i>como</i>
p	pe	As in English
q	cu	As “k” in “king”; always followed by “ue” or “ui,” and the “u” is always silent: <i>quitar, queso</i>
r	ere	Trilled when it begins a word or is preceded by “l,” “n,” or “s”: <i>rato, alrededor, Enrique, Israel</i> . Otherwise, pronounced with a single tap of the tongue: <i>mira</i>
rr	erre	Trilled: <i>tierra, cigarro</i>
s	ese	As in English
t	te	As in English
u	u	As in “rude”: <i>pulga</i>
v	ve or uve	Exactly like “b” above: <i>vaca, uva</i>
x	equis	As an “s” when followed by a consonant: <i>extranjero</i> . Otherwise, when between vowels, like “gs” in “eggs”: <i>examen</i>
y	i griega	As the “i” in “machine”: <i>y</i>
z	zeta	As an “s” in “sissy”: <i>zapato, izquierdo</i>