

CONSONANTS IN SPANISH

Overall rule: For the most part, consonants in Spanish are pronounced as they are in English, although, just like the vowels, they are said more concisely and clearly.

We will focus mainly on the differences between the two languages in this section, but pay close attention to all consonants when you are working on the video and audio pronunciation exercises or lesson units.

<u>CONSONANT SOUND</u>	<u>PRONUNCIATION RULE</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
H	H like the silent <i>h</i> in honor	hola
S	S like in <i>see</i> , although less heavy (Never like the <i>s</i> in rose)	sí
J	J like the <i>h</i> in house (Often more guttural than a soft <i>h</i>)	viaje
L	L like the <i>l</i> in low (Much more concise than in English; mastering this sound greatly improves your accent)	la, capital
LL	LL like the English <i>y</i> as in your	llorar
Ñ	Ñ like the <i>ni</i> of onion, but only 1 syllable	niño
R	Tap R like <i>tt</i> of better	pero
R, RR	Trill R as multiple of Tap R (like the sound kids make when playing cars)	río, perro, carrera
X	Before vowels and the soft <i>c</i> , like <i>ks</i>	examen
X	Before consonants, like <i>s</i>	experto
X	In a few proper names, like Spanish <i>j</i>	México, Oaxaca
Z	Z in Latin America is like <i>s</i> (Z in Spain is like <i>th</i>)	zapato, feliz

VOWELS IN SPANISH

Overall rule: Spanish vowels tend to be cleaner, clearer, and crisper than their English counterparts.

<u>VOWEL SOUND</u>	<u>PRONUNCIATION RULE</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
A	A as in <i>father</i>	<i>cama</i>
E	Closed E as the <i>ay</i> in <i>hay</i>	<i>que</i>
E	Open E as the <i>e</i> in <i>met</i>	<i>hotel</i>
I	I as the <i>ee</i> in <i>see</i>	<i>sí</i>
O	O as the <i>o</i> in <i>no</i>	<i>como</i>
U	U as the <i>o</i> in <i>to</i>	<i>mucho</i>

DIPHTHONGS

Overall rule: Diphthongs are a combination of two vowels that form one syllable. In Spanish, diphthongs are pronounced faster and more tightly than their equivalents in English. There is never any doubt that they sound like one syllable.

LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE VIDEO TO LEARN HOW TO PRONOUNCE DIPHTHONGS CORRECTLY.

<u>VOWEL SOUNDS</u>	<u>PRONUNCIATION RULE</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
AI	AI as the word <i>eye</i>	<i>aire</i>
EI	EI as the <i>ai</i> in <i>gain</i>	<i>seis</i>
OI	OI as the <i>oy</i> in <i>boy</i>	<i>oigo</i>
OY	OY as the <i>oy</i> in <i>boy</i>	<i>voy</i>
UI	UI sounds like <i>we</i>	<i>cuidado</i>
AU	AU as in <i>owl</i>	<i>auto</i>
EU	No English equivalent	<i>deuda</i>