

Spanish Pronunciation

Many Spanish letters are pronounced more or less the way they are in English. Some, however, are quite different. Unlike English letters, which may be pronounced differently in different words (through and tough, bath and bathe, etc.), the sounds of the Spanish letters are always the same. When you are not sure how a Spanish word is pronounced, you can refer to this table.

SPANISH LETTERS	ENGLISH SOUND	EXAMPLES
a	a in <i>father</i>	casa (KAH-sah)
e	ay in <i>day</i>	mesa (MAY-sah)
i	ee in <i>meet</i>	libro (LEE-broh)
o	o in <i>open</i>	foto (FOH-toh)
u	oo in <i>tooth</i>	mucho (MOO-choh)
b, v	b in <i>boy</i>	banco (BAN-koh), vaso (BAH-soh)
c (before a, o, u)	c in <i>cat</i>	campo (KAM-poh), cosa (KOH-sah)
c (before e, i)	c in <i>cent</i>	central (sen-TRAHL), cinco (SEEN-koh)
cc	KS sound (<i>accept</i>)	acción (ahk-see-OHN)
g (before a, o, u)	g in <i>go</i>	gafas (GAH-fahs), goma (GOH-mah)
g (before e, i)	approximately like h in <i>hot</i>	general (hen-ehr-AHL)
h	always silent	hasta (AH-stah)
j	approximately like h in <i>hot</i>	jardín (hahr-DEEN)
l	l in <i>lamp</i>	lámpara (LAHM-pah-rah)
ll	approximately like y in <i>yes</i>	caballo (kah-BAH-yoh)
ñ	ny in <i>canyon</i>	año (AH-nyoh)
qu	k in <i>keep</i>	que (kay)
r	trilled once; phone operator saying "three"	caro (KAH-roh)
rr (or r at beginning of a word)	trilled strongly	rico (RREE-koh), perro (PEH-rroh)
s	s in <i>see</i>	rosa (ROH-sah)
x (before a consonant)	s in <i>see</i>	extra (ES-trah)