

SPANISH PHONETIC ALPHABET

A Comprehensive Guide to Pronunciation and IPA Symbols

Vowels (Las Vocales)

LETTER	IPA	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT	EXAMPLE
A	[a]	Father	Casa
E	[e]	Met	Mesa
I	[i]	See	Cine
O	[o]	Bore	Todo
U	[u]	Food	Uno

Consonants (Las Consonantes)

LETTER	IPA	PRONUNCIATION GUIDE	EXAMPLE
B / V	[b / β]	Soft 'b' without lips touching	Bota / Vino

LETTER	IPA	PRONUNCIATION GUIDE	EXAMPLE
C (+a,o,u)	[k]	Hard 'k' sound	Carro
C (+e,i)	[s / θ]	's' (LatAm) or 'th' (Spain)	Cerca
CH	[tʃ]	Church	Chico
G (+a,o,u)	[g]	Hard 'g' as in go	Gato
G (+e,i)	[x]	Raspy 'h' (Scottish loch)	Gente
H	[-]	Always silent	Hola
J	[x]	Strong aspirated 'h'	Jirafa
LL	[ʎ / ʝ]	English 'y' as in yes	Calle
Ñ	[ɲ]	Onion	Ñiño

LETTER	IPA	PRONUNCIATION GUIDE	EXAMPLE
QU	[k]	'k' sound (u is silent)	Queso
R (soft)	[ɾ̄ ^{3/4}]	Alveolar tap (like 'tt' in better)	Pero
RR / R-	[r]	Trilled 'r'	Perro / Rosa
Z	[s / ɰ̄ _s]	's' (LatAm) or 'th' (Spain)	Zapato

Stress Rules

- 1. Ends in Vowel, N, or S:** Stress the second-to-last syllable (e.g., *hablo*).
- 2. Ends in Consonant (not N or S):** Stress the last syllable (e.g., *hablar*).
- 3. Written Accent:** Ignore rules 1 & 2; stress the marked vowel (e.g., *hablÁ³*).