

## Guide to Pronunciation

Spanish spelling is an exact reflection of the pronunciation of the language. The pronunciation of each letter is subject to precise and consistent rules, and words are pronounced by adding together the sounds of each individual letter.

### Vowels

The sounds of the vowels are clear and short. Pronounce the examples.

Letter	Pronounced like	Examples
a	the <i>a</i> in <i>father</i>	la casa, la tapa, Panamá, Canadá
e	two sounds: the <i>e</i> in <i>café</i> when final the <i>e</i> in <i>set</i> elsewhere	elefante, come, vive, verde, que pero, es, hotel
i	the <i>i</i> in <i>machine</i>	sí, cine, comida
o	two sounds: the <i>o</i> in <i>hope</i> the <i>o</i> in <i>for</i> if followed by <i>r</i>	oso, otro, hospital doctor, profesor
u	the <i>u</i> in <i>rule</i> written as <i>ü</i> when pronounced in <i>güe</i> and <i>güi</i>	uno, tú, puro agüero, güira
y	silent in <i>gue</i> and <i>gui</i> elsewhere Spanish <i>i</i>	guerra, guitarra y, soy, hay

### Consonants

b / v	the <i>b</i> in <i>boat</i> when they occur at the beginning of a breath group, or following <i>l</i> , <i>m</i> , or <i>n</i> softer elsewhere, produced through slightly opened lips	baño, burro, embargo, alba, el vino, el voto, invierno, vamos Cuba, la boca, Havana, la vaca
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In Spanish, the *b* and *v* have the same sound. The sound of English *v* does not exist in Spanish.

c	the <i>c</i> in <i>cat</i> before <i>a</i> , <i>o</i> , <i>u</i> , or before a consonant	camisa, color, concreto
	the <i>s</i> in <i>sail</i> before <i>e</i> or <i>i</i>	centavo, cita, cinco
ch	the <i>ch</i> in <i>chum</i>	chocolate, chorizo