

Letter	Pronounced like	Examples
s	English <i>s</i>	sopa, sala, blusa
ʃ	English <i>t</i> , but not explosive (with the tip of the tongue against the back of the upper front teeth)	torta, talento, tesoro
v	Spanish <i>b</i> (There is no <i>v</i> sound in Spanish.)	
w	The letter <i>w</i> exists in Spanish only in words of foreign origin and is not considered part of the Spanish alphabet.	
x	English <i>x</i>	experto, examen
y	Spanish <i>ll</i> (the <i>y</i> in <i>beyond</i> or, in some countries, the <i>s</i> in <i>pleasure</i> )	papaya, papagayo, ayer
z	the <i>s</i> in <i>sail</i>	azul, brazo, luz

## Stress, Written Accentuation, and Spelling

### Natural Stress

Words that end in a vowel (**a, e, i, o, u**) or the consonants **n** or **s** have their natural stress on the next to last syllable.

cucar <u>a</u> cha	volu <u>m</u> en
mañ <u>a</u> na	exa <u>m</u> en
tr <u>i</u> ste	tom <u>a</u> tes
h <u>a</u> blo	

Words that end in any consonant other than **n** or **s** have their natural stress on the final syllable.

sal <u>u</u> d	mu <u>j</u> er
amistad <u>a</u>	canta <u>r</u>
papel <u>a</u>	docto <u>r</u>
vegetal <u>e</u>	nari <u>z</u>
azu <u>l</u>	