

# Pronunciation guide

This page offers guidance on how to pronounce all the basic sounds of letters or combinations of letters in Spanish. Where possible, an English word containing the approximate sound is given for each one. Practise the sound by reading the practice words aloud several times.

You may want to ask a native Spanish speaker or a Spanish-language teacher to help you with the

correct pronunciation, or you could use the online pronunciation guide which accompanies this series at [www.acblack.com/developingspanish](http://www.acblack.com/developingspanish).

Note that both the guide below and the online guide reflect the pronunciation of Spanish as spoken in most of Spain. Pronunciation variations may be found in Latin American countries and in some regions of Spain.

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|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| <b>a</b>  | like the 'a' sound in 'bad'<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>la, casa, mamá</i>   | <b>j</b>  | like the 'ch' sound in 'loch'<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>jamón, jugar, jugo</i>  |
| <b>e</b>  | like the 'e' sound in 'get'<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>el, tres, tener</i>  | <b>ll</b> | depending on the region, like the 'lli' sound in 'million' or like the 'y' sound in 'yes'<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>calle, silla, llama</i>   |
| <b>i</b>  | like the 'ee' sound in 'feet', but shorter<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>bici, mira, venir</i>   | <b>ñ</b>  | like the 'ni' sound in 'onion'<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>niño, baño, mañana</i>   |
| <b>o</b>  | like the 'o' sound in 'box'<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>no, moto, color</i>  | <b>q</b>  | like the 'k' sound in 'kite' (it is always followed by a silent <i>u</i> )<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>que, querer, quince</i>  |
| <b>u</b>  | like the 'oo' sound in 'tooth'<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>una, usar, tu</i>   | <b>r</b>  | a softly trilled 'r' sound like a Scottish <i>r</i><br><b>practice words:</b> <i>hora, mira</i><br>a strongly trilled 'r' sound when it's the first letter of a word<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>rana, ropa</i> |
| <b>c</b>  | like the 'c' sound in 'cat' except before <i>e</i> or <i>i</i><br><b>practice words:</b> <i>café, comer, cubo</i><br>like the 'th' sound in 'thin' when before <i>e</i> or <i>i</i><br><b>practice words:</b> <i>cena, centro, cine</i> | <b>rr</b> | a strongly trilled 'r' sound<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>corre, aburrido</i>  |
| <b>ch</b> | like the 'ch' sound in 'church'<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>mucho, ducha, coche</i>  | <b>v</b>  | like the 'b' sound in 'boy'<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>ver, vivir</i>  |
| <b>g</b>  | like the 'g' sound in 'go' except before <i>e</i> or <i>i</i><br><b>practice words:</b> <i>gato, goma, regalo</i><br>like the 'ch' sound in 'loch' when before <i>e</i> or <i>i</i><br><b>practice words:</b> <i>gente, gimnasio</i>    | <b>y</b>  | like the 'y' sound in 'yes'<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>yo, yogur</i>   |
| <b>gu</b> | like the 'g' sound in 'go' when before <i>e</i> or <i>i</i> (the <i>u</i> is silent)<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>guerra, guitarra</i>  | <b>z</b>  | like the 'th' sound in 'think'<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>zapato, zorro, luz</i>   |
| <b>h</b>  | is always silent<br><b>practice words:</b> <i>hacer, hermano</i>  |           |  |