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Spanish pronunciation guide audio

Learn more **HowToPronounce Certificates** **HowToPronounce.com** is a free online audio pronunciation dictionary that helps people learn how to pronunciation of words or names around the world by listening to its sound pronunciation by native speakers. Learn how to correctly say a word, name, place, medicine, medical and scientific terminology or any other difficult word in English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Swedish and other languages with our multilingual pronunciation and phone dictionary made up of the sound pronunciation of words , their meanings, meanings, sentences, translations and more are contributed by **HowToPronounce.com** communities around the world. Reading words in Spanish is one thing, but learning to pronunciation them so others can understand what you're saying, is a completely different game. In this Guide, we'll take a look at the basics to help you get started in the right direction with Spanish pronunciation, so you can run to the ground and keep improving as you practice. Before each section, you will find a link to a video where you will be able to hear the pronunciation of words so that you can play, pause, rewind and practice alone as much as necessary. In fact, many of the most common questions I received from my students are related to the pronunciation of Spanish words, and that is why the decision created this resource; The ultimate guide to Spanish pronunciation... In case you are in a hurry ... If you don't have enough time to check out the full Pronunciation Guide right now, sign up here and we'll send you a downloadable PDF version that you can save on your iPhone, Smartphone, iPad, or computer. The PDF document has links to all pronunciation videos that you will see on this page. You will also receive audio files you can download to practice along the way. Sign up here to download PDF and Audio versions of this guide sent directly to your inbox (as well as free Spanish lessons and additional resources). As a note, this tutorial focuses on Spanish spoken in Mexico (I'm native speaker) and it can be used to improve your pronunciation so that Spanish speakers from all over the world can understand what you're saying. Because, like English and American English, different versions of Spanish globally share the same core structure and have small variations on pronunciation and regional words. In this Guide, you'll find phrases and examples related to many of the most common questions English speakers when it comes to Spanish pronunciation. If you still have a question about pronunciation after reading it, please share it in the comments section at the end of this page so I can answer it and others can learn from your curious mind as well. It's convenient... Want to understand more Spanish? It sounds like quick mumbo jumbo with you? Having listening material with sound training wheels is an easy way to make it happen. You can practice your listening skills using phone during the day. It's easy! If you are interested in practical materials to help you understand more speaking Spanish is also easy to use, you can check out here (this is not free, but since you are interested in improving your Spanish, I want to let you know they are available) . Speak Spanish listen to the content material on this page (click to jump on that section) In case you are in a hurry ... By the way... Want to understand more Spanish? So how does this Guide work? Spanish pronunciation Pronunciation Spanish alphabet pronunciationFAQ and common problems with Spanish pronunciationHow to pronunciation Common Diphthongs in SpanishHow is a Diphthong in Spanish? One more thing (negatives and negatives)... Diphthongs with ADiphthongs with UThe pronunciation of H in SpanishThe pronunciation of B and V in SpanishThe pronunciation of G in SpanishPronunciation of the letter G next to E and I (Soft G or Harsh G?) An Easy way to Remember how to Pronounce the letter G:The pronunciation of Q in SpanishThe pronunciation of J in SpanishCommon words that include J in Spanish:The pronunciation of LL in Spanish:The pronunciation of Y in Spanish:Comparing the pronunciation of H, G, J, LL and YSpanish Pronunciation Chart of H,G, J, LL and Y:The Pronunciation of the C , K, S, Z in SpanishThe pronunciation of K in SpanishThe pronunciation of S in SpanishThe pronunciation of Z in SpanishThe pronunciation of D, T, R & R:The pronunciation of T in Spanish:How to pronunciation R in SpanishWho about soft R? Pronunciation of soft R in SpanishHow to roll your R in SpanishShortcuts to understand how to pronounced the stress of words in SpanishHow to pronounced the stress of words when you read them ... Super Streamlined Accent Pronunciation Shortcuts:Get a downloadable copy of this guide so you ca review it later (with links to all the videos!). So how does this Guide work? First, we will go through the base, including the yuan and the alphabet in Spanish. Then we will dive deeper into the pronunciation of the letters and the word is challenging for most students; and finally, we will answer the common questions English people often have about Spanish pronunciation. Are you ready to get started? It's time to make things happen... Uno, dos, ¡tres! The pronunciation of the synound in Spanish Just like in English, there are 5 yuan in Spanish. For the two of them, o and u, the pronunciation is relatively similar when compared to English, but for 3 others (a,e,i) the pronunciation is quite different, and in some cases they sound like another phonet in English. Because of this, it is important must create a clear distinction between each negative, in order to learn the fundamentals in the first place. As a note, each gospel in Spanish has only one sound. So once you learn how to pronounced a phonen, there is no need to worry about sound variations, as it is often the case in English. Pronunciation In Spanish Let's start with the letter A, which in Spanish is pronounced ah. It actually sounds very similar to how you pronounced A in distant English words or dad. Here are a few common words including A in Spanish: El Agua (Water) Aquí (Here) El amigo (Friends) Ahora (Now) Antes (Previous) A few common mistakes to avoid ... Now let's look at a few common mistakes English people often make when they are just starting out with Spanish. This is useful because you will be aware of these trends, so you can detect them when they appear when you speak Spanish and gradually get rid of them by practice. There is no need to worry about making these common mistakes, because almost everyone makes them. If you find yourself making any of these mistakes, it just means that you are a perfectly normal human being who is progressing and learning Spanish. So don't even have to worry about it. Instead of seeing them as mistakes, I suggest you see them as a path that everyone goes through at some point. See them as small challenges that you are in the process of overcoming. If you notice them, it just means you're actually practiced and getting better every minute you do it. Remember, speaking Spanish is a skill, like swimming or cycling. It is not difficult, it is just a matter of practice. Pay attention to A in Spanish ... So a popular trend of native English users, is to pronounce A in Spanish using a sound that sounds a bit like eh instead of ah because they are accustomed to the English pronunciation of the letter A. However, it is important that you pronounce it as ah because of the English pronunciation that sounds like eh , really like the pronunciation of a different pronunciation in Spanish, the E-sound, and this can confuse Spanish users trying to understand what you are saying. I do not want to confuse you here between A and E, what you need to remember is that the letter A in Spanish is pronounced ah and other pronunciations can confuse native Spanish users. An easy way to make sure you remember the right pronunciation, is to imagine yourself visiting an Amish Mexican dentist, and this highly imaginative and funny Amish Mexican dentist asks you to open your mouth and says AAAH Just imagine this: The Mexican Amish Dentist says AAAH This unusual mental image of a Mexican Amish Dentist , asking you to say AAAH will help you remember how to pronounced A , which is the first letter in the Word Amish, and it is pronounced Ah in Spanish, which is the language spoken in Mexico. That's why we use the mental image of an Amish Mexican dentist, asking you to say AAAH Pronunciation E in Spanish Now, let's see how the pronunciation of E in Spain. The easiest way to remember how to correctly pronunciation it is to imagine having an H after the letter E in English, so it seems like eh, similar to how it is pronounced in English words elephant or An important note about E, is that if you use English pronunciation while pronunciation of words in Spanish, native Spanish speakers may think that you are referring to a different pronounced, me, which in Spanish is pronounced as a short ee. Here are a few examples of using the E-syn in Spanish: La escuela (School) El equipo (Team) La estrella (Star) El elefante (Elephant) Especial (Special) A simple way to remember the correct pronunciation of the E-synative in Spanish, is to imagine the following mental image when you listen to loud music in your mind : Elephants are dancing electronic music in Barcelona This extraordinary spiritual association, will help you remember how to pronounced the E in Spanish. How to pronounced I in Spanish It's time to take a look at the third vowel, the letter I, which in Spanish is pronounced as a short double ee in English. Here are a few examples of using vowel I in Spanish La iguana (Iguana) El iglú (Igloo) Igual (Equal) Imaginar (To imagine) Imán (Magnet) A fun way to remember how to pronounce the vowel I in Spanish, is to think of this unexpected situation: Three Iguanas build an Iglou This unexpected mental image, will help you memorize the correct pronunciation of the vowel Iree the first 3 vietnamese in Spanish As you can see now, the first 3 Spanish-language synoundences have a pronunciation that may at first seem confusing to native English users, because they seem a bit similar to other vietnamese yuan. In an English, sounds a bit like E in Spanish, it's pronounced eh E'm in English, sounds a bit like A in Spanish, it's pronounced A To avoid this confusion , and to make sure that you memorize the correct pronunciation of the first three sounds in Spanish, imagine a colorful spiritual picture inspired by this phrase (think of bright colors, smells and sounds. Imagine it as vividly as possible): Art Energizes Iguanas Remembers this simple (an interesting memorizing tool) that introduces the pronunciation of the first three vietnamese in Spanish at the beginning of each word. By creating a spiritual picture of how Art Energizes Iguanas memorizes the correct pronunciation of each of the first 3 gospels in Spanish will be much easier (and almost inevitable). Now, let's take a look at two yuan that we haven't mentioned yet. Do not worry, they are quite similar to their English partners, so it will be easier. How to pronounced O in Spanish Let's start with O, in Spanish is pronounced as a short oh, just like you added the letter H after the letter O. Similar to how it is pronounced in the English word Omaha. Here are a few examples in Spanish: El oso (Bear) El ojo (Eye) oro (Gold) Once (Eleven) El oeste (West) A simple way to remember the correct pronunciation of the O-sounding sound in Spanish, is to create a spiritual image inspired by this phrase (including as much sound and smell as possible): Oracle Oracle Omaha likes to eat tortillas By picturing Warren Buffet (the famous investor from Omaha) eating a famous Mexican dish, it will be easy to link the sound of the first letters of Oracle, and Omaha, with the pronunciation of the O-sounding in Spanish. The U pronunciation in Spanish Now, let's look at the last one, the U-word, in Spanish pronounced as a short ooh. This sound is very similar to the pronunciation of the oo in English but a little shorter. Here are a few examples that include America in Spanish: Único (Unique) Uno (One) La uña (Fingernail) La unidad (Unit) El último (Last) A few common mistakes to avoid ... As an additional note, many native English-speaking people often pronounced American in Spanish in a way that sounds a bit similar to the pronunciation of American in English, when it is included in words as cute. This is actually a very common mistake, so just keep it in mind so you can avoid it when speaking Spanish. Let's take a moment to review a list of Spanish words including U-negatives, often mispronounced in Spanish by native English users: Película (Film) is often pronounced peh-lee-keeh-uh-lah instead of peliula Nuclear (Nuclear) which is often pronounced neeh-uh-cleh-ah instead of the Ciudad kernel (City) which is often pronounced see-eeh-dah instead of ciudad Peculiar (Peculiar) often pronounced peh-keeh-lee-ah instead of special This is not a big deal, so don't worry too much about it. It's just a common trend that you may encounter at some point. By being aware of it, overcoming this common challenge will be much easier. An easy way to remember the correct pronunciation of the pronouncem Let's go back to our iguana phrase for a moment to add the pronunciation of the last two pronounceloes, so it is easy to remember the pronunciation of the five pronounceloes in Spanish. Just like before, try imagining a spiritual image as colorful, smelly and loud as possible using the following phrase for inspiration: Art Energizes Iguanas On Umpa Loostas As we mentioned before, the first letters of each of the first five words of this phrase will help you remember the appropriate pronunciation for five phonetic sounds In Spanish: A, E, I, O, U. What is easy, huh? If you have to go to, you can save this and consider it later. ... If you don't have time right now and like to save this Pronunciation Guide now so you can review it at your own pace, sign up here and we'll send you the PDF version you can download. The PDF document has links to all pronunciation videos that you will see on this page. You will also receive audio files you can download to practice along the way. Sign up here for access to the PDF version and the downloadable audio of the guide as well as additional Spanish lessons for free (we'll send them to you via email). Are you ready to get started? It's time to make things happen... Uno, dos, ¡tres! Pronounced Spanish alphabet In a nutshell, the alphabet in Spanish is similar to the alphabet in English, English. An additional letter, ñ looks like n with a fall mark on top that looks like a small hat. The Spanish alphabet has 27 letters and 5 digraphs, which are pairs of letters used to represent a distinct sound. 5 digraphs (pairs of letters) are: Now, let's go through the pronunciation of the letters in the Spanish alphabet, one by one. Ready? ¡ Aquí vamos! (Here we go!) A - How to pronounced A in Spanish In Spanish, A is pronounced ah and it always sounds similar. Here are a few examples: Abrir - To open Caminar - To walk El Amigo - friend El Avión - Airplane La Cama - Bed B - How to pronounced B in Spanish In Spanish, the letter B called Be is pronounced beh, as in the best word. Depending on your location, you may also hear a few alternative names for B: b grande (big b) b larga (long b) b alta (tall b) b de burro (b as in burro) Besides the five synounds in Spanish, here's what the close pronunciation sounds like , use English as a reference: Spanish - English B a - bah Be - beh Bi - bee Bo - boh Bu - buh Here are a few examples (some of them have el or la to tell you they are masculine or feminine noun): El baño - Bathroom El bebé - Baby La bicicleta - Bike El beso - Kiss Buscar - To search for C - How to C pronunciation in Spanish In Spanish, the letter C is called Ce and pronounced cheh, as in the cell word When C is next to the A, O, and U) prototypes, it is pronounced using a strong sound similar to K's pronunciation in English. In most countries, when it is located next to the E and I) pronounces, it is pronounced similarly to the S sound insulation in English, as in her and sih However, in Spain the pronunciation of C next to the letters E and I, sounds a bit like the English th used in the heat word To keep things simple , we will use the pronunciation used in Latin America, similar to S in English. Besides the five negatives in Spanish, here's what affectively pronounced sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Ca - kah Ce - ceh Ci - ceo C - koh Cu - kuh Here are a few examples: Caminar - To walk Cerrar - To close El cilindro - Cylinder Comer - To eat El cuerpo - Body D - How to pronounced D in Spanish , D is called De is pronounced deh, as in the word table Besides the five synouns in Spanish, this is what appenous pronunciation sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Da - dah De - deh Di - dee Do - doh Du - duh Here are a few examples: Dar - To give Decir - To say El dinosaurio - Dinosaur Dormir - To sleep El dueño - Owner E - How to pronounced E in Spanish , the Cynre pronunciation is eh and it always has the same sound. Here are a few examples: Special - Special El estadio - Emppezar Stadium - To start Electricidad - Electric Europa - Europe F - How to pronounced F in Spanish In Spanish, the letter F is called efe that is eh-feh, as in effective words Besides five syringes in Spanish, this is what appiceous pronunciation sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Fa - fah Fe - feh Fi - charge Fo - foh Fu - fuh Here are a few examples : Fácil - Easy femenino - Femenine La fiesta - Fotografía Party - Fuerza Photo - Power G - How to pronounced G in Spanish Spanish , the letter G called Ge is pronounced geh, relatively similar to the first part of the word help Besides five synouns in Spanish , here's what announcing sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English (Soft G sounds): Ga - gah Gue - geh Gui - gee Go - goh Gu -guh Here are a few examples: Ganar - To win Miguel - Michael Guillermo - William El amigo - Friends Guapo - Handsome However , the letter G can also have a harsh sound for the E and I syringes when the u-word is not placed between g and the eymous e or i: Esp - English (Harsh G sound): Here are a few examples: Gelatina - Jello Girar - To turn H - How to pronounced H in Spanish , H is called hache and is pronounced: ah-ehar, relatively similar to the first part of the achievement word It is the actual name of the letter, but, when used in words; the pronunciation of H should be ignored, as if it did not exist. Unless, it is next to a C, as in the word Chocolate. Besides the five synouns in Spanish, here's what announcing affectively sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English ha - ah he - eh hi - ee ho - oh hu - uh Here are a few examples: Hacer - To do Hembra - Himalayan Female - Himalayan Hogar - Home Humano - Human I - How to pronunciation me in Spanish Spanish In Spanish, I is pronounced ee , as in the word Iguana Here are a few examples: Iguana - Iguana Imán - Magnet Igual - Equal Importante - Important Imaginar - Imagine J - Pronunciation J in Spanish In Spanish, the letter J is called jota and it is pronounced joh-tah Besides five yuan in Spanish, this is what almost pronounced sounds like that, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Ja - hah Je - heh Ji - hee Jo - hoh Ju - huh Here are a few examples: Jalar - To pull Jefe - Boss Jirafa - Giraffe José - Joseph Judio - Jewish K - How to Pronounce K in Spanish In Spanish, the letter K is called ka and it is pronounced kah, as in the karate word. In addition to the five vietnamese pronunciations in Spanish, here are some examples: Kansas - Kansas Kenia - Kenya Kilogram - Kilogram Koala - Koala Kuala Lumpur - Kuala Lumpur L - Pronunciation L in Spanish In Spanish , the letter L is called ele and is pronounced eh-eh, as in the electric word . Besides the five yuans in Spanish, here's what's right sounds like that, using English as a reference: Spanish - English La - lah Le - leh Li - lee Lo - loh Lu - luh Here are a few examples: Lavar - To wash Levantarse - L to stand up Limpiar - To clean El lobo - Wolf La luz - Light M - How to pronounced M in Spanish In Spanish , the letter M is called eme and it is pronounced eh-meh, as in the word emergency. In addition to the five vietnamese syringes in Spanish, here are some examples: La Mamá - Mother Mejorar - To improve Minimalista - Minimalist Mover - To move Música - Music N - How to Pronounce N in Spanish , the letter N is called ene and it is pronounced eh-neh, as in the word energy. Besides the five negatives in Spanish, here's what appatous pronunciation sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Na - no Ne - neh Ni - nee No - noh Nu - nuh Here are a few examples: Nada - Nothing Necesitar - To need Nieve - Snow Novedad - Novelty Nuevo - New Ñ - How to pronunciation Ñ in Spanish The Spanish word Ñ is called efie and it is pronounced (more or less) eh-nee-eh. Besides the five synouns in Spanish, here's what the close pronunciation sounds like, use of English as a reference: Spanish - English ña - ñah ñe - ñeh fie - ñee - ñoh - ñh Here are a few examples: La caña de pescar - La piñata - Piñata El niño - Boy Pequeño - Small Extraño - Strange O - How to pronounced O in Spanish In Spanish, the O-sound is pronounced oh and it always has the same sound. Here are a few examples: Ordenar - To order Camino - Road Ostión - Oyster El oso - Bear El coco - Coconut P - How to pronounced P in Spanish In Spanish, the letter P is called pe and it is pronounced peh, as in the portuguese word. Besides the five negatives in Spanish, here's what announcing sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Pa - pah Pe - peh Pi - pee Po - poh Pu - puh Here are a few examples: El pan - El pescado bread - Fish La pieza - Piece Posible - Can La puerta - Door Q - How to pronunciation Q in Spanish the letter Q is called stale and it is pronounced chh When it is located next to the A, O and U, Q has the same sound as k in English. However, finding words with these sounds is quite unusual. The most common applications of Q are the ones located next to the E and I. However, you need to place the U-2s between Q and these 2 letters, so that it looks like keh (ke) and kee (ki.) Besides the five negatives in Spanish, here's what affectively pronounced sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Qa - cah Que - keh Qui - kee Qo - coh Qu - cuh Here are a few examples: Agua - Aqua (color) Qué - What Quién - Who Quiero - I want Quora - R - How to pronunciation R in Spanish In Spanish, the letter R is called erre and it is pronounced ehrr-eh Besides five yuan in Spanish, this is what apprehensible pronunciation sounds like, using English as a reference : Spanish - English Ra - rah Re - reh Ri - ree Ro - roh Ru - ruh Here are a few examples: Rata - Rat Refrigerador - Risa Refrigerator - Laughter Robot - Robot Russia - Russia S - How to pronounced S in Spanish Spanish , the letter S is called esee and it is pronounced eh-she Besides five yuan in Spanish , here's what affectively pronounced sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Sa - sah Se - Se. Si - see So - soh Su - suh Here are a few examples: Saber - To know La serpiente - Snake Silbar - To whistle Solo - Alone Subir - To go up T - How to sound T in Spanish In Spanish , the letter T is called te and it is pronounced the Next to five syringes in Spanish, this is what affectively pronounced sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English tah Te - the Ti - tee To - toh Tu - tuh Here are a few examples: Tamaño - Size La tecnología - El tiburón Technology - Shark Todo - Everything Tubo - Tube U - How to pronounced U in Spanish Spanish , the U-sound is pronounced uh and it always has the same sound. Here are a few examples: Único - Unique Uva - Grape Usar - To use Ubicación - Subir Location - To go up V - How to pronounced V in Spanish in Spanish, V is called ve and it is pronounced uh-veh Depending on where you are, you may also hear a few alternative names for V in Spanish as : v chica (small v) v pequeña (small v) v de vaca (v in cows) Besides the five yuan in Spanish, here's what affectively pronounce sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Va - bah Ve - beh Vi - bee Vo - boh Vu - buh Below are a few examples: El valor - Value La ventana - Window Vivir - To live Volar - To fly vulnerable - Vulnerable W - How to pronounce W in Spanish the letter W is called doble u and it is pronounced doh-bleh uh Note : In Spain, it is called doble ue Besides five pronounceloes in Spanish , here's what appelytable pronunciation sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Wa - wah We - weh Wi - wee Wo - ai Wu - wuh In Spanish, W is not used very often, and it is often found in words coming from English , German or Chinese as Korean or Chinese. In Spanish words coming from other languages, W is sometimes pronounced as h, or a sound similar to gh with the or the name comes from german. W is pronounced b as in: Wolframio (Bohrfah-me-oh) - Wolframium (chemical element also known as Tungsten) Wagner (Bahg-neh) - Wagner (musician). W is... pronounced u when acts as a syst sound, as in: Newton (nee-uh-tohn) - Newton pronounced gh when it is located next to the catalyst, as in: Waterpolo (guh-ah-tehr-poh-loh) - Waterpolo Wafle (guh-ab-feh) - Waffle When the words that have W in Spanish come from Eastern Languages, such as Korean or Chinese, the letter W is pronounced gh, as in: Wu (guh) - Wu Taiwán (tah-ee-guh-ahn) - Taiwan X - How to pronounced X in Spanish The letter X is called equis and it is pronounced eh-kees In Spanish, this letter usually has the same pronunciation as the sound of K and S together and sounds like ks, just as it is in English, as in the words: Exito - Success Exuberante - Exuberant Besides five yuan in Spanish , this is what the announcing sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Far away - xah Xe - xeh Xi - xee Xo - xoh Xu - xuh However, there are times when it has a sound similar to J in Spanish. The most important examples of this pronunciation are: Mexico - Mexico Texas - Texas There are frequent examples of words of native origin, where the letter X in Spanish may have the same pronunciation as sh in English. However, they are not normal for you to think of them as honorable exceptions. Here are a few examples: Xcaret is pronounced sh-cah-reht (An ecological park near Cancún) Xel-Ha is pronounced shehl-hah (Another ecological park near Cancún) Xola is pronounced sho-lah (A metro station in Mexico City) Y - Y pronunciation in Spanish In Spanish, the letter Y is called ye and it is pronounced yeh, and in some places , it is still called y griega, a name it was previously used to have. Besides the five negatives in Spanish, here's what announcing sounds like, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Ya - yah Ye - yeh Yi - yee Yo - yoh Yu - yuh In addition, there is an alternative pronunciation in case the letter Y is written by itself (no synular) so it means and in Spanish. In that case, it is pronounced as a short ee This is a few examples: Ya - Was Ayer - Yesterday La yema - Yoke El coyote - Coyote La yugular - Jugular Z - Pronunciation Z in Spanish, the letter Z is called zeta and it is pronounced zeh-tah In most Latin American countries , the letter Z is pronounced similarly to the way the letter S is pronounced in English. However, in Spain, Z is pronounced similarly to the way th sounds in English, as in the thnk word To keep things simple, we will use Latin American pronunciation in this Tutorial. Besides the five syringes in Spanish, here's what affectively pronounced how it sounds, using English as a reference: Spanish - English Za - zah Ze - zeh Zi - zee Zo - zoh Zu - zuh Here are a few examples: El - Zen shoes - Zen La enzima - Enzyme El abrazo - Hug El azúcar - FAQ about sugar and common problems with Spanish pronunciation Let's Make a few common questions that will make things easier along the way when it comes to the pronunciation of letters and words in Spanish. Common Diphthongs pronunciation in Spanish As we mentioned before, pronunciation of the pronunciation in Spanish can be a challenge for native English users. Sometimes, a syn means in Spanish sounds like another in English, and things get confusing quickly. Well, when it comes to having the same phonet, called diphthongs, things can become more confusing and that's why we're going to go through the sound of the usual bud posts in Spanish. What is Diphthong in Spanish? I will do my best to keep things simple here, lets start ... First of all, we need to be aware of the fact that in Spanish, there are 2 types of synounds. When it comes to powerful synouns, called vocales abiertas which are: a, e, o Become more confused and that's why we're going to go through the sound of the usual bud posts in Spanish. What is Diphthong in Spanish? I will do my best to keep things simple here, lets start ... First of all, we need to be aware of the fact that in Spanish, there are 2 types of synounds, called vocales abiertas which are: a, e, o Become more confused and that's why we're going to go through the sound of the usual bud posts in Spanish. What is Diphthong in Spanish? I will do my best to keep things simple here, lets start ... 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example: there's a lot of smoke in Spanish that would be: or mucho humo. Once when H sounds If the letter H is next to the letter C in Spanish, on its right side; then it obtained a sound similar to ch in the English word Chocolate On all other occasions, pretending H wasn't even there. A Few Problematic words with H in Spanish: Finally, I want to emphasize a few words in Spanish with H that are particularly problematic for many of my students. They are often the same words as their English partners, and this makes things a little more difficult when it comes to correct pronunciation. Here are the words: Spanish - English Habitat - Habitat Habitar - To inhabit Habitación - Room Hospital - Hospital Hotel - Hotel The pronunciation of B and V in Spanish The short answer is: Both B and V are pronounced in the same way in Spanish, as a regular b in most cases. If you are just starting out and you like to keep things simple. That's all you need to know now. Move on to the next letter. The longer the answer... On the other hand, if you have been learning Spanish for a while, and you want to improve your pronunciation so that you sound like a native, here are a few tutorials that will help you move forward: As we just said, B and V in Spanish are pronounced the same way. However, there are 2 pronunciations for both of them: The b oclusiva, which we would call strong b (e.g. bueno - well) and a b aproximante, which we would call soft b (e.g. saber - to know) At this point, you might think something like... Great Miguel, thank you! 2 Pronunciation, got it! But wait! Not so fast. How do you know when to use each pronunciation? That comes next ... The letter B or V is pronounced a strong B when... it is the first letter in a sentence (For example, Buenos días - Good morning) It is placed after the letter M (For example, cambiar - to change) When it is ahead by the letter N, even if it is in another word (For example, Un buen día - A good day) It is the whole thing, but let's make it easier ... Simple V&#amp;B shortcuts: If you want to keep things simple, just follow these 2 instructions: If the letter B or V is the letter first of a sentence, pronounced it as a strong B (even if it is only 1 word) If the letter B or V is not the first letter of a sentence, pronounced it as a soft B That's it. That will work 90% of the time, and no one will even notice that 10% is not perfect. If you happen to run into your high school Spanish professor, and he or she notices a pronunciation lying in this 10%, tell him (or her) that I say it's OK, that you have my blessing. The person will come back immediately, do not worry => Why do I tell you this? So you stop worrying about being perfect, and get the perfect pronunciation all the time. Relax! Just make it work, and practice as much as possible. That's how you improve. If you're very worried about not saying the perfect thing, and because of this, end up not practiced, that's when you're in trouble. Everything's going to be okay. Your brain will adjust and improve over time. Don't worry about it, just practice and have fun! => Now, let's go through a few examples (pay attention to the marked letters): Strong B Buenos días - Good morning Voy a cambiar la música - I'll change que tenga un buen día music - Have a nice day Soft B Quiero probar los tacos - I want to taste tacos Estoy bien , gracias - I'm fine, thank you ¿Cuánto cuesta esta bebida? - What's this drink? Strong V Voy a caminar al parque - I'll walk in the park Veo que estás mejor - I see you're doing better Quiero comprar un videojuego - I want to buy a video game Soft V Quiero ver una película de comedia - I want to see a comedy ¿Cómo and a pagar su compra? - How will you pay for your purchase? ¿Cuándo vamos a comer? - When are we going to eat? That's all for now. Let's move on to the next letter. The pronunciation of G in Spanish The pronunciation of the letter G in Spanish is similar to English in most cases, except for a few exceptions for the letters E and I. There are 2 sounds for G in Spanish: Soft pronunciation according to the G habit available in English , as in gaga words: Harsh g sound like the sound of H in the heart word Actually, the harsh sound that I just mentioned is the same sound used to pronounce J in Spanish. In most cases, G has a soft sound that you are accustomed to, but as I said before, the problem occurs when the letter G is used next to the E and I syn sounds. Harsh G-sound: When G is next to E and I, G sounds harsh like the letter H in the heart (like the letter J in Spanish) For example: Gel - Gilbert Gelo - Gilbert Soft G sound (normal sound): When there is a u between G and the letters E or I, G has a soft sound , as in gaga and u are not pronounced. Example: Miguel - Michael Guillermo - William What about gue and qui? Those are German words, or Spanish It's Spanish. Not many words require this, but you should know about it. As we just mentioned, when G is next to the E and I synounces, it may have different pronunciations. First, the harsh one that is similar to J in Spanish, as in GE and GI and a soft one, when it is next to the other negatives. But, what about the words that you need to pronounced U between G and E, or G and I; such as penguins in Spanish? Well, in that case you use diéresis as the name in Spanish for the 2 small dots on top of U. Whenever they are present, the U between G and E, or G and I, really does not sound like a U. Here are a few examples: El pingüino - Penguin Vergüenza - Shame Bilingüe - Bilingual G besides the negatives In addition , whenever you find the letter G next to other conc conc conc conc conc conc conc concy words (as in the case of gr, and gl) it will have a soft sound, similar to the throttle Below are a few examples: Free Gracias - Thank you globally - Global An easy way to remember how to pronounced the letter G : This is an easy memo that will help you remember which sounds require harsh G-sounds when they are not accompanied by the letter u: Genghis Khan is a harsh Gentleman The underlined sections will help you remember which letters require harsh pronunciation for G in Spanish when they are not accompanied by the letter u. The pronunciation of Q in Spanish Q in Spanish is often used next to the E or I syn; However, in these cases, the letter U next to the letter Q is not pronounced and this can sometimes confuse native English users. I must admit that, as a native Spanish speaking person, I even thought this was confusing and it was something that caused me a lot of trouble when I was a boy in elementary school. In general, whenever you see the letter Q in Spanish, just pronounced it as if it were a K in English and ignored the letter U next to it. Unless, Q and you are next to the A or O, very rare. An example in Spanish would be from the quorum, which is in English, refers to the number of members of a group that need to be present to make a decision. Another example is the word aqua commonly used to point to a color that is a combination of green light and blue light. This kind of word is so rare in Spanish, that I can't even remember any other examples. The pronunciation of J in Spanish the letter J in Spanish is always pronounced in the same way. It sounds like a harsh version of the sound that H makes when it is located next to a phonounce in English, as in h er words but with a stronger sound. Many native English-speaking people tend to pronounce J in Spanish, using a soft sound similar to the English pronunciation, as in the words Jeff or John. However, this can be confusing for native Spanish users as I sounds similar to ll and Y pronunciation in Spanish. A easy to master J in Spanish, is to practice the pronunciation of commonly used words. Here are a few examples... Popular words include J in Spanish: Ja El jabón - - Jalar - To pull Japón - Japanese Je El jefe - Boss Jesús - Jesus Ji Jo José - Joseph Jorge - George La joya - Jewel Ju El juez - Judge El jugo - Juice Junio - June Pronunciation of LL in Spanish: The pronunciation of LL in Spanish, called doble ele, is relatively similar to J's English pronunciation in the word Jessica. However, native English speaks often tend to pronounce it as an L and it is important that you avoid this. This usually happens with words that can be followed by a negative in the middle or at the beginning of a word. The most common mistake occurs with the word tortilla, often pronounced toh-tee-lah but should sound like toh-tee-yah Here are a few other common examples: Me llamo Carolina - My name is Caroline Llegar - To get to Llover - To rain El gallo - Rooster La lluvia - Rain Lluvioso - Rain As an additional note, there are a few places , such as Argentina and the region of Uruguay, in which LL is pronounced with a sound similar to sh in English. For example, using this pronunciation from Pollo (poh-yoh), would sound like pollo (poh-sho) However, most countries follow the pronunciation instructions we only covered, so don't worry about it. Just be aware of it in case you ever run into a chicken stand run by Argentina, or need an autograph from Lionel Messi, the soccer superstar from Argentina. Just choose one, keep it simple and move on. Pronunciation of Y in Spanish: There are two ways to pronunciation Y in Spanish: 1- It is pronounced as a short ee in English when ... When it is by itself, and it is used as a combination and as in esto y aquello (this and that) When it is the last letter in a word like estoy en casa (I'm at home) 2- When it is next to a syn sound, it is pronounced similarly to how J sounds in the word Jessica (that is , similar to LL in Spanish) A few examples include: Ya sé - I know Quiero que l apoyes - I want you to support me Yo estoy aquí - I'm here Voy a caminar - I'll walk Hoy es un buen día - Today is a beautiful day Él y ella son amigos - He and she are friends As an additional note , there are a few places, like Argentina, where Y is pronounced sh but in most places it sounds like a soft J when the word Jessica is pronounced in English. Just keep it simple and practice as often as possible. Comparing the pronunciation of H, G, J, LL, and Y Spanish pronunciation of the letters H,G, J, LL, and Y is often problematic for native English speakers. Sometimes, the Spanish pronunciation of H,G, J, LL, and Y, may resemble the pronunciation of other letters in English. Because of this, the pronunciation of these letters often becomes a problem for many of my students. In this section, we'll look at how to pronounced them, and we'll compare them to make things easier. Spanish pronunciation chart of H,G, J, LL, and Y: H G J Y Soft G / Harsh G In Spanish, J J like a harsh h in English LL sounds like ll In Jessica 2 Pronunciations: ee as combined or at the end of a word, and English J next to a monosyllam ha ga ja la ya he gue je lle ye hi gi gj ji li yi ho go jo lo yo hu gu ju lu yu This is a simple memo to help you remember a few of them The pronunciation is often problematic for native English speakers (imagine it as vividly as possible. Including color, sound and smell): Henry is dumb and Genghis Khan is a harsh gentleman with a small heart of jelly Let's break it down, The first part, Henry is dumb will help you remember that H (first letter in henry name) is DUMB in Spanish (la H es muda) Part two , Genghis Khan is a harsh gentleman who will remind you that when G is next to E and I, it needs a harsh pronunciation G (as in harsh G-entleman) Third part, a small heart of jelly will remind you that J in Spanish, sounds like a short H (as in the little H-eart) , also, that Y in Spanish (the last letter in the word Jelly) can sound like J in English, as in the first part of Jelly and as well as ee in English, like the last part of the word Jelly. I know it's a complicated one, but give it a try. It's a creative way to remember these problematic pronunciations. Just visualize the scene in your mind, with as many colors, smells and sounds as possible and it will be easier to remember. What is the deal with 2 dots on top of u what are some words in Spanish? Finally, let's go through something relatively rare, but sometimes you may encounter. An example of this, is the word for penguin: Pingüino. Did you notice two dots on top of the letter u? They are called diéresis in Spanish, and it is used for words in which the u-word between g and the phonet e and i is necessary to sound like an actual u. Here are a few other examples using a diéresis: Bilingüe - Bilingual La vergüenza - Shame El pingüino - Penguin Pronunciation of C, K, S, Z in Spanish It's time to look at the next set of letters, C, K, S &#amp; Z. The pronunciation of these letters has similarities , making it easy for them to review and remember. The pronunciation of C in Spanish C in Spanish is pronounced similarly to how it sounds in English in most countries around the world. When C is followed by the yuan A, O, U, it has a hard sound that sounds similar to a K, as in the English car word. In most countries, when C is followed by the E or I phones, it has a softer sound similar to the letter S, similar to the pronunciation of the word mobile phone in English. A few examples of this pronunciation include: cerro (hill) and cilindro (cylinder) However, it is a different case in Spain where the letter C, followed by E or I is pronounced as th in English, as in the word Let's think A few examples of this pronunciation are: cerro (hill) and cilindro cilindro These differences are not a big deal, so don't worry. Just be aware of them and let your brain take care of the rest as you practice. Although there are people in Spain who pronounced the word C as z in English, most countries around the world pronounced it similar to S sound in English. Don't worry too much about this kind of detail, your brain will adjust as needed depending on your location and who you're talking to. An easy way to remember these pronunciations is to imagine the following scene (imagine it as vividly as possible): COmbine a CUp of CARrots and CELeery with CINnamon In a nutshell, in Spanish, C ... sounds like a K when followed by a synound, o, u sound like S when followed by e and i Here are a few words with C in Spanish: La casa - House El carro - Car El camino - El cepillo Road - Brush El centro - Central La cebolla - Onion El círculo - Circle El cilindro - Cylinder La ciudad - City of La comida - Food Comprar - To Buy Cocinar - To Cook Cuidar - To Take care of La cuchara - Spoon El cuchillo - K's Pronunciation Knife in Spanish There is not much to say here. In practical terms, K's pronunciation is in Spanish, similar to how it is pronounced in English. It's a little shorter, and less air comes out of your mouth when you say it, but it is practically the same. Here are a few examples: El Karma - Karma Kenia - Kenya El Kilogramo - Kilogram El Koala - Koala Pronunciation of S in Spanish Pronunciation of the letter S in Spanish, similar to how it is pronounced in English. It's a little shorter, but it's almost the same. Let's look at a few examples: Saber - To know Seguir - To follow Si - Yes Solo - Alone La subscripción - Register the pronunciation of Z in Spanish Pronunciation of Z in Spanish, which is generally similar to the pronunciation of S in English throughout Latin America. In Spain, it is pronounced similarly to th in English, as in the word Think in words such as Zapato. So in a nutshell, Just keep things simple and pronounced z the way Latin Americans do, it like a s. Don't worry too much about it, and you'll be fine. Your brain will adjust as needed as you practice. Here are a few words with the spanish letter Z: El zapato - Shoe La zona - Zone Zurcir - to mend clothes This is the pronunciation of the letters in this group related to each other: Sounds like a K Sounds like an S Pronunciation of T, R, R &#amp; RR Pronunciation of D in Spanish : Although there are small differences between certain cases, in practical terms, the pronunciation of D in Spanish is similar to the pronunciation of D in English. Here are a few examples: Dar - To give Daño - Damage Tienda - Store Dedo - Finger Idea - Idea Debate - Debate Distancia - Distance Dinosaurio - Dinosaur Dinero - Money - Donate Dormir - Sleep Doctor - Doctor Dueño - Owner Dulce - Sweet Duplicar - Duplicate The Pronunciation of T in Spanish: There are minor differences differences pronunciation of the letter T in Spanish and English, but they are practically the same. Now, see the following words including T in Spanish: También - Also Estar - To be Entrar - To enter Tiempo - Time Tienda - Store Tipo - Type Tener - To have Temporal - Temporary Terminar - To finish Tu - You Tuyo - Yours Tulipán - Tulip How to Pronounce the R in Spanish Learning how to pronounce the R in Spanish is because important there are the words that are very similar to , and that is the pronunciation of r that allows us to distinguish between them. Here are a few examples: Expensive and caro (expensive) and carro (car) Zero and hill - cero (no) and cerro (hill) However, you should not worry too much about this because even if you don't make it perfect, the context of each sentence will help others understand what you're talking about most of the time. So don't stress about it, just have fun! First of all, it is important to note that there are two different R's in Spanish. A powerful R that sounds like this: caro And a soft R that sounds like this: caro Strong R sound is pronounced in 3 main cases: When a word starts with the letter R Whenever you see a pair of r in a word Whenever the letter R follows the letter L , N or S. To remember this in the end, just imagine this is as vibrant as possible (feel scared if possible): A few lions purr as they pronounced R Spain Just remember from the lion, remove the synounce, and you get L, N, S; the letters are then a single r with a strong r pronunciation in Spanish. Some examples are: Realidad - Reality Correr - To run Sonreir - To smile In the case of sonreir (to smile), the r follows the letter n, and according to the L, N, S Rule we just mentioned, it should have a strong r pronunciation. What about soft R? It's easy, whenever you see the letter r in a situation that is not in the three cases I just mentioned, you can pronounced it as a soft R. As I've said before, don't worry too much about these rules. Over time, your instincts will tell you when to sound a soft r and a strong r. Keyboard shortcuts to learn the pronunciation of Spanish R: Now, let's make things easier. Here's a simple version of these rules that will work most of the time: If a word starts with R, pronounced it strong R If a word with dual R pronounced it strong R If a word with a single R is not at the beginning of the sentence, pronounced it soft R That's it , which will work most of the time. Don't worry about it being perfect, just keep moving forward. So we talked about cases where R is pronounced as a soft r and a powerful r , but, how do you actually pronounced them? That's next. Pronunciation of soft R in Spanish The pronunciation of soft R in Spanish is very similar to the pronunciation D and Double T has English when they are in the middle of the syn sound. We can find an example of this in the word butter and coder. Pay attention to how double t and d'are pronounced in those words and keep that in mind. Butter, coder. Now, use it to pronunciation of words with soft r pronunciation in Spanish. Example: Caro - Expensive Cero - Zero Yo quiero - I want It easy. Here's something that will help you remember: Imagine a group of Spanish house keepers who r eating soft butter. The words coders and butter are examples that include the pronunciation of soft r in Spanish. Listen to them: coder, butter. These words will help you remember how to pronunciation Soft R in words such as caro, cero, quiero. How to Roll Your R in Spanish Now, let's look at the pronunciation of Strong R This is a little harder but it is easier than most people think. You just need to find the right technique and practice a little. Actually, this is not an instincnal sound like ghosts or pa but rather the sound most kids make when they are very few worldwide. R strong in Spanish is a sound that needs to be learned and practiced. It's hard to explain how to scroll your R with text, so I made this video to make things easier: Keyboard shortcuts to Understand how to pronounced the stress of words in Spanish in Spanish, most words have an accented syn syming pronounced with a little more emphasis. This is important because in some cases, there are words written in the same way, but are pronounced differently because of the tension in a symyn. However, you should not worry too much about pronunciation of words perfectly, because the context of a sentence will help others understand what you are trying to say. For example, Papa - Potato Papá - Father These are two words that look the same but have different pronunciations and meanings. Although you do not want to call someone's father a potato by mistake, even if you actually did it, someone else will be able to understand what you are saying based on the context of your sentence, such as: ¿Puedes llamar a papa y pedirle que compre leche? Can you order your potatoes and ask him to buy milk? From that sentence, it is quite understandable that papa (potato) is probably Papá (father.) It is important that you understand this, but do not stress about it. Just practice as much as possible. People will understand what you mean and you will improve as you go. How to pronounced the stress of words when you read them ... All words in Spanish have a symym with an accented pronunciation. Even if you do not see it. When you read a word with a written voice, it's easy to know which sy they should be emphasized when you read aloud. However, not all words have a written voice. So in those cases, how do you know how to pronounced them? In this section, we'll take a look at some simple instructions that will make it easy for you how to pronounced the tension of words in Spanish. Vocal pronunciation shortcut 1: If you see a accent written, emphasize the symyst sound with that sign. Here are a few examples: La Mamá - Mom El Papá - Dad El árbol - Tree El murciélago - Bat Accent Pronunciation Shortcut 2: If you see a word with NO accent marks, and it DOES NOT end with n,s, or a vowel; then you emphasize the pronunciation of the last symyn on the right. Here are a few examples (highlights corresponding to marked syringes): Pensar - To think Desarmador - Densidad screwdriver - Vocal pronunciation density Shortcut 3: If you see a word without accents, and it DOES NOT end in n,s, or a phonet, then you emphasize the second to the last syringe, starting from the right. Here are a few examples: Hablan - They say camas - Bed Casa - House Although there are a few exceptions that are not covered by shortcuts, they will work for a large part of the words commonly used in Spanish. Now, these shortcuts will make things much easier for you, and they are quite reasonable and simple. But let's make it easier using the 80/20 Principle to focus on the things that matter most. To do this, we will focus and simplify further. Super-streamlined vocal pronunciation shortcut: If you see a voice in a word, emphasize that symn if a word ends infinitely with R and NO written voice, emphasize the last synn on the right. For all other words, emphasize the second to last syn if there are no marks and words ending in the phonet, or the letters N or S. These simple instructions are not designed to help you pass the test or to ensure you are always 100% correct. They are designed to be easy to learn and remember so you can practice and learn more as you go. The point of all this is, abandon the need to be perfect and allow yourself to make playful mistakes as you practice. Learning Spanish is just a matter of perseverance, and every mistake you make, helps you get closer to your goals. They are just proof that you are working to get better and move forward. So just practice regularly, and your brain will take care of the rest. Finally, let's take a look at a few common pronunciation patterns and common questions regarding the pronunciation of accents and accent syts that you will encounter regularly in Everyday Spanish. 1- Words ending in cion In general, most words ending in cion will have a voice written on the last symyth on the right. A few common examples are (bold letters showing emphatical pronunciation): Canción - decisión song - decides Emoción - emotion 2- Infinite in-house words Unless they have a written voice, most infinitely clear phrases will have an emphatical syringe on the last syringe. Here are a few common examples: Hablar - To speak - To eat Decir - To say 3- Why is it the word for yes in Spanish (sí), sometimes there is an accent and sometimes not (si)? Because they are 2 different words. To yes in Spanish, you speak a sí, with an accent. To say if in Spanish you speak sí, without an accent. 4 - Why is it that the rhetoric and el sometimes have an accent, and sometimes not? The short answer is: because it depends on what you are trying to say. éI vs el In Spanish, el has no sign, means the and is used for singly masculine non nomity. Example: El dinero está en la mesa - Money is on the table El avión no ha llegado todavía - The plane has not yet arrived but El teclado está sucio - They keyboard is dirty On the other hand, éI with an accent, which means he and it is used as a personal admity. Here are a few common examples: El es mi amigo - He is my friend El es el mejor chef de México - He is the best chef in Mexico No sé quien es él - I do not know who he is vs tu It is a similar story with tu and tu. In Spanish, tu means you the second person of the singate as in ... tú eres inteligente - you're smart, and tu means yours, as in ... ese es tu problema - that's your problem. 5- Why is the word in Spanish (qué) sometimes marked and sometimes not? Good question, this is something that troubles many native Spanish-speaking people in everyday life. In Spanish, if you want to express the idea of something when asking questions or making an gradation statement, you need to use a qué with a voice. Here are a few examples: ¿Qué quieres comer? What do you want to eat? ¿Qué buscas? - What are you looking for? ¿Qué bonita casa! - What a beautiful house! If it is used as a link, you write it as sticks without an accent (it usually means that or something), to say things like this: ¿Cuál es el que te gusta? Which one do you like? Eso es lo que pasó - That's what happened Busco algo que no sea muy caro - I'm looking for something that is not so expensive 6- Why the word for por qué in Spanish sometimes has an accent and sometimes does not? That's because they are 2 different words. Por qué means why porque means because Here are a few examples: ¿Por qué has tarde llegado? - Why are you late? Porque había mucho - Because there was a lot of traffic . 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