

Pronouncing Spanish

- In Spanish you must pronounce every single letter except 'h'. Once you have learned the sounds of Spanish you can pronounce ANY Spanish word!
- The easiest thing about pronouncing Spanish is that the vowels are always pronounced the same way.

- a = ahh as in alright
- e = eh as in everyone
- i = eee as in eat
- o = oh as in ohio
- u = ooo as in uper
- y = eee as in eat

- **In Spain the letter 'v' is pronounced as a 'b'.**

ex:

vaca = cow

verde = green

bah - cah

vaer - day

- **In Spanish, 'll' is pronounced like 'y' in English. One 'l' is pronounced the same as it is in English.**

ex:

pollo = chicken

Amarillo = yellow

poh - yoh

ah - mah - ree - yoh

flores = flowers

pantalones = pants

floor - ays

pahn - tah - lone - ays

- **In Spanish the 'r' sound is rolled when doubled 'rr'. It is also rolled if the 'r' is at the beginning or end of a word.**

ex:

rubio = blonde

perro = dog

borrador = eraser

rruo - bee - oh

peh - rroh

boorr - ah - doorr

- **The curly line or 'tilde' over an 'n' in Spanish means it is pronounced 'ny', like the first 'n' in 'onion'.**

ex:

piña = pineapple

baño = bathroom

peen - yah

bahn - yoh

- **The 'j' in Spanish is pronounced in like the letter 'h' in English.**

ex:

garaje = garage

jamón = ham

gah - rah - hay

ha - mohn

- **Spanish can sound different in different regions.** For example, in northern Spain people usually say 'z' like the English 'th' in 'think'. However, in most of Latin America people say 'z' like the English 's'.

ex:

empezar = to begin

ehm – pay – sar

plaza = plaza

plah - sah

- **H – this letter is never pronounced in Spanish. It is always silent.**

ex:

hola – hello

oh – lah

hombre – man

ohm - bray

- **Qu – this is pronounced like the English letter ‘K’**

ex:

¿Qué tal? = How are you?

kay – tahl

¡Qué asco! = How disgusting!

kay – ahs - coh

Accents/Stresses

- **Spanish uses accents or stressed vowels to help with the pronunciation of words.**

When a vowel has an accent you are to stress that letter in the word. In other words you give that vowel more emphasis than the other vowels.

ex:

María = Mary

Mah – ree – ah

matemáticas = math

mah – tay – mah – tee – cahs

cómodo = comfortable

coh – moh - doh