

Spanish Pronunciation Guide

A. Vowels

a	e	i	o	u
Ana	Pepe	Inés	ocho	Cuba
habla	es	día	rojo	Lupe
alemán	español	diciembre	hola	uno

B. Consonants – Many are softer than in English.

be bata	efe familia
ka kilo	eme mesa
pe Pepe	te Tomás
de David	jota José
ele libro	ene nacho
ese señorita	

C. The Letter C: Hard when followed by A, O, or U:

canta	copa	cuna
	Soft when followed by E or I:	
cero	ceremonia	cinco ciencia

D. The Letter Ch/Che: Similar to English: chico chao ocho

E. The Letter G: Like English

gato	gana	goma	gorro	gusta	guru
	GUE & GUI:				
guerra	guerrilla	guía	guitarra		

F. The Consonant H: Always silent except for when in CH

hora	hasta	hijo
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G. The Letter J: Pronounced like the English H

José	jueves	hoja
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H. The Letter Q: Always followed by UE or UI.

	QUE sounds like "K"		
	QUI sounds like "KEY"		
qué	pequeño	aquí	quince

I. The Letter R: Trilled only at the beginning of a word or if it's double RR in the middle of the word.

rojo ruso carro corral

Single R is pronounced with a single trill or a "flap" (it's like a soft D sound)

martes enero americano

J. The Letter V: Pronounced like B, but softer

verde viene jueves ave

K. The Letter Z: Pronounced like S

marzo tiza cabeza

L. Word Stress: Stressed on next-to-last syllable if it ends in vowel, N, or S

enero americano sombrero hablan estudian

Ends in other consonants, stressed on last syllable

corral papel borrador animal

Written accent marks move the stress to that syllable

adíos lápiz José matemáticas sábado