



Lesson 18:

The Alphabet in Spanish

LearningSpanishForBeginners.com

Transcript

Hi, today we are going to take a look at the Spanish alphabet. Let's get started.

The alphabet in Spanish is very similar to the alphabet in English; it just has one additional letter, the "ñ".

The "ñ" goes between the letter "n" and the letter "o" in the alphabet.

An easy way to remember where the "ñ" goes in the alphabet is to think of the Spanish word for boy, "niño".

You just have to remove the "i" from "niño" and you have the right order.

As a note, a few years ago the Spanish alphabet had two additional letters the double l or "doble ele", and the "ch" or "che", but they are not recognized as official letters anymore.

So, as we just said the Spanish alphabet has the same letters as the English alphabet +1, the "ñ".

Spanish is considered to be a phonetic language where each letter has one specific sound.



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However, there are a few exceptions worth noticing.

For example, the letter “g” sounds the same way it does in English except when it is next to the letters “e” and “i”.

In those cases it sound like this: “ge” would sound like “he”, and “gi” would sound like “hee”.

To make a soft “g” sound with both “e” and “i” you need to add the letter “u” between the “g” and the vowels “e” and “i”.

For example, in the words “Miguel” and “Guillermo”.

Another letter that has a different sound is the letter “y” or “y griega” in Spanish.

When it is next to a vowel, it has a soft sound as in “yo”.

But when it is used to join two words it sounds like “ee”.

For example: this AND that – esto Y aquello.



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The letter “h” is another special case. The letter “h” is not pronounced.

It is mute, pretend it doesn't exist except when it is next to a “c”.

The “ch” sounds similar to the way it does in English.

For example, the word “chocolate” sounds just like in English “chocolate”.
“Chocolate”.

Another example of this kind of exceptions is the letter “LL”, which has a soft sound as in the word “llave” or “lover”.

But when it is a “single L” it sounds similar to the way it does in English as in “la” or “los”.

Now let's look at a few examples with each letter of the alphabet in Spanish.

Pay close attention to the pronunciation of the letters.

Although these pronunciations focus on the Spanish spoken in Mexico, they are very similar to Spanish spoken in other countries.

Let's get started.



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Let's begin with the letter a.

Agua - Water

Amarillo - Yellow

Ardilla - Squirrel

Now let's move on with the letter b, which is pronounced "beh" in Spanish.

Biblioteca - Library

Bolsa - Bag

Boca - Mouth

Now the letter "c" or "ce" in Spanish.

As a note, whenever the "c" is next to the letter "e" and "i", it sound similar to the letter "s".

Let's look at some examples:

Casa - House

Comida - Food

Cepillo - Brush



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Now the letter “d” which in Spanish is “de”.

Dedo - Finger

Decir - To say

Doblar - To bend

Now the letter “e”, in Spanish its “e”.

Escuchar - To listen

Estar - To be

Elefante – Elephant

Now let’s look at the letter “f”, which in Spanish is called “efe”.

Foco - Lightbulb

Fiesta - Party

Filosofía - Philosophy

The letter “g” in Spanish is called “ge”.

A few examples are:

Gato - cat

Guillermo - William

Gastar – To spend



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Next is the letter “h”.

Hacer - To do

Hablar - To speak

Hogar - Home

The next one is the letter “l”, which in Spanish is called “i” (ee).

A few examples are:

Inteligente - Intelligent

Importante - Important

India - India

Now the letter “j”, which in Spanish is called “jota”.

A few examples are:

Joven - Young

Jalar – To pull

Juego - Game



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Now, let's move on to the letter "k", which in Spanish is called "ka".

A few examples are:

Kilogramo - Kilo

Karate - Karate

Koala - Koala

Next, is the letter "l", which in Spanish is called "ele".

Libertad - Freedom

Ladrar - To Bark

Lobo - Wolf

Now the letter "m", which in Spanish is called "eme".

A few examples are:

México - Mexico

Minuto - Minute

Morder - To bite

Next, is the letter "n", which in Spanish is called "ene". A few examples are:

Nuevo - New

Norte - North

Nada - Nothing



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The next one is the letter “ñ”, the extra word in Spanish.

A few examples are:

Niño - Boy

Año - Year

Acompañar - To accompany

Next, is the letter “o”, which in Spanish is called “o”.

A few examples are:

Ocho - Eight

Obtener - To obtain

Ostión - Oyster

The next one on the list is the letter “p”, which in Spanish is called “pe”.

A few words with that letter are:

Parque - Park

Puerta - Door

Puente – Bridge



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We are almost done.

Now let's move on to the letter "q", which in Spanish is called "cu".

The letter "q" should always have a letter "u" on the right of it, it never goes alone.

The sound of this letter is very similar to the letter "k", let's look at some examples:

Querer - To want

Química - Chemistry

Qué - What

The next one on the list is the letter "r", which in Spanish is called "erre".

This one is a little hard for some people, but just be patient with yourself, with a little practice you will get it right.

Let's see some examples:

Reír – To laugh

Ruido - Noise

Reparar - To repair



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Let's move on to letter "s". Which in Spanish is called "ese".

A few examples with it are:

Sombra - Shadow

Simple - Simple

Sí - Yes

The next one is the letter "t", in Spanish is called "te".

Some words with it are:

Tomate - Tomato

Tener - To have

Televisión - Television

The next letter is the letter "u", in Spanish is called "u".

Some examples are:

Único - Unique

Uno - One

Uña - Nail



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Now the letter “v”, in Spanish is called “ve”, “ve chica” or “uve”.

Some examples are:

Ver - To see

Vender - To sell

Valor - Value

The next one is the letter “w”, in Spanish is called “doble u”.

A few words are:

Whisky - Whisky

Windsurf - Windsurf

Washington - Washington

The next one is the letter “x”, which in Spanish is called “equis”.

The letter x in Spanish has 2 sounds. One is similar to the way it sounds in English, for example the words “exact” or “exactly”, “exacto” o “exactamente”.

The other one sounds similar to the letter “j” in Spanish, or “jota”. For example, “México”.



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However, there are exceptions derived from indigenous words.

With practice you will get familiar with the pronunciation of these words,

you don't have to worry about them right now. Just know they exist, and move on.

A few examples are:

Xavier - Xavier

México - Mexico

Exacto - Exact

The next one is the letter “y” or “i griega” in Spanish.

A few examples are:

Yo - I

Y - And

Yeso - Plaster



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The last one is the letter “z” or “zeta” in Spanish.

A few examples are:

Zebra - Zebra

Zanahoria - Carrot

Zapato - Shoe

And remember, to learn more feel free to visit

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See you next time, hasta la próxima.