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In the rest of the positions, the Spanish v is similar to the English b, but often pronounced with the lips barely open rather than closed tight. Linguists represent this variant sound of v as [ɸ]. You may hear it inside a word (except before n), for example: caravana(caravan), provocar(provoke), arveja(pea), and ovni(UFO). The Spanish v sounds exactly like the English b when it is found at the beginning of a word or after the letter n, for example in vaso(glass) and enviar(send). In the rest of the positions, the Spanish v is similar to the English b, but often pronounced with the lips barely open rather than closed tight. Linguists represent this variant sound of v as [ɸ]. You may hear it inside a word (except before n), for example: caravana(caravan), provocar(provoke), arveja(pea), and ovni(UFO). If youre studying Spanish, youre in luck: the Spanish sibilant is the same as the Latin sibilant as English and is very simple! Spanish is an incredibly phonetic language, meaning that it is pronounced exactly as it is written. This makes it much easier than English, which often has a lot of spelling and pronunciation rules and exceptions. Let me show you all about it. Table of contentsIn Spanish, the Spanish alphabet is called alfabeto, and each letter is llamada letra. The Spanish alphabet has 27 letters only one more than English! They are as follows: a (a) b (be, la beta, be grande, be larga) c (ce) d (de) e (e) f (efe) g (hache) i (i, i latina) j (jota) k (k) l (ele) m (eme) n (ene) o (o) p (pe) q (cu) r (erre) s (ese) t (te) u (u) v (uve, ve, ve baja, ve chica, ve corta, ve pequea) w (uve doble, ve doble, doble uve, doble ve, doble u) (quis) y (i griega, ye) z (zeta) You may be surprised that Spanish have multiple pronunciations. Ill explain B and V later, but let me cover a couple others now: W: In a lot of Latin American Spanish, speakers often call Wdouble ve,ve doble, ordouble uve. However, some Central American countries, like Mexico, or Colombia have been influenced by the English name for W and call itdoble u. On the other hand, Spaniards usually call ituve doble. Y: Y is very often called griega(Greek I), this also distinguishes it from I, sometimes called i latina(Latin I). But the simplifiedeyname for Y is becoming incredibly standardized in Latin America.To help you learn, you can listen to the Spanish alphabet song. The popular childrens TV showSesame Streetactually made a version of this. Check it out: Youll notice a lot of similarities and also a lot of differences with the English alphabet. Let me explain some of the most important aspects to pay attention to. Unlike English or French, Spanish vowels have only one possible pronunciation. It also corresponds with the IPA, or International Phonetic Alphabet. A is pronounced /a/, like in all. An example ismanzana(apple). E is pronounced /e/, like in end. An example iselefante(elephant). I is pronounced /i/, like the ea in eat. When Y is a vowel, it is pronounced the same as I. Examples areisla(island) andsoyl(am). O is pronounced /o/, like in orange. An example isisola(hello). U is pronounced /u/, like the ou in soup. An example isusatu(sue). The only exceptions are when U comes after G or Q or is followed by an E or I, like inguerra(war) orqueso(cheese). In these cases, the U it is silent. However, itispronounced if it has an accent, or two dots, over it, like invergenza(embarassment). This silent u is calleddiresis in Spanish. But dont worry, there are relatively few words like this! Easy, right? There is more to explain about Spanish consonants probably because there are many more of them. But dont worry, theyre not too hard either. Luckily, there are many consonants and consonant combinations in Spanish that are pronounced very closely to English. These include B, C, Ch, D, F, G, K, L, M, N, P, S, T, W, X, and Y. I will explain these shortly! Just note that most Spanish consonants are voiceless. That means you pronounce them without a puff of air, and your tongue often touches the top of your teeth. In fact, W and K are rarely used in Spanish. They are mostly for foreign loanwords likekarateandkiwi. That means you dont really need to think about them at all! Now let me explain some differences between English and Spanish pronunciations for some of these consonants. The letter C has some of the most variations in pronunciation. In most cases, it is pronounced the same as a hard C or K sound like in English. An example iscarro(car). However, when it is before an E or an I, it changes. The pronunciation depends on which dialect of Spanish the speaker uses. If the speaker is from Central and Northern Spain, its pronounced like a voiceless t in English (like thing). But if the speaker is from most other regions, especially Latin America, it will be pronounced like an S. So the wordciudad(city) might be pronounced like thiudad or ciudad, depending on the accent! Usually, G is pronounced like a hard English G, like ingate. An example isgato(cat). But similar to C above, if an E or I comes after G, it softens to an H sound, like in house. Sogeneral(general) is spelled exactly as in English, but is actually pronounced like heneral! Also, remember how the letter U might change if its sandwiched between a G and either E or I? Well, this affects Gs pronunciation also! In these cases, the hard G sound remains, like inguerra(war) noted above. How do you pronounce H in Spanish? Well, unless its combined with other consonants, like Ch, you dont! Thats why when you sayhola(hello) in Spanish, you say it like ola! In most dialects of Spanish, the H is pronounced like an H (as in house) in English. So the wordjugador(play) is pronounced like hugar. But in most parts of Spain, it is often pronounced stronger and more from the throat. It actually reminds me a bit of some J sound you find in Arabic words, which is perhaps influenced by it, being right across the Strait of Gibraltar! L is a consonant with its own pronunciation in Spanish. None of them sound like the letter L, though. Again, how you pronounce it depends on the dialect of Spanish youre speaking! In most of the Spanish-speaking world (think Spain and most of Central and South America), its pronounced like a hard Y sound, like in yogurt. Solluvia(rain) is most often pronounced like yuvia. Thats also whya(already) is pronounced similar to the English sound. This is what most students learn first and encounter the most. On the other hand, in regions of some Spanish-speaking countries, L and Y might alternatively be pronounced like a soft L sound in English or like the soft sh sound in treasure. However, this is not standard in any one country. Actually, the most famous pronunciation change belongs to Spanish as spoken in parts of Argentina and Uruguay. There, L and Y are pronounced like Sh in English. Solluvia(rain) sounds like shuvia, andya(already) sounds like shai! You may have noticed that the is the additional letter in the Spanish alphabet that does not belong to English. The squiggly line on the top is called a tilde, and the name was brought into English from Spanish. The tilde may look intimidating, but dont worry. Its actually very simple to pronounce! Its basically like a ny sound, like in onion or lanyard. Actually, have you ever drunk aia colada? Now you know that it is written with the tilde in Spanish, and thats why it has an ny sound! Q is a very simple sound in Spanish. It is always pronounced like a hard K sound and can only come before a U + E or U + I. So youll find words likequeso(cheese) andquiero(I want), but nevergueso(rero)! R is probably the letter most English speakers have difficulty with. This is because the R is always rolled in Spanish, and Spanish has specific rules for how much it is rolled. When a single R comes in the middle or the end of a word, it is usually rolled once. (Some people like it is flapped instead.) Examples of this includeletra(letter) andquiero(I want). Some people compare it to something in between an L and an R, or like the dd in English ladder. R becomes more tricky when it comes at the beginning of a word or as a set of two Rs (callederre double). Here, it is rolled or trilled longer than the examples above. Examples of this arecorrer(to run) andrumba(rumba). This also often happens when R follows an L, N, S, or Z, like the first R in alrededor(surrounding). Dont worry, it took me about a year of learning Spanish to finally be able to roll my Rs! Sometimes its just a matter of time and practice. We also have an articleall about how to roll yours. Rfor extra help! Despite being quite uncommon in Spanish, X has a lot of possible pronunciations. This is often due to influence from other languages. Before a consonant or between vowels, its usually pronounced like a ks sound as it is in English. Examples arexata(xixi) andextremo(extreme). However, when it starts a word, like xenofobia(xenophobia), it is pronounced like an S. But in some words derived from indigenous languages of the Americas, it takes on a different pronunciation. In words coming from Nahuatl, its pronounced like a strong H sound. Thats why the Spanish pronunciations for places like Mxico and Oaxaca are pronounced with H sounds, not English ks sounds! In words from other languages, like the name Xiomara, its pronounced like an S or Sh sound. The pronunciation of V depends on where it is located in a word. At the beginning of a word or after an M or N, its pronounced like a B sound. Sovamos(we go) sounds like bamos. Im sure you noticed in the alphabet above that B is calledbeand V is callebve, but the former might be callebve alta/grande/larga(tall/big/long B), and the latter might be callebve baja/chica/pequea(corta/a short/small V). This is because since they both start the sound, they sound practically identical, and the adjective can help distinguish between the letters. The adjective used to distinguish B and V, if needed, usually differs from country to country, but Spanish speakers everywhere will usually understand you, whichever you choose. However, when a V comes in the middle of a word, its pronounced like a mix between a V and a B. So the wordvivir(to live) has two types of V sounds in it! Z in Spanish is usually pronounced the same as the C incoercidos(as explained above. So in most of Spain, ill sound like a Th, but in Latin America, ill sound like an S. An example ispaiz(peace). You may notice that Spanish uses an acute accent mark (´). Its use is simple: Whenever you see a letter with an accent mark, thats where the stress lies! Thats whyaguila(eagle) is pronounced like Aguilá rather than aGÜla, andjamn(ham) is pronounced like jamÓN rather than Jamon. This accent mark can be very important, differentiating words like(vu) from(yu) and(su) from(su). Add some extra emphasis to words with the accent marks. You can also check out ourcomplete guide to Spanish accent markscovering the acute accent mark and rules for stresses, the tilde, and thediresisfor more information! So now that youve learned how to pronounce Spanish letters, what should you do next? Try building your vocabulary and learn some Spanish grammar. With the alphabet mastered, well be reading, writing, speaking, and listening well in no time. Good luck! There are 27 letters in the Spanish alphabet. Thats one more than the English alphabet, with the letter being the additional one found only in Spanish.All the other 26 letters that are in the English alphabet are also represented in the Spanish alphabet, but with different names and pronunciation.In Spanish, the alphabet is called the abecedario. Below you will find all 27 letters, along with an example word. Click on a letter or example word to hear the pronunciation.Past Changes to the Spanish AlphabetIf youve studied Spanish in the past you may recall that there used to be more letters in the alphabet. In 2014 the Spanish Royal Academy removed the ch and l letters from the Spanish alphabet.They are provided below as examples, though you should no longer consider them separate letters. 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