

El Alfabeto Español

Letter	Spanish Name	Pronunciation	Example
A	(ah)	---	autumn
B	(bay) (bay grande)	Same, but softer	baby
C	(say)	/s/ before e, i /ch/ before h /qu/ before u /k/ all other times	city chewy quad cat
D	(day)	Same, but softer	day
E	("A")	---	egg
F	("F"-ay)	Same	face
G	(hay)	/h/ before e, i /w/ before u /g/ all other times	hey water girl
H	(ah-chay)	ALWAYS silent	---
I	("E")	---	eat
J	(ho-tuh)	ALWAYS /h/	hay
K	(caw)	Same (only used in foreign words)	cat
L	("L"-ay)	Same	lion
M	("M"-ay)	Same	man
N	("N"-ay)	Same	nap
Ñ	("N"-yay)	ALWAYS /ny/	canyon
O	("O")	---	open
P	(pay)	A mix between /p/ and /b/ (no air)	---
Q	(ku)	/k/ always	key
R	(eh-ray)	/tt/ tongue touches roof of mouth always	better (R at the beginning of a word is rolled)
RR	(eh-RRay)	ALWAYS rolled	---
S	("S"-ay)	Same	sat
T	(tay)	Same, but softer	tin
U	(ooh)	---	tooth
V	(bay) (bay chica) (uvay)	/b/ mostly (/v/ sometimes between vowels)	bay
W	(doe-blay bay)	Same (only used in foreign words)	water
X	("A"-keys)	Same	ax
Y	("E"-gree-"A"-guh)	/ee/ as a vowel /y/ as a consonant	eat (as a vowel) yellow (as a consonant).
Z	("say"- tuh)	ALWAYS /s/	say

Notes:

*** Before 1994, the alphabet included “CH” and “LL” as their own letters.

*** The letters “K” and “W” are only used for the prefix “kilo” and words that don’t originally come from Spanish, like “waffle” or “koala”.

*** “LL” is pronounced /y/ (as in yellow). In some countries, like Mexico, it’s a hard sounding “Y” that sounds more like /j/. In Argentina, it sounds like /sh/.

*** In Spain, a “C” or a “Z” makes /th/ before e, i. “Gracias” in Spain sounds like “grathias”.

*** The Spanish “R” must **ALWAYS** hit the top of your mouth, even when blended with a consonant, like “TR”, “GR”, “BR”. Also behind a consonant, like “RD”, “RL” (this is really hard).

THE FOLLOWING SOUNDS DO NOT EXIST IN SPANISH:

/sh/ as in ship, action

/j/ as in jelly, cage

/i/ as in bit, igloo

Spelling these sounds in Spanish is as follows:

KA, KO, KU = **C**

SA, SO, SU = **S** or **Z**

KE, KI = **QUE, QUI**

SE, SI = **SE, SI** or **CE, CI** (NOT ZE, ZI)

E, I can **NEVER** follow a Z

GA, GO, GU = **G**

HA, HO, HU = **J**

GE, GI = **GUE, GUI**

HE, HI = **JE, JI** or **GE, GI**

KWA, KWE, KWI, KWO = **CUA, CUE, CUI, CUO**

GWA, GWE, GWI, GWO = **GUA, GÜE, GÜI, GUO**

← Those dots give it a "w" sound