

Spanish Alphabet and Basic Pronunciation Rules

English Letter	Spanish Letter	How do I pronounce the Spanish letter?	Pronunciation in Context How do I pronounce the letter in a word?
a	a	ah	ah – like in father
b	be	beh	Like English but closer to V
c	ce	Theh (Spain) Seh (the rest of the Spanish-speaking world)	– before a,o, or u – sounds like the English letter “k” – like in the words cat, cold, cup. – before e or i: “th” – like in words thin or think (Spain) “s” – sounds like S (everywhere else)
ch*	che	ch eh	~
d	de	deh	Often pronounced similar to the “th” in the word “the”; your tongue should touch the back of your top two front teeth
e	e	eh	eh – like in bet; short E sound
f	efe	eff-eh	~
g	ge	heh	– before a,o, or u – sounds like the English letter “g” - like in go or guppy, but MUCH softer – halfway between G and W. – before e or i – sounds like the English language “h” – so generoso would sound like heneroso.
h	hache	ah-cheh	H is always silent – so hablar sounds like ablar and hola sounds like ola.
i	i	ee	ee – like in machine
j	jota	hoh-tah	sounds like the English letter “h” – so jalapeño sounds like halapeño.
k	ka	kah	~
l	ele	el-leh	~
ll*	elle	eh-yeh	Sounds like a “y” like in “tortilla”
m	eme	em-eh	~
n	ene	en-eh	~
ñ	eñe	ehn-yeh	sounds like the English letters sound “ny” together – like in “onion” or “canyon”
o	o	oh	oh – like in cold
p	pe	peh	~
q	cu	koo	~
r	ere	er-eh	Slightly rolled if first letter of word; sounds like D between 2 vowels
rr*	erre	err-eh	The rr should be trilled
s	ese	eh-seh	~
t	te	teh	~
u	u	oo	oo – like in tuba, but silent behind a Q
v	ve	veh	Like English but closer to B
w	doble ve	doh-ble-veh or doh-ble-beh (doh-ble-oooh)	~
x	equis	eh-kees	~
y	i griega	ee-gree eh-gah	Sounds like ee...like in the word famil y
z	zeta	Thehta (Spain) Seta (the rest of the Spanish-speaking world)	Z – sounds like the English letter “th” – like in the words thin or think. (Spain) -- sounds like S (everywhere else)