

Spanish Alphabet & Word List

- **A** — *ah* — *amigo*
- **B** — *beh* — *baño*
- **C** —
 - *seh* (before **e/i**) — *cine*
 - *kah* (before **a/o/u**) — *casa*
- **D** — *deh* — *día*
 - **Tongue:** touches **back of upper front teeth** (softer than English)
- **E** — *eh* — *mesa*
- **F** — *eh-feh* — *familia*
- **G** —
 - *heh* (before **e/i**) — *gente*
 - *geh* (before **a/o/u**) — *gato*
 - **Note:** Spanish G is predictable; English is not.
- **H** — *ah-chay silent* — *hola*
- **I** — *ee* — *idea*
- **J** — *hoh-tah* — *jardín*
- **K** — *kah* — *kilómetro*
- **L** — *eh-leh* — *libro*
- **LL** — *yeh / sh* (regional) — *llave*
 - **Note:** LL is **no longer an official letter**, but still a key sound.

- **M** — *eh-meh* — *mano*
- **N** — *eh-neh* — *noche*
- **Ñ** — *nyeh* — *niño*
- **O** — *oh* — *oasis*
- **P** — *peh* — *papa*
- **Q** — *koo* — *queso, quince*
 - **Note:** QU + e/i = *keh/kee* (U is silent)
- **R** — *eh-reh* — *radio*
 - **Note:** single R = light tap
- **RR** — *rolled R* — *carro*
 - **Note:** RR is **not** an official letter, but a distinct sound.
- **S** — *eh-seh* — *sol*
- **T** — *teh* — *tarde*
 - **Tongue:** touches **back of upper front teeth** (softer than English)
- **U** — *oo* — *uno*
- **V** — *beh* (same as B) — *vino*
- **W** — *doble beh* — *wifi*
- **X** — *eh-kees* — *examen*
- **Y** — *ee-gree-eh-gah / ye* — *yoga*
- **Z** — *seh* (Latin America) — *zapato*
 - **Note:** Z is always the s sound in Latin America.

Word List

Stress Rules

- ☐ **If a word ends in a vowel, N, or S → stress the second-to-last syllable**
- ☐ **If a word ends in any other consonant → stress the last syllable**
- ☐ **If the word has an accent mark → stress the accented syllable**

Before we look at the word list, here's what it teaches us. This list shows stress, articles, gender, cognates, and pronunciation patterns all in one place.

A reminder about articles: An article is a small word that tells you two things: (1) whether a noun is masculine or feminine, and (2) whether it is singular or plural.

Spanish has four ways to say "the":

- **el — masculine, singular**
- **la — feminine, singular**
- **los — masculine, plural**
- **las — feminine, plural**

These four articles are the gender markers of Spanish. Everything around the noun must agree.

Only nouns carry gender, which is why you always learn the article together with the noun. The article is the gender signal — without it, you don't know the pattern.

General pattern: Most masculine nouns end in -o. Most feminine nouns end in -a.

But Spanish has important exceptions – for example:

- **la mano** — feminine ending in -o
- **el día, el mapa, el problema** — masculine ending in -a

This is exactly why the article matters: the article tells the truth even when the ending doesn't.

So this tells us that the article is not optional. It's the key to gender, agreement, and meaning-organization. When you learn the noun *with* its article, you learn the entire structure at once.

Use this list to practice your pronunciation:

- **la enciclopedia** (*en-see-klo-PEH-dia*) **Note:** The ending **dia** is one syllable, so the stress falls on **PEH**.
- **la energía** (*eh-ner-HEE-ah*) **Note:** The accent shows the stress on **HEE**.
- **la medicina** (*meh-dee-SEE-nah*) **Note:** Clear stress on **SEE**.
- **la experiencia** (*eks-peh-ree-EN-sia*) **Note:** The ending **sia** is one syllable, so the stress lands on **EN**.
- **la conversación** (*kon-ber-sa-SYON*) **Note:** The accent shows the stress on **SYON**.
- **el chocolate** (*cho-ko-LAH-teh*) **Note:** Clear stress on **LAH**.

- **el teléfono** (*teh-LEH-fo-no*) **Note:** The accent shows the stress on **LEH**.
- **el minuto** (*mee-NOO-toh*) **Note:** Clear stress on **NOO**.
- **el momento** (*mo-MEN-toh*) **Note:** Clear stress on **MEN**.
- **el documento** (*do-koo-MEN-toh*) **Note:** Clear stress on **MEN**.
- **el hospital** (*os-pee-TAL*) **Note:** Stress naturally falls on **TAL**.
- **el color** (*ko-LOR*) **Note:** Stress naturally falls on **LOR**.
- **el sistema** (*see-STEh-mah*) **Note:** Clear stress on **STEh**. Masculine ending in **-a**.
- **la foto** (*FOH-toh*) **Note:** Clear stress on **FOH**. Feminine ending in **-o**.
- **el diccionario** (*dik-syoh-NAH-rio*) **Note:** The **rio** ending is one syllable, so the stress falls on **NAH**.
- **el calendario** (*ka-len-DAH-rio*) **Note:** The **rio** ending is one syllable, so the stress falls on **DAH**.

Chains of Agreement

In Spanish, the article, noun, and adjective must all match in gender and number — one wrong choice forces the whole chain to shift, which is exactly what the examples on the next page demonstrate.

1. The little red car is in the new garage.

___ coche _____ y _____ está en ___
garaje _____.

Correct version: *El coche pequeño y rojo está en el garaje nuevo.*

Incorrect version note: *If you choose the wrong article (la coche / la garaje), the adjectives must also switch to the feminine forms (pequeña, roja, nueva). One wrong guess forces the whole sentence into the wrong pattern.*

2. The old map is on the new sofa.

___ mapa _____ está en ___ sofá _____.

Correct version: *El mapa viejo está en el sofá nuevo.*

Incorrect version note: *If you guess feminine (la mapa / la sofá), the adjectives must also switch to feminine forms (vieja, nueva). But both **mapa** and **sofá** are masculine — endings can trick you, so the article tells the truth.*

3. The difficult problem is in the main theme.

___ problema _____ está en ___ tema
_____.

Correct version: *El problema difícil está en el tema central.*

Incorrect version note: *If you choose feminine (la problema / la tema), the adjectives must also switch to feminine forms (difícil doesn't change, central doesn't change). Both nouns are masculine even though they end in **-a** — this is why you always learn the article with the noun.*