

THE SPANISH ALPHABET & THE SPANISH ELEMENTS WORD SET

The Five Spanish Vowels

Spanish vowels **never change their sound**. They are consistent.

- **A** — *ah* (as in father)
- **E** — *eh* (as in met)
- **I** — *ee* (as in machine)
- **O** — *oh* (as in note)
- **U** — *oo* (as in food)

These five sounds will stay the same every time you see them.

Spanish Alphabet (Mexican Spanish)

(Letter • Name • Sound • English word with that sound)

- A — a — "ah" — (father)
B — be — "b" — (boy)
C — ce — "k / s" — (cat / city)
D — de — "d" — (day)
E — e — "eh" — (bet)
F — efe — "f" — (fun)
G — ge — "g / hard h" — (go / hot)
H — hache — silent — (hola)
I — i — "ee" — (see)

J — jota — strong “h” — (hot)

K — ka — “k” — (kite)

L — ele — “l” — (lamp)

LL — doble ele — “y” — (yes)

M — eme — “m” — (man)

N — ene — “n” — (no)

Ñ — ñe — “ny” — (canyon)

O — o — “oh” — (go)

P — pe — “p” — (pen)

Q — cu — “k” — (kite)

R — ere — soft “r” — (butter — the quick tap)

RR — erre — rolled “r” — (no English equivalent)

S — ese — “s” — (sun)

T — te — “t” — (top)

U — u — “oo” — (food)

V — ve — “b” — (boy)

W — doble ve — “w” — (water)

X — equis — “ks” — (box)

Y — y griega — “y” — (yes)

Z — zeta — “s” — (sun)

The following Spanish Elements Word Set shows **stress, articles, gender, cognates, diphthongs**, and **pronunciation patterns** all in one place.

Stress Rules (give these rules a priority in your learning)

- 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

A reminder about articles

An **article** tells you:

1. whether a noun is **masculine or feminine**
2. whether it is **singular or plural**

Spanish has **four** ways to say the article "*the*":

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

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

Gender patterns

- Most **masculine** nouns end in **-o**
- Most **feminine** nouns end in **-a**

There are exceptions -- This is why the **article** matters (Remember, the article tells the truth even when the ending doesn't).

THE SPANISH ELEMENTS WORD SET

All words on the list are cognates -- a word that looks and means the same, or very similar, as a word in English because both share a common root.

Feminine Nouns

- **la enciclopedia** (en see klo **PEH** dia) — stress on **PEH**
- **la energía** (eh ner **HEE** ah) — accent → **HEE**
- **la medicina** (meh dee **SEE** nah) — stress on **SEE**
- **la experiencia** (eks peh ree **EN** sia) — ending *sia* → stress on **EN**
- **la conversación** (kon ber sa **SYON**) — accent → **SYON**
- **la foto** (**FOH** toh) — stress on **FOH**
- **la música** (**MOO** see ca) — stress on **MOO**
- **la página** (**PAH** hee na) — stress on **PAH**
- **la familia** (fa **MEE** lia) — stress on **MEE**

Masculine Nouns

- **el chocolate** (cho ko **LAH** teh) — stress on **LAH**
- **el teléfono** (teh **LEH** fo no) — accent → **LEH**
- **el minuto** (mee **NOO** toh) — stress on **NOO**
- **el momento** (mo **MEN** toh) — stress on **MEN**
- **el documento** (do koo **MEN** toh) — stress on **MEN**
- **el hospital** (os pee **TAL**) — stress on **TAL**
- **el color** (ko **LOR**) — stress on **LOR**
- **el sistema** (see **STEH** mah) — masculine ending in **-a**

- **el diccionario** (dik syoh **NAH** rio) — ending *rio* → stress on **NAH**
- **el calendario** (ka len **DAH** rio) — ending *rio* → stress on **DAH**
- **el problema** (pro **BLEH** mah) — masculine ending in **-a**
- **el mapa** (**MAH** pa) — masculine ending in **-a**
- **el día** (**DEE** ah) — masculine ending in **-a**
- **el café** (ka **FEH**) — accent → **FEH**
- **el libro** (**LEE** bro) — stress on **LEE**

Words from the above set that have diphthongs:

In Spanish, a diphthong (diptongo) occurs when two vowels are combined in the same syllable, creating a smooth, gliding sound rather than separating into distinct syllables.

- **la enciclopedia** — *dia*
- **la experiencia** — *sia*
- **la conversación** — *ción*
- **la familia** — *lia*
- **el diccionario** — *rio*
- **el calendario** — *rio*