

The Alphabet

Spanish has the advantage of being spelled phonetically; that is, words are spelled exactly as they are pronounced. There are only a few letters and sounds different from English, so it's not a difficult alphabet to learn. You're going to need it, so take a few minutes to learn it.

**** note: all letters in a Spanish word are pronounced, unlike English, and accents mark stress: they don't change the sound ****

Letter approximate English equivalent

A as in apple	Ñ sounds like ny, as in canyon
B same as English	O as in opera
C before a, o, u = sounds like K	P same as English
before e, i = sounds like S (or like "th" in Spain)	Q always with a "U", as in English; sounds like "K"
CH as in church	R as in rock, when at the beginning of a word or for
D same as English	double r ("rr"), i.e., ropa (clothing) or carro (car); or
E as in elephant	similar to a "d" as in "yodel" for a single "r" inbetween
F same as English	vowels, i.e., caro (expensive).
G before a, o or u = sounds like game	S same as English
before e or i = sounds like h	T same as English
H always completely silent (just pretend it's not even there)	U as in über
I as in Igloo	V sounds like B, as in boy
J sounds like h, as in heaven	W sounds like B, as in boy (Spain)
K same as English, but never silent	or W, as in whisky
L same as English	X same as English
Ll (double l) sounds like y, as in yes	Y as in yes
M same as English	Z sounds like th = think (Spain)
N same as English	sounds like s = socks (everywhere else)

Vowel Diphthongs

ai; ay . . . as in aisle	ia as in Christian	iu as in you	ue as in way
au as in sauerkraut	ie, ye . . . as in yet	oi; oy . . . as in void	ui; uy . . . as in buoy
ei; ey . . . as in they	io as in yoke	ua as in watch	uo as in quota