

# Discriminating Phonemes/Allophones

## Spanish vs. English Speech Sounds

Phoneme

Easy to hear

Phonemic distinctions

Allophone

Hard to hear

Allophones of the same phoneme



[ð] [ɾ] [d]

similar sounding  
phone

voiceless bilabial stop → [p]  
 aspirated voiceless bilabial stop → [p<sup>h</sup>]  
 unreleased voiceless bilabial stop → [p̚]

Man listening: Iskander Saputra/iStock/Gettyimages

## Spanish vs. English Speech Sounds

Phoneme

Easy to hear

Allophone

Hard to hear

English		Spanish	
soda	[sorə]	toro	[toro]
dough	[do]	donde	[dande]
though	[ðo]	todos	[toðos]

Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

## Spanish vs. English Speech Sounds

Phoneme

Easy to hear

Allophone

Hard to hear

English		Spanish	
easy	hard	easy	hard
[d] vs. [ð]	[d] vs. [r]	[d] vs. [r]	[d] vs. [ð]
[r] vs. [ð]		[ð] vs. [r]	

**soda** [sorə]

Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

## Spanish vs. English Speech Sounds

Phoneme

Easy to hear

Allophone

Hard to hear

English		Spanish	
easy	hard	easy	hard
[d] vs. [ð]	[d] vs. [r]	[d] vs. [r]	[d] vs. [ð]
[r] vs. [ð]		[ð] vs. [r]	

Allophones of the same phoneme

Allophones of the same phoneme

Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

## Spanish vs. English Speech Sounds

Phoneme

Easy to hear

Allophone

Hard to hear

English		Spanish	
/d/	[r] [d]	/d/	[ð] [d]
/ð/	[ð]	/r/	[r] [r]

Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock