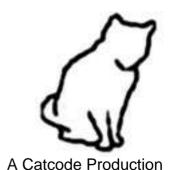
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Introduction

This handbook covers the major topics in Spanish, but is by no means complete.

Accents

When we pronounce English words, one syllable is usually emphasized (**stressed**, in linguistic terms). The stressed syllable is underlined in the following words: computer, <u>language</u>, de<u>velopment</u>, succeeds. Spanish words also have a stressed syllable, and there are rules for determining which syllable carries the emphasis.

- 1. If a syllable has an accent mark, that syllable always gets the stress: acción (action), teléfono.
- If the word ends with a vowel, n, or s, the next-to-last syllable gets the stress: a<u>migo</u>, <u>ha</u>blan (they talk), ani<u>mal</u>es.

3. All other words are accented on the last syllable: hotel, similar, español.

Parts of Speech

Words fall into one of seven classes, known as parts of speech. We will deal with only four of them.

Nouns

A person, place, or thing. (Juan, telephone)

Verbs

An action or state of being. (run, become)

Adjectives

A word that describes a noun. (red, big)

Adverbs

A word that tells when, where, or to what extent a verb performs its action (quickly, directly)

Verbs

Regular Spanish verbs come in three groups:

- Verbs ending in -ar, like cantar (to sing).
- Verbs ending in -er, like comer (to eat).
- Verbs ending in -ir, like vivir (to live).

Here is the pattern for conjugating **cantar** in the present tense.

Singular	Plural
yo canto	nosotros cantamos
tú cantas	vosotros cantáis
	ellos cantan
ella canta	ellas cantan