

PART 2: ESSENTIAL PHONETICS

Pronunciation Tips (AO3)

MASTERING SPANISH SOUNDS FOR AO3

YOUR GOAL: CLEAR, CONSISTENT PRODUCTION OF SPANISH SOUNDS AND CORRECT STRESS/INTONATION.

You can write phonetic symbols in your notes during prep time to help you remember these!

1. VOWELS (A, E, I, O, U)

Spanish vowels are short, sharp, and **always** pronounced the same way, regardless of surrounding letters. Do not let them glide like in English!

- **A:** Like the 'a' in *father*.
- **I:** Like the 'ee' in *feet*.
- **U:** Like the 'oo' in *boot*.

2. CONSONANTS: H, R, V/B

- **H is Silent:** Never pronounce the 'h'. *Example: Hola (oh-la), hablar (ah-blar).*
- **R vs RR:** A single 'r' (e.g., *caro*) is a simple tap. A double 'rr' (e.g., *perro*) or an 'r' at the start of a word (*rojo*) must be **rolled**.
- **V and B:** These sounds are often pronounced similarly, like a soft 'b' in English. Avoid the harsh English 'v' sound.
- **LL and Y:** Both often sound like the 'y' in *yellow*, or sometimes like the 'j' in *jump* (depending on the region).

3. STRESS AND TILDES (ACCENTS)

- **Tilde Rule:** If a word has an accent mark (tilde, e.g., *mísi cá*), you **must** stress that syllable.
- **Natural Stress Rule 1:** If a word ends in a vowel, **n**, or **s**, the stress falls on the **second-to-last** syllable (*cá -sa, jó -ve-nes*).
- **Natural Stress Rule 2:** If a word ends in any other consonant, the stress falls on the **last** syllable (*hablar, papel*).

PREP TIME: ANNOTATE YOUR TEXT!

USE THE 15 MINUTES TO MARK UP YOUR TEXT:

- Circle all 'H's to remind yourself they are silent.
- Underline all 'RR's to ensure you roll them.
- Mark where you will pause between sentences (/).