

Perfect Spanish Pronunciation and Spelling

Carlo Allietti

September 8, 2023

https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/IPAcharts/inter_chart_2018/IPA_2018.html

1 Vowels

1.1 Phonetics

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Mid	e		o
Open		a	

General American

	Front		Central		Back	
	lax	tense	lax	tense	lax	tense
Close	ɪ	i			ʊ	u
Mid	ɛ	eɪ ^[b]	ə	(ɜ) ^[c]		oʊ ^[b]
Open	æ		(ʌ) ^[c]	ɑ		(ɔ) ^[d]
Diphthongs	aɪ ɔɪ aʊ					

Spanish spelling for single vowels is identical to IPA.

1.2 Diphthongs

When vowels are put next to each other one of the following this happens:

1. Both vowels are neither [i] nor [u], therefore are pronounced as separate syllables.
2. One of the vowels is [i] or [u], but has an accent mark showing its stressed and therefore are still pronounced as separate syllables.
3. One of the vowels is [i] or [u] and is not stressed. The vowel gets pronounced [j] (English Y) or [w] (English W) respectively.

Spanish diphthongs^[67]

	IPA	Example	Meaning	IPA	Example	Meaning
	Falling			Rising		
a	[aj]	aire	air	[ja]	hacia	towards
	[aw]	pausa	pause	[wa]	cuadro	picture
e	[ej]	rey	king	[je]	tierra	earth
	[ew]	neutro	neutral	[we]	fuego	fire
o	[oj]	hoy	today	[jo]	radio	radio
	[ow] ^[76]	bou	seine fishing	[wo]	cuota	quota
	Falling			Rising		
u/i				[ju]	viuda	widow
	[uj] ^[77]	muy	very	[wi]	buitre	vulture

2 Consonants

2.1 Phonemic

Consonant phonemes^[5]

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alv./ Palatal	Velar
Nasal	m		n	ɲ	
Stop	p b	t d		tʃ dʒ	k g
Continuant	f	θ*	s	(ʃ)	x
Lateral			l	ʎ*	
Tap			r		
Trill			r		

2.2 Phonetic peculiarities

Yeísmo

Lack of Aspiration.

Soft/Hard Consonants: B D G

After n m or a pause.

Letter R

Seseo and [s] vs [z]

z before a voiced consonant.

Word Stress Rules:

1. Words ending in a vowel, n or s: 2nd to last syllable
2. Words ending in other consonants: last syllable
3. Accent marks stress syllables

2.3 Spelling

Silent Letters: H and U

Reminders for: C G J LL V

Practice:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_phonology#Sample