

Complete Spanish Alphabet (27 Letters)

A (a) ah (as in "father")	B (be) beh	C (ce) seh ("k" before a/o/u; "th/s" bef...
D (de) deh	E (e) eh (short "e" like in "bet")	F (efe) EH-feh
G (ge) heh ("g" as in "go" before a/o/u; ...	H (hache) AH-che (always silent)	I (i) ee (as in "see")
J (jota) HOH-tah (like Scottish "loch" or ...	K (ka) kah	L (ele) EH-leh
M (eme) EH-meh	N (ene) EH-neh	Ñ (eñe) EN-yeh (like "ny" in canyon)
O (o) oh (pure "o" sound)	P (pe) peh	Q (cu) koo (always followed by "ue" or ...
R (erre) EH-rreh (tapped/flipped)	S (ese) EH-seh	T (te) teh
U (u) oo (as in "food")	V (uve) oo-beh (sounds like soft "b")	W (uve doble) oo-beh DOH-bleh (rare, in foreig...
X (equis) EH-kees (like "ks" or "h" in som...	Y (i griega) ee GREE-eh-gah ("ee" or conson...	Z (zeta) SEH-tah ("th" in Spain, "s" in Lat...

Ñ (highlighted) is unique to Spanish - the 27th letter

Vowel Pronunciation (Always Consistent)

- A:** like "a" in "father"
Examples: casa, mapa
- E:** like "e" in "bed"
Examples: mesa, verde
- I:** like "ee" in "see"
Examples: libro, fin
- O:** like "o" in "go"
Examples: hola, dos
- U:** like "oo" in "moon"
Examples: luna, uno

Key Consonants (Different from English)

- H:** always SILENT
Examples: hola, hora
- J:** like "h" in "huge"
Examples: jamón, trabajo
- Ñ:** like "ny" in "canyon"
Examples: niño, año
- LL:** like "y" in "yes"
Examples: llave, calle
- RR:** rolled "r" sound
Examples: perro, carro

Common Pronunciation Mistakes

- × DON'T pronounce "h" like English "h" - it's SILENT
- × DON'T pronounce "j" like English "j" - it's like "h" in "huge"
- × DON'T skip rolling "r" sounds - practice makes perfect
- × DON'T pronounce "ll" like English "ll" - it's like "y" in "yes"
- × DON'T confuse "ñ" with "n" - they're different sounds

Regional Pronunciation Differences

Spain: "z" and "c" (before e/i) pronounced like "th" in "think"

Latin America: "z" and "c" (before e/i) pronounced like "s"

Argentina/Uruguay: "ll" and "y" pronounced like "sh" in "ship"

Did You Know? (Historical Context)

Until 2010, the Spanish alphabet had 29 letters!

The Royal Spanish Academy (RAE) officially removed CH, LL, and RR as separate letters, reducing the alphabet to 27 letters. This affects alphabetical ordering in dictionaries - older materials may list these combinations in separate sections.

Accent Marks (Tildes) - Not Separate Letters!

Letters like á, é, í, ó, ú are the same vowels with accent marks to show stress. Examples: café (coffee), teléfono (telephone), música (music).

Learn more about stress patterns:

spanishgrammar.co.uk/syllable-structure

Test Your Knowledge - Quick Quiz

1. How do you pronounce the letter 'ñ' in Spanish?

- A) Like 'n' in 'no'
- B) Like 'ny' in 'canyon'
- C) Like 'gn' in 'gnome'
- D) Like 'ng' in 'sing'

2. Which letter is always silent in Spanish?

- A) J
- B) H
- C) G
- D) Y

3. Which letters are pronounced like 'th' in 'think' in Spain?

- A) Only C
- B) Only Z
- C) Both C and Z
- D) Neither C nor Z

4. How many letters are in the Spanish alphabet?

- A) 26
- B) 27
- C) 28
- D) 29

5. How is 'll' pronounced in most Spanish-speaking countries?

- A) Like 'l' in 'like'
- B) Like 'y' in 'yes'
- C) Like 'sh' in 'ship'
- D) Like 'j' in 'jam'

Check Your Answers!

Visit our website for interactive quiz with detailed explanations:

spanishgrammar.co.uk/spanish-alphabet#quiz