

## El alfabeto / El abecedario

Letra	Nombre	Pronunciación/ejemplos
A	a	' <b>a</b> '
B	be	' <b>b</b> ien'
C	ce	[k] + a, o, u; ' <b>c</b> asa'
		[th / s] + e, i; ' <b>c</b> ena' (like 'th' in English ' <b>th</b> ink')
*CH	che	' <b>o</b> cho' like in English ' <b>ch</b> arm'
D	de	' <b>d</b> e' (it is dental)
E	e	' <b>e</b> lefante'
F	efe	' <b>f</b> oca'
G	ge	[g] + a, o, u; ' <b>g</b> ato'
		[x, h] + e, i; ' <b>g</b> ente' (pronounced like English 'h' or stronger)
H	hache	' <b>h</b> ola'; it is never pronounced
I	i	' <b>I</b> sabel'
J	jota	[x, h] ' <b>j</b> amón' (pronounced like English 'h' or stronger)
K	ka	' <b>k</b> ilo'; not a very frequent letter
L	ele	' <b>l</b> a'
*LL	elle	' <b>ll</b> ave' pronounced like English <b>J</b> ohn or <b>y</b> es
M	eme	' <b>m</b> amá'
N	ene	' <b>n</b> o'
Ñ	eñe	'espa <b>ñ</b> ol'
O	o	' <b>o</b> '
P	pe	' <b>p</b> apá'
Q	cu	[k] only occurs as <i>que</i> 'queso' or <i>qui</i> 'quiso'
R	erre	[r] ' <b>car</b> o', <b>for</b> o (pronounced like 't' in Am. English <b>lat</b> er); [rr] ' <b>carro</b> '
S	ese	' <b>s</b> ol'
T	te	' <b>t</b> e' (it is dental)
U	u	' <b>u</b> no'
V	uve	= [b] ' <b>v</b> aca'
W	uve doble	= [u] ' <b>W</b> ashington', [b] ' <b>w</b> áter'
X	equis	[ks] ' <b>ex</b> amen'; excepciones: [x] Mé <b>x</b> ico, <b>mex</b> icano, <b>Tex</b> as, <b>tex</b> ano
Y	ye	- ' <b>y</b> o' pronounced like English 'j' in <b>J</b> ohn or 'y' in <b>y</b> ear.
		- Pronounced like Spanish 'i' when used as a vowel: ' <b>y</b> ', ' <b>soy</b> '
Z	zeta	[th, s] ' <b>z</b> orro'

\*In older dictionaries, the digraphs 'ch' and 'll' were considered letters, but not anymore. Thus, 'ch' is currently under 'c', and 'll' under 'l', like in English dictionaries.

### Sounds and spelling:

- [th] (it is pronounced like [s] in Lat. Am.) za, ce, ci, zo, zu  
za = 'zapato', ce = 'cena', ci = 'cine', zo = 'zona', zu = 'zumó'
- [s] sa, se, si, so, su  
sa = salsa, se = 'seta'/ce = 'cena', si = 'sin'/ci = 'cine', so = 'solo', su = 'sucio'
- [k] ca, que, qui, co, cu (letter 'k' is not very frequent in Spanish)  
ca = 'casa', que = queso, qui = quiso, co = cosa, cu = cuna'
- [g] ga, gue, gui, go, gu (gü when followed by 'e, i')  
ga = 'gato', gue = 'gueto', gui = 'guiso', go = 'gota', gu = 'gusano'  
...but 'gü' in 'cigüeña' and 'pingüino'
- [x] ja, je/ge, ji/gi, jo, ju  
ja = 'jamón', je = 'jefe'/ge = 'gente', ji = 'jirafa'/gi 'gitano', jo = 'jota', ju = 'Juan'
- 'b' and 'v' are pronounced the same:
    - 'vaca' [baka] *cow* = 'baca' [baka] *luggage-rack*
  - 'y' and 'll' are normally pronounced the same:
    - 'poyo' [pojo] *stone bench* = 'pollo' [pojo] *chicken*