

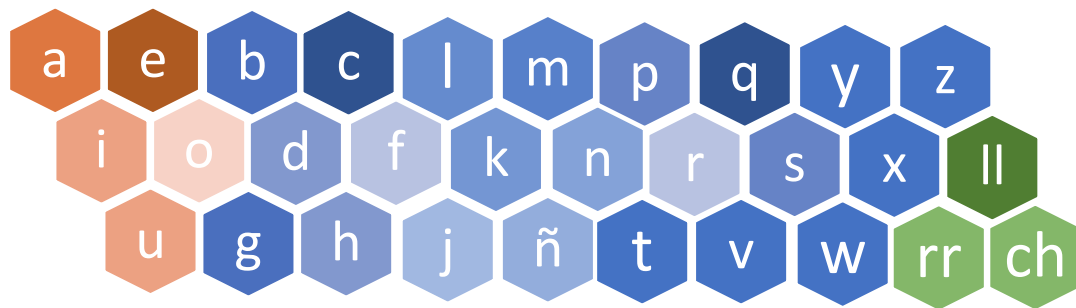
Speak Spanish Pronto

Beginner Lessons

The Spanish Alphabet

One of the most common ways to look at the Spanish alphabet is by using 27 distinct letters—five vowels and 22* consonants.

However, oftentimes you'll see three more pairs (green) added to the alphabet.



As you'll see next, these (green) letters already exist *individually* within the 27-letter alphabet.

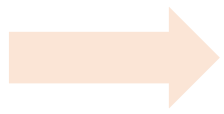
It's true that each make a unique sound when combined—but this can be said about any combination of letters, so we're not including them in the 'official' count.

Let's look at the 27 different letters with examples in the blue table. Refer to the audio for their pronunciation.

Spanish Alphabet

a la abuela <i>acabar</i>	b la biblioteca <i>buscar</i>	c el chico <i>creer</i>	d el dedo <i>decir</i>
e el elefante <i>empezar</i>	f el fuego <i>firmar</i>	g el globo <i>gustar</i>	h el helado <i>hablar</i>
i la iglesia <i>ir</i>	j el julio <i>jugar</i>	k el kilo el kiwi*	l el libro <i>leer</i>
m la mujer <i>mirar</i>	n la naranja <i>nadar</i>	ñ la ñapa <i>engañar</i>	o el ojo <i>olvidar</i>
p el perro <i>pedir</i>	q el queso <i>querer</i>	r la rana <i>regresar</i>	s el sol salir
t la tortuga <i>tratar</i>	u la uva <i>usar</i>	v la vaca <i>volver</i>	w el wafle el whisky*
x el xilófono <i>examinar</i>	y el yate <i>desayunar</i>	z el zapato <i>zumbar</i>	letter noun verb

[Link to Translations at end](#)



Although the Spanish alphabet has **27 letters***, there's actually **35+ different sounds** that these letters can produce, depending on region and speaker.

The same letter can produce multiple, distinct sounds.

Therefore, it's important to not only recognize the alphabet, **but** also all of its sounds.

This is an important step to learning Spanish and any other language for two big reasons:



If you read the words without knowing how they sound, **you'll likely substitute the English-equivalent sounds**. This is not going to end well for your pronunciation and could take twice as long to undo and relearn.



You won't be able to *hear* the words. You have to adjust your ear to Spanish. That's why **more listening** and **less reading** can really help accelerate your ability to reach a conversational level when you begin studying.

Although this course mixes listening and reading, the **audios** in the **Beginner Series** are more effective in getting you out of the beginner stage of Spanish and progressing to basic conversation.

In the [next lesson](#), you'll learn the vowels that use accent marks, as well as how these marks can change the meaning of a word. We'll also touch on the three green letters from before—ch, ll and rr.

Translations below...

English Translations

[Return to Spanish Alphabet Table](#)

a grandmother <i>to finish</i>	b library <i>to look for</i>	c boy <i>to believe</i>	d finger <i>to say, tell</i>
e elephant <i>to begin</i>	f fire <i>to sign</i>	g balloon <i>to like</i>	h ice cream <i>to talk</i>
i church <i>to go</i>	j July <i>to play</i>	k kilo kiwi*	l book <i>to read</i>
m woman <i>to look, watch</i>	n orange <i>to swim</i>	ñ freebie <i>to deceive</i>	o eye <i>to forget</i>
p dog <i>to ask, request</i>	q cheese <i>to want</i>	r frog <i>to come back</i>	s sun <i>to leave</i>
t turtle <i>to try</i>	u grape <i>to use</i>	v cow <i>to return</i>	w waffle whiskey*
x xylophone <i>to examine</i>	y yacht <i>to eat breakfast</i>	z shoe <i>to hum, buzz</i>	letter noun verb

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