

Lesson 01: ¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! – Welcome to Spanish class!

Lesson Objectives:

- Students will recite the alphabet in Spanish.
Students will describe the importance of pronunciation in a foreign language.



Welcome to Spanish I at Whitmore School!
To get started, watch the introductory video below:

Después de mirar el video, escribe respuestas a las siguientes preguntas.

After watching the video, answer the following questions. Copy the questions and your answers into the Submit Box, then continue with the lesson.

1. Which Spanish speaking country will we be studying first?
2. Name two reasons you believe it is important to know the alphabet in another language.

Tiempo de trabajar – Work Time

The alphabet of any language is the most fundamental part of the language. The Spanish alphabet has 30 letters, 4 more letters than the English alphabet. Watch the video below, and practice repeating the Spanish letters after the speaker. This is important, because there are speaking questions at the end of this lesson.



As stated in the video, in Spanish, as in English, there are five vowels: a, e, i, o, and u. Unlike English, however, the pronunciation of these vowels does not change, making Spanish quite easy to pronounce.

a, e, i, o, u

"adaptar" (to adapt)

"elefante" (elephant)

"imitar" (to imitate)

"olor" (smell)

"unir" (to unite)



Pausa y piensa – *Stop & Think*

Questions: Copy and paste this question in the Submit Box at the bottom of this page, and answer the questions **before** going any further in the lesson:

Practice saying the 5 words above. If you are not sure how to say them based off of alphabet sounds alone, go to Spanishdict.com. Search each individual word and click the speaker icon next to the Spanish word to hear it pronounced.

3. Using your best pronunciation, record an audio file of you pronouncing these words and upload it with your lesson.



The Museum of Fine Arts, Mexico City, Mexico

In Spanish, whenever an exclamation or question is written, two exclamation marks or two question marks are used. One mark is at the end of the sentence and the other at the beginning of the sentence and is upside-down. Therefore, it is clear at the beginning of a sentence if it is a statement, a question, or an exclamation. This is important because in Spanish, some questions and statements use the same order of words.

For example, in English, statements and questions have different word orders:

Question: Are you okay?

Statement: You are okay.

However, in Spanish, these have the same word order, thus the need for punctuation at the beginning:

Question: ¿Estás bien?

Statement: Estás bien.

Remember that leading punctuation is also used for exclamations:

¿Qué tal? (How is it going?)

¡Muy bien! (Great!)

Computers vary on where the upside-down question marks and exclamation marks are located. If you cannot figure out how to find them, you can copy and paste them onto the beginning of relevant sentences.



Pausa y piensa – Stop & Think

Questions: Copy and paste this question in the Submit Box at the bottom of this page, and answer the questions **before** going any further in the lesson:

4. Explain in your own words why you need to use leading punctuation marks in Spanish?



Hillside homes in Guanajuato, Mexico.

Many of the consonants in Spanish are pronounced the same as in English except for the following:

"b" and "v"

The Spanish "b" and "v" are pronounced the same, equivalent to the English "b" in "bear." Examples include "bonito" (pretty) and "verde" (green)

"c"

There is both a "hard c" and a "soft c" in Spanish. The hard c, equivalent to the c in "car," is used before the vowels a, o, and u. The soft c, equivalent to the s in "sock," is used before the vowels "e" and "i". hard c and the second as a soft c, just like the cc in "access."

Examples include "cable" (cable), "con" (with), "cumpleaños" (birthday), "cepillo" (comb), "ciclo" (cycle), "acceder" (to access), and "chico" (boy)

"g"

Like the letter "c" there is both a "hard g" and a "soft g" in Spanish. The hard g, pronounced like the g in "gate," is used before the vowels a, o, and u. The soft g, pronounced like the "h" in "happy," is used before the vowels "i" or "e." If there is a "u" in-between the soft g and the "i" or "e," the "u" is not pronounced, but the soft g turns into a hard g.

Examples include "gato" (cat), "golf" (golf), "gustar" (to like), "gigante" (giant), "general" (general), "guepardo" (cheetah), and "guiar" (to guide).

"h"

The h in Spanish is a silent letter, meaning it is not pronounced. Just think of it as decoration. Examples include "hotel" (hotel) and "ahora" (now).

"j"

The j, like the soft g, is pronounced like the English "h" in "happy." An example can be found in the word "joven" (young).

"ll"

The elle comes after the "l" in the Spanish alphabet. It is pronounced like the "y" in "you." For example, "llamar" (to call).

"ñ"

The ñe comes after the "n" in the Spanish alphabet and is pronounced roughly like "ny" in "canyon." An example of the ñ can be found in a very important word - "baño" (bathroom).

"q"

The q in Spanish is always followed by a "u" and is pronounced like the "k" in "king." An example of this sound is "que" (what) and "querer" (to want).

"rr"

The double r comes after the "r" in the Spanish alphabet. It can be tricky to pronounce for some English speakers. It requires you to vibrate your tongue while making an "r" sound. For some it is easy, for others difficult, but if you can't do it don't worry, it often comes with time. An example of the "rr" sound can be found in "perro" (dog).

"z"

The "z" in Spanish is pronounced like the soft c. Example: "zona" (area)



Mayan ruins in Chiapas, Mexico.

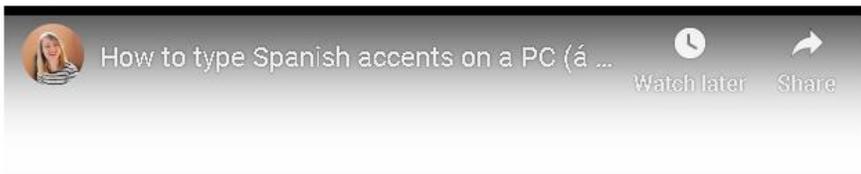
Even in English, every word has a stressed syllable. It is the one that carries the most intonation in your voice. In the word "baby," for example, the stress is on the first syllable (ba) making the second syllable (by) weaker. Baby is pronounced as BA-by, not ba-BY.

In Spanish a written accent is used to show which syllable should be stressed. This written accent is found above vowels and is a slanted line going from left to right; it looks like this:

á, é, í, ó, ú.

Whenever a vowel carries a written accent, the stress in that word is on that syllable. Computers vary on how to write the written accent

The video below will show you four different ways to type in accents, as well as upside down punctuation marks:



á é í ó ú ü
í ç

Besides indicating the syllable in which to stress a word, written accents also serve to distinguish between two words that are spelled the same. For example, "si" and "sí". "Si" without an accent means "if" and "sí" with an accent means "yes." We will see more examples in later lessons.

Now that you're an expert on Spanish pronunciation, test yourself & see if you can pronounce these Mexican cities better than most "gringos!"



Grading Rubric:

***Note:** Your grade will be calculated by the sum of the points earned for each question. Points are earned according to the chart below.

To get a 10: A total score of 10 upon the first submission or after the first revision.

To get a 9: A total score of 9 after the first revision.

To get an 8: A total score of 8 after the first revision.

To get a 7: A total score of 7 after the first revision.

To get a 6: A total score of 6 after the first revision.

To get a 5: Any score lower than a 6; Plagiarism – purposeful or mistaken, which will lower your final grade for the course (So, be very careful when posting your work!); lack of effort, disrespect, or attitude. Lesson requirements have not been met.

<p>To Begin and Stop and Think</p> <p>(Total content points possible = 2)</p>	<p>Answer is clearly written and accurate. Answer is based on the lesson content.</p> <p>.5 point each</p>		<p>Answer is not accurate or is not based on lesson content.</p> <p>0 points each</p>
<p>Short Answer</p> <p>(Total content points possible = 2)</p>	<p>Answer is clearly written and accurate. Answer is based on research and the URLs are cited.</p> <p>1 point each</p>	<p>Answer is clearly written and but may have 1 factual omission or error. URLs are cited.</p> <p>.5 point each</p>	<p>Answer is not clearly written. There are several factual omissions or URLs are not cited.</p> <p>0 points each</p>
<p>Apply Your Knowledge</p> <p>(Total points possible 4 points)</p>	<p>Audio file is uploaded. Pronunciation is accurate.</p> <p>4 points</p>	<p>Audio file is uploaded. May have 3 pronunciation errors.</p> <p>2 points</p>	<p>Audio file is uploaded. There are more than 3 pronunciation errors.</p> <p>0 points</p>
<p>To Close</p> <p>(Total points possible 2 points)</p>	<p>Answer is clearly written and complete.</p> <p>1 point</p>	<p>Answer is clearly written. May have 1 omission.</p> <p>.5 point</p>	<p>Answer is not clearly written or there is more than 1 omission.</p> <p>0 points</p>

Assignment:

Pausa y piensa – *Stop & Think* (questions 1 - 4)

Copy and paste the Stop and Think Questions found throughout the lesson content and answer them in the submit Box below. Stop and Think questions should be based on the lesson content. You will not do outside research for these questions.

Preguntas de respuesta corta - Short Answer Questions*

5. Of the cities of Mexico described in the video above, which would you most like to visit and why?
6. Google the city you listed above. Write about three activities you would like to do in that city. Please be sure to cite your source(s) according to Whitmore's academic honesty policy!

Apply Your Knowledge:

7. Pronounce the following list of words and sentences in Spanish, based off of what you learned in this lesson. Upload this voice recording with your lesson.

Bonito

Verde

Cable

Cepillo

Chico

Gato

Gigante

Hecho

Joven

Llamar

Baño

Que

Perro

Zona

Pájaro

Séptimo

Corazón

Día

Cómo

Para terminar – To close

8. Which sounds or letters in Spanish are easiest for you to pronounce? Which are hardest?
9. Find 2 Spanish words with your easiest letters, and two Spanish words with your hardest letters. Practices saying them (this does not need to be uploaded) and then list them here.

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