

The Spanish letter	Name of the letter	Spanish sound of the letter	English sound equivalent
<b>A</b>	a	padre	father
<b>B</b>	be grande or be larga	bomba	bomb
<b>* C</b> * The letter C sounds like a "k" when it is followed by the vowels a, o and u: casa, cosa, cuchara. It is pronounced as an "s" when it is followed by the vowels i and e: ciudad, cebra. This occurs in English as well: carrot, cold and cucumber, but celery and city.	ce	Cadaver Composición Cementerio Cigarro	Cadaver Composition Cemetery Cigar
<b>CH</b>	che	nacho	nacho
<b>* D</b> *When D is intervocalic (between two vowels) as in the word nada [nothing], or when it occurs at the end of a word, like verdad [truth], D is pronounced like the "th" in the English word "they": NAH-thah, ver-DATH.	de	detective	detective
<b>E</b>	e	español	-- pronounced like the "e" in `egg`.
<b>F</b>	efe	fábrica	factory
<b>* G</b> * The letter G is hard (like the English G in "gate") when it is followed by the vowels a, o and u: gato, gordo, gusto. It is soft (like the English 'H') when it is followed by the vowels i and e: gimnasio, general. This occurs in English as well although with different "g" sounds: game, gone and gulp, but gentle and giraffe.	ge	Gobierno General	Government --pronounced like the English letter "h"
<b>* H</b> * The H is always silent. You might try to pretend it is invisible too, when you see words with h's. For example, the verb hay is pronounced like the English word "eye", not like the horse-food! Alcohol is pronounced "al-col" as if there were no `h` in the middle. Don't forget that ch is a separate letter that cannot be split.	hache	honor	honor (the letter "h" is always silent)

<b>i</b>	i	policía	police
<b>J</b>	jota	justicia [justice]	--pronounced like the English letter "h"
<b>* K</b> *K is a foreign letter and used only in words borrowed from other languages.	ka	kilómetro	kilometer
<b>L</b>	ele	legal	legal
<b>LL</b>	elle	llave [key]	--pronounced like the English letter "y", as in "yahoo"
<b>M</b>	eme	madre	mother
<b>N</b>	ene	nacionalidad	nationality
<b>Ñ</b>	eñe	cañón	canyon
<b>O</b>	o	votar	vote
<b>P</b>	pe	península	peninsula
<b>* Q</b> *Q never occurs without u, so think of Qu as one letter. Qu is always pronounced like a 'k'. It never makes the 'kw' sound as it does in English. Try to visualize a K every time you see Qu.	cu	química	Chemistry
<b>*r</b> *r occurs only within a word. It cannot begin a word.	ere	pariente [a relative]	--a 'tap' like the 'd' sound in the English word 'ladder'
<b>* rr</b> *Rr is spelled r when beginning a word: rojo [red], but is spelled rr when it occurs within a word: pelirrojo [redhead]	erre	radio	--a 'trill', extend the 'tap'
<b>S</b>	ese	sopa	soup
<b>T</b>	te	texto	text

<b>U</b>	u	uniforme	--pronounced like the English 'u' in 'tutor'
<b>* V</b> *V is pronounced the same as B. The names ve chica and be grande mean 'little b' and 'big b' respectively. A common native speaker error is to switch these letters when writing. Do not pronounce this letter like the English letter 'v'. Both V and B are pronounced like a softened version of the English letter 'b'.	ve chica/ve corta	vendaje	bandage
<b>* W</b> *W is a foreign letter and used only in words borrowed from other languages.	doble ve or uve doble	Washington	Washington
<b>X</b>	equis	excelente	excellent
<b>Y</b>	i griega	Yucatán Paraguay	Yucatan Paraguay
<b>*Z</b> *Z occurs only in front of strong vowels (A, O, U.) The Z "time-shares" the vowels with C. C also has a soft "S" sound in front of the weak Vowels (I, E.) Therefore, when the Z is placed in a position where it is faced with a weak vowel, it changes into the letter C. (for example, we spell pencil "lápi <b>z</b> " but the plural form pencils needs to change the Z to C "lápi <b>c</b> es.")	zeta	zapatos [shoes]	--an 's' sound, as in 'socks'

