

PRONUNCIATION vs. SPELLING (= Pronunciación y ortografía)

▪ All students of English will have surely realised by now that **English is more difficult to learn than Spanish as far as pronunciation is concerned** because, unlike Spanish, English is a language [** by the way*: of **Germanic** origin, but also with influence of **Latin** and **French**] which **is not read as it is written** as it is mostly done in Spanish. That is why English is said to be **little phonological**: what you write in English does not match how you would read from your knowledge of Spanish.

▪ At first, learning to pronounce English words may seem a little chaotic to you; but don't worry!. Once you get used to **associate every letter or groups of letters** [** by the way*: these groupings are usually called "**clusters**" (it is also applied to sounds)] **with the possible, but limited, acceptable pronunciations they may have**, you will learn to pronounce English quickly and without even noticing it. **The more times you listen to the pronunciation of words, the more similarities you will find**. Therefore you will naturally impair them, and, what's most surprising, you will surely have them right!

▪ You should know that there is not a one-to-one relation between **phonemes (sounds)** and **graphemes (letters)** in English. We can distinguish **12 vowel sounds** in English (but only 5 in Spanish), **8 diphthong sounds**, and **24 consonant sounds** (including the two semivowels, /j/ + /w/).

VOWELS and DIPHTHONGS

Sound	Letter(s)	Examples
/i:/	e	he, she, even
	ee	meet, see, need, feet, teeth
	ea	sea, please, heat
	ie	piece, niece, field
	i	machine, police
	eo	people
/ɪ/	i	in, quick, it
	y	city, easy, gym
	a	village, candidate
	e	English
	u	minute, busy
	ui	build, guitar
	o	women

Sound	Letter(s)	Examples
/e/	e	pen, bed, tennis
	ea	bread, weather, health
	ei	leisure
	a	any, many
	ai	again, said
	ay	says
	ie	friend
/æ/	a	bad, matter, catch, flat, lamp
/ʌ/	u	sun, cup, much
	o	son, mother, money
	oo	blood, flood
	ou	country, couple
	oe	does

Sound	Letter(s)	Examples
/ɑ:/	a + r	car, far, star, are
	a + s	past, flask, ask
	a + l + C	calm, half
	ear	heart
	au	laugh, aunt
	er	sergeant
/ɒ/	o	hot, doctor, sock
	a	what, want, quantity
	ou	cough
	ow	knowledge
/ɔ:/	a + l	ball, wall, also, always
	a + r	quarter, warm, war
	a + w	straw, saw, law
	o(o) + r	horse, short, more, door, floor
	au	audience, fault
	augh	taught, caught, daughter
	ough	sought, thought, bought
	ou	four, your, pour, course
/ʊ/	u	put, pull, full, butcher
	oo	book, good, took, wood
	ou	could, would, should
	o	woman, wolf

Sound	Letter(s)	Examples	
/u:/	oo	moon, soon, too, spoon	
	o	lose, to, who	
	ou	group, soup	
	ew	green, drew, flew	
	ui	fruit, suit	
	u(e)	June, true, blue	
* /ju:/	u	mute, student, music, huge, university, unique	
/ɜ:/	er	verb, were, her	
	or	word, world, work, sword	
	ir	girl, skirt, shirt, bird	
	ur	hurt, fur, murder	
	eat	earn, early, learn	
	our	journey	
Silabas átonas	/ə/	a	above, sofa, away, around
		re	centre, theatre
		er	better, sister
		or	doctor, actor
		ou	colour, jealous
		ure	culture, future, furniture
		ar	forward, backward
		o	connect, confuse, contain

Sound	Letter(s)	Examples
/eɪ/	a	hate, age, came
	ai	mail, rain, paid
	ei	eight, weight
	ay	hay, say, pay, tray
/aɪ/	i	mine, ice, mind
	igh	high, sight, flight
	y	sky, reply, try, fly
	ie	die, tie, lie, flies
	ei	height
	uy	guy, buy

Sound	Letter(s)	Examples
/ɔɪ/	oi	coin, noise, oil
	oy	boy, toy, joy
/aʊ/	ou	mouse, found, sound, bound
	ow	how, now, brown, cow
/əʊ/	o	home, so, hold, joke
	ow	blow, grow, know
	oa	road, boat, goal
	ough	dough, (al)though
/ʊə/	oor	poor, moor
	ure	sure, pure, cure

<u>Sound</u>	<u>Letter(s)</u>	<u>Examples</u>
/ɪə/	ere	<i>here, mere, sphere</i>
	ear	<i>near, dear, year</i>
	eer	<i>beer, steer, deer</i>
	ier	<i>pier</i>

<u>Sound</u>	<u>Letter(s)</u>	<u>Examples</u>
/eə/	ere	<i>there, where</i>
	are	<i>hare, fare, square, care</i>
	air	<i>hair, fair, chair</i>
	ear	<i>bear, wear, pear</i>

CONSONANTS and SEMIVOWELS

<u>Sound</u>	<u>Letter(s)</u>	<u>Examples</u>	<u>It's SILENT in...</u>
/p/	p	<i>pencil, stop, parents, airport</i>	<i>psalm, cupboard, psychology, receipt, pneumonia, raspberry</i>
	pp	<i>happy, supper, shopping</i>	
/b/	b	<i>beer, ball, brown, basket, brush</i>	<i>doubt, comb, lamb, climb, bomb</i>
	bb	<i>rubber, sobbed, bubble</i>	
/t/	t	<i>top, train, cat, stay</i>	<i>fasten, Christmas, castle, listen, whistle</i>
	tt	<i>letter, matter, better, butterfly</i>	
	th	<i>Thomas, Thames</i>	
	ed	<i>walked, stopped, kissed, watched</i>	
/d/	d	<i>day, undo, glad, head, doll, drive</i>	<i>handsome, handkerchief, Wednesday</i>
	dd	<i>middle, address, riddle, redder</i>	
	ed	<i>robbed, changed, called, phoned, jogged</i>	
/k/	k	<i>king, keep, kind, book, sky</i>	<i>know, knowledge, knee, knight, knee, knock</i>
	c	<i>cape, captain, cold, picnic, postcard</i>	
	cc	<i>occasion, occur</i>	
	ck	<i>clock, back, sack, rock, crack</i>	
	ch	<i>school, Christmas, chemistry, architect, ache</i>	
	qu	<i>conquer, antique</i>	
*/kw/	qu	<i>conquest, question, quickly</i>	
*/ks/	cc + e/i	<i>accent, accident</i>	
	x	<i>box, sixteen, taxi</i>	
/g/	g	<i>get, go, big, gas</i>	<i>eight, weight, thought, though, through, nought</i>
	gg	<i>egg, bigger, goggle, struggle</i>	
	gu	<i>guitar, guest, guide</i>	
	gh	<i>ghost, ghastly</i>	
	*/gz/	x	

Sound	Letter(s)	Examples	It's SILENT in...
/s/	s	<i>son, some, bus, sense, parrots</i>	<i>island, aisle</i>
	ss	<i>class, password, grass</i>	
	c + e/i/y	<i>cell, city, cycle</i>	
	sc	<i>scene, science, scientific</i>	
/z/	s	<i>rise, music, dogs, plays, easy</i>	
	z / zz	<i>zoo, zip, prize, buzz, jazz</i>	
	ss	<i>dessert, scissors, possess</i>	
/ʃ/	sh	<i>she, Spanish, shoe, wash, bush</i>	
	s	<i>sugar, sure, Asia</i>	
	ti	<i>nation, conditional, fraction</i>	
	ss	<i>discussion, mission, pressure, issue</i>	
	ci	<i>social, special, official, delicious</i>	
	sci	<i>conscious</i>	
	ch	<i>machine, moustache, champagne</i>	
/ʒ/	ce	<i>ocean</i>	
	s	<i>usual, treasure, measure, decision, television</i>	
	ch	<i>church, chess, much, chocolate, cheese</i>	
	tch	<i>watch, match, catch, patch, kitchen</i>	
	tu	<i>picture, nature, future, actual</i>	
/dʒ/	j	<i>jam, John, juice, jacket</i>	
	g + e/i/y	<i>gin, age, gym, generous</i>	
	dge	<i>bridge, badge, porridge</i>	
	d + i/u	<i>soldier, procedure</i>	
/f/	f	<i>fan, fish, afraid, soft</i>	
	ff	<i>cliff, affair, office</i>	
	ph	<i>photo, telephone, Philip</i>	
	gh	<i>laugh, enough, cough, rough, tough</i>	
/v/	v	<i>vet, vote, drive, love</i>	
	f	<i>of</i>	
	ph	<i>nephew</i>	
/θ/	th	<i>thanks, three, thorn, thin, throw</i> <i>author, wealthy, Arthur</i> <i>bath, path, worth, earth</i>	

Sound	Letter(s)	Examples	It's SILENT in...
/ð/	th	<i>they, that, then, there, the brother, further, feather, weather bathe, breathe, with</i>	
/l/	l	<i>lift, look, low, place, milk, black</i>	<i>would. Could, half, walk, talk, chalk, salmon.</i>
	ll	<i>ball, ill, hill, small, follow</i>	
/m/	m	<i>my, mind, some, merry, Mary</i>	
	mm	<i>summer, swimmer, immediate, immortal</i>	
/n/	n	<i>name, noise, neighbour, can</i>	<i>autumn, column</i>
	nn	<i>penny, sunny, funny</i>	
	kn	<i>knight, know, knife</i>	
	gn	<i>foreign, sign, design</i>	
/ŋ/	ng	<i>thing, sing, long, king</i>	
	n + /k/, /g/	<i>think, stronger, angry, English</i>	
/r/	r	<i>rain, rope, grass, frame, drink</i>	"r", not pronounced before neither a consonant (<i>hard, turn, form</i>) nor at the end of word (<i>car, star, near</i>).
	rr	<i>carry, sorry, marry, irresponsible</i>	
	wr	<i>wrong, write</i>	
	rh	<i>rhyme, rhino, rhomb</i>	
/h/	h	<i>hand, hell, perhaps, behalf</i>	<i>hour, honour, honest, heir, vehicle, ghost.</i>
	wh	<i>who, whole, whose</i>	
/j/	y	<i>young, yellow, yes, you</i>	
	u	<i>unit, student, menu, huge</i>	
	i	<i>million, opinion, furious, curious</i>	
	ew/iew	<i>new, view, few, knew</i>	
	eau	<i>beautiful</i>	
/w/	w	<i>wind, water, wonder, twenty, swim</i>	
	wh	<i>what, when, where, which</i>	
	/g/, /k/+ u	<i>quantity, qualify, language</i>	
	o	<i>one, once, someone</i>	