

DAY 2: Recognizing Letters and Sounds in the Spanish Alphabet

As you are now familiar with the everyday greetings in Spanish, you can start learning the Spanish alphabet. You must know how each letter is called, and the sound it produces.

The Spanish alphabet is composed of 30 letters. However, Spanish sounds are more than the total number of letters, as there are instances that a letter is pronounced in various ways according to its position in a word.

In addition, each letter has a name different from the ABC's of English. The table below will show you how each letter in Spanish is called, how each one of them is pronounced, and some examples for practice.

Alphabet	Name	Pronounce It!	Examples
A	a	[ah] /a/ as in English <u>o</u> ther, <u>shu</u> t, <u>co</u> n	<i>alto</i> 'tall' [al-to]
B	b	[beh] /b/ as in English <u>b</u> oy, <u>a</u> bout, <u>crib</u>	<i>bien</i> 'good' [byen]
C	c	[theh] /k/ as in English <u>c</u> up, <u>ro</u> cky, <u>mil</u> k when followed by the vowels a, o, u	<i>cuatro</i> 'four' [kwat-ro]
		/th/ as in English <u>th</u> in, <u>Cath</u> erine, <u>ma</u> th when followed by the vowels e, i	<i>cinco</i> 'five' [thing-ko]
Ch	ch	[cheh] /ch/ as in English <u>ch</u> ild, <u>Rich</u> ard, <u>beach</u>	<i>chica</i> 'girl' [chi-ka]
D	d	[deh] /d/ as is English <u>d</u> oll, <u>i</u> dea, <u>glad</u> when used in the start of a word or syllable	<i>donde</i> 'where' [don-de]
		/th/ as is <u>th</u> en, <u>mo</u> ther, <u>breath</u> e when placed in between vowels in a word	<i>nada</i> 'nothing' [na-dha]
E	e	[eh] /eh/ as in English <u>e</u> nter, <u>l</u> et, <u>said</u>	<i>estado</i> 'state' [es-ta-dho]

DAY 3: Forming Spanish Nominal Words and Phrases

With enough knowledge on Spanish letters and sounds, you are now ready to begin forming words and phrases. On this 3rd day of training, the focus will be on forming nominal words and phrases. These are what we usually call **nouns**. These words name people, places, animals, events, and even abstract entities.

Spanish is a gender- and number-specific language. This means that its words, particularly nouns and adjectives, contain within them the categorization whether they are masculine, feminine, or neuter; and whether they are plural or singular.

Gender-Specific Characteristic

Nouns in Spanish may be classified according to gender – masculine, feminine, or neuter. How do we know which gender fits which noun?

To help you resolve this problem, I'd like you to meet two good friends of mine: Lawrence, a clever guy from California, and Dazcion, a pretty maiden from Mexico. Lawrence can help you remind which nouns in Spanish are masculine because he is a guy, while Dazcion can do the same for feminine nouns. How is that possible? Read on.

Spanish nouns ending in L, O, R, E, N, and S are **masculine**. Here are some examples:

Árbol	[ar-bol]	‘tree’	Azucar	[ah-zu-kar]	‘sugar’
Barrio	[bar-ryo]	‘town’	Bebé	[be-be]	‘baby’
Cinturón	[sin-tu-ron]	‘belt’	Disco	[dis-ko]	‘disk’
Examen	[ek-sa-men]	‘exam’	Freno	[fre-no]	‘brake’
Garaje	[ga-ra-he]	‘garage’	Hombre	[om-bre]	‘man’
Imán	[i-man]	‘magnet’	Jamón	[ha-mon]	‘ham’
Libro	[lib-roh]	‘book’	Miedo	[mye-do]	‘fear’
Nombre	[nom-bre]	‘name’	Oído	[oy-do]	‘ear’
País	[pa-is]	‘country’	Pupitre	[pu-pit-re]	‘desk’
Queso	[ke-so]	‘cheese’	Regalo	[reh-ga-lo]	‘gift’

Nadar	[na-dar]	to swim	<i>Nadar</i> is to swim naked in the dark .
Necesitar	[ne-the-thi-tar]	to need	<i>Necesitar</i> . When it's a necessity and requirement, it's a need .
Parar	[pa-rar]	to stop	<i>Parar</i> is to stop and park along the road .
Pasar	[pa-sar]	to spend time	<i>Pasar</i> is to spend time before it passes by a whole year round .
Patinar	[pa-ti-nar]	to skate	<i>Patinar</i> is a skating parrot with tiny little arms .
Pintar	[pin-tar]	to paint	<i>Pintar</i> is to paint using a pint of aerosol .
Preguntar	[pre-gun-tar]	to ask	<i>Preguntar</i> is to ask a pregnant woman how she understands tarantism .
Preparar	[pre-pa-rar]	to prepare	<i>Preparar</i> is to prepare a rice bowl.
Presentar	[pre-sen-tar]	to present	<i>Presentar</i> is to present a ribbon for the best student.
Quitar	[ki-tar]	to take off	<i>Quitar</i> is to quit hammering around and take off.
Regresar	[re-gre-sar]	to return	<i>Regresar</i> is to return because you regret saying farewell to a friend.
Saludar	[sa-lu-dar]	to greet	<i>Saludar</i> is to greet and salute da (the) referee.
Terminar	[ter-mi-nar]	to end	<i>Terminar</i> is terminating a bad routine .
Tirar	[ti-rar]	to throw	<i>Tirar</i> is to throw the left-over tiramisu that's rotten .
Tocar	[to-kar]	to play	<i>Tocar</i> is playing the triangle , oboe , cello , and guitar .
Tomar	[to-mar]	to take in	<i>Tomar</i> is to take in a tomato and radish juice at the same time.
Trabajar	[tra-ba-khar]	to work	<i>Trabajar</i> is to work using a truck , bus , car .
Usar	[u-sar]	to use	<i>Usar</i> is to use the USA Robotics .

plural of *mouse* is *mice* and not *mousse*, or that the past tense of *sing* is *sang* and not *singed*, like any other regular verbs in English.

1. **Irregular Stems.** These verbs use the same endings as the regular verbs. What made them irregular are the changes their stems undergo. Hence, remember to still identify their endings and use the regular conjugation patterns, but don't forget to change their spellings by:

a. **Replacing -e by -ie**

Ex. Querer 'to like'

Yo **quiero**
Tu **quieres**
El/Ella/Usted **quiere**
Nosotros **queremos**
Vosotros **queréis**
Ellos/Ellas/Uds **quieren**

Cerrar 'to close'

Yo **cierro**
Tu **cierras**
El/Ella/Usted **cierra**
Nosotros **cerramos**
Vosotros **cerráis**
Ellos/Ellas/Uds **cierran**

Other verbs of this form.

Defender 'to defend'
Empezar 'to start'
Perder 'to lose'
Pensar 'to think'
Sentir 'to feel'
Divertir(se) 'to have a good time'

Despertar(se) 'to wake up'
Entender 'to understand'
Sentar(se) 'to sit, settle'
Recomendar 'to recommend'
Preferir 'to prefer'
Mentir 'to lie'

Notes:

- Notice that these verbs have changes in all persons except *nosotros* (we) and *vosotros* (you all).
- With verb stems having two or more syllables with both -e, the 2nd syllable with the -e undergoes the change.

b. **Replacing -o by -ue**

Ex. Volver 'to turn'

Almorzar 'to eat lunch'

For example, *yo fui* can mean either 'I was' or 'I went.' *Tu fuiste* can mean either 'you was' or 'you went.'

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2. When a verb is intransitive (doesn't require a direct object), the sentence can be as short as having a noun and a verb; and yet it is already complete. The subject can even be omitted, so a verb alone can already be a complete sentence.

Ex. *¡(Nosotros) vivimos!*
'We live!'

Note: Words or phrases inside a parenthesis are optional and can be omitted.

3. When the verb to be used is transitive, the sentence follows the form (Subject)-Verb-Object, where the object is a noun.

Ex. *(Juan y Maria) comieron las manzanas en la mesa.*
Subj V Direct Object Prep
'Juan and Maria ate the apples in the table.'

(Yo) amo a ti.
Subj V DO
'I love you.'

When the direct object becomes an objective pronoun, the order of the sentence becomes (Subject)-Object-Verb.

(Ellos) los recogieron desde el jardín.
Subj DOP V Preposition
'They (Juan and Maria) got them (the apples) from the garden'

(Yo) te amo.
Subj DOP V
'I love you'

4. Nominal direct objects always come before indirect objects. They both occur after the verb: Subject-Verb-DO-IO

Ex. *Juan da las flores a mi.*
Subj V DO IO
'Juan gives the flowers to me.'

When both direct and indirect objects become pronouns, they occur between the subject and the verb. In this form, the direct object pronoun now follows the indirect object pronoun: Subject-IO Pronoun-DO Pronoun-Verb.

Juan me las da.
Subj IOP DOP V

Present Tense	Affirmative	Negative
Tu bebes		no bebas
Usted bebe	beba	no beba
Nosotros bebemos	bebamos	no bebamos
Vosotros bebeis		no bebais
Ustedes beben	beban	no beban

c. **Regular IR Verbs:**

- For tu, usted, and ustedes, change the *-e* of the suffix to *-a*.
- For nosotros, change the *-i* of the suffix to *-a*.
- For vosotros, change the *-i* of the suffix to *-ai*.

Ex. Abrir 'to open'

Present Tense	Affirmative	Negative
Tu abres		no abras
Usted abre	abra	no abra
Nosotros abrimos	abramos	no abramos
Vosotros abris		no abrais
Ustedes abren	abran	no abran

Note:

- Notice that the imperative endings for ER and IR verbs are identical.

2. Affirmative commands with tu and vosotros are conjugated a bit differently but the same for AR, ER, and IR verbs:

- a. To form the affirmative imperative command of tu, take the present tense and drop the final *-s*.

Tu estudias	estudia	no estudies
Tu bebes	bebe	no bebas
Tu abres	abre	no abras

- b. To form the affirmative imperative command of vosotros, take the infinitive and replace the final *-r* with a *-d*. Let's take *estudiar* as an example.

Vosotros estudiais	estudiad	no estudiéis
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Vosotros bebeis
Vosotros abris

bebed
abrid

no bebais
no abrais

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No tengo cambio

[no teng-go cam-byo]

'I have nothing smaller / I have no change'

Quedese con la vuelta

[ke-de-se kon la vwel-ta]

'Keep the change'

Hiring a Boat

Un billete

[un bi-lye-te]

'1 ticket'

Dos billetes

[dos bi-lye-tes]

'2 tickets'

De ida

[de i-da]

'Single'

De ida de vuelta

[de i-da ee vwel-ta]

'Round trip'

¿Hay algun billete de turista?

[ay al-gun bi-lye-te de tu-ris-ta]

'Is there a tourist ticket?'

¿Hay excursiones en barco?

[ay eks-kur-syo-nes en bar-ko]

'Are there any boat trips?'

¿Cuánto dura el viaje?

[kwan-to du-ra el vya-he]

'How long is the trip?'

¿Cuándo sale el proximo barco?

[kwan-do sa-le el prok-si-mo bar-ko]

'When is the next boat?'

¿Cuándo sale el primer barco?

[kwan-do sa-le el pri-mer bar-ko]

'When is the first boat?'

¿Cuándo sale el ultimo barco?

[kwan-do sa-le el ul-ti-mo bar-ko]

'When is the last boat?'

Driving Cars

¿Se puede aparcar aqui?

[se pwe-de a-par-kar a-ki]

'Can I park here?'

¿Dónde puedo aparcar?

[don-de pwe-do a-par-kar]

'Where can I park?'

¿Hay parking?

[ay par-king]

'Is there a car park?'

¿Hace falta tique de aparcamiento?

[a-se fal-ta ti-ke de a-par-ka-myen-to]

'Do I need a parking disc?'

¿Dónde puedo comprar un tique?

[don-de pwe-do kom-prar ti-ke]

'Where can I get a parking disc?'

Vamos a ...

[va-mos a ...]

'We're going to ...'

¿Cuál es la major ruta?

[kwal es la me-hor ru-ta]

'What is the best route?'

Know These Signs!

Todas direcciones

[to-das di-rek-thyo-nes]

'All Routes'

Salida

[sa-li-da]

'Exit'

Autopista

[aw-to-pis-ta]

'Motorway'

Peaje

[pe-a-je]

'Toll'

Prohibido Aparcar

[pro-hi-bi-do a-pa-kar]

'No Parking'

Centro Ciudad

[then-tro thyu-dad]

'City Center'

Alquiler de Coches

[al-ki-ler de ko-che]

'Car Hire'

Un paquete de ...
[un pa-ke-te de ...]
'A packet of ...'

Una lata de ...
[u-na la-ta de ...]
'A tin of ...'

Un tarro de ...
[un tar-ro de ...]
'A jar of ...'

Know These Signs!

Panaderia	[pa-na-de-ri-ya]	'Bakeshop'
Carniceria	[kar-ni-ce-ri-ya]	'Meatshop'
Fruteria	[fru-te-ri-ya]	'Fruit Stand'
Supermercado	[su-per-mer-ka-do]	'Supermarket'

Dining Out and Ordering Food

Un café solo
[un ka-fe co-lo]
'A black coffee'

Un café con leche
[un ka-fe kon le-che]
'A coffee with milk'

Un té
[un te]
'A tea'

Una cerveza
[u-na ther-ve-za]
'A lager'

Un chocolate con churros por favor
[un cho-ko-la-te kon chur-ros por fa-vor]
'A hot chocolate with churro, please'

Una botella de agua mineral
[u-na bo-te-lya de a-gwa mi-ne-ral]
'A bottle of mineral water'

La carta de vinos, por favor
[la kar-ta de vi-nos por fa-vor]
'The wine list, please'

Un vaso de tinto
[un va-so de tin-to]
'A glass of red wine'

Una botella de vino
[u-na bo-te-lya de vi-no]
'A bottle of wine'

Otra botella, por favor
[o-tra bo-te-lya por fa-vor]
'Another bottle, please'

¿Quiere tomar algo?
[kye-re to-mar al-go]
'Do you like a drink?'

¿Que quiere tomar?
[ke kye-re to-mar]
'What will you have?'

La carta, por favor
[la kar-ta por fa-vor]
'The menu, please'

Yo voy a tomar eso
[yo voy a to-mar e-so]
'I'll have this'

¿Que recomienda?
[ke re-ko-myenda]
'What do you recommend?'

Mas pan
[mas pan]
'More bread'

Mas agua
[mas a-gwa]
'More water'

La cuenta, por favor
[la kwen-ta por fa-vor]
'The bill, please'

Visiting the Beach

¿Hay alguna playa tranquila?
[ay al-gu-na pla-ya trang-ki-la]
'Is there a quiet beach?'

¿Como se va hasta alli?
[ko-mo se va as-ta a-lyi]
'How do I get there?'

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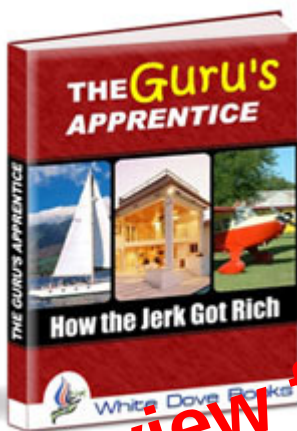
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