



The Alphabet and Pronunciation Lesson Plan



Video: 17 minutes Lesson: 33 minutes

Pre-viewing

- **:00 Warm up:** Have students brainstorm as many Spanish words as they can. **2 minutes**
- **:02 Pre-test:** Write out a few words in Spanish with uniquely Spanish letters, such as *el niño*, *la cigüeña*, or *la llave*, and ask the students if they know how to pronounce the words. If this is too difficult, try using a map of Mexico and seeing what cities they know and if they can pronounce them correctly. Go over the learning objectives. **3 minutes**

Viewing

- **:05 Playing Video:** Hand out the Viewing Guide. Go over the viewing questions and tell the students to pay attention to the program and answer the viewing questions while watching. Don't hesitate to stop the program and review if the students seem confused. Difficult concepts include the letters *g*, *c* and *z*. **17 minutes**

Post-viewing

- **:22 Question & Answer Session:** Ask the class for the answers to the viewing questions. See if any parts of the program were difficult or confusing for the students. Ask a few questions to check their understanding of the key topics. **4 minutes**

Sample Questions

1. How do you pronounce the first/second/third word on your vocabulary list?
2. How do you pronounce the letters *b* and *v*?
3. How is the letter *z* pronounced in Spain?

Handouts

- **:26 Practicing Material:** Hand out the Worksheet and give the class 6-8 minutes to complete it. Students are allowed to use their Viewing Guides. Monitor the students' progress, helping where needed. Go over Worksheet as a class. **10 minutes**
- **:36 Applying Material:** Hand out the Activity. Break the class up into pairs and go over the instructions. Depending on your classroom system, award winners participation points as part of extra-credit/participation grades. After five minutes, have them switch activities. **10 minutes**
- **:46 Wrap-up:** Refer back to the questions and lesson objectives from pre-testing and reiterate what the class has learned. Briefly sum up what has been covered in class, using the students to do the summary. Assign any homework. **4 minutes**

Viewing Questions Answer Key

1. Which letter of the modern Spanish alphabet does not appear in the English alphabet? *ñ*
2. What are the two Spanish letter combinations that were once considered independent letters? *ch, ll*
3. What is a diphthong? Give an example. **a combination of two vowels that make one sound;**
examples: patio, aguacate



The Alphabet and Pronunciation

Spanish Teacher's Reference Guide



Video: 17 minutes Lesson: 33 minutes

Learning Objectives

At the end of the module, students will be able to:

- identify the 27 letters of the modern Spanish alphabet
- identify Spanish letter combinations and demonstrate correct pronunciation
- identify the 5 Spanish vowels and demonstrate correct pronunciation
- identify English/Spanish cognates
- apply the 10 rules of consonant pronunciation
- identify diphthongs and demonstrate proper pronunciation
- define, pronounce and correctly spell all vocabulary words

Materials

- *Video*: vocabulary, vowel sounds, consonant rules, diphthongs & cognates; 17 minutes long
- *Viewing Guide*: vocabulary, vowel sounds, consonant rules; 3 viewing questions
- *Worksheet*: vocabulary, pronunciation rules practice
- *Activity Sheet*: pronunciation pranks, tongue twisters
- *Check Your Knowledge*: vocabulary, short answer, phonetic spelling; 50 points

Background

None required. The lesson assumes this is the students' first exposure to Spanish.

Preparation

None required.

Extension:

If the students are capable, have them practice reading short (50 words) texts out loud in class to give them pronunciation practice beyond simple words and teaching them to extend their concentration while speaking at length.

VOCABULARY

el aguacate – avocado	los cocos – coconuts	la guitarra – guitar	no más – no more
ahora – now	el coche/el carro – car	las hormigas – ants	el ojo – eye
amarillo(a) – yellow	el curso – course	el huevo – egg	el pelo – hair
el año – year	el eructo – burp	idiota – idiot	el pingüino – penguin
el azúcar – sugar	estúpido(a) – stupid	inteligente – intelligent	querido(a) – beloved
el bolso – purse	el ferrocarril – train	joven – young	el queso – cheese
bonito(a) – pretty	el garaje – garage	junto(a) – together	rápido(a) – fast
bueno(a) – good	el gato – cat	justicia humana – human justice	el regalo – gift
la calle – street	el general – general	la llave – key	la tetera – teapot
la cena – dinner	el gordo – fat	la magia – magic	la trucha – trout
el cine – movie theater	gracias – thank you	muy – very	la uña – fingernail
la cigüeña – stork	la guerra – war	la naranja – orange (fruit)	la vaca – cow
la ciudad – city	el guante – glove	el niño – little boy	el zapato – shoe

A Quick Guide to Vowels: a = ah (*mama*) e = ay (*table*) i = ee (*feet*) o = oh (*total*) u = oo (*loop*)

10 Rules for Pronouncing Tricky Spanish Consonants

Rule 1: “b” and “v” are both pronounced like the “b” in the English word “boy,” but a little softer and more airy.

venir / bway-neer / *to come*
el burro / boo-rroh / *donkey*

Rule 2: If a “c” comes before “a,” “o,” or “u,” it is pronounced like the English “k.”

la calle / kah-yay / *street*
el coche / koh-chay / *car*

In Latin America, a “c” placed before an “e” or an “i” makes the same sound as an English “s.”**

la cena / say-na / *supper*
el cine / see-nay / *movie theater*

Rule 3: When “g” is followed by either an “e” or an “i,” it sounds like the “h” in the English word “hot,” but more guttural and spitty.

general / hayn-ayr-ahl / *general*
magia / mah-hee-ah / *magic*

When “g” is followed by “u,” “a,” or “o,” it sounds kind of like the “g” in the English word “gain,” but not quite as hard.

garaje / ghah-rah-hay / *garage*
gordo / ghohr-do / *fat*

When “g” is followed by a “ue” or “ui,” the “u” is silent, like in the English word “guest.”

la guerra de las guitarras / lah ghay-rrah day lahs ghee-tah-rras / *the war of the guitars*

Rule 4: In Spanish, “h” is always silent, as in the English word “honesty.”

la hormiga / ohr-mee-gah / *ant*
el huevo / way-bvoh / *egg*

Rule 5: “j” always sounds like a spitty, guttural English “g.”

juntos / hoon-tohs / *together*
joven / hoh-vayn / *young*

Rule 6: The letter combination “ll” is pronounced like the letter “y” in the

English word “yogurt.”

llevar / yay-vahr / *to carry*
amarillo / ah-mah-ree-yoh / *yellow*

Rule 7: The consonant “ñ” is pronounced like “ny” in the English word “canyon.”

el año / ah-nyoh / *year*
el niño / nee-nyoh / *little boy*

Rule 8: The letter “q” is pronounced like the “k” in the English word “kitchen.” As in English, the “u” is always silent.

quinto / keen-toh / *fifth*
queso / kay-soh / *cheese*

Rule 9: The letter combination “rr” (**burro**) is a trilled “r.” A single “r” at the beginning of a word (**rata**) is also trilled.

Rule 10: In Latin America, “z” is pronounced like an English “s.”**
zapato / sah-pah-toh / *shoe*
azúcar / ah-soo-kahr / *sugar*

*In Spain, a “c” placed before an “e” or an “i” is pronounced “th,” like “thumb.” **el cine** / thee-nay / *movie theater*

In Spain, “z” is pronounced like the “th” in “thumb.” **azúcar / ah-thoo-kahr / *sugar*

Viewing Questions

1. Which letter of the modern Spanish alphabet does not appear in the English alphabet?
2. What are the two Spanish letter combinations that were once considered independent letters?
3. What is a diphthong? Give an example.

The Alphabet and Pronunciation Worksheet

Sounds like Pronunciation Spirit

There are three things to do for this exercise. First, pronounce each Spanish word. Second, answer the multiple choice question, which applies to the underlined letter in the Spanish word. Third, write the English translation in the box on the right.

Example:

el gato

"g" sounds like:

- a) "g" in "green gobs"
- b) "j" in "jump"
- c) "g" in "genius"

cat

1. *el general*

"g" sounds like:

- a) "j" in "January"
- b) "g" in "goat"
- c) "h" in "hello"

2. *la llave*

"ll" sounds like:

- a) "l" in "lead"
- b) "ll" in "lullaby"
- c) "y" in "yogurt"

3. *la cena*

"e" sounds like:

- a) "a" in "cat"
- b) "a" in "table"
- c) "e" in "seat"

4. *las hormigas*

"h" sounds like:

- a) a spitting "h" like in "hello"
- b) a soft "h," like in "hollow"
- c) "h" is silent

5. *el zapato*

"z" sounds like:

- a) a long "zzzz" like a buzzing bee
- b) a short "z," like in "zebra"
- c) "s," in "sandwich"

6. *el eructo*

"u" sounds like:

- a) "u" in "but"
- b) "a" in "day"
- c) "oo" in "zoo"

7. *la calle*

"c" sounds like:

- a) "ch" in "children"
- b) "s" in "sunny"
- c) "c" in "carrot"

8. *el año*

"ñ" sounds like:

- a) "n" in "piano"
- b) "y" in "crayon"
- c) "ny" in "canyon"

9. *el ojo*

"o" sounds like:

- a) "o" in "cow"
- b) "o" in "got"
- c) "o" in "snow"

10. *la guerra*

"gu" sounds like:

- a) "qu" in "quick"
- b) "g" in "engine"
- c) "gu" in "gut"

The Alphabet and Pronunciation Worksheet

Answer Key

Sounds like Pronunciation Spirit

There are three things to do for this exercise. First, pronounce each Spanish word. Second, answer the multiple choice question, which applies to the underlined letter in the Spanish word. Third, write the English translation in the box on the right.

Example:

<i>el gato</i>	"g" sounds like:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> a) "g" in "green gobs" <input type="radio"/> b) "j" in "jump" <input type="radio"/> c) "g" in "genius"	cat
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1. <i>el general</i>	"g" sounds like:	<input type="radio"/> a) "j" in "January" <input type="radio"/> b) "g" in "goat" <input checked="" type="radio"/> c) "h" in "hello"	general
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2. <i>la llave</i>	"ll" sounds like:	<input type="radio"/> a) "l" in "lead" <input type="radio"/> b) "ll" in "lullaby" <input checked="" type="radio"/> c) "y" in "yogurt"	key
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3. <i>la cena</i>	"e" sounds like:	<input type="radio"/> a) "a" in "cat" <input checked="" type="radio"/> b) "a" in "table" <input type="radio"/> c) "e" in "seat"	dinner
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4. <i>las hormigas</i>	"h" sounds like:	<input type="radio"/> a) a spitting "h" like in "h-h-hello" <input type="radio"/> b) a soft "h," like in "hollow" <input checked="" type="radio"/> c) "h" is silent	ants
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5. <i>el zapato</i>	"z" sounds like:	<input type="radio"/> a) a long "zzzz" like a buzzing bee <input type="radio"/> b) a short "z," like in "zebra" <input checked="" type="radio"/> c) "s," in "sandwich"	shoe
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6. <i>el eructo</i>	"u" sounds like:	<input type="radio"/> a) "u" in "but" <input type="radio"/> b) "a" in "day" <input checked="" type="radio"/> c) "oo" in "zoo"	burp
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7. <i>la calle</i>	"c" sounds like:	<input type="radio"/> a) "ch" in "children" <input type="radio"/> b) "s" in "sunny" <input checked="" type="radio"/> c) "c" in "carrot"	street
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8. <i>el año</i>	"ñ" sounds like:	<input type="radio"/> a) "n" in "piano" <input type="radio"/> b) "y" in "crayon" <input checked="" type="radio"/> c) "ny" in "canyon"	year
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9. <i>el ojo</i>	"o" sounds like:	<input type="radio"/> a) "o" in "cow" <input type="radio"/> b) "o" in "got" <input checked="" type="radio"/> c) "o" in "snow"	eye
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10. <i>la guerra</i>	"gu" sounds like:	<input type="radio"/> a) "qu" in "quick" <input type="radio"/> b) "g" in "engine" <input checked="" type="radio"/> c) "gu" in "guest"	war
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The Alphabet and Pronunciation Activity



A. Pronunciation Pranks

Work together in pairs. Learn the joys of teamwork! Player One points to one of the words below and asks Player Two to pronounce it. After Player Two guesses, check your notes to see if the answer was correct. Each correct answer earns 3 points. Each incorrect answer subtracts 1 point. Award points and switch roles.

ciudad	rapido	aguacate
buena	regalo	ferrocarril
inteligente	ahora	amarillo
querido	huevo	garaje
pingüino	joven	uña

PLAYER ONE SCORE: _____

PLAYER TWO SCORE: _____

B. Tongue Twisters

Keep the same pairs from Pronunciation Pranks. This time, Player One has ten seconds to say the tongue twister as many times as possible. Each time you say it correctly gets you one point. Then it's Player Two's turn. Work your way through the list and be creative when it comes to number seven!

1. *Mi mamá me ama.*
(My mother loves me.)
2. *Yo como cocos con Carlos.*
(I eat coconuts with Carlos.)
3. *¿Cuál es tu quinto queso querido?*
(What is your fifth favorite cheese?)
4. *Dos ojos jóvenes juegan juntos en la jungla.*
(Two young eyes play together in the jungle.)
5. *Rubén riñe con una rata en el ferrocarril rápido.*
(Rubén argues with a rat in a fast train.)
6. *Una vaca baja viene a las bonitas vegas con su bolso.*
(A short cow comes to the beautiful lowlands with her purse.)
7. _____ (write your own!)

PLAYER ONE SCORE: _____

PLAYER TWO SCORE: _____



The Alphabet and Pronunciation

Check Your Knowledge



Total Score
/ 50

A. Vocabulary: How Do You Say?

Translate the following words into Spanish. (2 points each)

- 1. cat _____
- 3. hair _____
- 5. movie theater _____

- 2. cheese _____
- 4. city _____
- 6. cow _____

B. The Spanish Alphabet

Answer the following question. (3 points)

Which letter of the Spanish alphabet does not appear in the English alphabet? _____

C. Familiar Words

Write the English equivalents of these Spanish words. (1 point each)

el general _____ el patio _____

What are these types of words called? (2 points) _____

D. Which Is It?

Each of the following Spanish words is shown with three possible phonetic spellings. Circle the one that best describes how it should be pronounced. (2 points each)

Example: calle kah-yay kal-lee kay-lee

- 1. curso chur-soh koor-soh kwer-soh
- 2. ojo oh-ho oh-joe oh-yo
- 3. trucha troo-kah troo-key-ah troo-cha
- 4. bueno boo-e-noh bway-noh boo-noh
- 5. garaje ghar-rah-jay gwar-rah-jay ghar-rah-hay
- 6. magia mah-gee-ah mah-hee-ah mag-hee-ah
- 7. huevo way-bvoh hue-bvoh heev-oh
- 8. llave lay-vee yah-vay lah-vay

E. Now The Same Thing In Reverse

Identify and correctly spell the Spanish word that corresponds to the phonetic spelling. (3 points each)

Example: nah-rahn-ha naranja

- 1. kay-soh _____
- 2. nee-nyoh _____
- 3. ah-mah-ree-yoh _____
- 4. ah-gwah-cah-tay _____
- 5. een-tay-lee-hayn-tay _____



The Alphabet and Pronunciation

Check Your Knowledge

Answer Key



Total Score

A. Vocabulary: How Do You Say?

Translate the following words into Spanish. (2 points each)

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. cat | <u>el gato</u> | <u>el queso</u> |
| 3. hair | <u>el pelo</u> | <u>la ciudad</u> |
| 5. movie theater | <u>el cine</u> | <u>la vaca</u> |

B. The Spanish Alphabet

Answer the following question. (3 points)

Which letter of the Spanish alphabet does not appear in the English alphabet? ñ

C. Familiar Words

Write the English equivalents of these Spanish words. (1 point each)

el general general el patio patio

What are these types of words called? (2 points) cognates

D. Which Is It?

Each of the following Spanish words is shown with three possible phonetic spellings. Circle the one that best describes how it should be pronounced. (2 points each)

Example: calle kah-yay kal-lee kay-lee

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. curso | <u>chur-soh</u> | koor-soh | kwer-soh |
| 2. ojo | oh-ho | oh-joe | oh-yo |
| 3. trucha | troo-kah | troo-key-ah | <u>troo-cha</u> |
| 4. bueno | boo-e-noh | <u>bway-noh</u> | boo-noh |
| 5. garaje | ghar-rah-jay | gwar-rah-jay | <u>ghar-rah-hay</u> |
| 6. magia | mah-gee-ah | <u>mah-hee-ah</u> | mag-hee-ah |
| 7. huevo | <u>way-bvoh</u> | hue-bvoh | heev-oh |
| 8. llave | lay-vee | <u>yah-vay</u> | lah-vay |

E. Now The Same Thing In Reverse

Identify and correctly spell the Spanish word that corresponds to the phonetic spelling. (3 points each)

Example: nah-rahn-ha naranja

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. kay-soh | <u>queso</u> | 4. ah-gwah-cah-tay | <u>aguacate</u> |
| 2. nee-nyoh | <u>niño</u> | 5. een-tay-lee-hayn-tay | <u>inteligente</u> |
| 3. ah-mah-ree-yoh | <u>amarillo</u> | | |



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