

# Espanglés

Introducing a groundbreaking linguistic innovation!

Unlocking the power and ease of objectively more accurate pronunciation in both American English and Latin American Spanish, this revolutionary system of writing utilizes the familiar spelling patterns of American English to facilitate native-like pronunciation in Latin American Spanish, and vice versa.

This ingenious approach allows English speakers to effortlessly interpret Spanish words and pronounce them naturally, while providing Spanish speakers with a seamless way to navigate English pronunciation, all using a spelling system that makes sense for how your brain interprets individual letters and letter combinations.

If it isn't clear, espanglés is a portmanteau of the Spanish words for Spanish and English, español and inglés. This isn't to be confused with Spanglish, the common mixing of both languages by bilingual speakers. While I fully support and often participate in Spanglish conversations, the espanglés system has very little to do with the term, you're likely more familiar with.

As a dialect coach in 5 languages, it's been my life's work to bridge the gap between language ability and spoken performance. After over a decade and thousands of hours of working closely with actors, singers, instructors, and language enthusiasts, changing the spelling to match someone's native language 'system' has been, without a doubt, the most memorable approach. It connects letters to sounds without having to learn phonetic symbols or even really think about technical pronunciation rules.

If your goal is to sound like a native speaker, you shouldn't read Spanish words like English words (and same goes the other way), but you can rely on espanglés spellings to get you a little closer!

Experience a language journey like never before, where the written word becomes a gateway to mastering pronunciation in both languages. But just in case, we've also provided an audio guide to walk you through some of these new spellings!

Say goodbye to language barriers and embrace the beauty of effortless communication.

I look forward to hearing how this influences your English and / or Spanish speaking!

Un abrazo,  
Ruben Adery

# ENGLISH >> SPANISH

This section is designed to help native English speakers enhance their Spanish pronunciation (any dialect). Be sure to read this key before you jump in!

## - Notes on **Vowel** Sounds -

Generally speaking, English has more unique vowel sounds (phonemes) than Spanish. The following sections will reinforce a natural neutral Spanish accent by utilizing spelling patterns from American English. The *españolés* examples, in this section are to be read as if they are English.

Ex: exacto -> aches (like aches and pains) sock (like on your foot) toh (also on your foot)

Follow the general key below, but refer to the audio guide for imitation practice!

Spanish O /o/ will be written as OH

no diphthong\* (ie no moving lips from O to u)

Spanish E /e/ will be written as AY or EY

no diphthong\* (unless spelled EI - seis)

## - Notes on **Consonant** Sounds -

Spanish T will require a slight tongue shift - slide your tongue forward

Aspiration is the term for 'breathiness', particularly after the consonants P, T, and K

## - Notes on **Prosody** -

SYLLables that are STRESSED are CAPitalized

*make sure to "punch" these or raise the pitch slightly, like we do in English*

Most *españolés* examples are best said at a fluid, natural rate (aka fast) in English. For these I've written the letters (SIF) to remind you to '**Say It Fast**'

Some syllables are hyphenated (-) or written with apostrophes (') to help with rhythm.

These should be more "linked" together, often combining two syllables into one. Refer to the audio guide for a clearer explanation there. (Ex: *b'day* should come out like the "*bidet*" you'd find in a bathroom)

Like a dictionary, there's no need to start at the beginning, but you could! Lots of new associations between spellings and pronunciation, so you may have to flip through a few sections to get the idea. Don't forget there's an audio guide for these!

## **PART 1 - VOWEL SOUNDS**

- Spanish E /e/ (vs. /ɛ/ English “eh”)

EN

ES

EX

- Practice

## **PART 2 - CONSONANT SOUNDS**

- Spanish B/V
- Spanish D
- Spanish R (tap, not trill)
- Practice
- Correcting Cognates

## **PART 3 - PHRASES**

- Proper Names
- Short Phrases

## — Spanish E —

**EN** = “Ain” (like pain, not “En” like pen)

this pronunciation keeps the vowel (your tongue) *high*, avoiding lowering the jaw

Bien -> BYAIN (vs B.N.)

Bueno -> BWAY noh

Cien -> SYAIN

Dientes -> THYAIN tace

En -> AIN

Evento -> ay BAIN toh

Lento -> LAIN toh

Tienda -> TYAIN thah

Tren -> t'DAIN

Viento -> BYAIN toh (two syllables)

**ES** = “Ace” (like lace, not “Ess” like less)

this pronunciation keeps the vowel (your tongue) *high*, avoiding lowering the jaw

*Note: This is also not the same as Spanish EIS (as in seis) which is a true diphthong, E moving to I. The “AY” spelling in English can be stretched, so just know that BESo is different from BÉISbol (not closing to the /i/ “ee” sound)*

### *Stressed*

Es -> Ace

Este -> ACE stay

Mes -> Mace (not mess, SIF)

Pues -> Pwace

Ves -> Base

### *Unstressed*

A veces -> ah BAY sayce

Entonces -> ain TONE sayce

Está -> ace TAH

Fáciles -> FAH see lace

Tienes -> tYAY nace

Bonus tip:

Just like in English, the -ES spelling is often a plural marker, but it's still pronounced as 'Ace' even unstressed at the end of a word. So, for example, Spanish *meses* (months) is pronounced closer to English “MACE-ace” and less like the English word “messes”

**EX** = “Aches” / “Akes” (like takes, not “Ex” like X)

In addition to the vowel shift, this pronunciation also keeps the X voiceless, avoiding “eggs”

Exacto -> aches SOCK toh

Examen -> aches SAH main (SIF)

Exclusivo -> aches glue\* SEE wo

Éxito >> ACHES see toh

Experto -> aches PAID-a toh

Expresión -> aches p'day SYOHN

Conexión coh nakes SYOHN

Flexible -> flake SEE blay

Sexo -> SAKES soh

Texto -> TAKES toh

\*(It's not a true G; it's a K, but this spelling helps to avoid extra aspiration)

Bonus tip:

Apply *espanglés* to the many other words that these examples transform into.

Ex: texto (takes toh) can be helpful for **contexto**, **textura**, **pretexto**, **subtexto**, etc.

Think of all the applications!

## — Practice Spanish E —

### **What's the Difference?**

*Spanish mes vs. English mess*

*Spanish es vs. English "S"*

*Spanish ven vs. English Ben*

*Spanish Veinte vs. Spanish Vente*

### **Practice Sentences**

1. Este libro es muy bueno (This book is very good)  
ACEstay ace BWAYnoh
2. El tren en el que viajamos es lento (The train we're traveling on is slow)  
t'DAIN AIN ace LAINToh
3. Tengo cien cepillos de dientes en la tienda (I have 100 toothbrushes at the store)  
SYAIN they THYAINtace ain TYAINthah

### **Practice Paragraph**

## — Spanish B/V —

### **INITIAL V = B**

This also applies to V or B at the beginning of a *syllable* (directly following another consonant)

Envase -> aim BAH say

Envidia -> aim BEE thee-ah

Envuelve -> aim BWAYL-bay

Vamos -> BAH moce

Ve -> Bay

\*\*Verde -> BEta they\*\*

Violín -> be oh LEAN

Vuelo -> BWAY loh

Veinte -> BAIN tay

### **INTERVOCALIC or FINAL V or B = W**

Try to keep your lips flat (not rounded like English) as if blowing gently on hot soup (with voice)

Ave -> AH way

Avena -> ah WAY nah

Lobo -> LOH woh

La uva -> lah OO wah

Club -> Clue

### **VOWEL B + R = "WOOD"**

Wood linking into the next vowel sound keeps the flipped R intact and doesn't overpronounce the B

Abre -> AH wood ay

FeBRero -> fay wood-AY-doh

Híbrido -> EE w'dee tho

Pobre -> POH wood-ay

## — Spanish D —

### **INITIAL D = Voiced TH “Press”**

Any R between vowel sounds (even across two words)

Desde -> THACE they

Diez -> thee ACE

Donde -> THOHn they

Duda -> THOO thah

### **INTERVOCALIC / FINAL D = Loose TH “Glide”**

Any R between vowel sounds (even across two words)

Practicado = p’dahk tee cah tho

Sonidos = soh KNEE thoce

Ocupado =oh coo PAH tho

Escondido = ace cohn THEE though

Todo >> TOH tho

Viñedo = bean YAY though

Ciudadanía = syoo-tha-tha-KNEE-ah

## — Practice Spanish D —

## — Spanish R —

### **INTERVOCALIC R = Flap T or D**

Any R between vowel sounds (even across two words)

AIRE = eye day

Derecho -> they'd ATE cho

Heroe >> **8** O A or **ate** away (SIF)

Serie >> **Say** D A or SAdie A.

Series = say-DE-ace (say diez)

Auriculares -> outie coo LAH dace

Era = ATE ah (AY dah)

Toro -> TOH doh (almost like Toto)

Euro = AU dough A you dough

Europeos -> AU dough PAY oce

### **D + R = "The D..."**

Andres -> on-**the-DACE** (SIF)

Padre >> PAH the-day

Madre >> MAH the-day

Drama >> the-DAH-mah

### **OTHER CONSONANT + R = 'D (FR - PR - TR)**

Broma -> b'DOH mah

Frances -> f'dahn SAYCE

Pronto = put OWN toh

Tres = today's

### **PER = "Paid-uh" / "paid-a"**

Perder >> paid-a THEY'D

Perfecto >> paid-a FAKE toh

Permiso >> paid-a ME soh

### **VER = "Beta"**

Verde >> BETA they — "bayduh"

### **BUR = Buddha**

Hamburguesa -> ahm buddha GAY sah



**\*CORRECTING COGNATES\***

Debate -> they BAH tay

Idea -> ee THEY ah

Menú -> may NEW

Possible -> poh SEE w'lay

Similar -> see-me LAHD

Triple -> t'DEE play

**PROPER NAMES / PLACES**

Buenos Aires >> way-no-SIDE ace

**FULL PHRASES / DESCRIPTIVE USE**

**\*\*Cómo estás = comb way STAHSS\*\***

Muy importante = mweem poh-duh TANH tay

Que hora es = k'YODA ace

— *Practice Spanish R* —

# SPANISH >> AMERICAN ENGLISH

## PART 1 - VOWEL SOUNDS

- Am English Short A
- Am English Short I
- Am English Short O
- Unstressed Function Words: An and And
- Practice!

## PART 2 - CONSONANTS + ENDINGS

- English T  
ITY
- Unstressed Endings  
TION  
US / OUS
- Practice!

## PART 3 - PHRASES

- Proper Names
- Short Phrases

— *English A /ae/* —

**STRESSED “Short” A = EA**

This pronunciation is heard when A is stressed and followed by a [double] consonant

App = éap

Ask = éasc

Asked = éast

Fast = féast

Spanish = spéanesh

Have to = jéafta

**AN and AND = en**

These words are typically unstressed (and closed) so they'll sound almost like there's no vowel

An app = enéap

An olive = enálev

Black and white = bléaquen uáit

Me and you = mieñú

You and me = iuenmí

— *English I //* —

— *English O /a/* —

## — English T —

### INTERVOCALIC T = R

Bottom -> báram  
Eden -> íren

Gotta go -> garagóu  
Eat it -> íret

### OPTIONAL 'TORONTO' T (or T Sandwich)

Lastly = léasli  
Mostly = móusli  
Twenty = tueni

Internet = énRnet  
Apprentice = aprenes

### ITY = ERI

This regional pronunciation is heard because of the T (or D, TT, DD) between vowel sounds. Try to avoid saying a Spanish "Iti"

Ability = aBÉleri  
Activity = eacTÉveri  
Community = k'MIÚneri  
Complexity = k'mPLÉxeri  
Intensity = enTÉNseri

Possibility = pasaBÉleri  
Quality = CUÁleri  
Sensitivity = sensa TÉVeri  
Simplicity = s'mPLÉceri  
Unity = IÚneri

## — English Suffixes —

**TION** = “Shen / Shn” y no “Shon”

Action -> ÉAC shn

Attention -> aTÉN shn

Collection -> k'LÉC shn

Emotion -> aMOU shn

Isolation -> aisa LEI shn

Location -> lou QUÉI shn

Motivation -> moura VEI shn

Option -> ÁAP shn

Population -> papia LEI shn

Question -> CUÉS chn

Situation -> sechu WEI shn

Vacation -> vei QUÉI shn

Bonus tip:

Whenever a word ending in -tion is pluralized (adding -s) we always pronounce the S like a voiced /z/ (because of the final, voiced N) so *Nations* -> **néishenz**

**-US / -OUS** = Es o 'S

Dallas = déales

Famous = féimes

Focus = fáuques

Palace = péales

## — English Names / Phrases —