

NOMBRE: _____

LA FECHA: _____

The combinations *ch* (che) and *ll* (elle) also used to be considered separate letters in Spanish. In many dictionaries you will still find words beginning with *ch* in a separate section following the words that begin with *c*. The same is true of *ll*, which used to come after *l*. You probably know two Spanish words that begin with *ll*.

HINT: You have been using one of them.
The other one is the name of an animal.

EL ALFABETO

a	(a)	o	(o)
b	(be)	p	(pe)
c	(ce)	q	(cu)
d	(de)	r	(ere)
e	(e)	rr	(erre)
f	(efe)	s	(ese)
g	(ge)	t	(te)
h	(hache)	u	(u)
i	(i)	v	(ve or uve)
j	(jota)	w	(doble ve or doble u)
k	(ka)	x	(equis)
l	(ele)	y	(i griega or ye)
m	(eme)	z	(zeta)
n	(ene)		
ñ	(eñe)		

¡jota!

The Spanish alphabet has two more letters than the English alphabet. Can you find them?

Spanish Pronunciation

Many Spanish letters are pronounced more or less the way they are in English. Some, however, are quite different. Unlike English letters, which may be pronounced differently in different words (through and tough, bath and bathe, etc.), the sounds of the Spanish letters are always the same. When you are not sure how a Spanish word is pronounced, you can refer to this table.

SPANISH LETTERS	ENGLISH SOUND	EXAMPLES
a	a in <i>father</i>	casa (KAH-sah)
e	ay in <i>day</i>	mesa (MAY-sah)
i	ee in <i>meet</i>	libro (LEE-broh)
o	o in <i>open</i>	foto (FOH-toh)
u	oo in <i>tooth</i>	mucho (MOO-choh)
b, v	b in <i>boy</i>	banco (BAN-koh), vaso (BAH-soh)
c (before a, o, u)	c in <i>cat</i>	campo (KAM-poh), cosa (KOH-sah)
c (before e, i)	c in <i>cent</i>	central (sen-TRAHL), cinco (SEEN-koh)
cc	KS sound (<i>accept</i>)	acción (ahk-see-OHN)
g (before a, o, u)	g in <i>go</i>	gafas (GAH-fahs), goma (GOH-mah)
g (before e, i)	approximately like h in <i>hot</i>	general (hen-ehr-AHL)
h	always silent	hasta (AH-stah)
j	approximately like h in <i>hot</i>	jardín (hahr-DEEN)
l	l in <i>lamp</i>	lámpara (LAHM-pah-rah)
ll	approximately like y in <i>yes</i>	caballo (kah-BAH-yoh)
ñ	ny in <i>canyon</i>	año (AH-nyoh)
qu	k in <i>keep</i>	que (kay)
r	trilled once; phone operator saying "three"	caro (KAH-roh)
rr (or r at beginning of a word)	trilled strongly	rico (RREE-koh), perro (PEH-rroh)
s	s in <i>see</i>	rosa (ROH-sah)
x (before a consonant)	s in <i>see</i>	extra (ES-trah)

SPANISH LETTERS	ENGLISH SOUND	EXAMPLES
x (before a vowel)	<i>ks</i> in <i>socks</i>	examen (ek-SAH-men)
y	<i>y</i> in <i>yes</i>	yo (yoh)
y (by itself, meaning "and")	<i>ee</i> in <i>meet</i>	y (ee)
z	<i>s</i> in <i>see</i>	zapato (sah-PAH-toh)

Some Vowel Combinations

ai, ay	<i>i</i> in <i>kite</i>	aire (I-rey), hay (I)
au	<i>ow</i> in <i>how</i>	auto (OW-toh)
ei, ey	<i>ey</i> in <i>they</i>	reina (REY-nah), rey
oi, oy	<i>oy</i> in <i>boy</i>	oiga (OY-gah), voy