

# LOCUTOUR<sup>®</sup> Guide to Letters, Sounds, and Symbols in Spanish

LOCUTOUR

SPELLING LABEL

CLASSIFICATION

PLACE OR ARTICULATION

IPA

SPELLED AS

EXAMPLES

## Consonants

p	bilabial plosive	voiceless	lips	/p/	p	<b>papá, campo</b>
b	bilabial plosive	voiced	lips	/b/	b	<b>bomba, boca</b>
v	bilabial fricative	voiced	lips	/b/	v	<b>vaca, revuelta</b>
t	lingua-alveolar plosive	voiceless	tongue tip + upper gum ridge	/t/	t	<b>tan, tarta</b>
d	lingua-alveolar plosive	voiced	tongue tip + upper gum ridge or tongue + teeth interdentalized	/d/ /ð/	d	<b>dedo, de</b>
k	lingua-velar plosive	voiceless	back of tongue and soft palate foreign words use letter k	/k/	c, qu, k	<b>casa, quitar, kilómetro</b>
g	lingua-velar plosive	voiced	back of tongue and soft palate	/g/ /x/	g gu, g	<b>gato, grande, guiar aguijón</b>
f	labiodental fricative	voiceless	lower lip + upper teeth	/f/	f	<b>foca, jefe</b>
/θ/	linguadental fricative	voiceless	tongue + teeth	/θ/	c, s, z dialect dependent	<b>cera, sopa, paz</b>
/ð/	linguadental fricative	voiced	tongue + teeth	/ð/	d	<b>cada, pardo</b>
s	lingua-alveolar fricative	voiceless	tongue tip + upper gum ridge or tongue tip + lower gum ridge	/s/	s, ce, ci, z	<b>solo, cejas, cima, paz</b>
z	lingua-alveolar fricative	voiced	tongue tip + upper gum ridge or tongue tip + lower gum ridge	/z/	z	<b>zona, zozobrar</b>
ch	lingua-alveolar or linguapalatal affricate	voiceless	tongue tip + the alveolar ridge plosives (t, d) combine with tongue blade	/tʃ/	ch	<b>chocar, ocho</b>
l	lingua-alveolar glide	voiced	tongue tip and upper gum ridge	/l/	l	<b>palo, lava</b>
ll	palatal glide	voiced	lips spread, tongue high & forward then gliding to following vowel	/ʎ/	y	<b>llama, collar</b>
r	linguapalatal glide	voiced	tongue blade and hard palate	/r/	r medial position	<b>cara</b>
r	lingua-alveolar affricate	voiced	tongue tip + upper gum ridge (tongue trill)	/r/	r initial position	<b>roja</b>
rr	lingua-alveolar affricate	voiced	tongue tip + upper gum ridge (tongue trill)	/rr/	r	<b>carro</b>
m	bilabial nasal	voiced	lips with air through nose	/m/	m	<b>mano, rimar</b>
n	lingua-alveolar nasal	voiced	tongue tip and upper gum ridge, air through nose	/n/	n	<b>una, nunca</b>
ñ	lingua-alveolar nasal	voiced	tongue tip and upper gum ridge, air through nose	/ɲ/	ñ	<b>ñandú, señor</b>
w	bilabial glide	voiced	lips rounding foreign words only	/w/	w	<b>walkman</b>
h	no sound	voiceless	no articulation, silent	/h/	h	<b>hora, ahora</b>
hu	bilabial glide	voiceless	lips rounding	/hw/	u, hu	<b>agua, huevos</b>
y	palatal glide	voiced	lips spread, tongue high & forward then gliding to following vowel	/j/	y	<b>yerba, yoyó</b>
sh	linguapalatal fricative	voiceless	tongue blade and hard palate	/ʃ/	none	none
zh	linguapalatal fricative	voiced	tongue blade and hard palate	/ʒ/	none	none
ng	lingua-velar nasal	voiced	back of tongue and soft palate with air through nose	/ŋ/	none	none

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	LABEL	CLASSIFICATION	PLACE OR ARTICULATION	IPA	SPELLED AS	EXAMPLES
<b>Vowels</b>						
i	front	voiced	tongue high and forward lips spread slightly	/i/	i, í	plato, imagen, río
e	front	voiced	tongue high and forward lips spread slightly	/e/	e, é	es, tela, Péle
ey, ei	front	voiced	tongue high and forward lips spread, more opened	/ei/	ey, ei	rey, reina
a	front	voiced	tongue flat open mouth	/a/	a, á	papas, amigo, papá
o	back	voiced	tongue is back and lips are rounded	/oʊ/	o, ó	oso, cómo
u	back	voiced	tongue is back and lips are rounded	/u/	u, ú	usa, tú
ai	digraph	voiced	middle to front glide	/ai/	ai, aí	caiga, aire, país
eu	digraph	voiced	front to back glide	/eu/	eu	feudo
oy, oi	digraphs	voiced	back to front glide	/ɔi/	oy, oi	soy, boina
au, ao	digraphs	voiced	middle to back glide	/aʊ/	au, ao	causa, aorta
üe	digraph	voiced	back to middle glide	/ue/	üe, ue	bilingüe, fuego
üi	digraph	voiced	back to front glide	/ui/	üi	lingüista

**R-controlled vowels**

ar	R-controlled vowel	voiced	middle + r glide	/ɑə/	ar, ár	arca, árbol
er	R-controlled vowels	voiced	front + r glide	/eə/	er	ser, era,
ir	R-controlled vowels	voiced	front + r glide	/iə/	ir	ir, irregular
or	R-controlled vowel	voiced	back + r glide	/oʊə/	or, ór	oro, órbita
ur	R-controlled vowels	voiced	front to back + r glide	/uə/	ur	urraca, puro

**Other**

c	lingua-velar plosive	voiceless	back of tongue and soft palate	/k/	c	cama
c	lingua-alveolar fricative	voiceless	tongue tip + upper gum ridge or	/s/	ci, ce	cita, cepillo
qu	lingua-velar plosive	voiceless	back of tongue and soft palate	/k/	qu, que	quien, que, bloque,
x	glottal fricative	voiceless	space between vocal folds	/h/	x	xilofón
j	glottal fricative	voiceless	space between vocal folds	/j/	j, ge, gi	joven, caja, gema, gira