

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

A	a	as in back	Casa	LL	elle	like y in year	Llamar
E	e	as in end	Leche			in southern LA like sh in shatter	Llamar
I	i	like ee in reed	Mira	M	eme	as in mother	Malo
O	o	as in cot	Ropa	N	ene	as in never	Nunca
U	u	like oo in cool	Lucha	Ñ	eñe	like ny in canyon	Niño
B	be	as in beg	Bote	P	pe	as in pen	Pasa
C	ce	before a, u, o : as in car	Caro	Q+U	cu	like k in keel	Quien
		before e, i : in Spain like th in thick	Cien	R	erre	between vowels or at end of word as in rule	Pero / Pensar
		in *LA, C and SS like s in seven	Cien			at beginning of word rolled	Rosa
D	de	at start of word as in dentist	Día	RR	erre doble	rolled as in curry	Corre
		between vowels softer	Adiós	S	ese	as in soon	Cosa
		at end of word like th in thin	Madrid	T	te	as in tent	Tomate
F	efe	as in few	Falta	V	uve	like b in beg	Vista
G	ge	before a, o, u as in got	Gato	W	uve doble	like v in view or like w in kiwi	Watio/Kiwi
		before e, i like ch in loch	Gitano	X	equis	at beginning of word like s	Xilófono
G+U		before e, i like g in got	Guitarra			before a consonant like s	Extranjero
H	hache	always silent	Hombre			between vowels like ks	Taxi
J	jota	like ch in loch	Jamón			in some words like ch in loch	México / Texas
K	ka	as in kick	Kilo	Y	i griega / ye	as in yes	Yo
L	ele	as in long	Largo	Z	zeta	in Spain like th as in thick	Zapato
						in *LA, C and SS like s in seven	Zapato

*NOTE: **LA, C and SS** means Latin America, Canary Islands and South Spain.

WHERE TO PUT THE STRESS

In Spanish, stress in a word is a straightforward matter.

1. With words that end in a vowel, or –n or –s: on the syllable before the end
 - zapato, casas, recorre, melocotones.
2. With words that end with a consonant other than –n or –s: on the last syllable.
 - Madrid, español, Jerez.
3. If it comes elsewhere it must be marked with a written accent.
 - república, llegó, quizás, policía, estación, plátano.