

Spanish Letter Names and Sounds

a (ah)- /ah/
b (bay)- /b/
c (say)- /k/, /s/
ch (chay)- /ch/
d (day)- /d/
e (ey)- /ey/
f (EY-fay)- /f/
g (hay)- /g/
h (AH-chay)- silent
i (ee)- /ee/
j (HO-tah)- /h/
k (kah)- /k/
l (EY-lay)- /l/
ll (EY-yay)- /y/
m (EY-may)- /m/
n (EY-nay)- /n/
ñ (EY-nyay)- /nia/
o (oh)- /oh/
p (pay)- /p/
q (koo)- /k/
r (EY-rey)- /r/
rr (EY-rrey)- /rr/ (roll the r)
s (EY-say)- /s/
t (tay)- /t/
u (oo)- /oo/
v (vay)- /v/
w (DOH-blavay)- /w/
x (EY-kees)- /ks/
y (ee-gree-EY-gah)- /y/
z (SAY-tah)- /s/

Each letter is followed by its name (in parentheses) and the sound it makes (between the diagonals).

There are 30 letters in the Spanish alphabet. It contains all 26 of the letters that we have in English, plus an additional 4: ch, ll, ñ, rr. Ch is a blend (2 consonants together) in English but is a letter in Spanish.

The following letters have the same sound in Spanish as in English: b, ch, d, f, g, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, x, y.

A few notes about sounds that occur in more than one letter:

3 letters make the /k/ sound- c, k, q
3 letters make the /s/ sound- c, s, z
2 letters make the /y/ sound- ll, y

The letter c makes the /k/ sound when followed by a, o, or u. It makes the /s/ sound when followed by e or i (we have not covered this in first grade yet).

As in English, the letter q is always followed by u.