

La Pronunciación

Section 1, Lesson Number 1: Vowels / Las Vocales



PHARMACY SPANISH

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand the key to sounding authentic in Spanish.
- Identify the sound and type for each Spanish vowel.

¡ Aprendemos !

You will see elsewhere in this program how important correct vowel pronunciation is for determining the speaker, the gender and the form of the verb. The key to sounding as authentic as possible is to keep the vowels short. Spanish vowels are very choppy; they are never drawn out as in English. This is one reason that Spanish sounds faster than English.

In English vowels are sometimes "silent". In Spanish vowels are always pronounced. Each Spanish vowel has only one pronunciation:

Letter	Sound	Type	Try This	Pronounced:
a	ah	strong	mañana	mahn-yah-nah
e	ay	strong	receta	ray-say-tah
i	ee	weak	medicina	may-dee-see-nah
o	oh	strong	dolor	doe-lohr
u	oo	weak	computadora	comb-poo-tah-doe-rch
y	ee	weak	muy	moo-ee

** y is sometimes a vowel and sometimes a consonant

*Note: Two strong vowels are two separate syllables: mu-se-o
Otherwise, 2 vowels combine to form one syllable: ciu-dad

¡ Practicamos !

Now let's practice the Spanish vowels. All but the last two words in the list are cognates. A cognate looks, sounds and means the same in two languages.



Spanish	English	Pronunciation
tableta	tablet	tah-blai-tah
apetito	apetite	ah-pay-tee-toe
asma	asthma	ahs-ma
ibuprofena	ibuprofen	ee-boo-pro-fay-na
producto	product	pro-dook-toe
minuto	minute	me-noo-toe
tos	cough	tohs
boca	mouth	bow-kah