

Remember the following basic suggestions for improving your pronunciation:

1. Vowels: The vowels are the most difficult to get correct, because they are the simplest (only one sound, right?)
 1. A (like *father*)
 2. E (like *let* or *café*)
 3. I (like *ski*)
 4. O (like *go*)
 5. U (like *June* or *boot*)
2. multi-letter combinations:
 1. ch = pronounced like English, only softer - *chile*
 2. cc = pronounced like an English "x" – *acción*
 3. ll = pronounced like an English "y" - *llama*
 4. rr = rolled (remember the motorboat sound?) - *burro*
3. Consonants which are not similar to English:
 1. d = pronounced like a soft "th" when between two vowels.
 2. h = always silent - *hola*
 3. ñ = makes a sound similar to the ny in *canyon (cañon)*
 4. r = Rolled (rr) at the beginning of a word. In the middle of a word, it is similar to the "tt" sound in "butter" - almost a light "d" sound.
 5. b / v = identical. Like a hard "b" sound if at the beginning of the word. In the middle of the word, it is very soft with no teeth. Lips almost touch, but not quite.
 6. w = just like English (not really used in Spanish)
 7. x = similar to English except in words of Aztec origin, such as "México" in which it can be pronounced as an hard "h" sound.
 8. k = not used in authentic Spanish words (just borrowed words). Sounds like the English "k".
 9. y = just like the Spanish "i" if used alone or at the end of the word. More like an English "y" in other positions. *Remember that if you ever need to have an unaccented "i" between two vowels, it will change to a "y"*
10. c / g / j / z (see table below)

	A	O	E	I	E
"k" sound	ca	co	cu	qui	que
"θ" (soft "s")	za	zo	zu	ci	ce
"g" sound	ga	go	gu	gui	gue
"h" sound	ja	jo	ju	gi	ge

4. Accenting a word:
 1. If the word ends in "n", "s" or a vowel, then accent the 2nd to last syllable of the word.
 2. If the word ends in any other consonant, accent the last syllable of the word.
 3. UNLESS there is a written accent on the word (romántico). In that case, accent the marked syllable.