Spanish Pronunciation Rules

The Spanish Vowels
\(^a (ah), \ e (eh), \ i (ee), \ o (oh), \ u (oo) \) [short & distinct]

The 7 Special Sounds of Spanish

- **LL** – sounds like “y”
  - *la silla* (the chair)
- **RR** – trill the R’s
  - *el perro* (the dog)
- **Ñ** – “n”+ “ye”
  - *el niño* (the boy)
- **J** – sounds like “h”
  - *el jalapeño* (the pepper)
- **H** – is silent
  - *el hospital* (the hospital)
- **CH** – same as English
  - *mucho* (much)
- **Z** – like “s”
  - *el zapato* (the shoe)

  “There are no bees in Spain!”

  *U is silent after Q*

  - *queso, quince, que*

Pronouncing C and G:

Say Ci, Ce and Gi, Ge

- sounds like: “See Seh, He Heh”
  - *ciudad, cerca, ... gigante, general*
- Otherwise sounds like “k” and “g”
  - *cama, con ... goza, gusto*

Accent Rules:

**Word ends in a consonant (except n or s):**

Accent is on the last syllable, as in “hospital”, “general”

**Word ends in a vowel (or n, s):**

Accent is on the next to last syllable, as in “casa, perros, niños”

**Exceptions have accent mark**, as in lápiz.

Without an accent mark, “lápiz” would sound like “la piz” or “the piz” which doesn’t make sense. Estómago means “stomach” but “esto mago” means “this magician”.