**Spanish Pronunciation Guide**

**For Beginning Spanish Speakers**

There are regional differences to consider when talking about the pronunciation of Spanish words. For these examples, we've used the Mexican Spanish pronunciations.

**How To Pronounce Spanish Vowels**

All the **Spanish vowels** are generally pronounced the same in most circumstances.

**The most important factor in learning to pronounced Spanish vowels is remembering that their pronunciation is more distinct that they would be in English**. In some cases Spanish vowels are pronounced slightly differently depending on the letters around them. **Pronouncing the vowels consistently in any Spanish word is the safest way to pronounce them.**

 In Spanish, **A** is pronounced like the **A** in "***awesome***", never like the A in "apple".

 In Spanish, **E** is pronounced like the **A** in "***hay***".

 In Spanish, **I** is pronounced like the **EE** in "***jeep***".

 In Spanish, **O** is pronounced like the **OA** in "***goa***t".

 In Spanish, **U** is pronounced like the **U** in "***duty***".

**Pronunciation of Spanish Consonants**

**Spanish consonants** have similar pronunciation as consonants in English; however there are a few consonants that have distinct differences to those of English, as shown below:

 In Spanish, **B** and **V** sound identical in Spanish in most cases, like the "**b**" in ***baby***.

 In Spanish, **G** is pronounced like the **g** in ***good***, except when it comes before an E or an I, when it is pronounced like the hard H in English (the Spanish J).

 In Spanish, **H** is ***always silent*** "hola" is pronounced "ola"

 In Spanish, **J** is pronounced like the hard **H** of "***hello***", perhaps a little harder than one would say it in English.

 In Spanish, **L** is pronounced like the **L** in "***like***", never like the "le" in ankle.

 In Spanish, **LL** is pronounced like the **Y** in "***yawn***",

 In Spanish, **Ñ** is pronounced like the **NY** in "***canyon***".

 In Spanish, **RR** is the infamous **rolling R**, which stumps beginning speakers. You can try making to brum-brum sound imitating a car motor or imitate a cat purring.

 In Spanish, **X** is pronounced either like the **S** or the Spanish **J,** "***experto***", is pronounced as esperto, "México" is pronounced as meh-hee-co and not meks-ih-co.

 In Mexican Spanish, **Z** is pronounced identically to **S**, like "***single***". This pronunciation is standard in all of Latin American. In Spain, **Z** is pronounced as **TH**, as in the TH of '***math***'.