

Spanish Consonant Pronunciation

Multiple-Choice Practice Worksheet

For each question, choose the answer that best describes how the highlighted consonant is pronounced in standard Latin American Spanish.

B / V — Soft vs. Hard

1. In the word *saber* (to know), how is the **b** pronounced?
 - A) Like English *b* — lips fully close
 - B) Like a soft buzz — lips don't fully close
 - C) Like English *v* — upper teeth touch lower lip
 - D) Silent
2. In the phrase *viene el banco* (the bank is coming), how is the **v** in *viene* pronounced?
 - A) Like English *v*
 - B) Like a soft buzz — lips don't fully close
 - C) Like a hard *b* — lips fully close
 - D) Like *f*
3. In the word *invierno* (winter), how is the **v** pronounced?
 - A) Soft buzz — lips don't fully close
 - B) Like English *v*
 - C) Hard *b* — lips fully close
 - D) Silent
4. Which pair of Spanish words sounds **identical** when spoken aloud?
 - A) *boca* and *voca*
 - B) *vino* and *fino*
 - C) *beso* and *peso*
 - D) *vaca* and *aca*
5. In *el barco* (the boat), how is the **b** in *barco* pronounced?
 - A) Soft buzz

- B) Hard *b* — lips fully close
- C) Like English *v*
- D) Like *p*

D — Hard vs. Soft

6. In the word *nada* (nothing), how is the middle **d** pronounced?
- A) Like English *d*
 - B) Like *th* in 'the' — very soft
 - C) Like *t*
 - D) Silent
7. In the phrase *dame eso* (give me that), how is the **d** in *dame* pronounced?
- A) Like *th* in 'the'
 - B) Like English *d*
 - C) Like *t*
 - D) Like *z*
8. In the word *ciudad* (city), how is the final **d** typically pronounced?
- A) Like a hard English *d*
 - B) Like *t*
 - C) Very soft — like *th* in 'the', or dropped entirely
 - D) Like *s*
9. In *el dedo* (the finger), the first **d** is hard and the second **d** is soft. Why?
- A) The first *d* follows *l* (a consonant), making it hard; the second *d* is between vowels, making it soft
 - B) The stress pattern changes the sound
 - C) It is random — both could be either sound
 - D) Both *d*'s should be the same sound
10. Which word contains a **soft d** (like *th* in 'the')?
- A) *donde* — at the start of a phrase
 - B) *cada* (each)
 - C) *aldea* — first *d* only

D) Both B and C

G — Hard vs. Raspy H

11. In the word *gato* (cat), how is the **g** pronounced?
- A) Like a raspy *h* (back of throat)
 - B) Like *g* in 'go'
 - C) Like *j* in 'jump'
 - D) Silent
12. In the word *gente* (people), how is the **g** pronounced?
- A) Like *g* in 'go'
 - B) Like *j* in 'jump'
 - C) Like a raspy *h* — back of the throat
 - D) Like *y*
13. In the word *guerra* (war), the **u** is silent. What sound does *gu* make?
- A) A *gw* sound
 - B) A raspy *h*
 - C) A hard *g* (like 'go') — the *u* just keeps the *g* hard before *e*
 - D) A *w* sound
14. Which word has a **raspy throat** *g* sound?
- A) *agosto* (August)
 - B) *gitano* (gypsy)
 - C) *gusto* (pleasure)
 - D) *grande* (big)
15. The words *giro* and *jiro* — how do they sound compared to each other?
- A) Completely different — *g* and *j* are distinct sounds
 - B) Nearly identical — both use the raspy throat sound
 - C) *giro* uses a hard *g*; *jiro* uses a raspy *h*
 - D) *jiro* sounds like English *j* in 'jump'

H — Silent Letter

16. How is the **h** in *hola* (hello) pronounced?

- A) Like English *h* in 'hello'
- B) Like a raspy throat sound
- C) It is completely silent
- D) Like *j*

17. Which word is pronounced exactly the same as *ola* (wave)?

- A) *hora* (hour)
- B) *hola* (hello)
- C) *ola* and *hola* are NOT the same — h adds a breath
- D) *jola*

18. In the word *ahora* (now), how many sounds does the **h** contribute?

- A) It makes a soft breath between the vowels
- B) It makes a raspy throat sound
- C) None — it is completely silent
- D) It separates the syllables with a glottal stop

19. Which of these words begins with an audible consonant sound?

- A) *hablar* (to speak)
- B) *hacer* (to do)
- C) *huevo* (egg)
- D) *joven* (young)

20. A student pronounces *hay* (there is) as 'HI' with a breathy English h. What is the correct pronunciation?

- A) 'HI' — the English h is correct here
- B) 'AY' — no h sound at all
- C) 'KHI' — with a raspy throat sound
- D) 'YI' — the h becomes a y sound

R / RR — Tap vs. Trill

21. In the word *pero* (but), how is the single **r** pronounced?

- A) Like English *r* in 'red'

- B) A single quick tap — like the *dd* in American 'ladder'
- C) A full trill — tongue flaps rapidly
- D) Like /

22. In the word *perro* (dog), how is **rr** pronounced?

- A) Like English *r*
- B) Like a single tap
- C) A full trill — tongue vibrates rapidly against the roof of the mouth
- D) Like *d*

23. In the word *rojo* (red), how is the initial **r** pronounced?

- A) A single tap — like *r* in the middle of a word
- B) Like English *r*
- C) A full trill — same as *rr*
- D) Silent

24. Which pair of words are **different** words with **different meanings** due to *r* vs. *rr*?

- A) *rosa* / *rrosa*
- B) *pero* (but) / *perro* (dog)
- C) *caro* (expensive) / *claro* (clear)
- D) *tierra* / *teera*

25. In *alrededor* (around), how is the **r** after *al* pronounced?

- A) A single tap
- B) A full trill — because it follows a consonant (*l*)
- C) Like English *r*
- D) Silent

Answer Key

B / V — Soft vs. Hard

- Q1: B** — Between vowels, b/v soften — lips stay slightly apart.
- Q2: C** — At the start of a phrase, b/v are fully stopped — hard b sound.
- Q3: C** — After n, b/v are hard (fully stopped), just like at the start of a phrase.
- Q4: D** — B and V are pronounced identically in Spanish — vaca/baca are homophones.
- Q5: B** — After the article el (which ends in a consonant l), barco starts a new breath-group — hard b.

D — Hard vs. Soft

- Q6: B** — Between vowels, d becomes a soft th sound. In casual speech it almost disappears.
- Q7: B** — At the start of a phrase, d is hard — like English d.
- Q8: C** — Word-final d is extremely soft — many native speakers drop it entirely.
- Q9: A** — Position determines the sound: after l/n = hard; between vowels = soft th.
- Q10: D** — cada: d between vowels = soft. aldea: second d (between vowels) = soft; first d (after l) = hard.

G — Hard vs. Raspy H

- Q11: B** — Before a, o, u — g is hard, like English g in 'go'.
- Q12: C** — Before e or i, g becomes a raspy throat sound — same as the letter j.
- Q13: C** — gu before e/i keeps g hard. The u is silent. Compare: pingüino — here ü means the u is pronounced.
- Q14: B** — gitano has g before i — raspy throat sound. The others have g before a, u, or a consonant — all hard.
- Q15: B** — G before e/i and J always make the same raspy throat sound in Spanish.

H — Silent Letter

- Q16: C** — H is always silent in Spanish, no exceptions. Hola = 'OH-la'.
- Q17: B** — Because h is silent, hola and ola are homophones in Spanish.
- Q18: C** — H contributes zero sound anywhere in a word. The two vowels flow directly together.
- Q19: D** — All h-words start with a vowel sound in practice. Joven starts with the raspy j sound.

Q20: B — Hay = 'AY' (rhymes with English 'eye'). The h is silent.

R / RR — Tap vs. Trill

Q21: B — Single r between vowels = one quick tap. This is NOT the same as English r.

Q22: C — RR always requires a full trill. Pero (but) ≠ perro (dog) — the difference matters.

Q23: C — R at the start of a word is automatically trilled, like rr.

Q24: B — pero/perro is the classic minimal pair showing that r vs. rr changes meaning.

Q25: B — R after a consonant (like l, n, s) is trilled, just like r at the start of a word.