

Spanish Consonant Pronunciation

Multiple-Choice Practice Worksheet — Set 2

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. You are about to say the phrase *buenas noches* (good night). How is the **b** in *buenas* pronounced?
 - A) Soft buzz — lips don't fully close
 - B) Hard stop — lips fully close
 - C) Like English *v*
 - D) Like *p*
2. In the word *libro* (book), how is the **b** pronounced?
 - A) Hard stop — lips fully close
 - B) Soft buzz — lips stay slightly apart
 - C) Like *p*
 - D) Silent
3. A friend says *el vaso* (the glass) in conversation. How should the **v** in *vaso* sound?
 - A) Like English *v* — upper teeth on lower lip
 - B) Hard *b* — lips fully close
 - C) Soft buzz — lips don't fully close
 - D) Like *f*
4. In the word *lavar* (to wash), the **v** appears between vowels. How is it pronounced?
 - A) Hard stop
 - B) Like English *v*
 - C) Soft buzz — lips barely close
 - D) Like *f*
5. Which sentence uses a **hard b** sound for the underlined letter? (Assume each phrase is said from silence.)

- A) *la vaca* — v is mid-phrase
- B) *basta!* (enough!) — said alone as an exclamation
- C) *tu boca* — b between vowels
- D) *la boda* — b after article

6. In *con vino* (with wine), how is the **v** pronounced?

- A) Soft buzz
- B) Hard stop — lips fully close
- C) Like English v
- D) Like f

7. The words *bello* (beautiful) and *vello* (body hair) — how do they sound?

- A) Different — b is a stop, v is a fricative
- B) Different — b is voiced, v is voiceless
- C) Identical — b and v are the same sound in Spanish
- D) Different — b is soft, v is hard

8. In *yo voy* (I go), how is the **v** pronounced?

- A) Hard stop — because it follows a vowel pause
- B) Soft buzz — between two vowels
- C) Like English v
- D) Hard stop — because it follows a consonant

9. Which of the following is the **incorrect** way to pronounce Spanish b/v?

- A) Using a hard stop at the start of a phrase
- B) Using a soft buzz between vowels
- C) Distinguishing b and v as two separate sounds like in English
- D) Using a hard stop after the letter n

10. In *la boca* (the mouth), how is the **b** pronounced?

- A) Hard stop
- B) Soft buzz
- C) Like p
- D) Like English v

11. A student always uses a hard stop for every b and v. Which words will sound **most unnatural**?

- A) *banco, vamos* — both at phrase starts
- B) *saber, uva* — both have b/v between vowels
- C) *invierno, ambos* — both after nasals
- D) *vino, bueno* — both at phrase starts

12. In rapid speech, the phrase ¿Cómo te va? (How's it going?) — how does the **v** sound?

- A) Hard stop — because te ends in a consonant
- B) Soft buzz — because te ends in a vowel (e)
- C) Like English v
- D) Silent in fast speech

D — Hard vs. Soft (th)

13. In the word *dónde* (where), said at the start of a sentence, how is the first **d** pronounced?

- A) Like *th* in 'the'
- B) Like English *d*
- C) Like *t*
- D) Silent

14. In the word *codo* (elbow), how is the second **d** pronounced?

- A) Hard English *d*
- B) Like *t*
- C) Like *th* in 'the' — very soft
- D) Silent

15. In the phrase *un día* (one day), how is the **d** in *día* pronounced?

- A) Soft *th*
- B) Hard English *d* — because it follows the n in un
- C) Like *t*
- D) Silent

16. In the word *verdad* (truth), how is the final **d** typically pronounced by native speakers?

- A) Hard English *d*

- B) Like *t*
- C) Extremely soft *th* or completely dropped
- D) Like *s*

17. The word *aldea* (village) contains two d's. Which describes them correctly?

- A) Both are soft *th*
- B) Both are hard English *d*
- C) First d (after l) is hard; second d (between vowels) is soft
- D) First d is soft; second d is hard

18. In *todo el mundo* (everyone), how is the **d** in *todo* pronounced?

- A) Hard, because *todo* is an important word
- B) Like *th* in 'the' — between the two o's
- C) Silent in this phrase
- D) Like *t*

19. A learner pronounces every d like a hard English d. In which word will this sound **most unnatural**?

- A) *dinero* (money) — at phrase start
- B) *andén* (platform) — d after n
- C) *lado* (side) — d between vowels
- D) *aldaba* (door knocker) — d after l

20. In the phrase *¿de dónde eres?* (where are you from?), the first *de* is unstressed. How is its **d** pronounced?

- A) Hard, because it begins the phrase
- B) Soft *th*, because it's unstressed mid-phrase
- C) Silent
- D) Like *t*

21. Which word pair demonstrates that **d's position** changes its sound within a single word?

- A) *dado* (dice) — first d hard (start of word), second d soft (between vowels)
- B) *dedo* (finger) — both d's identical
- C) *nada* (nothing) — d is hard throughout
- D) *vida* (life) — d is soft throughout

22. In very casual, fast speech, what sometimes happens to the **d** in words like *hablado* (spoken)?

- A) It becomes a hard stop
- B) It becomes *t*
- C) It is dropped entirely — 'hablao'
- D) It becomes *r*

23. In *el dedo* (the finger), there are two d's. Which statement is correct?

- A) Both d's are soft
- B) Both d's are hard
- C) The first d (after l) is hard; the second d (between vowels) is soft
- D) The first d is soft; the second is hard

24. The word *ciudad* ends in **d**. In Spain vs. Latin America, this final d is treated how?

- A) Spain: hard d; Latin America: soft th
- B) Both regions: hard d
- C) Both regions: dropped or extremely soft — nearly silent
- D) Spain: like *th* in 'think'; Latin America: dropped

G — Hard vs. Raspy H

25. In *gordo* (fat), how is the **g** pronounced?

- A) Raspy throat sound
- B) Like *g* in 'go'
- C) Like *j* in 'jump'
- D) Like *h* in 'hello'

26. In *girasol* (sunflower), how is the **g** pronounced?

- A) Like *g* in 'go'
- B) Like *j* in 'jump'
- C) Raspy throat sound — back of the mouth
- D) Like *y*

27. In *guapo* (handsome), how is the **gu** pronounced?

- A) Silent u — just a hard g

- B) *gw* sound — both *g* and *u* are heard
- C) Raspy throat + *w*
- D) Like *k*

28. In *seguir* (to follow), how is the **g** pronounced?

- A) Hard *g* + audible *u*
- B) Raspy throat sound — before *i*, *u* is silent
- C) Like *g* in 'go'
- D) Like *w*

29. The word *pingüino* (penguin) has a *ü*. What does this tell you?

- A) The *g* is raspy here
- B) The *u* is silent here
- C) The *u* IS pronounced — making a *gw* sound
- D) The *g* is silent here

30. Which two letters always produce the **same raspy throat sound** in Spanish?

- A) *G* (before *a/o/u*) and *J*
- B) *G* (before *e/i*) and *J*
- C) *G* and *H*
- D) *J* and *Y*

31. In *agosto* (August), how is the **g** pronounced?

- A) Raspy throat sound
- B) Hard *g* — like 'go'
- C) Like *j* in 'jump'
- D) Soft, between a hard *g* and silent

32. A student sees the word *general* and pronounces the *g* like English *g* in 'get'. What is wrong?

- A) Nothing — that is correct
- B) Before *e*, *g* must be the raspy throat sound, not a hard *g*
- C) Before *e*, *g* should be silent
- D) Before *e*, *g* should sound like *y*

33. In the word *aguja* (needle), there are two different consonant sounds. What are they?

- A) Hard g (before u) and raspy j
 - B) Hard g (before u) and soft g
 - C) Raspy g (before u) and hard j
 - D) Both are raspy throat sounds
34. In *pagar* (to pay), the g appears between two vowels. Does this change its sound?
- A) Yes — between vowels, g softens slightly but stays a hard g (not raspy)
 - B) No — between vowels, g becomes raspy
 - C) Yes — between vowels, g becomes silent
 - D) No — g before a is always fully identical to English g
35. Which word has a **hard g** followed by a **raspy throat g**?
- A) *gato* — only one g
 - B) *garaje* (garage) — hard g (before a), then j sound (not g)
 - C) *gaga* — both before a
 - D) *gusto* — only one g
36. In ¡Oye, *guapa*! (Hey, good-looking!), said mid-conversation, how is the **g** pronounced?
- A) Hard g — because guapa starts with g before u
 - B) Raspy throat
 - C) Soft/weakened g — because it follows a vowel in connected speech
 - D) Like w

H — Silent Letter

37. How many consonant sounds does the word *hueso* (bone) begin with?
- A) Two — h and w
 - B) One — just the w-like glide of ue
 - C) One — just the h
 - D) Zero — it starts with a pure vowel u
38. A student spells a word aloud and says the letter *hache*. When this letter appears in a word, what sound does it produce?
- A) A soft breath sound
 - B) A raspy throat sound

- C) No sound at all
- D) A glottal stop

39. In the word *prohibir* (to prohibit), there is an **h** between two vowels. How does it affect pronunciation?

- A) It creates a glottal stop between the vowels
- B) It makes a soft h sound
- C) It has no effect — the vowels flow directly together
- D) It makes a w sound

40. Which word is pronounced exactly as if the **h** weren't there?

- A) All Spanish words with h
- B) Only words where h starts the word
- C) Only words where h is between vowels
- D) No words — h always has some effect

41. How is *hasta luego* (goodbye) pronounced?

- A) 'HASTA LWEH-go' — h like English h
- B) 'ASTA LWEH-go' — h completely silent
- C) 'KHASTA LWEH-go' — h is raspy
- D) 'WASTA LWEH-go' — h becomes w

42. The word *alcohol* (alcohol) is borrowed from Arabic. How is the **h** pronounced in Spanish?

- A) Like English h — it's a loanword so rules differ
- B) Like a raspy throat sound — Arabic influence
- C) Silent — Spanish h rules always apply
- D) Like k

43. In *hermano* (brother), which sound does the word actually start with when spoken?

- A) A breathy h
- B) The vowel sound e
- C) A glottal stop then e
- D) A raspy throat sound

44. A Spanish speaker writes *echo* and *hecho* (done/made). When spoken, how do these words compare?

- A) Different — h adds a breath to hecho
- B) Identical — h is silent so both sound the same
- C) echo has a harder ch; hecho is softer
- D) Different — hecho has a glottal stop

45. In which of these words does the letter **h** NOT appear silent? (Choose the trick option — there isn't one.)

- A) *hablar*
- B) *ahora*
- C) *alcohol*
- D) H is always silent — none of these have an audible h

46. How should an English speaker mentally treat the letter **h** when reading Spanish aloud?

- A) Pronounce it like a soft English h
- B) Skip it entirely — pretend it isn't there
- C) Replace it with a j sound
- D) Pause briefly to acknowledge it

47. In *deshonesto* (dishonest), the h appears after the prefix *des-*. How is it pronounced?

- A) Like a hard h — the prefix boundary makes it audible
- B) Like a soft breath between syllables
- C) Silent — even across morpheme boundaries, h is never pronounced
- D) Like s blending with the h

48. The interjection *¡ah!* (ah!) ends with an h in some spellings. When said aloud, the final **h**:

- A) Adds a slight breathy release
- B) Makes a glottal stop
- C) Is completely silent — only the vowel a is heard
- D) Makes the a longer

R / RR — Tap vs. Trill

49. In *caro* (expensive), how is the single **r** pronounced?

- A) Like English *r*
- B) A full trill

- C) A single quick tap — like *dd* in 'ladder'
- D) Like /

50. In *carro* (car/cart), how is **rr** pronounced?

- A) Two separate taps
- B) Like English *r* held longer
- C) A full trill — tongue vibrates rapidly
- D) Like a single tap

51. In *honrar* (to honor), how is the **r** after *n* pronounced?

- A) Single tap
- B) Full trill — *r* after a consonant is always trilled
- C) Like English *r*
- D) Silent

52. The word *rata* (rat) begins with **r**. How is it pronounced?

- A) Single tap — same as between vowels
- B) Full trill — *r* at the start of a word is always trilled
- C) Like English *r*
- D) Like /

53. Which minimal pair shows that *r* vs. *rr* changes **word meaning**?

- A) *rojo* / *rrojo*
- B) *coro* (chorus) / *corro* (I run)
- C) *tierra* / *tiera*
- D) *rosa* / *rrosa*

54. In the phrase *los reyes* (the kings), how is the **r** in *reyes* pronounced?

- A) Single tap — *r* after vowel in connected speech
- B) Full trill — *r* after a consonant (s) in connected speech
- C) Like English *r*
- D) Silent

55. In *pero* (but) vs. *perro* (dog), which statement is true?

- A) Both have the same *r* sound — spelling doesn't affect pronunciation
- B) *pero* has a tap; *perro* has a trill — they sound different

- C) pero has a trill; perro has a tap
- D) Both are trilled in natural fast speech

56. In *Israel* (borrowed word used in Spanish), how is the **r** after */s* pronounced?

- A) Single tap
- B) Full trill — follows consonant *s*
- C) Like English *r*
- D) Silent

57. Why is there no word spelled with *rr* at the very beginning?

- A) It would be too hard to pronounce
- B) R at the start of a word is already trilled — *rr* at the start would be redundant
- C) It is forbidden by the Real Academia Española for aesthetic reasons
- D) RR only exists between vowels

58. A learner uses an English *r* for every *r* in Spanish. In which word will this cause the **most confusion**?

- A) *ratón* (mouse) — initial *r*, should be trilled
- B) *cara* (face) — *r* between vowels, should be a tap
- C) *perro* (dog) — *rr*, should be a full trill; English *r* makes it sound like *pero* (but)
- D) *verde* (green) — *r* before consonant

59. In *arte* (art), the **r** comes before a consonant. How is it pronounced?

- A) Single tap
- B) Full trill
- C) Like English *r*
- D) Silent

60. Which sentence correctly describes **all** the contexts where a single written *r* is trilled?

- A) Only when written as *rr*
- B) At the start of a word, after a consonant, and after a pause
- C) Only at the start of a word
- D) Between vowels and at the start of a word

Answer Key

B / V — Soft vs. Hard

- Q1: B** — At the very start of a phrase, b/v are hard (fully stopped).
- Q2: B** — Between vowels (i...o), b softens to a buzzy approximant.
- Q3: B** — After el (ending in consonant l), vaso starts a new stress group — hard b sound.
- Q4: C** — Between vowels (a...a), v softens — lips don't fully close.
- Q5: B** — ¡Basta! said alone starts a new breath group — always a hard b.
- Q6: B** — After n, b/v are hard — same rule as after m.
- Q7: C** — B and V are always the same sound in Spanish. Context (not spelling) determines hard vs. soft.
- Q8: B** — Yo ends in a vowel (o), so the v in voy is between vowels — soft buzz.
- Q9: C** — Spanish b and v are never distinct sounds. Treating them differently is an error.
- Q10: B** — La ends in a vowel (a), so boca's b is between vowels — soft buzz.
- Q11: B** — Between vowels is where the soft buzz is required. Hard stops there sound foreign.
- Q12: B** — Te ends in e (a vowel), so the v in va is between vowels — soft buzz.

D — Hard vs. Soft (th)

- Q13: B** — At the start of a phrase, d is a hard stop — like English d.
- Q14: C** — The second d in codo sits between two vowels (o...o) — soft th.
- Q15: B** — After n, d is hard — same rule as at the start of a phrase.
- Q16: C** — Word-final d is so weak it's often inaudible. verdad often sounds like 'verdá' or 'verdah'.
- Q17: C** — al-DEA: d after l = hard; d between e and a = soft th.
- Q18: B** — todo: the d sits between two o vowels — always soft th.
- Q19: C** — Between vowels is where the soft th is required. A hard d in lado sounds very foreign.
- Q20: A** — De begins the entire utterance — that makes it a phrase-initial d, which is always hard.
- Q21: A** — dado: first d starts the word = hard; second d between a and o = soft th. Perfect example.
- Q22: C** — In colloquial speech, intervocalic d in past participles often disappears: hablado → hablao.

Q23: C — el ends in l (consonant) → first d = hard. de...o = second d between vowels → soft.

Q24: C — Across all dialects, word-final d weakens dramatically — often inaudible in natural speech.

G — Hard vs. Raspy H

Q25: B — Before o, g is hard — like English g in 'go'.

Q26: C — Before i, g makes the raspy throat sound — same as the letter j.

Q27: B — Before a/o, gu = gw — the u is pronounced. Compare: guerra (before e) where u is silent.

Q28: B — gui = hard g before i, u is silent. To pronounce the u, Spanish writes güi (e.g. pingüino).

Q29: C — The umlaut (ü) signals that the u must be pronounced: pin-GWEE-no.

Q30: B — G before e/i and J are identical sounds. Gente and jefe use the same consonant.

Q31: B — Before o, g is always hard.

Q32: B — General: g before e = raspy throat (like j). 'heh-neh-RAL' not 'geh-neh-RAL'.

Q33: A — a-GU-ja: g before u = hard; j = raspy throat. Two distinct sounds.

Q34: A — Between vowels before a/o/u, g softens slightly (like b/d), but stays a velar stop, not raspy.

Q35: C — Trick question — garaje's second sound is j, not g. gaga has two hard g's. The question tests careful reading.

Q36: C — In connected speech after a vowel (oye ends in e), g before a/o/u weakens slightly — a softer version of the hard g.

H — Silent Letter

Q37: B — H is silent. Hueso begins with the w-glide of the diphthong ue: 'WEH-so'.

Q38: C — Hache (h) is always silent. Knowing the letter name doesn't change the rule.

Q39: C — Even between vowels, h is completely silent. pro-i-BIR — the vowels blend smoothly.

Q40: A — H is silent in every position, every word, every dialect. No exceptions.

Q41: B — H in hasta is silent. The word starts with the vowel a: 'AS-ta LWEH-go'.

Q42: C — Even in loanwords, Spanish h is silent. al-co-OL.

Q43: B — H is silent — hermano starts straight on the e vowel: 'er-MA-no'.

Q44: B — Echo (I throw) and hecho (done) are homophones — h contributes nothing.

Q45: D — This is a trick question. H is always silent in Spanish. All three words have a silent h.

Q46: B — The simplest rule: whenever you see h in Spanish, ignore it completely.

Q47: C — Prefix or not, h is always silent: des-o-NES-to.

Q48: C — Even when h ends a word or interjection, it contributes zero sound.

R / RR — Tap vs. Trill

Q49: C — Single r between vowels = one tap. This is the most common r sound in Spanish.

Q50: C — RR always = full trill. caro (expensive) vs. carro (cart) differ only in r vs. rr.

Q51: B — R after a consonant (n, l, s, etc.) is automatically trilled, just like r at the start of a word.

Q52: B — R at the start of a word is always trilled, even though it's written as a single r.

Q53: B — coro (chorus) has a tap; corro (I run) has a trill. Different words, different meaning.

Q54: B — los ends in s (a consonant), so the r that follows is trilled in connected speech.

Q55: B — This is the most important r/rr distinction to learn. pero ≠ perro.

Q56: B — The r follows s (a consonant) — automatic trill rule applies even in loanwords.

Q57: B — Word-initial r is always trilled. Writing rr would add no new information — the sound is already the trill.

Q58: C — Using English r for rr makes perro sound like pero — a real change in meaning.

Q59: B — R before a consonant (t, here) is trilled. ar-te.

Q60: B — Single r is trilled in three contexts: word-initial, after a consonant (n/l/s/etc.), and after a pause.