

the Spanish alphabet

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www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish

Spanish Steps

Stage 5: Quiero una habitación

Watch as Kevin is asked to spell his name when checking into a hotel. Then click on *Grammar tips* for the chance to listen at your own pace to the Spanish alphabet, which looks like the English alphabet but sounds very different.

For more information about the sounds of Spanish, go to **Stage 1: Finding your feet** and click on *Grammar tips*.

Key language

¿**Su nombre es?** Your name is?

¿**Cómo se escribe?** How is it written?

The Spanish alphabet has 28 letters, including two unique ones:

ll as in **llave** key

ñ as in **España** Spain

The words in italics next to the alphabet represent the approximate English pronunciation of the letters

A : *ah*

B : *beh*

C : *theh*

D : *de*

E : *eh*

F : *eh feh*

G : *heh*

H : *aah cheh*

I : *ee*

J : *hoh tah*

K : *kah*

L : *eh leh*

LL : *eh li eh*

M : *eh meh*

N : *eh neh*

Ñ : *eh ni eh*

O : *oh*

P : *peh*

Q : *cooh*

R : *eh reh*

S : *eh seh*

T : *teh*

U : *ooh*

V : *ooh beh*

W : *oh beh doh bleh*

X : *eh kees*

Y : *ee gree a gah)*

Z : *theh tah*

Learning hint

Some English names can be difficult for speakers of other languages, which is why it's useful to be able to spell them out, particularly over the phone or on voicemail. You're most likely to need to know how to spell out your own details, so make sure you practise spelling your name and address and the names of anyone who might be travelling with you.

Acquiring a good Spanish accent is about more than knowing the alphabet, and it's very important to say words and phrases out loud on a regular basis. Listen as often as you can to Kevin and the people he meets in Spanish Steps and make a concerted effort to imitate them closely.

Quiz

The following spell the Spanish names of 3 regions and 3 towns in Spain. Say them out loud, work out what each one is and match them up.

1. uve-a-ele-e-ene-ce-i-a
2. ce-a-te-a-ele-u-eñe-a
3. ce-a-ese-te-i-elle-a
4. equis-a-te-i-uve-a
5. ge-i-jota-o-ene
6. a-ese-te-u-erre-i-a-ese

Answers on www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/answers.shtml