

Spanish Accents

Enabling accents on your computer:

<http://tlt.psu.edu/suggestions/international/bylanguage/spanish.html>

Identifying syllables:

Say the word out loud. Each syllable will get one “beat” using a normal Spanish sentence rhythm.

The simplified structure of a syllable can be viewed as a vowel with optional consonants around it as follows:

v, cv, ccv (open syllables)

vc, cvc, cvcc (closed syllables)

where “c”=consonant and “v”=vowel

Some examples:

- o pájaro = pá ja ro (cv cv cv)
- o natural = na tu ral (cv cv cvc)
- o próximo = pró xi mo (cvc cv cv)

Diphthongs are the combination of weak and strong vowels which blend into one syllable.

- o Weak vowels = i (y), u
- o Strong vowels = a, e, o

Examples:

- o seis (one syllable)
- o hay (one syllable)
- o acuéstate (four syllables)
- o despiértense (four syllables)
- o también (two syllables)

Stressed Syllables:

Type	Syllable getting stress	No accent required	Examples
aguda	last	word ends in a consonant other than “n” or “s”	natural, aquí, lección, papel, inglés, hablar, ojalá
grave	second to last	words ending in a vowel or “n” or “s”	clase, poliéster, romántico, casa, lápiz
esdrújula	third to last		estómago, despiértense
sobreesdrújula	fourth to last		mándamela