
English Demons for Spanish Speakers

All the short vowels – hat, bed, hit, top, up

The sh of shoes, mission, nation, ocean, chef, special, sugar,
(One sound with six spellings)

The th of this and the th of thank

The j of jello, edge

The z of zero, has

The v of voice, very

The r-controlled vowels – especially the one sound (ir, er, ur)

The zh of measure, mirage

The d of day, ladder, bad

The h of home, house, hare
Ways to strengthen our Spanish speaking students’ acquisition of English letter sound relationships.

1. Short vowels

One-syllable words that have the same ending and rhyme all belong to the same word family. Go through the alphabet to find beginning consonants to use with the word families below. Then generate three-letter words: for example, -ab: cab, dab, gab, jab, lab, nab, tab.

-ab  -ib  -ob  -ed  -ub
-ad  -id  -od  -eg  -ug
-ag  -ig  -og  -en  -un
-am  -in  -op  -et  -un
-an  -ip  -ot  
-ap  -it
-at

None of these short vowel phonemes exist in Spanish.

2. Beginning blends

Use the beginning blends below with the list of word families above to generate four and five letter words; for example, -ap: clap, flap, slap, snap, trap, scrap, strap

1 blends   r blends   s blends   3-letter blends
bl-         br-         sc-         scr-
cl-         cr-         sk-         spl-
fl-         dr-         sm-         spr-
gl-         fr-         sn-         squ-
pl-         gr-         sp-         str-
si-         pr-         st-
tr-         

3. End blends

Mix beginning consonants and beginning blends with the end-blend word families below to generate four- and five letter words; for example, - and: band, hand, land, sand, bland, gland, brand, grand, strand

L blends   N blends   T blends   others
-all        -and       -ant       -amp
-alm        -ang        -art       -iss
-ill    -ank    -ast    -oss
-old    -ing    -ift*   -omp
-ell    -ink*   -irt    -ess
-ull    -int    -ist    -ump
-elp*   -ond*   -ort
-ong    -ost
-end*   -elt
-ung*   -ust
-unk*   -est*

* Most common three letter word families

None of these end blends exist in Spanish

4. Beginning and end diagraphs

Mix beginning consonants, beginning blends, and beginning digraphs with the word families below to generate four – to six-letter words; for example, -ash: bash, cash, dash, hash, lash, mash, rash, clash, slash, brash, crash, trash, smash, stash, splash.

-ash    -ish    -osh    -esch    -ush
-ath    -ith    -otch    -etch    -utch
-atch   -itch   -oth    -erch    -urch
-arch   -irth   -orch

These phonese may present difficulties for Spanish speakers since they do not exist in Spanish

5. Long vowels with silent e

Mix beginning consonants, beginning blends, and beginning digraphs with word families below to generate four- to six- letter words; for example, -ade; fade, jade, made, wade, blade, glade, grade, spade, shade.

-ace    -ide    -ode
-ade    -ide    -oke
-age    -ife    -ole
-ake    -ile    -one
-ale    -ine    -ope
-ame    -ite    -ote
-ape    -ive
-ate
This spelling pattern does not exist in Spanish. There are very, very few silent letters in Spanish.

6. Long vowels in two-vowel combinations

Mix beginning consonants, beginning blends, and beginning digraphs with the word families below to generate four-to six-letter words; for example -eek: leek, meek, peek, reek, seek, week, sleek, creek, cheek.

long a long e long e long o
-aid -each -eed -oach
-ail -ead -eek -oad
-ain -eak -eel -oam
-ait -eam -eem -oan
-ay -eap -eep -oat
-eat -eet

7. Miscellaneous vowel combinations

Mix beginning consonants, beginning blends, and beginning digraphs with the word families below to generate four-to six-letter words; for example, -ook: book, cook, hook, look, nook, took, brook, crook, shuck.

-oil -ook -ound
-oin -oom -our
oint -oon -ouse
-oist -oop -out
-oott

Diphonges are formed in Spanish by combining a, e, o, with i or u, or combining I and u in a single syllable.

8. Vowels controlled by r, l, and w

Mix beginning consonants, beginning blends, and beginning digraphs with the word families below to generate four- and five-letter words; for example, -ark: bark, dark, hark, lark, mark, park, spark, shark.

-ar -ird -aid -aw
-ard -irt -alk -awn
-arm -or -eld -ew
-arn -ord -elt -ow
-art -ork -lid -own
-er -orn -oid