

Pronunciation: Separating Syllables & Accent Guide

1. **Tonic words (*palabras tónicas*)** are those that have a syllable with added verbal emphasis, meaning it's pronounced stronger than the other syllables in the word.
 - a. Spanish employs the **acento gráfico** or **tilde (accute accent)**, which is a diacritic mark (´) that certain tonic words receive.
 - b. We'll classify words according to the **position of the tonic syllables: oxytone (*agudas*), paroxytone (*llanas*) and proparoxytone (*esdrújulas*)**.
2. **Atonic words (*palabras átonas*)** don't receive the **verbal emphasis*****
 - a. Articles: el, la, los, las.
 - b. Unstressed personal pronouns: lo, le, me, te, nos, os, se...
 - c. Possessive + demonstrative adjectives: mi, tu, su, esta, este, esos, ...
 - d. Prepositions: a, con, de, en, hacia, para, sin...
 - e. Conjunctions: y, o, pero, porque, aunque, que...

ACCENTUATION RULES

LA SÍLABA: each of the units of organization that make up the spoken word.

- **Monosyllabic (*monosílaba*)**: one syllable: *yo, no, me, tres, luz*
- **Bisyllabic (*bisílaba*)**: two syllables: *mesa, alto, come*
- **Trisyllabic (*trisílaba*)**: three syllables: *estrella, canción*
- **Polysyllabic (*polisílaba*)**: more than three syllables: *aeropuerto, televisión*

Rules: Syllable Division

1. When a consonant is in between two vowels, it is grouped with the following syllable.

Pe-lo

ca-fé

co-pa

pe-rro

ca-ma

2. When there are two consonants in between vowels, the first consonant joins the preceding vowel and the second one joins the following vowel.

In-ten-so

dan-za

car-ta

ob-ser-ve

****Unless the second consonant is an 'r' or an 'l' → both of these join the following vowel|****

no-ble-za

a-bra-zo

3. When there are three consonants in between vowels, the two first ones join the preceding vowel and the the third joins the following vowel.

Ins-pir-ar

trans-cri-bir

4. The digraphs: 'ch,' 'll,' and 'rr' make up a single sound and can't be divided.

Ca-lle

co-che

le-che

po-llo

DIPTONGO TRIPTONGO e HIATO

Weak/Closed vowels (*vocales cerradas*): i,u

Strong/Open vowels (*vocales abiertas*): a, e, o

Diptongo: the union of two vowels within the same syllable. a, e, o + i, u = form the diphthong

aire peine viuda ruido jaula cielo

- Dos tipos de diptongos: **Crecientes y decrecientes**:
- **Diptongos crecientes**: Formados por una vocal cerrada más una vocal abierta: **ia, ie, io, ua, ue, uo**.
- **Diptongos decrecientes**: Formados por una vocal abierta más una vocal cerrada: **ai, ei, oi, au, eu, ou**.

***Cuando se encuentran al final de la palabra, los diptongos **ai, ei y oi** se escriben **ay, ey oy**, respectivamente.....("y" counts as a vowel sometimes → "y"—"and" functions like "i")

Triptongo: the union of three vowels (usually an open one in between two closed ones) in the same syllable. The accent is always over the open vowel.

Limpiáis U-ru-guay a-ve-ri-güéis, i-ni-ciáis, i-ni-ciéis quien alguien

Hiato: exception to diphthong rule. When two vowels (usually making a diphthong) are separated into different syllables--always by a written accent: *río María, alegría, armonía, país, raíz, quería*

AGUDAS, LLANAS, y ESDRÚJULAS

Agudas: accent is the last syllable of the word (ends in another consonant besides "n"/"s"), or because of a written accent on the last syllable (of a word ending in a vowel, n or s)

Trabajador, caminar, oración, camión, comió, jamás (never)

Llanas or graves *accent is on the penultimate (second-to-last) syllable, or a word ends in the vowels 'n' or 's' and have an accent mark written on the penultimate vowel*

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Esdrújulas: words whose tonic (spoken) syllable is the antepenultimate syllable; **are always accented**.

Sílaba, cántaro, llévame, cuídate, fácilmente, sábado

fan - **tás** - ti - co
es - **tú** - pi - dos
es - **drú** - ju - la
an - **gé** - li - cas

pa - ra - **lí** - ti - co
lu - **ciér** - na - ga
miér - co - les
sín - te - sis

én - fa - sis
mur - **cié** - la - go
ri - **dí** - cu - lo
a - **ná** - li - sis

