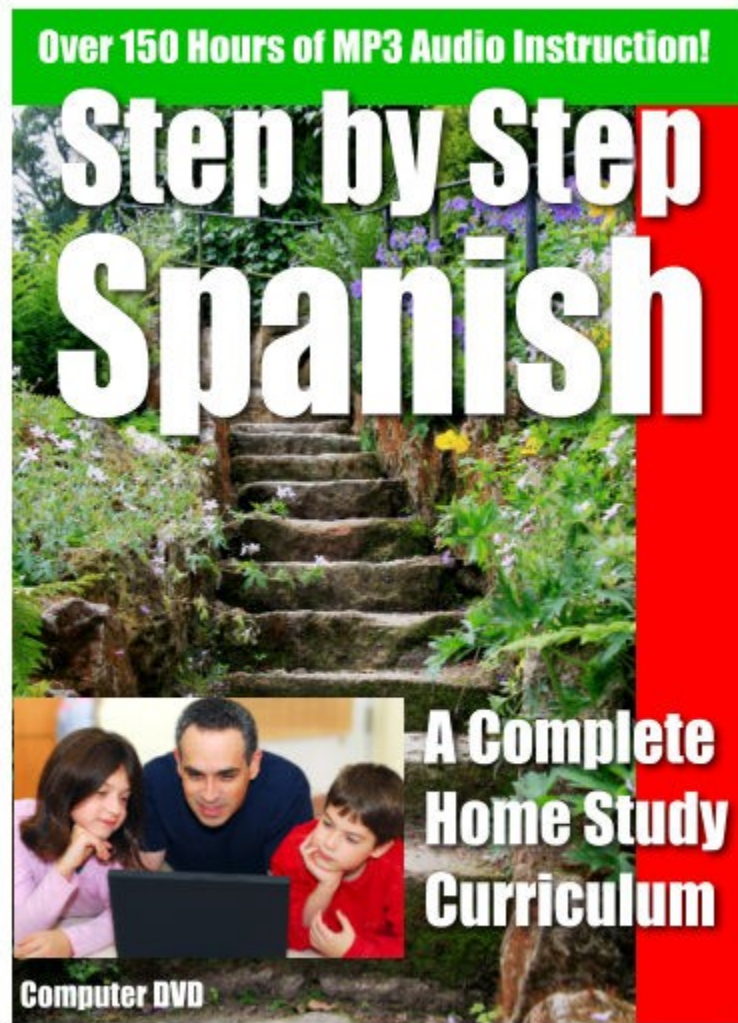




Basic Spanish Course

Contents & Lesson One

StepByStepLanguage.com

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1.1 BASIC SENTENCES. Useful phrases.

ENGLISH SPELLING	AID TO LISTENING	SPANISH SPELLING
Good morning.	bwenózdíàs↓	Buenos días.
Good morning, sir.	bwenózdíàs señór↓	Buenos días, señor.
Good afternoon, ma'am.	bwenástardès señórà↓	Buenas tardes, señora.
Good evening, miss.	bwenáznòchès señòrítà↓	Buenas noches, señorita.
how	kómo ↓	cómo
are (to be)	está↓ estár ↓	está (estar)
you	ústéd ↓	usted
How are you?	kómgestáústéd ↓	¿Cómo está usted?
(I) am (to be)	estóy↓ estár↓	estoy (estar)
well	byén↓	bien
thanks	gráshyàs↓	gracias
and	í↓	y
I'm fine, thanks. How are you?	estóybyén gráshyàs ústéd↑	Estoy bien, gracias, ¿y usted?

very	múy↓	muy
Very well, thanks.	múybyén gráşyás↓	Muy bien, gracias
hello, hi	ólá↓	hola
what such	ké-tál↓	qué tal
Hi! How goes it? (1)	ólá↓ ké-tál↓	¡Hola! ¿Qué tal?
(it) goes (to go)	bá↓ ír↓	va (ir)
to you (it) goes	lé-bá↓	le va
How are you getting along?	kómolebá↓	¿Cómo le va?
Fine, thanks.	byén gráşyás↓	Bien, gracias.
with	kón↓	con
the permission	él-pérmisó↓	el permiso
Excuse me. (2)	kómpérmisó↓	Con permiso.
no, not	nó↓	no
Certainly.	kómónó↓	Cómo no.
excuse (to excuse)	dispénsé↓ dispénsár↓	dispense (dispensar)
Excuse me. (3)	dispénsémé↓	Dispénseme

it (I) regret (to regret, to feel)	lò-syéntò↓ sèntír↓	lo siento (sentir)
much, lots, too much	múchò ↓	mucho
I'm very sorry.	lòsyéntòmúchò ↓	Lo siento mucho.
That's okay.	èstabyén ↓	Está bien.
many (f.pl.) (4)	múchàs ↓	muchas
Thanks a lot.	múchazgrásyàs ↓	Muchas gracias.
of, from	dé↓	de
nothing	nada↓	nada
You're welcome.	dénada↓	De nada.
there is, there are (there to be)	áy↓ ábér↓	hay (haber)
Don't give it a thought. (5)	nòáydeké ↓	No hay de qué.
(I) want (to want)	kyérò↓ kèrérr↓	quiero (querer)
to present	présentár↓	presentar
to present to you	présentárlé↓	presentarle

UNIT 1

SPOKEN SPANISH

to	á↓	a
the (m. sg.)	el ↓	el
to the	al ↓	al
I'd like to present Mr. Molina to you.	kyéro prëséntarłę ălsenyórmólină↓	Quiero presentarle al señor Molina.
the (f.sg.)	lá↓	la
I'd like to present Mrs. Molina to you.	kyéro prëséntarłę ălăsenyórăđēmólină↓	Quiero presentarle a la señora de Molina.
the pleasure	el-gústô↓	el gusto
Glad to meet you.	múchôgústô↓	Mucho gusto.
equally (equal)	igwálméntê↓ igwá↓	igualmente (igual)
Same here, thanks.	igwálméntê gráșyăs↓	Igualmente, gracias.
enchanted (to enchant)	enkántăđô↓ enkántăr↓	encantado (encantar)
to meet, get acquainted, to know	kônôșér↓	conocer
to meet you (f.)	kônôșérłă↓	conocerla

Delighted to meet you. (6)	èŋkántádo ðékònoşérlà↓	Encantado de conocerla.
to meet you (m.)	kònoşérlo↓	conocerlo
Glad to meet you. (6)	múcho gusto ðékònoşérlo↓	Mucho gusto de conocerlo.
Goodbye.	adiós↓	Adiós.
until	astá↓	hasta
tomorrow	mañana↓	mañana
See you tomorrow.	astá mañana↓	Hasta mañana.
then, later	luego↓	luego
So long.	astá luego↓	Hasta luego.

1.10 Notes on the basic sentences

- (1) /óla ↓ kétál ↓ / *¡Hola! ¿Qué tal?* is a greeting generally used with a person whom you already know more than casually, and who occupies a status approximately equivalent to yours.
- (2) /kompermíso ↓ / *Con permiso* is used to excuse yourself when, for example, you are on an elevator and need to squeeze between other people who are in front of you in order to get out; or, when you want to excuse yourself from a group you are talking with. It is not ordinarily interchangeable with /dispénseme ↓ / *dispénseme*.

- (3) /dispénseme ↓/ *dispénseme* is used as apology for a minor breach of etiquette, to interrupt a conversation to ask about something, etc.
- (4) Note that /múchas ↓/ *muchas* 'many' is simply the feminine plural of a word /múcho ↓/ *mucho* 'much' that you also met in the phrase /múchogústo ↓/ *mucho gusto*. The /-s/ is the plural part, while the /-a/ before the /-s/ is the feminine marker.
- (5) /nqáydeké ↓/ *No hay de qué* is used when the other person thanks you for some small favor you have done for him; it is about the same as /denáda ↓/ *De nada*.
- (6) /enkantádo | dekonosérlo ↓/ *Encantado de conocerla* is regularly used only when you are introduced to a woman (if you are a man). If you are a woman, a different form is used and you should not learn this sentence to use yourself. /múchogústo | dekonosérlo ↓/ *Mucho gusto de conocerlo* is what you say (if you are a man) to another man, or else just the short form /muchogústo ↓/ *Mucho gusto*. In Spain, instead of /-lo/ you say /-le/.

1.2 DRILLS ON PRONUNCIATION

1.21 Vowel contrasts in weak-stressed syllables

In learning the basic sentences in the first section of this unit, you should have been repeatedly corrected for your pronunciation of the underlined vowels in such phrases as these:

- | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| 1. bwén <u>o</u> z <u>d</u> í <u>a</u> s ↓ | — <u>o</u> — | — <u>a</u> — |
| 2. s <u>e</u> ñ <u>y</u> ór ↓ | — <u>e</u> — | |
| 3. bwén <u>a</u> stard <u>e</u> s ↓ | — <u>a</u> — | — <u>e</u> — |
| 4. s <u>e</u> ñ <u>y</u> ór <u>a</u> ↓ | — <u>e</u> — | — <u>a</u> — |

5. bwenáznóchēs↓	-á-	-e-
6. gráşyās↓	-á-	
7. dispénsēmē↓	-i-	-e- -e-
8. múcházngráşyās↓	-á-	-á-
9. prēséntarlē↓	-e-	-e- -e-
10. mólínā↓	-o-	-a
11. ástāmānyānā↓	-á-	-á- -á
12. ástālwégō↓	-á-	-o

It is perfectly normal for you to have trouble with these vowels, because, as the dots over them indicate, *they are all under weak stress in positions where such vowels do not occur under weak stress in English.*

While it is normal to make these mistakes at first, they constitute a *very serious error* which must be corrected early in your efforts to form Spanish habits of pronunciation. The following lists are for the purpose of helping you to master these *vowels under weak stress*. They are arranged in *pairs of words* such that the *only* difference between the members of each pair is in the pronunciation of one weak-stressed vowel: such a pair of words is called a *minimally contrasting pair*.

Practice repeating these after your instructor until you can make the contrast *easily*, just as he does, and insist that he continue practicing them with you until they *do* come easily.

1.21.1 Exercises on minimal vowel contrasts under weak stress

/a/ and /e/ in contrast under weak stress

se <u>d</u> á ↓	se <u>d</u> e ↓	pa <u>l</u> ón ↓	pe <u>l</u> ón ↓
sa <u>p</u> á ↓	sa <u>p</u> e ↓	fa <u>t</u> al ↓	fe <u>t</u> al ↓
lo <u>t</u> á ↓	lo <u>t</u> e ↓	ta <u>ñ</u> yir ↓	te <u>ñ</u> yir ↓
me <u>s</u> as ↓	me <u>s</u> es ↓	pa <u>p</u> ito ↓	pe <u>p</u> ito ↓
bo <u>ch</u> á ↓	bo <u>ch</u> e ↓	da <u>d</u> ito ↓	de <u>d</u> ito ↓
ti <u>n</u> tá ↓	ti <u>n</u> te ↓	es <u>k</u> upa ↓	es <u>k</u> upe ↓
chi <u>n</u> chá ↓	chi <u>n</u> che ↓	so <u>k</u> etá ↓	so <u>k</u> ete ↓
ko <u>r</u> tá ↓	ko <u>r</u> te ↓	al <u>u</u> mbra ↓	al <u>u</u> mbre ↓
so <u>br</u> as ↓	so <u>br</u> es ↓	fra <u>n</u> sesas ↓	fra <u>n</u> seses ↓
ba <u>s</u> ar ↓	be <u>s</u> ar ↓	ka <u>n</u> toras ↓	ke <u>n</u> toras ↓
ma <u>n</u> ar ↓	me <u>n</u> ar ↓	bi <u>r</u> reta ↓	be <u>r</u> rete ↓
ma <u>ch</u> ón ↓	me <u>ch</u> ón ↓	se <u>ñ</u> oras ↓	se <u>ñ</u> ores ↓
ta <u>ch</u> ar ↓	te <u>ch</u> ar ↓	pa <u>s</u> toras ↓	pe <u>s</u> toras ↓
ta <u>ch</u> ón ↓	te <u>ch</u> ón ↓	ma <u>r</u> kado ↓	me <u>r</u> kado ↓
pa <u>n</u> al ↓	pe <u>n</u> al ↓	ap <u>a</u> gar ↓	ap <u>e</u> gar ↓
ta <u>h</u> ón ↓	te <u>h</u> ón ↓	po <u>r</u> tugasas ↓	po <u>r</u> tugeses ↓

/a/ and /i/ in contrast under weak stress

l <u>a</u> bár ↓	l <u>i</u> bár ↓	p <u>a</u> ñyá ↓	p <u>i</u> ñyá ↓
p <u>a</u> tón ↓	p <u>i</u> tón ↓	m <u>a</u> sítá ↓	m <u>i</u> sítá ↓
n <u>a</u> đár ↓	n <u>i</u> đár ↓	l <u>a</u> terá ↓	l <u>i</u> terá ↓
m <u>a</u> táđ ↓	m <u>i</u> táđ ↓	s <u>a</u> leró ↓	s <u>i</u> leró ↓
ch <u>a</u> rlár ↓	ch <u>i</u> rlár ↓	p <u>a</u> keté ↓	p <u>i</u> keté ↓
p <u>a</u> ñsón ↓	p <u>i</u> ñsón ↓	f <u>a</u> harón ↓	f <u>i</u> harón ↓
p <u>a</u> sandó ↓	p <u>i</u> sandó ↓	má(l)y <u>a</u> đór ↓	má(l)y <u>i</u> đór ↓

/a/ and /o/ in contrast under weak stress

á <u>r</u> a ↓	á <u>r</u> o ↓	k <u>u</u> b <u>a</u> ↓	k <u>u</u> b <u>o</u> ↓
ti <u>a</u> ↓	ti <u>o</u> ↓	kó <u>k</u> <u>a</u> ↓	kó <u>k</u> <u>o</u> ↓
ş <u>e</u> r <u>a</u> ↓	ş <u>e</u> r <u>o</u> ↓	ká <u>r</u> <u>a</u> ↓	ká <u>r</u> <u>o</u> ↓
p <u>e</u> s <u>a</u> ↓	p <u>e</u> s <u>o</u> ↓	pá <u>r</u> <u>a</u> ↓	pá <u>r</u> <u>o</u> ↓
pá <u>s</u> <u>a</u> ↓	pá <u>s</u> <u>o</u> ↓	chín <u>a</u> ↓	chín <u>o</u> ↓
má <u>l</u> <u>a</u> ↓	má <u>l</u> <u>o</u> ↓	ká <u>n</u> t <u>a</u> ↓	ká <u>n</u> t <u>o</u> ↓
m <u>e</u> s <u>a</u> ↓	m <u>e</u> s <u>o</u> ↓	má <u>n</u> t <u>a</u> ↓	má <u>n</u> t <u>o</u> ↓
ma <u>y</u> <u>a</u> ↓	ma <u>y</u> <u>o</u> ↓	şórr <u>a</u> ↓	şórr <u>o</u> ↓
bó <u>l</u> <u>a</u> ↓	bó <u>l</u> <u>o</u> ↓		

sánt <u>a</u> ↓	sánt <u>o</u> ↓	déréch <u>a</u> ↓	déréch <u>o</u> ↓
swégr <u>a</u> ↓	swegr <u>o</u> ↓	şigarr <u>a</u> ↓	şigarr <u>o</u> ↓
négr <u>a</u> ↓	négr <u>o</u> ↓	māri <u>a</u> ↓	mōri <u>a</u> ↓
palm <u>a</u> ↓	palm <u>o</u> ↓	şāpat <u>a</u> ↓	şāpat <u>o</u> ↓
past <u>a</u> ↓	past <u>o</u> ↓	ērman <u>a</u> ↓	ērman <u>o</u> ↓
trómp <u>a</u> ↓	trómp <u>o</u> ↓	mimós <u>a</u> ↓	mimós <u>o</u> ↓
rrém <u>a</u> ↓	rrém <u>o</u> ↓	pāreh <u>a</u> ↓	pāreh <u>o</u> ↓
kobr <u>a</u> ↓	kobr <u>o</u> ↓	māre <u>a</u> ↓	māre <u>o</u> ↓
nyet <u>a</u> ↓	nyet <u>o</u> ↓	térner <u>a</u> ↓	térner <u>o</u> ↓
indy <u>a</u> ↓	indy <u>o</u> ↓	şeres <u>a</u> ↓	şeres <u>o</u> ↓
kālór ↓	kólór ↓	(l)yāma <u>a</u> ↓	(l)yāma <u>o</u> ↓
ēspos <u>a</u> ↓	ēspos <u>o</u> ↓	lākōnik <u>a</u> ↓	lākōnik <u>o</u> ↓

/a/ and /u/ in contrast under weak stress

pāh <u>a</u> r ↓	pūh <u>a</u> r ↓	lāner <u>o</u> ↓	lūner <u>o</u> ↓
tār <u>o</u> n ↓	tūr <u>o</u> n ↓	kārak <u>a</u> s ↓	kūrak <u>a</u> s ↓
sāb <u>i</u> do ↓	sūb <u>i</u> do ↓	bārrit <u>a</u> ↓	būrrit <u>a</u> ↓
pāp <u>i</u> tā ↓	pūp <u>i</u> tā ↓	pārgit <u>a</u> ↓	pūrgit <u>a</u> ↓

má <u>l</u> áşó ↓	mù <u>l</u> áşó ↓	kā <u>ñ</u> yáđó ↓	kū <u>ñ</u> yáđó ↓
kā <u>n</u> ítá ↓	kū <u>n</u> ítá ↓	mārşyá <u>n</u> ó ↓	mūrşyá <u>n</u> ó ↓
lā <u>n</u> ítá ↓	lū <u>n</u> ítá ↓	pā <u>l</u> iđéş ↓	pū <u>l</u> iđéş ↓
mā <u>l</u> ítá ↓	mū <u>l</u> ítá ↓	mātá <u>đ</u> ór ↓	mūtá <u>đ</u> ór ↓

/e/ and /ɪ/ in contrast under weak stress

pē <u>n</u> ár ↓	pī <u>n</u> ár ↓	pēsá <u>đ</u> ó ↓	pīsá <u>đ</u> ó ↓
pētó <u>n</u> ↓	pító <u>n</u> ↓	pērítá ↓	pírítá ↓
pē <u>l</u> ón ↓	pī <u>l</u> ón ↓	pēsá <u>đ</u> á ↓	pīsá <u>đ</u> á ↓
tē <u>l</u> ón ↓	tī <u>l</u> ón ↓	pēsá <u>r</u> ón ↓	pīsá <u>r</u> ón ↓
rrēmá <u>r</u> ↓	rrīmá <u>r</u> ↓	mē(l)yá <u>r</u> ↓	mī(l)yá <u>r</u> ↓
mēsérá ↓	mīsérá ↓	pē <u>ñ</u> yítá ↓	pī <u>ñ</u> yítá ↓

/e/ and /o/ in contrast under weak stress

pás <u>e</u> ↓	pás <u>o</u> ↓	pép <u>e</u> ↓	pép <u>o</u> ↓
tóm <u>e</u> ↓	tóm <u>o</u> ↓	tír <u>e</u> ↓	tír <u>o</u> ↓
fúm <u>e</u> ↓	fúm <u>o</u> ↓	káb <u>e</u> ↓	káb <u>o</u> ↓
bín <u>e</u> ↓	bín <u>o</u> ↓	bíb <u>e</u> ↓	bíb <u>o</u> ↓

léch <u>e</u> ↓	léch <u>o</u> ↓	l <u>e</u> syón ↓	l <u>o</u> syón ↓
trah <u>e</u> ↓	trah <u>o</u> ↓	m <u>e</u> sít <u>a</u> ↓	m <u>o</u> sít <u>a</u> ↓
déh <u>e</u> ↓	déh <u>o</u> ↓	b <u>e</u> lít <u>a</u> ↓	b <u>o</u> lít <u>a</u> ↓
téh <u>e</u> ↓	téh <u>o</u> ↓	b <u>e</u> ta <u>o</u> ↓	b <u>o</u> ta <u>o</u> ↓
kyer <u>e</u> ↓	kyer <u>o</u> ↓	p <u>e</u> sa <u>a</u> ↓	p <u>o</u> sa <u>a</u> ↓
p <u>e</u> yn <u>e</u> ↓	p <u>e</u> yn <u>o</u> ↓	<u>e</u> rmít <u>a</u> ↓	<u>o</u> rmít <u>a</u> ↓
kobr <u>e</u> ↓	kobr <u>o</u> ↓	g <u>e</u> rrít <u>a</u> ↓	g <u>o</u> rrít <u>a</u> ↓
kánt <u>e</u> ↓	kánt <u>o</u> ↓	kóntest <u>e</u> ↓	kóntest <u>o</u> ↓
(l)yeb <u>e</u> ↓	(l)yeb <u>o</u> ↓	t <u>e</u> rn <u>e</u> r <u>o</u> ↓	t <u>o</u> rn <u>e</u> r <u>o</u> ↓
mánd <u>e</u> ↓	mánd <u>o</u> ↓	ş <u>e</u> rrít <u>o</u> ↓	ş <u>o</u> rrít <u>o</u> ↓
kamby <u>e</u> ↓	kamby <u>o</u> ↓	kómform <u>e</u> ↓	kómform <u>o</u> ↓
kómpr <u>e</u> ↓	kómpr <u>o</u> ↓	ékli <u>p</u> s <u>e</u> ↓	ékli <u>p</u> s <u>o</u> ↓
p <u>e</u> lár ↓	p <u>o</u> lár ↓	tráb <u>a</u> h <u>e</u> ↓	tráb <u>a</u> h <u>o</u> ↓
m <u>e</u> ntón ↓	m <u>o</u> ntón ↓	pr <u>e</u> p <u>o</u> si <u>o</u> n ↓	pr <u>o</u> p <u>o</u> si <u>o</u> n ↓

/e/ and /u/ in contrast under weak stress

t <u>e</u> mór ↓	t <u>u</u> mór ↓	ş <u>e</u> rrár ↓	ş <u>u</u> rrár ↓
l <u>e</u> gár ↓	l <u>u</u> gár ↓	l <u>e</u> chón ↓	l <u>u</u> chón ↓
l <u>e</u> chár ↓	l <u>u</u> chár ↓	f <u>e</u> stín ↓	f <u>u</u> stín ↓

s <u>ê</u> kşyón ↓	s <u>ù</u> kşyón ↓	p <u>ê</u> nsáðó ↓	p <u>ù</u> ñsáðó ↓
p <u>ê</u> nsyón ↓	p <u>ù</u> ñsyón ↓	t <u>ê</u> nderó ↓	t <u>ù</u> nderó ↓
m <u>ê</u> sítà ↓	m <u>ù</u> sítà ↓	p <u>ê</u> cheró ↓	p <u>ù</u> cheró ↓
l <u>ê</u> lítò ↓	l <u>ù</u> lítò ↓	p <u>ê</u> rità ↓	p <u>ù</u> rità ↓
ş <u>ê</u> rkáðó ↓	s <u>ù</u> rkáðó ↓	rr <u>ê</u> tínà ↓	rr <u>ù</u> tínà ↓
t <u>ê</u> rkító ↓	t <u>ù</u> rkító ↓	án <u>ê</u> lár ↓	án <u>ù</u> lár ↓

/ɪ/ and /o/ in contrast under weak stress

t <u>î</u> mó ↓	t <u>ô</u> mó ↓	m <u>î</u> ráðà ↓	m <u>ô</u> ráðà ↓
f <u>î</u> gón ↓	f <u>ô</u> gón ↓	p <u>î</u> kító ↓	p <u>ô</u> kító ↓
l <u>î</u> sár ↓	l <u>ô</u> sár ↓	p <u>î</u> sáðà ↓	p <u>ô</u> sáðà ↓
m <u>î</u> rár ↓	m <u>ô</u> rár ↓	t <u>î</u> ritó ↓	t <u>ô</u> ritó ↓
m <u>î</u> syón ↓	m <u>ô</u> syón ↓	<u>î</u> hitó ↓	<u>ô</u> hitó ↓
tr <u>î</u> nkár ↓	tr <u>ô</u> nkár ↓	<u>î</u> mitó ↓	<u>ô</u> mitó ↓
m <u>î</u> (l)yár ↓	m <u>ô</u> (l)yár ↓	t <u>î</u> ntísimo ↓	t <u>ô</u> ntísimo ↓

/ɪ/ and /u/ in contrast under weak stress

l <u>î</u> gár ↓	l <u>ù</u> gár ↓	m <u>î</u> rár ↓	m <u>ù</u> rár ↓
m <u>î</u> rón ↓	m <u>ù</u> rón ↓	p <u>î</u> nyón ↓	p <u>ù</u> nyón ↓

b <u>i</u> (l)yár ↓	b <u>u</u> (l)yár ↓	m <u>i</u> nítà ↓	m <u>u</u> nítà ↓
p <u>i</u> nşón ↓	p <u>u</u> nşón ↓	ch <u>i</u> ncherò ↓	ch <u>u</u> ncherò ↓
p <u>i</u> ntár ↓	p <u>u</u> ntár ↓	n <u>i</u> ñosó ↓	n <u>u</u> ñosó ↓
f <u>i</u> syón ↓	f <u>u</u> syón ↓	p <u>i</u> dyendò ↓	p <u>u</u> dyendò ↓
f <u>i</u> nhír ↓	f <u>u</u> nhír ↓	rr <u>i</u> mítà ↓	rr <u>u</u> mítà ↓
m <u>i</u> sítà ↓	m <u>u</u> sítà ↓	m <u>i</u> rahés ↓	m <u>u</u> rahés ↓
<u>i</u> mitò ↓	<u>u</u> mitò ↓	p <u>i</u> ntadà ↓	p <u>u</u> ntadà ↓
m <u>i</u> lítà ↓	m <u>u</u> lítà ↓	rr <u>i</u> kítà ↓	rr <u>u</u> kítà ↓
l <u>i</u> ñosó ↓	l <u>u</u> ñosó ↓	b <u>i</u> rladór ↓	b <u>u</u> rladór ↓
t <u>i</u> nerò ↓	t <u>u</u> nerò ↓	p <u>i</u> rità ↓	p <u>u</u> rità ↓
f <u>i</u> lerà ↓	f <u>u</u> lerà ↓	l <u>i</u> narés ↓	l <u>u</u> narés ↓
ş <u>i</u> rkitò ↓	s <u>u</u> rkitò ↓		

/o/ and /u/ in contrast under weak stress

tòpé ↓	túpé ↓	òmitò ↓	ùmitò ↓
bòkál ↓	búkál ↓	mònità ↓	mùnità ↓
òlaté ↓	ùlaté ↓	plòmerò ↓	plùmerò ↓
trònkár ↓	trùnkár ↓	mòşità ↓	mùsità ↓
lònítà ↓	lùnítà ↓	rròkítà ↓	rrùkítà ↓

sòtanà↓
pòríto↓

şùtanà↓
pùríto↓

mòtilár↓
ákòsár↓

mùtilár↓
ákùsár↓

1.21.2 Discussion of minimal vowel contrasts under weak stress

English speakers of course also distinguish words in this same minimal way - *pit*, *pet*, *pat*, *pot*, *putt*, *put*, for example-but only rarely *under weak stress*. That is, English has similar differences only in syllables that are noticeably *louder* than any of the Spanish syllables you have been practicing. The underlined vowels in the following English words are all the *same* vowel sound in actual speech, no matter how they are spelled.

president

precedent

bottomo

plot'em

warden

pardono

They would *not* be the same in Spanish.

By careful repetition of these Spanish words after a native speaker, and by observing closely the point of difference between each pair, you can begin to *hear and*, having *heard*, to *imitate* differences of a type and frequency that are quite strange to an English speaker's way of talking.

In learning the basic sentences you were probably also corrected for placing too much stress on some syllables, too little stress on others. There are only *two levels of stress* in Spanish (English has four, as we will discover). These two levels are indicated in the 'Aids to Listening' by an acute accent / ' / over the vowels that have louder stress and a dot / • / over the vowels that have softer stress. We will call these STRONG STRESS and WEAK STRESS.

1.22 The stress system in Spanish

There are two things that are important about stress. One is to get the two stresses placed on the right syllables. The other is to make each of them the right strength. Let us examine these two aspects one at a time.

The following pairs of words differ only in the placement of stress, and, as you can see, the difference in meaning that results is considerable.

1.22.1 Exercises on minimal stress contrasts

1. ésta↓	'this'	esta↓	'is'
2. inglés↓	'groins'	inglés↓	'English'
3. péso↓	'monetary unit'	pésó↓	'he weighed'
4. pérno↓	'bolt'	pèrno↓	'a kind of wine'
5. píko↓	'peak'	pikó↓	'he stung'
6. baldé↓	'bucket'	báldé↓	'I crippled'
7. libró↓	'book'	libró↓	'he freed'
8. ára↓	'altar'	ára↓	'he will do'
9. abra↓	'open'	ábra↓	'there will be'

1.22.2 Discussion of minimal stress contrasts

In short, you can be rather drastically misunderstood if you fail to place the stresses correctly when you speak. This, of course, is also true in English, but not so obviously true in view of the greater complexity of the English stress system. We have in English also a fair number of items which can have the stresses arranged in more than one way:

ádrèss↓ or àdréss↓

Càribbéán↓ or Càribbéán↓

Chiléán↓ or Chileán↓

Nèw Órlèàns↓ or Nèw Órléàns↓

Since we do not have as many nice neat minimal pairs in English as there are in Spanish (like /ésta- /está/), we may at first be deceived into thinking that Spanish uses stress in a way that English does not, but this is not true.

The other important thing to learn in drilling on stress is to stress syllables with the right amount of force or strength. It is at this point that the four stresses of English interfere with the *two* stresses of Spanish. Let us first learn what the four stresses of English are. Listen to yourself say this phrase:

elevator - operator.

Which syllable is loudest? el- in elevator. Let us indicate this by writing an acute accent over the e:

élevator - operator.

Which syllable is next loudest? op- in operator. We'll write it with a circumflex accent:

élevator - ôperator.

Then we can hear that -vat- and -rat- are about equally loud, but softer than op-, so we will write a grave accent:

élevàtor - ôperàtor

The syllables that are left over are the weakest, so we write:

élěvătör - ôpěràtör

In doing this we have marked four levels of stress, which we can label:

primary - el-

secondary - ôp-

tertiary - văt- răt-

weak - ě- ör- ě- ör

This represents a great many different levels of stress, but every English speaker (native) uses all four quite regularly and unconsciously every time he makes an utterance.

Now, how do these four English stresses affect your Spanish? If we remember that Spanish only has TWO stresses, then it seems likely that you will get your FOUR mixed up with these two, with the result that you will put too much stress on some syllables, not enough on others. The correspondence between the English stresses and those of Spanish is roughly this:

English

Primary /' / }
Secondary /˘ / }

Tertiary /˘ / }
Weak /˘ / }

Spanish

Strong /' /

Weak /˘ /

Let us look back now at the basic sentences and see if any of the difficulties you had with them can be traced to this difference between the two languages.

RIGHT	YOUR PROBABLE ERROR
1. kòmper'misò↓	kòmper'misò↓
2. dispénsèmè↓	dispénsèmè↓
3. prè'sentarlè↓	prè'sentarlè↓
4. làsènyóràðemòlinà↓	làsènyôràðemòlinà↓
5. igwàlméntè↓	igwàlméntè↓
6. ènkàntaðò↓	ènkàntaðò↓
7. àstàmànyànà↓	àstàmànyànà↓

Now because we consider this a very important point indeed, and because it is a point which is rarely drilled elsewhere, we have put together the following long list, arranged according to the number of syllables and placement of stress. Until you can say these using only the two stresses that are marked instead of the four of English you cannot expect to go on and learn complex utterances successfully. Time spent practicing these, therefore, will be very well spent.

1.22.3 Exercises on contrasting stress patterns

— ÷↓	÷ ÷↓
rróhà↓ kómò↓	éstá↓ kólór↓
múchò↓ gústò↓	kálór↓ ústéð↓
tántò↓ bwénò↓	éstóy↓ ádyós↓
ástà↓ lwégò↓	sènyór↓ kórtés↓
dondè↓ frasès↓	rráşón↓ fúmár↓

fúmò ↓	ábrà ↓
bañyò ↓	bisà ↓
tenğà ↓	taksi ↓
añyò ↓	yelò ↓
tardè ↓	şerkà ↓

pásàr ↓	fàbór ↓
àbrir ↓	pèrdón ↓
dèşir ↓	bisté ↓
şyũđáđ ↓	tàmbyén ↓
sèrbir ↓	şerràr ↓

— ÷ ÷ ↓

rrapidò ↓
lastimà ↓
fosfòrò ↓
syentèsè ↓
dehèmè ↓
unikò ↓
barbàrò ↓
medikò ↓
myerkòlès ↓
sabàđò ↓
şentimò ↓

÷ — ÷ ↓

tràbahà ↓
sàludòs ↓
mànyaná ↓
sènyorà ↓
difişil ↓
mòlestà ↓
èskuchè ↓
bèntaná ↓
minútòs ↓
tiketès ↓
şèntabòs ↓

÷ ÷ — ↓

tràbahàr ↓
òràşyon ↓
èntènder ↓
èspañyól ↓
àwtòbús ↓
èstàşyon ↓
kòràşon ↓
sàludàr ↓
rrègular ↓
kònòşér ↓
pàràgwày ↓

sánwiché ↓
 último ↓
 próksimò ↓

bóletòs ↓
 sábmòs ↓
 Olyégatà ↓

úrúgwáy ↓
 sálbador ↓
 kóntéstár ↓

— — — — ↓
 dígámélò ↓
 préstésélò ↓
 tómésélò ↓
 traygámélò ↓
 beásélò ↓
 kwentémélò ↓
 dandómélò ↓
 byéndòsélò ↓
 kambyémélò ↓
 sakésélò ↓
 mwebásélò ↓
 subámélàs ↓
 komásélò ↓
 buskámélò ↓

— — — — ↓
 téléfònò ↓
 simpátikò ↓
 dèşidàsè ↓
 magnífikò ↓
 múchísimò ↓
 pròpositò ↓
 fánatikò ↓
 pèrdónèmè ↓
 áltimètrò ↓
 figurèsè ↓
 ámeriká ↓
 milésimò ↓
 tántísimò ↓
 bwénísimò ↓

— — — — ↓
 télégramá ↓
 inmèdyatá ↓
 despèdiðàs ↓
 ábsólutò ↓
 sùfişyèntè ↓
 prèsentárlè ↓
 sènyòritá ↓
 kònòşyèndò ↓
 ádelantè ↓
 demáşyadó ↓
 pánòramá ↓
 mónògramá ↓
 èntèndiðò ↓
 kòmfúndiðò ↓

— — — — ↓
 trabàhàré ↓
 káswáliðáð ↓
 libèràşyón ↓
 ábiliðáð ↓
 kòmúnikár ↓
 ferròkàrríl ↓
 mèntáliðáð ↓
 ágrikúltór ↓
 èntònáşyón ↓
 ènkòntrará ↓
 káminàré ↓
 amářişár ↓
 amánèşér ↓
 fáşilitár ↓

ˌ ˌ ˈ ˌ ˌ ↓

kónsɣyéndósɛ↓

ásɛrkándósɛ↓

prɛsɣósísímó↓

prɛsɛntándólɛ↓

primérisímó↓

ɛŋkóntrándólá↓

ˌ ˌ ˌ ˈ ˌ ↓

prɛsɛntásɣónɛs↓

ámɛríkánó↓

láborátoryó↓

kómbɛrsásɣónɛs↓

kónsɛrbátoryó↓

kámisériá↓

ˌ ˌ ˌ ˌ ˈ ↓

ántɛryórídá↓

póstɛryórídá↓

kristálišásɣón↓

kómúníkásɣón↓

násɣónálidá↓

árgúmentásɣón↓

ˌ ˌ ˌ ˌ ˌ ˈ ↓

hɛnɛrálišásɣón↓

idɛntifikásɣón↓

nátúrálisásɣón↓

rrékápitúlásɣón↓

kápitálisásɣón↓

ɛspɛsɣálisásɣón↓

dékóntáminásɣón↓

rrɛspónsábilidá↓

rrɛspɛtábilidá↓

irréguláridá↓

ˌ ˌ ˌ ˌ ˌ ˌ ˈ ↓

institúsyónálidá↓

imprɛsyónábilidá↓

kónstitúsyónálidá↓

súpɛrnátúrálidá↓

dɛskápitálisásɣón↓

dɛznátúrálisásɣón↓

impɛrsónálisásɣón↓

ágríkúltúrisásɣón↓

ámɛríkánisásɣón↓

súpɛrálimɛntásɣón↓

ˌ ˈ ˈ ˌ ↓

ígwalɛntɛ↓

úswalɛntɛ↓

áktwalɛntɛ↓

kórdɣwalɛntɛ↓

ˌ ˌ ˈ ˈ ˌ ↓

hɛnɛrálmɛntɛ↓

lítɛrálmɛntɛ↓

mátɛryálmɛntɛ↓

ɛlsɛŋyorkártɛr↓

sənyórka'tér↓	sənyórka'stró↓	álsənyórka'stró↓	èspə'syálménté↓
dóktorkámpòs↓	ási'di'sé↓	inmóralménté↓	èlkólornégró↓
kólorberdè↓	áyabyéné↓	imfóralménté↓	èlsənyór'barqás↓

1.22.4 Discussion of contrasting stress patterns

You probably noticed, in listening to and imitating these items, that they seem to be pronounced *faster* than English words of similar length. Actually they are not, but there is a big difference in *rhythm* which makes it *seem* that they are. This difference in rhythm can be indicated something like this, using longer lines to indicate longer syllables and shorter lines to indicate shorter syllables:

English Speaker

Where do you think it'll be found?

Spanish Speaker

Where do you think it will be found?

Thus the Spanish way is to make every syllable almost equally long, giving a machine-gun effect, whereas the English way is to make the louder syllables longer. The two languages divide up their time differently.

1.23 The intonation system of Spanish

Up to this point we have discussed two errors you were corrected for in learning the basic sentences: UNSTRESSED VOWELS and SYLLABLE STRESS. The third problem which occurs from the very beginning and will be with you to mar your Spanish for a very long time is INTONATION: the rise and fall of the pitch of the voice. We have indicated this by placing our accent marks at *three different heights* over the vowel:

Low pitch: directly over the vowel /à ó/

Middle pitch: one space above the vowel

/á ó/

High pitch: two spaces above the vowel

/a o/

All three in sequence look like this:

/á á á/ /á á á/

These are analogous to steps in a musical scale:



In addition to these various levels of pitch, there may be a slight rise / ↑ / or a slight fall / ↓ / after the last pitch, or it may remain level / | / .

Now let us return to the basic sentences and see what you were corrected on.

RIGHT

1. bwenózdíás | senyór ↓
2. bwenástardés | senyórâ ↓
3. bwenáznochés | senyórítâ ↓
4. kómgestaustéd ↓
5. múybyen | gráşyâs ↓
6. kómolebâ ↓
7. kómónó ↓

YOUR PROBABLE ERROR

1. bwenózdíás | senyór ↑
2. bwenástardés | senyórâ ↑
3. bwenáznochés | senyórítâ ↑
4. kómgestaustéd ↓
5. múybyen | gráşyâs ↑
6. kómolebâ ↓
7. kómónó ↓

8. múchazgráſyâs ↓	múchazgráſyâs ↓
9. dénádâ ↓	dénádâ ↑
10. noáydeké ↓	noáydeké ↑
11. igwálménté gráſyâs ↓	igwálménté gráſyâs ↑
12. ádyós ↓	ádyós ↑
13. ástamányaná ↓	ástamányaná ↑
14. ástálwégó ↓	ástálwégó ↑

It will be evident to you that all of the mistaken patterns of the right-hand column above are attributable to some very common pattern that such utterances have in English. A few of the common non-Spanish interference patterns that English sets up are these:

1. Good morníng BÍll ↑	5. Gôod bye ↑
2. Fíne thánks ↑	6. Gôod bye ↑
3. Hôw are yôu ↓	7. Mâný thánks ↓
4. Hôw `are yôu ↓	

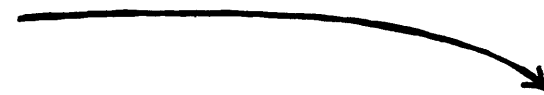
The only way to get these (and other) English patterns out of your way in talking Spanish is by the correct repetition of Spanish patterns so often that they automatically replace the English ones when they are supposed to. The following exercise is directed toward that end.

1.23.1 Exercises on contrasting intonation patterns

1. bēngaká ↓
2. klarokēsí ↓
3. sōnlastrēs ↓
4. 0yēgænabyōn ↓
5. nōlōkrēō ↓
6. nōmēimpórtā ↓
7. byēnemanyánā ↓
8. 0yēgomariā ↓
9. ākīsebáyā ↓
10. kōmpeštā ↓
11. dōndestā ↓
12. kōmolebā ↓
13. kyēne(s) sōn ↓
14. kelepásā ↓
15. kwandō 0yégā ↓

Group 1

All of a 'falling' pattern



16. kwántokwéstà ↓
17. kékomémòs ↓
18. dèdòndesón ↓
19. pàràdòndebán ↓
20. pòrkésefwé ↓
21. pòrkwantòtyémpò ↓
22. ákwantqestámòs ↓

1. yasebá ↑
2. kyerekáfé ↑
3. binokonjüstéa ↑
4. komyeronya ↑
5. tyenḡunlapiṣ ↑
6. sébakonmigo ↑
7. légústomaria ↑
8. léyoḡldyaryo ↑
9. tyenenptro ↑
10. lépásolaléche ↑

Group 2
All of a 'rising' pattern



11. trahòsukárrò ↑
 12. légústasutràbàhò ↑

1. gráşyàs | sènyór ↓
 2. múybyen | gráşyàs ↓
 3. sí | sènyórà ↓
 4. nó | sènyórítà ↓
 5. nòay | ómbre ↓
 6. bènğà | māríà ↓
 7. nó | múchàzgráşyàs ↓
 8. nòbyenē | èntónşés ↓
 9. sí | pàpà ↓
 10. nó | māmà ↓
 11. àdyós | sènyórēs ↓
 12. àstàmànyànà | sènyórēs ↓

Group 3

All ending in a low level pattern

