

Pronunciación

Spanish **b** and **v**



bueno **vóleibol** **biblioteca** **vivir**

There is no difference in pronunciation between the Spanish letters **b** and **v**. However, each letter can be pronounced two different ways, depending on which letters appear next to them.



bonito **viajar** **también** **investigar**

B and **v** are pronounced like the English hard **b** when they appear either as the first letter of a word, at the beginning of a phrase, or after **m** or **n**.

deber **novio** **abril** **cerveza**



In all other positions, **b** and **v** have a softer pronunciation, which has no equivalent in English. Unlike the hard **b**, which is produced by tightly closing the lips and stopping the flow of air, the soft **b** is produced by keeping the lips slightly open.

bola **vela** **Caribe** **declive**

In both pronunciations, there is no difference in sound between **b** and **v**. The English **v** sound, produced by friction between the upper teeth and lower lip, does not exist in Spanish. Instead, the soft **b** comes from friction between the two lips.

Verónica y su esposo cantan boleros.

When **b** or **v** begins a word, its pronunciation depends on the previous word. At the beginning of a phrase or after a word that ends in **m** or **n**, it is pronounced as a hard **b**.

Benito es de Boquerón pero vive en Victoria.

Words that begin with **b** or **v** are pronounced with a soft **b** if they appear immediately after a word that ends in a vowel or any consonant other than **m** or **n**.

Práctica Read these words aloud to practice the **b** and the **v**.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. hablamos | 4. van | 7. doble | 10. nublado |
| 2. trabajar | 5. contabilidad | 8. novia | 11. llave |
| 3. botones | 6. bien | 9. béisbol | 12. invierno |

No hay mal que por bien no venga.¹

Oraciones Read these sentences aloud to practice the **b** and the **v**.

- Vamos a Guaynabo en autobús.
- Voy de vacaciones a la Isla Culebra.
- Tengo una habitación individual en el octavo piso.
- Víctor y Eva van por avión al Caribe.
- La planta baja es bonita también.
- ¿Qué vamos a ver en Bayamón?
- Beatriz, la novia de Víctor, es de Arcibo, Puerto Rico.

Refranes Read these sayings aloud to practice the **b** and the **v**.

Hombre prevenido vale por dos.²



¹ Every cloud has a silver lining.
² An ounce of prevention equals a pound of cure.

recursos

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