


Pronunciación

Word stress and accent marks



pe-lí-cu-la **e-di-fi-cio** **ver** **yo**



Every Spanish syllable contains at least one vowel. When two vowels are joined in the same syllable they form a **diphthong***. A **monosyllable** is a word formed by a single syllable.

bi-blio-te-ca **vi-si-tar** **par-que** **fút-bol**

The syllable of a Spanish word that is pronounced most emphatically is the "stressed" syllable.

pe-lo-ta **pis-ci-na** **ra-tos** **ha-blan**

Words that end in **n, s,** or a **vowel** are usually stressed on the next-to-last syllable.

na-ta-ción **pa-pá** **in-glés** **Jo-sé**

If words that end in **n, s,** or a **vowel** are stressed on the last syllable, they must carry an accent mark on the stressed syllable.

bai-lar **es-pa-ñol** **u-ni-ver-si-dad** **tra-ba-ja-dor**

Words that do *not* end in **n, s,** or a **vowel** are usually stressed on the last syllable.

béis-bol **lá-piz** **ár-bol** **Gó-mez**

If words that do *not* end in **n, s,** or a **vowel** are stressed on the next-to-last syllable, they must carry an accent mark on the stressed syllable.

**The two vowels that form a diphthong are either both weak or one is weak and the other is strong.*

Práctica Pronounce each word, stressing the correct syllable. Then give the word stress rule for each word.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. profesor | 4. Mazatlán | 7. niños | 10. México |
| 2. Puebla | 5. examen | 8. Guadalajara | 11. están |
| 3. ¿Cuántos? | 6. ¿Cómo? | 9. programador | 12. geografía |

Oraciones Read the conversation aloud to practice word stress.

MARINA Hola, Carlos. ¿Qué tal?
CARLOS Bien. Oye, ¿a qué hora es el partido de fútbol?
MARINA Creo que es a las siete.
CARLOS ¿Quieres ir?
MARINA Lo siento, pero no puedo.
 Tengo que estudiar biología.

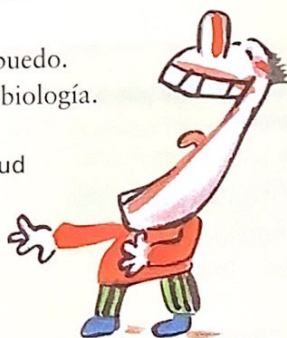
Refranes Read these sayings aloud to practice word stress.

¹ He who laughs last, laughs the loudest.
² United we stand.

En la unión
está la fuerza.²



Quien ríe
de último, ríe mejor!¹



recursos

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