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## PREFACE.

“LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE AS YOU LEARNED YOUR MOTHER-TONGUE”—this is, in a few words, the method which Professor Ahn has so successfully adopted in his Continental Grammars.

It is the way that nature herself follows,—it is the same which the mother points out in speaking to her child, repeating to it a hundred times the same words, combining them imperceptibly, and succeeding in this way to make it speak the same language she speaks. To learn in this manner is no longer a study—it is an amusement.

The editor of this Grammar has followed the rational system which has already procured for Professor Ahn a European reputation, and he has adopted it for the study of the Spanish Language. He is greatly indebted to the excellent Grammars of Lespada and Martinez, which he has used for the groundwork of this Grammar, and it is hoped that its simplicity and utility will procure for it that favor which the German, French, and Italian Grammars of Professor Ahn have already found in the colleges and schools of England.

THE EDITOR.



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## PRONUNCIATION.

## THE ALPHABET.

THE Spanish alphabet has twenty-seven letters, of which the following are the *names*:

Letters.	Names.	Letters.	Names.
1. a,	ah.	15. n,	ai-nay.
2. b,	bay.	16. ñ,	ai-nyay.
3. c,	thay.	17. o,	oh.
4. ch,	tchay (as in <i>chain</i> ).	18. p,	pay.
5. d,	day.	19. q,	koo.
6. e,	ay (as in <i>hay</i> ).	20. r,	ai-ray, or air-ray.
7. f,	éf-fay.	21. s,	és-say.
8. g,	hay.	22. t,	tay.
9. h,	ah-tchay.	23. u,	oo.
10. i,	ee.	24. v,	vay.
11. j,	ho-tah.	25. x,	ai-kiss.
12. l,	ai-lay.	26. y,	( <i>ee</i> vowel, or <i>ee</i> gree- ai-gah).
13. ll,	ai-lyay.	27. z,	thai-tah.
14. m,	ai-may.		

*K* and *w* are not Spanish letters, but are used in foreign words.

All the letters are feminine in Spanish.

The vowels are *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, and *y* when it stands by itself, or at the end of a word, or of a syllable immediately followed by a consonant. They must be fully and distinctly pronounced, and are never silent, except *u* in the syllables *que*, *qui*, *que*, *qui*. When the *u* is to be sounded in them, it is marked with two dots over it; thus, *argüir* (ar-goo-ir), *agüero* (ah-goo-er'-oh). The consonants must be fully sounded, particularly at the end of the words.



1. *A* is pronounced as in the English words

<i>brazo</i> , arm.	<i>alarma</i> , alarm.
<i>arca</i> , ark.	<i>mano</i> , hand.

2. *B*, as in English :

<i>baston</i> , cane.	<i>boca</i> , mouth.
<i>barbero</i> , barber.	<i>bello</i> , handsome.

3. *C* before *a*, *o*, *u*, *l*, *r*, and when it is at the end of a syllable, sounds like *k* in English ; as,

<i>canal</i> , canal.	<i>crédito</i> , credit.
<i>clamor</i> , clamor.	<i>coco</i> , cocoa-nut.

*C* before *e* or *i* sounds lisped, like *th* in the English words *theft*, *thin* :

<i>Cecilia</i> , Cecilia.	<i>cipres</i> , cypress.
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4. *Ch*, as in *chair*, *chain* (never as in the French word *chaire*) :

<i>charco</i> , small lake.	<i>chocolate</i> , chocolate.
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When *ch* is followed by a vowel marked with a circumflex accent, it must be pronounced as *k* ; as, *Châribdis*.

5. *D*, as in English, but it must be pronounced very distinctly in the words terminating in *ado*, *ido*, &c. :

<i>duda</i> , doubt.	<i>decir</i> , to say.
<i>verdad</i> , truth.	<i>ciudad</i> , city.

6. *E* is pronounced as *e* in the words *bed*, *fed* ; as,

<i>padre</i> , father.	<i>luego</i> , by and by.
<i>madre</i> , mother.	<i>argumento</i> , argument.

7. *F*, as in English :

<i>famoso</i> , famous.	<i>fraternidad</i> , fraternity.
<i>favor</i> , favor.	<i>franco</i> , frank.

8. *G* before *a*, *o*, *u*, *l*, *r*, sounds as in English :

<i>ganso</i> , goose.	<i>gato</i> , cat.
<i>gordo</i> , fat.	<i>gloria</i> , glory.

before *e* and *i*, it sounds as the English *h* aspirated :

<i>genio</i> , genius.	<i>gitano</i> , gipsy.
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9. *H* is always silent, except at the beginning of words followed by *ue* or *ua*, in which case it has a very soft and slightly nasal sound, as in *hueso*, bone.

10. *I*, as the English *ee* in *eel*, or *i* in *machine* :

<i>ilustre</i> , illustrious.	<i>inútil</i> , useless.
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11. *J* has a guttural sound, harsher, however, than the aspirated *h* in English. Before *e* or *i*, it sounds as the *g* does in Spanish before the same letters :

<i>Judio</i> , Jew.	<i>jabon</i> , soap.
<i>Juéves</i> , Thursday.	<i>jazmin</i> , jessamine.

12. *L*, as in English :

<i>lobo</i> , wolf.	<i>ladron</i> , robber.
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13. *LL*, like the *U* in the word *brilliant* : it is not a double consonant in Spanish, consequently it must not be divided in spelling :

<i>llover</i> , to rain.	<i>llamar</i> , to call.
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14. *M*, as in English :

<i>máquina</i> , machine.	<i>morder</i> , to bite.
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15. *N*, as in English :

<i>nariz</i> , nose.	<i>encontrar</i> , to meet.
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16. *Ñ* has a strong nasal sound, like the *ni* in the word *onion*, or the *n* as pronounced by some in *new* (nyew). The *gn* in French gives the sound :

<i>uña</i> , nail.	<i>cañon</i> , cannon.
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17. *O*, as in English :

<i>odio</i> , hatred.	<i>orden</i> , order.
<i>orgullo</i> , pride.	<i>ocultar</i> , to hide.

18. *P*, as in English :

<i>pedir</i> , to ask.	<i>padre</i> , father.
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19. *Q* is always followed by *u*, and is pronounced like the English *k* :

<i>quejar</i> , to complain.	<i>querido</i> , beloved.
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In conformity with the modern orthography, the



syllables in which *u* is sounded before *a*, *e*, *o*, are written with *c* instead of *q*; as, *cuando*, when.

20. *R*, at the beginning of words, after *l*, *n*, *s*, and in compound words, the primitive of which begins with *r*, has a harsh sound:

*rata*, rat.      *enriquecer*, to enrich.

*R*, between two vowels, or in the middle of a word, has a smooth sound; as,

*mérito*, merit.      *Moro*, Moor.

*RR* is pronounced as the rough trilled Irish *r*:

*perro*, dog.      *correr*, to run.

21. *S* has always a harsh, hissing sound, like *ss* in English; as,

*soltero*, bachelor.      *rosa*, rose.

22. *T*, as in the English words *tart*, *ten*, *tin*:

*tenedor*, fork.      *tambor*, drummer.

23. *U*, as in *boot*:

*último*, last;      *útil*, useful;

except when, without dots, it is between *q* and *e* or *q* and *i*, *g* and *e* or *g* and *i*, it is then silent.

*ü* with dots is pronounced as *oo*; as, *argüir*.

24. *V*, as in English:

*valor*, valor.      *veo*, I see.

25. *X* sounds like *cs* or *ks* in English, as in *box*. Formerly, before *e* and *i*, it had the sound of the Spanish *J* (ho-tah); that is, our aspirated *h*. In such cases the moderns have changed it to *j* or *g*.

*exclamar*, to exclaim.      *exaltacion*, exaltation.

26. *Y* as a vowel is the same as the Spanish *i* (our *ee*): *hoy*, to-day; *muy*, very; *voy*, I am going.

*Y* as a consonant sounds like the English *j*, though somewhat softer. In Spanish manuscript, capital *Y* is to be used instead of capital *I*.

*yerba*, grass.      *yeso*, chalk.

27. *Z*, as the English *th* in *thin*. It never has the sound of the English *z*:

*zarzaparrilla*,      *sarsaparilla*.

#### DOUBLE LETTERS.

In simple words, *e*, *i*, *c*, *r*, are the only letters that may be written double. *E* is double in the verbs of the first conjugation, when it is the last of the radical letters, and the termination begins with *e*; as, *pasear*, to walk. The radical letters are *pase*. The termination of the first person singular of the preterit is *é*, *pasée*, I did walk.

*I* is double in the superlative degree of the monosyllables ending in *io*; as *frio*, cold; *fríisimo*, very cold. *C* is double only before *e* or *i*, and is pronounced with both syllables; as, *acceder*, to accede; *accidente*, accident.

Almost all words ending in English in *ction*, and their derivatives, change the *t* into *c*, and become Spanish; as *diction*, *diccion*; *dictionary*, *diccionario*.

*R* is written double in the middle of words, between two vowels, to point out its harsh sound; as, *carro*, a cart; *corro*, I run, &c., to distinguish them from *caro*, dear; *coro*, choir. In compound words all the vowels, and also *n* and *s*, are written double whenever any of them are the last of the component and the first of the word to be compounded; as, *contraabertura*, a counter-opening; *amandoos*, ye loving each other; *dannos*, they give us.

#### DIVISION OF SYLLABLES.

Vowels forming a diphthong or triphthong must not be separated; as, *gra-cio-so*, *pre-ciaís*. A single consonant between two vowels must be joined to the vowel after it; as, *nu-me-ro-sí-si-mo*. Two consonants between two vowels are divided, placing one to each syllable, except *f* and the mute letters followed by *l* or *r*; as, *ar-ma-men-to*, *co-fre-ci-to*, *ar-re-gla-do*.



## PUNCTUATION.

The notes used for punctuation are the same as in English. A difference, however, is to be observed in the points of *exclamation* and *interrogation*, which in long sentences are placed upside down at the beginning of them, in order that the reader may calculate and apply the proper emphasis and tone of voice.

## ACCENT.

Accent is the laying of a particular stress of the voice on a certain syllable in a word. In Spanish, as in English, every word has a strong syllable, called the accented syllable, and this accent is called the *tonic accent*, to distinguish it from the written mark, called the *written accent*. In Spanish, the only written accent used is that styled the acute (´). The vowels *á, é, ó, ú*, when used as prepositions or conjunctions, are always accented; as, *ama á tu prójimo, sabios é ignorantes*. The accent is never placed over *y*. But in printing (dictionaries excepted), the capitals are seldom accented, and in manuscript are almost always unaccented.

The syllables of a word are reckoned in the manner pointed out by the numbers in the following example :

4 3 2 1  
*ac-ci-den-tal*;

and they are named thus: 1. *última sílaba*, the last syllable; 2. *penúltima*, the last syllable but one; 3. *antepenúltima*, the last syllable but two; 4. *ante-antepenúltima*, the last syllable but three.

The monosyllable must not be accented, because it is long from its nature.

*Exception*.—The monosyllable *él*, he, him; *mí*, me, personal pronouns: *sí*, yes, one's self; and *dé, sé*, and *vé* (from the verbs *dar, saber, ser*, and *ver*, to give, to know, to be, and to see): to distinguish these monosyllables from *el*, the, article; *mi*, my, pronoun possessive; *si*, if, conditional particle; *de*, of, preposition; *se*, himself, &c., pronoun; and *ve*, go thou, verb. The words in

Spanish are divided into three classes, called *agudas, breves*, and *esdrújulas*.

The words called *agudas* are those where the stress of the pronunciation is on the last syllable; as, *calicó*. Words of this class have always the written accent when the word terminates in a vowel, but the written accent is not placed when it terminates in a consonant; as, *munición*.

*Exception*.—The last of any person singular of a verb ending with a consonant, takes the accent, if it be long; as, *amarás*, thou shalt love; *serás*, thou shalt be.

Those words are called *breves* where the stress of the pronunciation is on the penultimate syllable; as, *mañana*. Words of this class have always the written accent when they terminate in a consonant; as, *jóven*; but not when they terminate in a vowel; as, *tintero*. The words called *esdrújulas* are those where the stress of the pronunciation is on the antepenultimate syllable; as, *naúfrago*; and they always retain the written accent. In verbs of the first and third person of the singular of the perfect and future of the indicative, the last syllable is long, and receives the accent; as, *amé*, I loved; *amó*, he loved; *amaré*, I shall love. The accent remains even when a pronoun is added to these words; as, *cogíte*, I caught thee; *halléle*, I found him.

Certain adverbs in *mente* derived from words *esdrújulas*, receive the accent on the fifth syllable; as, *barbaramente*, barbarously; *intrépidamente*, intrepidly.

Words terminating in *y*, preceded by a vowel, which forms a diphthong, have no accent; their last syllable is always long; as, *convoy*. The penultimate vowel is long, and receives the accent in the nouns and verbs terminated in *ae, ia, ie, io, ua, ue, uo*; for example, *provée*, he provides; *filosofía*, philosophy; *desafío*, challenge; *graduó*, I graduate.

The accent is, however, suppressed in all the persons ending in *ia* of the imperfect of the indicative and first conditional tense, because the *i* is always long. For the same reason, the penultimate vowel of the terminations in *ae, ao, au, ea, eo, oa, oe, oo* is not accented. However, sometimes these vowels form a diphthong; then



the syllable that precedes them is long, and receives the accent; as, *héroe*, hero; *línea*, line; *cutáneo*, cutaneous. If the final vowels, *ia*, *ie*, *io*, *ua*, *ue*, *uo*, of words of three or more syllables form diphthongs, it is also the preceding syllable which is long, but the accent is suppressed; as, *esperiencia*, experience; *disturbio*, disturbance.

The plural of verbs and nouns follows the rule of their singular. The only exception is the plural *carácter*, whose long accented syllable is not the same as in the singular, which is *carácter*, on the penultimate.

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EXERCISES IN PRONUNCIATION.

La lengua del maldiciente, y el oído de quien le oye, son hermanos. Oí decir que las personas que aman á todos, por lo común no aman á nadie. Condúzcame Vm.\* por donde pueda alcanzar la estimación de todos los hombres de bien. Te digo que en aquella ocurrencia se condujo tu hermano con más acierto de lo que hubiera esperado de su poca experiencia. La envidia siente el precio del mérito, por más que se esfuerce á envilecerle. Yo saldré con la mía, por más obstáculos que se me opongan. Ya iba saliendo el sol, y aun no se habían retirado los convidados de la boda. Siendo tan atrevido tu hermano, no dudo que saldrá del aprieto, pero su primo, á quien le conozco y que me parece muy sencillo, temo mucho que malogrará sus designios y aun que se reirán de él. Escribí ayer á tu tío para informarle que la Señora T. había muerto. Siento mucho que no pueda venir su hermana de Vm. con nosotros, pues creo que se habría divertido muchísimo. Ponga Vm. un poco de agua á la lumbre y tráigamela Vm. luego que hierva. Dicen que se rindió el general el primero, y la mitad del ejército tuvo también que rendirse, hallándose ro-

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\* *Vm.* is an abbreviation of *Vuestra Merced* or *Usted*; it is a title of politeness always used in conversation, and means, "Your grace, honor, worship, sir, you," etc. If it be used in the plural, it is always written *Vms.* (*Vuestras Mercedes*, or *Ustedes*).

deado del enemigo, pero la otra mitad, después de haber hecho una resistencia desesperada, retrocedió á paso lento, sin que el enemigo hubiese osado perseguirlos. Yo le predije su suerte ántes que fuese á aquel país, pero si viniere otra vez, por más desgraciado que fuese, nunca olvidaré que había sido mi mejor amigo. La dulzura, la afabilidad y una cierta urbanidad distinguen al hombre bien criado: estos son los signos por los cuales se le conoce. Una madre decía á su hija: una mujer no es verdaderamente querida de su marido y de sus hijos, si no cumple con sus deberes de esposa y de madre. El avaro halla su dicha en abultar un tesoro que no le sirve de nada. La casualidad sirve á menudo á los hombres mejor de lo que desearan. Yo te digo que un egoísta no tiene virtud alguna: y además dime porqué lo tendrías, pues que no le sirve de nada? No se sabe precisamente ni quien es el inventor de la brújula, ni en qué tiempo se empezó á usar de ella.