



Spanish Companion Guide

Congratulations on choosing **Little Pim Spanish**.

This *Little Pim Companion Guide* is designed to help you with the proper Spanish pronunciation if you want to learn along with your young viewer. Children are visual and aural learners – they watch the screen, hear what’s being said, and easily understand and repeat; and as they repeat after Little Pim the teacher, they will have perfect accents! Adults, however, may need a bit of written help to understand the differences in pronunciation and/or to remember new words.

This guide will give you some tips about the right way to pronounce Spanish letters and words. If you would like additional support, you can:

- Download our *Companion Script*, which includes all the words and phrases in **Little Pim** in Spanish. If you want to read all the words and sentences as they are spoken, you can print this out and follow along with the DVD.
- Choose the optional English Subtitles in the Start Up Menu of the DVD to read English subtitles as you watch

The big picture:

Accents:

- ´ does not change the sound of a letter. This accent tells you which syllable to stress.
- ñ is pronounced like the ny of “canyon”

Vowels:

- a is a short sound in Spanish, and is pronounced like the ea in “heart”. ai is pronounced like the e in “bed”. au is pronounced like the o in “hole”. eu is pronounced like the u in “hurt”
- e is pronounced like the e in “they” in syllables that end with a vowel. Otherwise, it is pronounced like the e in “pet”
- i is pronounced like the ee in “meet”
- o is pronounced like the o in “tote” in syllables that end with a vowel. Otherwise, it is pronounced like the o in “dot”.
- u is pronounced like the u in “rule” or the oo in mood.
- y is pronounced like the ee in “peek” when it is at the end of a word

Consonants:

Spanish is a largely phonetic language, and many Spanish consonants sound like their English counterparts. There are a few exceptions however.

- c is pronounced s in “silent” when it is before an e or an i. Otherwise, it is pronounced like the k in “kid”
- h is always silent in Spanish
- j is pronounced like the ch sound in the Scottish word “loch” – think of the hard guttural sounds of Arabic or Hebrew.
- ll can be pronounced like the ll in “million” OR the y in “yellow” (depending on the region)
- qu is pronounced like the k in “kid”
- n is pronounced like the n in “now”, but is nearly always silent at the end of a word
- r resonates and is trilled – your tongue should vibrate against the roof of your mouth, kind of like a telephone ringing
- b and v have the exact same pronunciation in Spanish. They are both pronounced like the English letter b, but a little softer.

Notes on Spanish

The only steadfast rule in Spanish is that there is an exception to every rule, so don’t despair if you can’t remember everything!