

Teacher Support Notes

Spanish Phonetics & Pronunciation Lessons - Background

We have created a series of four Spanish 'Phonetics & Pronunciation' lessons. These are individual lessons (not a complete unit), they are sequential and are designed to be appropriate for each year of key stage 2.

Ideally each class in KS2 should be taught one appropriate 'Phonetics & Pronunciation' lesson at the start of each academic year before embarking on their full Language Angels units. As this is the first year we have introduced these new lessons, later key stage year groups will not have seen the earlier lessons in the series. This being the case we would recommend you still teach the lessons in sequence (starting with lesson 1 and moving through to lesson 4) rather than, for example, jumping straight into lesson 4 in the series for Year 6 or straight into lesson 3 for Year 5. These would still work as individual lessons, but your pupils will miss out on the important phonic sounds and phonemes taught in previous lessons in the series.

For example: for a Year 6 class we would suggest teaching all four 'Phonetics & Pronunciation' lessons in the series. If teachers feel it will take too much of your planned Spanish teaching time to teach all four lessons in sequence, we would suggest spreading the four lessons over various half-terms so that all 4 lessons are covered by the end of the academic year. The important thing is to ensure all year groups have covered all four of the 'Phonetics & Pronunciation' lessons by the end of key stage 2.

Teachers of mixed age classes may wish to teach two 'Phonetics & Pronunciation' lessons at the start of each year.

You will find that pronunciation will improve noticeably if your pupils are able to complete all four of the Spanish 'Phonetics & Pronunciation' lessons.

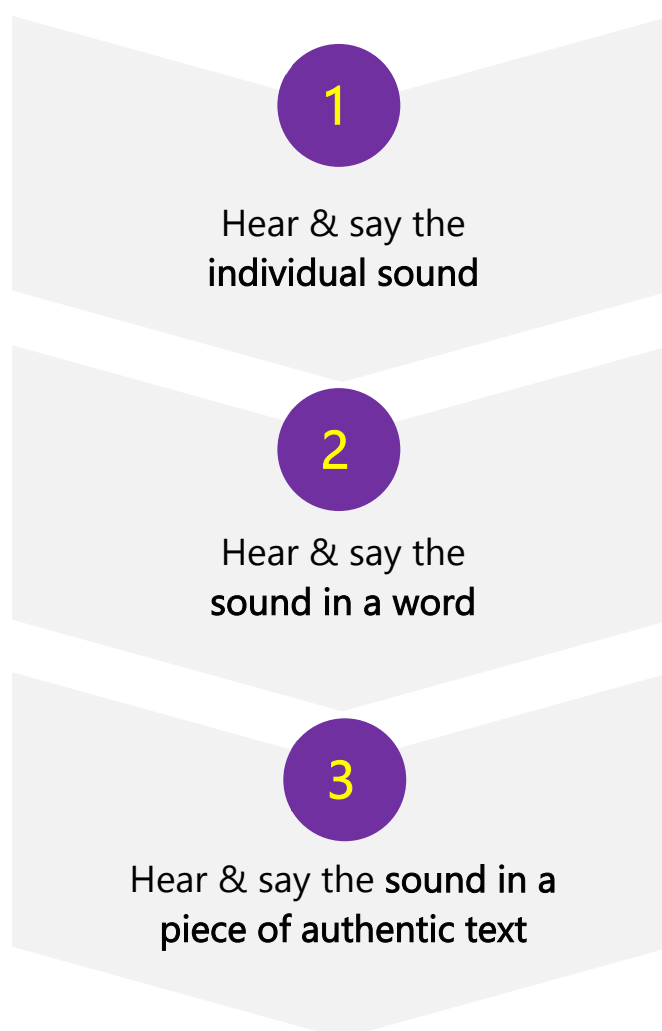
This series of 'Phonetics & Pronunciation' lessons are important as accurate Spanish pronunciation can be tricky for young foreign language learners. As a language, it contains some sounds that we do not have in the English language.

The four lessons in this series can be repeated as required.

Spanish Phonetics & Pronunciation Lessons - Methodology & Pedagogy

The four lessons in the 'Phonetics & Pronunciation' series have been designed to introduce each phonic sound / phoneme on its own first and pronounced in an exaggerated form to help the children hear it pronounced clearly so as to be able to repeat and practice it. Once it has been heard, we discuss how to actually make that sound with suggestions on mouth shape and tongue position and link it (where possible) to a similar sound in English. The children will then see the sound in a Spanish word. Finally, by the end of each lesson, the children will see each of the sounds in a piece of unknown text, in a relevant appropriate word and pronounced at near native speed.

There is precise methodology and pedagogy incorporated in each lesson. We teach these phonics / phonemes in three clear steps:



The more sounds the pupils hear, learn and recognise, the more able they will be to decode and read unknown words and text in Spanish.

In these lessons we will teach the phonics in a slightly different way to the way we learn English phonics as, not only is the language very different, but we also have much less time and are learning as foreign language learners, not native speakers.

The lessons are structured to follow a particular order of activities. There is quite a lot of material to get through so we suggest only a few class repeats on each slide. A couple are sufficient as everything is repeated several times throughout each lesson. We also revise the most important material from each lesson in the 'Phonetics & Pronunciation' lessons that follow.

Our young Spanish learners (including EAL pupils) will find it easier to mimic and reproduce the Spanish sounds than teenagers or adult learners would. Their throat muscles and vocal cords are still developing so are soft and flexible. Yet another advantage of youth!

All pupils will need adequate time to repeat these sounds and become familiar with them so that speaking Spanish becomes more natural and comfortable for them. They will hear the same sounds multiple times in each lesson and they will also be revised in the following lessons in this series. They will hear them and repeat them constantly. We are trying to train the brain to process and make new sounds that we do not make instinctively as English speakers. This will help pupils not only say the words with increasingly accurate pronunciation but also help them understand more of what they hear and read.

Over the course of the four lessons in this series, we will gradually and systematically introduce pupils to 20 main Spanish phonic sounds and phonemes. There are plenty of activities for the children to do at various points in each of the lessons. The whole Spanish alphabet and all of the vowel sounds will also be explored and repeated in each of the four lessons.

To help embed and consolidate learning, you also have access to desk-based activities and a song linked to the sounds introduced in each lesson. Each lesson has accompanying classroom display materials. In each of the four 'Phonetics & Pronunciation' lessons we introduce a new group of 5 sounds. These are presented in the interactive lesson after the phonic / phoneme sounds from any previous lessons have been recycled and revised first.

The sounds we have chosen for our series of 'Phonetics & Pronunciation' lessons are the most recognised and relevant for this age group. Each phonic / phoneme sound is associated with and presented alongside an age appropriate Spanish word. The lessons will give the children enough phonic knowledge to be able to read a piece of unknown Spanish text with increased confidence, accuracy and fluency.

The phonic sounds / phonemes for the series of four lessons have been organised as follows:

Phonetics & Pronunciation - Lesson 1

CH	J	Ñ	LL	RR
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Phonetics & Pronunciation - Lesson 2

CA	CE	CI	CO	CU
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Phonetics & Pronunciation - Lesson 3

GA	GE	GI	GO	GU
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Phonetics & Pronunciation - Lesson 4

B	V	CC	QU	Z
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These sounds are linked to our materials but are not an exhaustive list of Spanish phonemes. There are others that the children will explore and encounter as they continue with their language learning journey.

The pupils will also explore the following linguistic concepts which are particular to the Spanish language as they progress through the four lessons:

- How to pronounce the vowels in Spanish correctly.
- How to pronounce specific letter strings in Spanish correctly.
- The use of accents in Spanish.