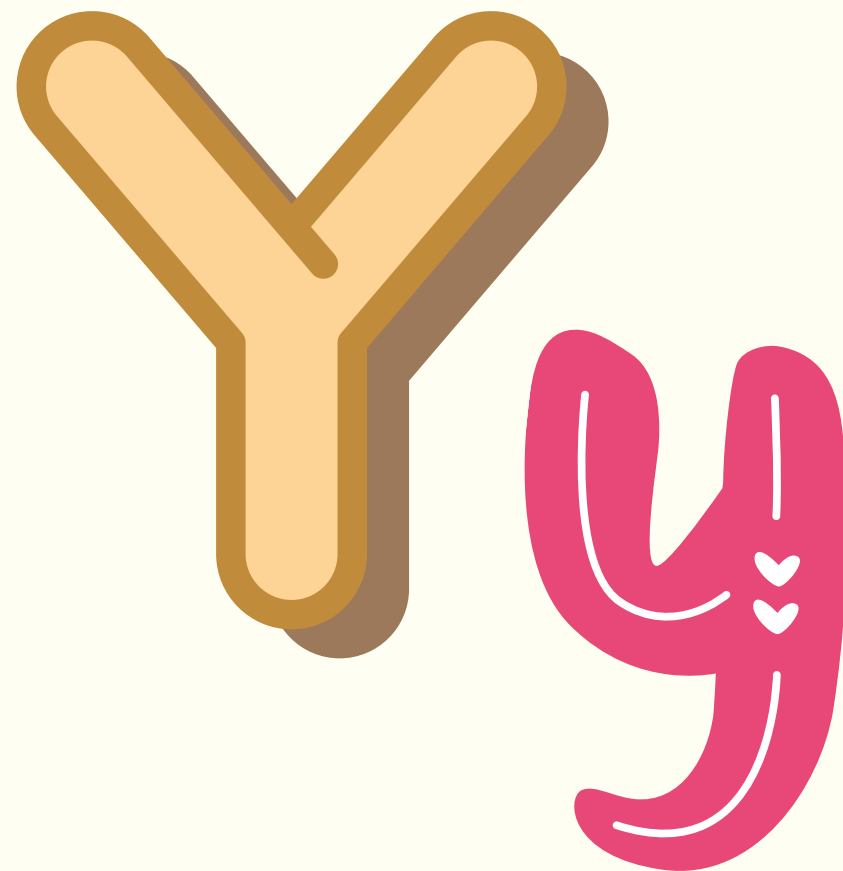


**HOW TO  
PRONOUNCE Y  
IN SPANISH**

**SOUNDS & COMMON  
WORDS WITH Y**



# HOW TO PRONOUNCE **Y** IN SPANISH

The letter y in Spanish behaves like a consonant when followed by a vowel. In this case, you must pronounce y similar to the English sounds 'ja', 'je', 'ji', 'jo', or 'ju'.

Spanish word	Sounds like
<u>Y</u> ate (yacht)	<u>J</u> aw
<u>Y</u> erno (son-in-law)	<u>J</u> erk
Ray <u>Y</u> ita (small strip)	<u>J</u> ig
<u>Y</u> o (I)	<u>J</u> og
<u>Y</u> ucatán	<u>J</u> ook

# Y SOUND VARIATIONS IN RIOPLATENSE

## DIFFERENT PRONUNCIATION

In Argentina and Uruguay (Rioplatense Spanish), 'y' sounds like 'sh' when followed by a vowel.



Ayudar - Ashudar

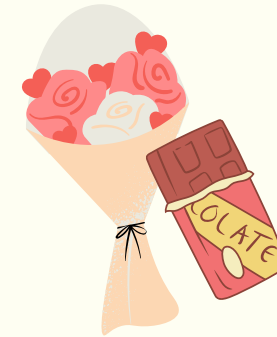
Papuya - Papasha

Yema - Shema

Yo - Sho

## SAME PRONUNCIATION

In Rioplatense Spanish, the 'y' sounds like a Spanish 'i' when working along or used at the end of a word.



Compré unas flores **y** unos chocolates.  
*I bought some flowers and some chocolates.*

Yo soy una persona **muy** paciente.  
*I'm a very patient person.*

# SPANISH WORDS THAT START WITH Y

## VERBS

**Llamar** - *To call*

**Llegar** - *To arrive*

**Llenar** - *To fill*

**Llevar** - *To take*

**Llorar** - *To cry*

**Llover** - *To rain*

## NOUNS & ADJECTIVES

**Llama** - *Flame / Lama*

**Llamada** - *Call*

**Llanta** - *Tire*

**Llave** - *Key*

**Lleno** - *Full*

**Llorón** - *Weepy*

**Lluvia** - *Rain*

# SPANISH WORDS THAT START WITH OR HAVE Y

**Apoyo** - *Support*

**Ayuda** - *Help*

**Ayudar** - *To help*

**Ensayo** - *Essay*

**Hoy** - *Today*

**Joya** - *Jewel*

**Mayo** - *May*

**Mayoría** - *Majority*

**Muy** - *Very*

**Payaso** - *Clown*

**Playa** - *Beach*

**Playera** - *Shirt*

**Rey** - *King*

**Subrayar** - *Highlight*

**Suyo** - *Hers / His / Yours*

**Tuyo** - *Yours*

**Yerno** - *Son-in-law*

**Yeso** - *Plaster cast*

**Yo** - *I*

**Yoga** - *Yoga*

**Yogur** - *Yogurt*

**Yoyo** - *Yo-yo*

# KEY POINTS: Y SPANISH SOUND

- In Spanish, 'y' is called 'ye' or 'y\_griega'.
- To know how to pronounce y in Spanish, you must check if the word is placed at the end of a word, stands alone, or is followed by a vowel.
- The letter 'y' has a vocalic sound (like the Spanish 'i') when it stands alone and works as a connecting word.
- This pronunciation (i) is also used when a word ends with the letter y in Spanish.
- When a vowel follows 'y', this letter behaves like a consonant.
- As a consonant, the 'y' is pronounced like the English sounds 'ja', 'je', 'ji', and 'jo'.
- In Rioplatense Spanish, this letter has a 'sh' sound when used as a consonant.



# LINK TO THIS GUIDE



[How to Pronounce Y in Spanish: Sounds & Common Words with Y](#)

## RELATED GUIDES & RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT

[Spanish Alphabet: Chart, Pronunciation & Word Examples](#)

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