

## La sílaba tónica

Every word with more than one syllable in Spanish has one syllable with more stress than the rest. Depending on the type of word it is, or where the stress falls, the word may or may not require a written accent.

### A. Categorization of words by Stress

In Spanish, words with more than one syllable are categorized as follows.

Type	Syllable wher stress falls	example
<b>aguda</b>	last (última)	ca / mi / <b>né</b>
<b>llana</b>	Next-to-the last (penúltima)	<b>lá</b> / piz
<b>Esdrújula</b>	Third-to-last	<b>quí</b> / mi / ca
<b>Sobresdrújula</b>	Fourth-to-the-last (anteantepenúltima)	<b>cóm</b> / pre / me / lo

### B. Rules for Written Accents

**Agudas:** this type of word only needs a written accent when the word ends in a vowel or **n** or **s**.

Accent required:

amó          viví          vivís          francés  
caimán

No accent required

Amar          vivir          español          ciudad  
Jerez

**Llanas:** this type of word only needs a written acent when the word ends in a consonant other than **n** or **s**.

Carácter      imbécil      lápiz      túnel      versátil

No accent required:

Hablo                  acento          necesita          consonante  
Franceses          margen          lunes              examen  
Estudiaron          bailas

**Esdrújulas** and **sobresdrújulas:** these type of words always require an accent mark.

Esdrújulas:

Carátula          estúpido          luciérnaga

**Sobresdrújulas:**

Vendámoselo          démoselas          pongámonoslas

### C. Special cases

Adverbs ending in **-mente**

Adverbs formed from an adjective+ mente requires an accent only when their original adjective had one.

Rápido is the adjective form of the adverb rápidamente  
Fácil is the adjective form of the adverb fácilmente  
Lento is the adjective form of the adverb lentamente

Practica

Indique para cada palabra si es **aguda, llana, esdrújula** o **sobresdrújula**.

1. camino \_\_\_\_\_
2. caminó \_\_\_\_\_
3. caminaba \_\_\_\_\_
4. caminábamos \_\_\_\_\_
5. caminad \_\_\_\_\_
6. compra \_\_\_\_\_
7. compró \_\_\_\_\_
8. compraba \_\_\_\_\_
9. comprábamos \_\_\_\_\_
10. cómpralo \_\_\_\_\_
11. cómpramelo \_\_\_\_\_
12. español \_\_\_\_\_
13. españoles \_\_\_\_\_
14. francés \_\_\_\_\_
15. trances \_\_\_\_\_
16. encéstalo \_\_\_\_\_

Las siguientes palabras son agudas. Póngales acento a las que lo necesiten.

1. presto \_\_\_\_\_
2. enterrar \_\_\_\_\_
3. preparad \_\_\_\_\_
4. desperte \_\_\_\_\_
5. dividir \_\_\_\_\_
6. farol \_\_\_\_\_
7. piedad \_\_\_\_\_
8. pedi \_\_\_\_\_
9. peor \_\_\_\_\_
10. caiman \_\_\_\_\_
11. cocinar \_\_\_\_\_
12. imparcial \_\_\_\_\_
13. cajon \_\_\_\_\_
14. finlandes \_\_\_\_\_
15. trajin \_\_\_\_\_
16. temblor \_\_\_\_\_
17. cristal \_\_\_\_\_
18. riñon \_\_\_\_\_

Las siguientes palabras son llanas. Póngales acento a las que lo necesiten.

1. lapiz \_\_\_\_\_
2. llamas \_\_\_\_\_
3. llaman \_\_\_\_\_
4. pluma \_\_\_\_\_
5. hablaron \_\_\_\_\_
6. españoles \_\_\_\_\_
7. dioses \_\_\_\_\_
8. dia \_\_\_\_\_
9. deme \_\_\_\_\_
10. españolita \_\_\_\_\_
11. peruano \_\_\_\_\_
12. consigno \_\_\_\_\_
13. traje \_\_\_\_\_
14. examen \_\_\_\_\_
15. carácter \_\_\_\_\_
16. lunes \_\_\_\_\_
17. labio \_\_\_\_\_
18. infértil \_\_\_\_\_

Las siguientes palabras son esdrújulas y sobresdrújulas; la sílaba tónica (con énfasis) de las palabras de más de una sílaba está subrayada. ¿Necesitan acento?

1. matalo \_\_\_\_\_
2. regalamelo \_\_\_\_\_
3. callense \_\_\_\_\_
4. estupido \_\_\_\_\_
5. parpado \_\_\_\_\_
6. capitulo \_\_\_\_\_
7. projimo \_\_\_\_\_
8. bajame \_\_\_\_\_
9. animo \_\_\_\_\_
10. cascara \_\_\_\_\_
11. decada \_\_\_\_\_
12. exito \_\_\_\_\_
13. pajaro \_\_\_\_\_
14. aspero \_\_\_\_\_
15. hungaro \_\_\_\_\_
16. vinculo \_\_\_\_\_
17. maquina \_\_\_\_\_
18. pildora \_\_\_\_\_

**Recuerda!** Stress is the verbal emphasis on the word. The accent mark is the symbol used to indicate where to put the stress. Below, the highlighted syllables receive the stress.

1. Put an asterisk next to all the words that end in N, S, or vowel.
2. Now, look at the words that you marked. All words that end in N, S, or vowel should have the stress on the next to the last syllable. However, there are exceptions that require the accent mark. Look over these words. If the next to the last syllable is highlighted and the word ends in N, S, or a vowel, these words do NOT need an accent. They follow the rule. If any other syllable is highlighted, these words are the exceptions. You must write in the accent on the highlighted syllable.
3. Now look at the other words. These words end in something other than N, S, or vowel. The stress should be on the last syllable. If the stress IS on the last syllable, NO accent is needed. If the stress is not on the last syllable, you must write in the accent to show where to stress the word.

1. <u>Basico</u>	13. <u>Util</u>	25. Nacionalidad
2. <u>Humano</u>	14. <u>Hombre</u>	26. Ejercicio
3. <u>Rejoj</u>	15. <u>Hermano</u>	27. <u>Obstaculo</u>
4. <u>Agricola</u>	16. <u>Bufalo</u>	28. <u>Polvo</u>
5. <u>Asi</u>	17. <u>Taxi</u>	29. <u>Practica</u>
6. <u>Ademas</u>	18. <u>Mapa</u>	30. <u>Formidable</u>
7. <u>Fabrica</u>	19. <u>Mesas</u>	31. Paz
8. <u>Acuatico</u>	20. <u>Profunda</u>	32. <u>Feliz</u>
9. <u>Balcon</u>	21. <u>Vehiculo</u>	33. <u>Patata</u>
10. <u>Pastor</u>	22. <u>Ayuda</u>	34. <u>Gato</u>
11. <u>Corazon</u>	23. <u>Acentos</u>	35. <u>Flores</u>
12. <u>Fidelidad</u>	24. <u>Letra</u>	36. <u>Fragil</u>