American English Consonants
for Spanish Speakers:
An Introduction

Illustrations & text

by Kat Avila

M.A. in Communication,
B.A. in Communicative Disorders
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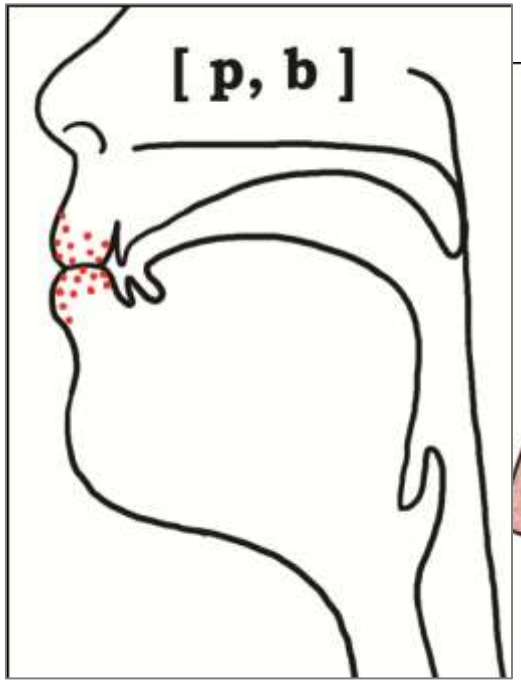
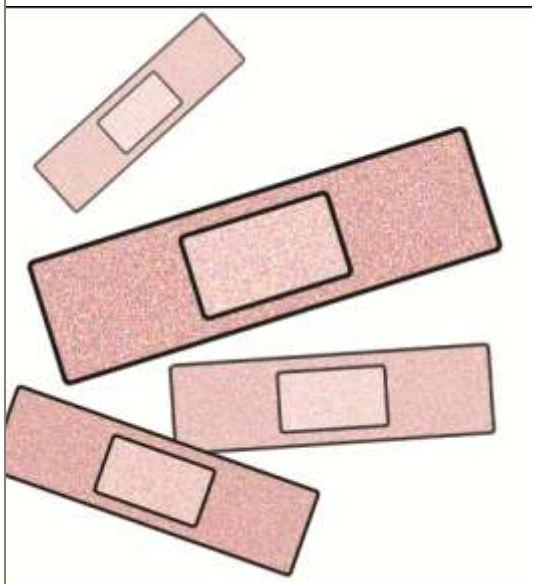
LEVEL: *For intermediate-level learners of English*
PURPOSE: *For student review and homework*

NOTES: *Listen to "American English Vowels" before you start this presentation.*

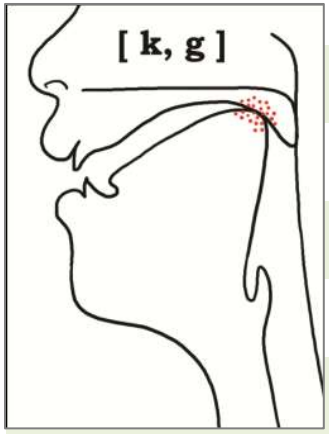
Listen and repeat!

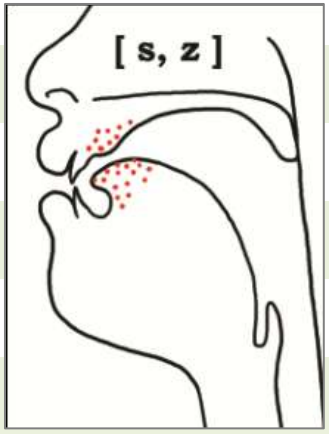
LETTER *(letra)*	ENGLISH NAME *(nombre)*	SPANISH NAME *(nombre)*	ENGLISH SOUND *(sonido)*	ENGLISH WORD *(palabra)*	SPANISH SOUND *(sonido)*	SPANISH TRANS. *(palabra)*
A a	ei	a				
B b	bi:	be	[b]	bandage	[b]	vendaje
			[bəl]	possible	[ble]	posible

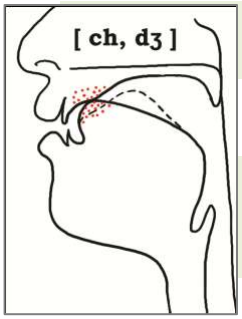


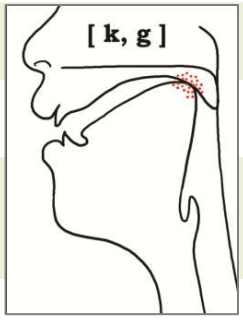


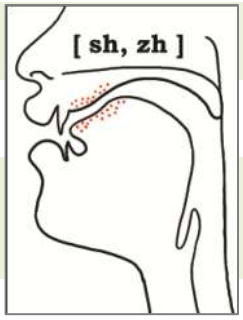
LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
C c	si:	ce	[k]	car		carro
			[k]	coffee		café
			[k]	cut		corte
			[s]	cent		centavo
			[s]	city		ciudad
			[s]	cycle		ciclo
			[ch]	chocolate		chocolate
			[k]	mechanic		mecánico
			[sh]	champagne (of French origin)	[ch]	champaña
			[shəl]	special	[sial]	special
			[shəs]	delicious	[sioso]	delicioso





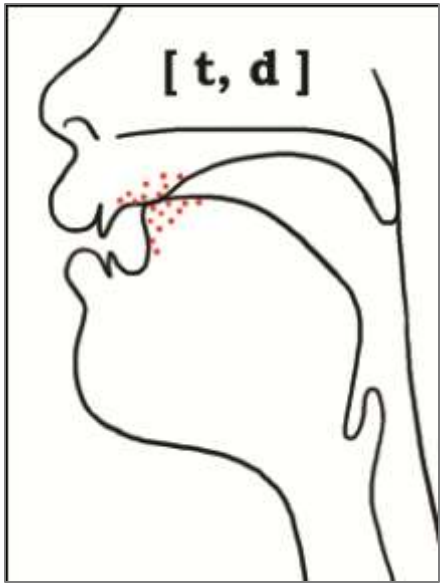


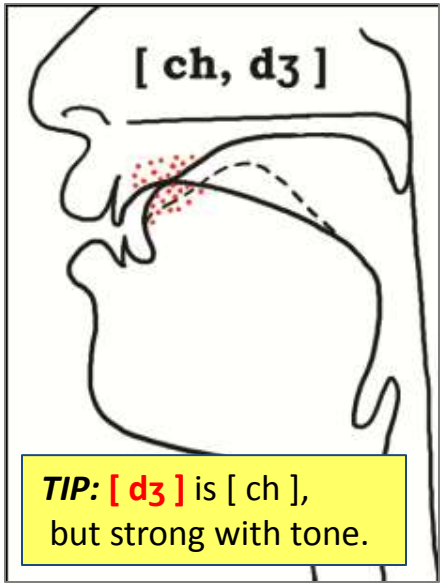


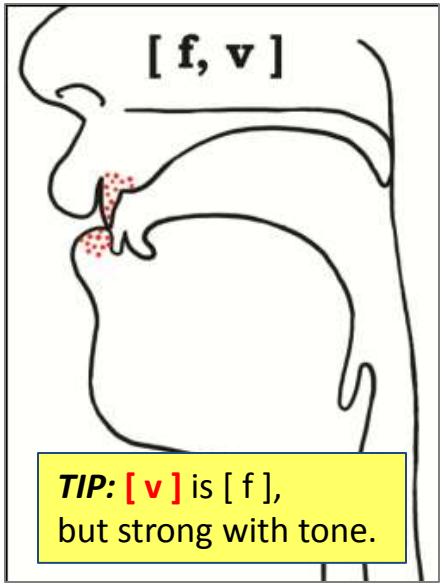


TIP: **[sh]** is like [ch], but the tongue does *not* touch, and it sounds like a short stream of noise.

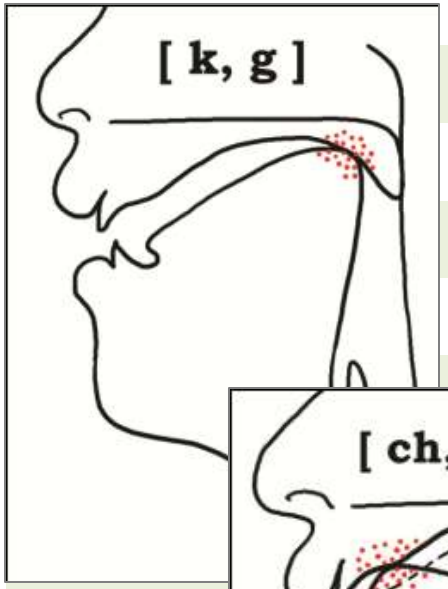
LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
D d	di:	de	[d]	day		día
			[dʒr]	dry		seco
E e	i:	e				
F f	ef	efe	[f]	final		final
			[f]	off		de
			[v]	of		de

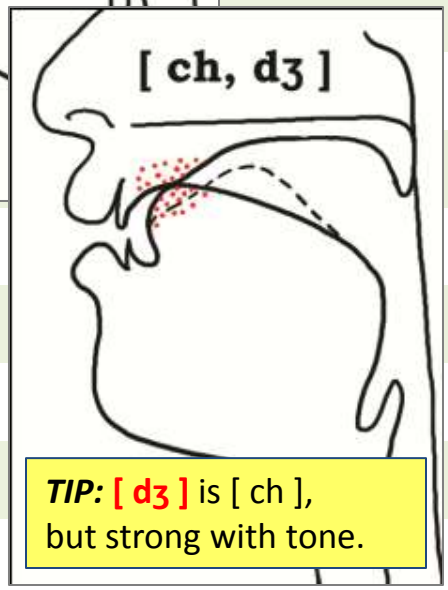






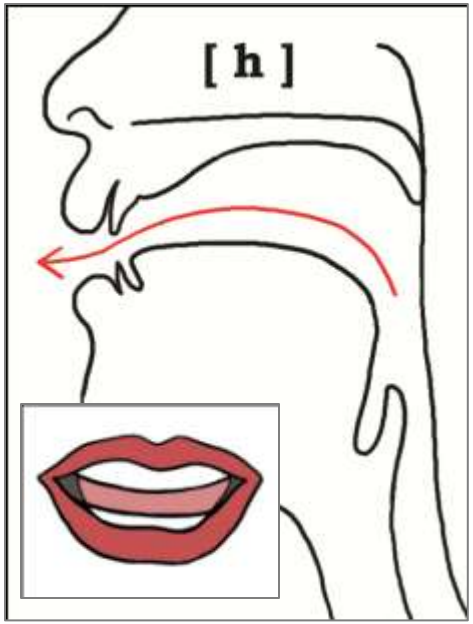
LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
G g	dʒi:	ge	[g]	gas		gas
			[g]	golf		golf
			[g]	guard	[gw]	guarda
			[g]	guide		guía
			[g]	get		obtener
			[dʒ]	gem	[h]	gema
			[g]	gift		regalo
			[dʒ]	giant	[h]	gigante
			[dʒən]	region	[hion]	región
			Ø	night		noche
			[f]	tough		duro
			[g]	ghost		espanto

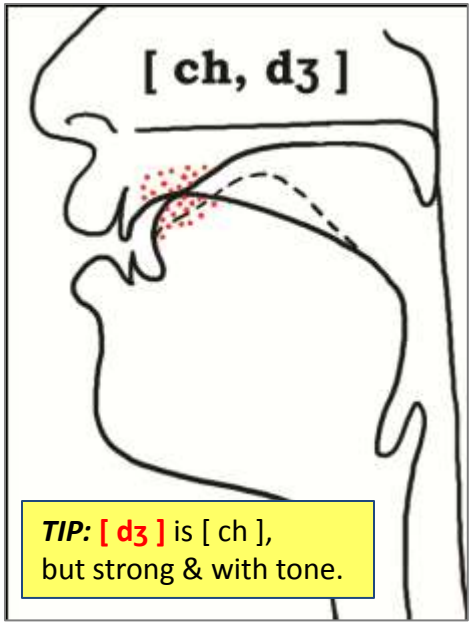




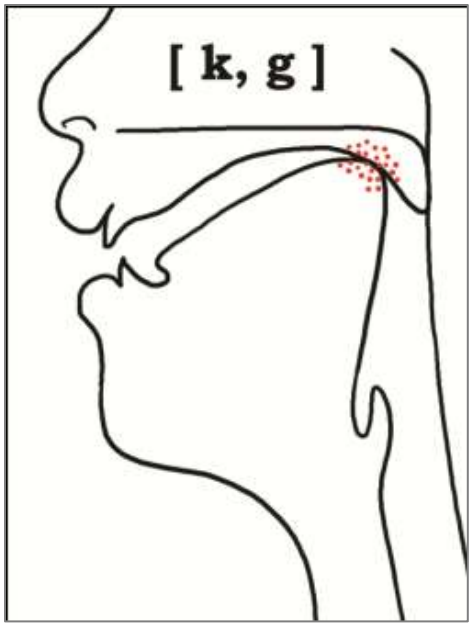
TIP: **[dʒ]** is [ch],
but strong with tone.

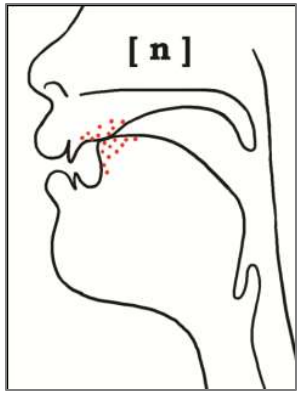
LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
H h	eich	hache	[h]	history	Ø	historia
			[h]	ham		jamón
			Ø	hour		hora
			Ø	honest		honesto
I i	ai:	i				
J j	dʒei	jota	[dʒ]	jacket	[ch]	chaqueta

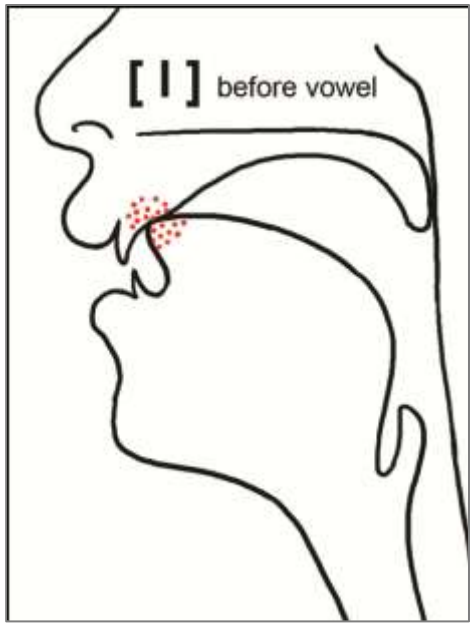


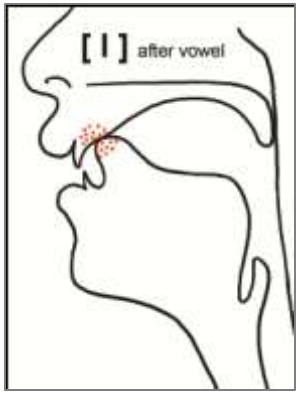


LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
K k	quei	ka	[k]	kilo		kilo
			[n]	knot		nudo
L l	el	ele	[l]	legal		legal
			[ll]	yellow	[y]	amarillo

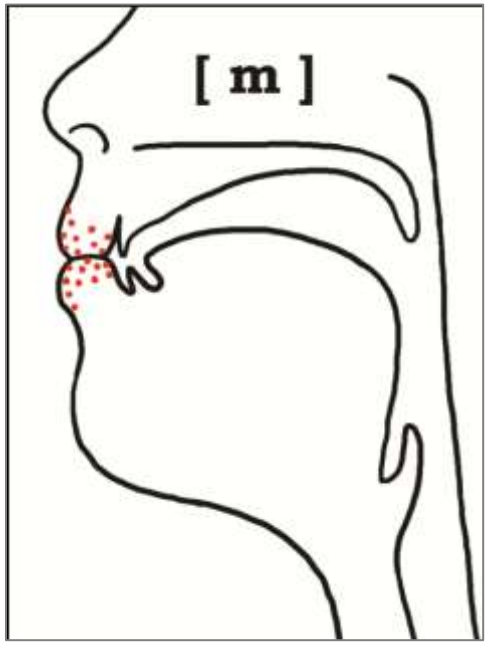


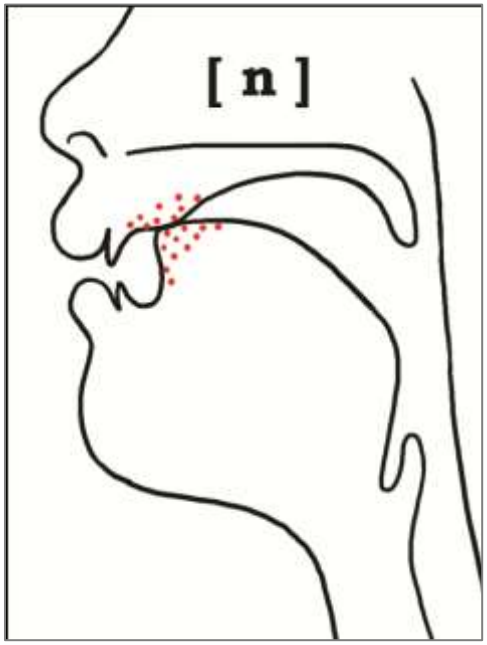




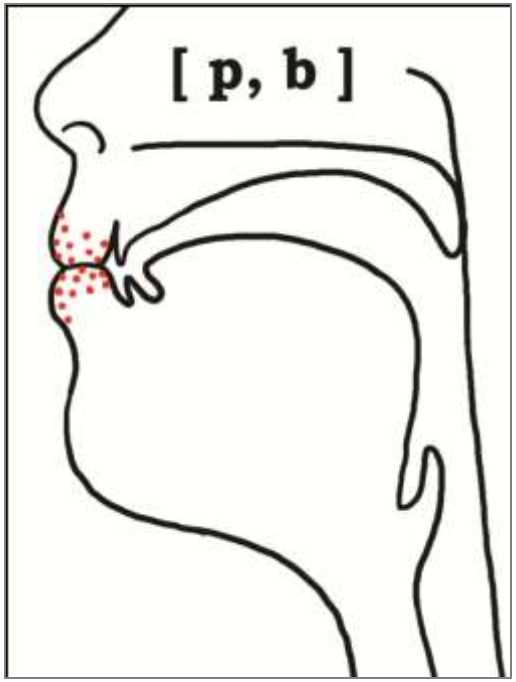


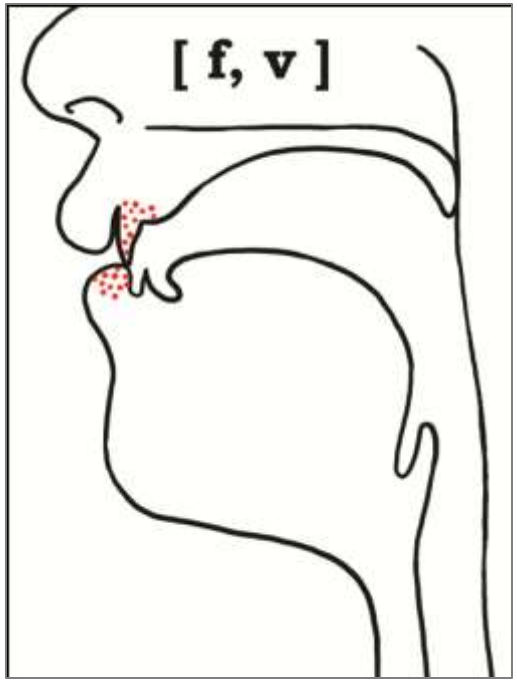
LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
M m	em	eme	[m]	motor		motor
N n	en	ene	[n]	normal		normal
			[ng]	eating	COMO	ángulo
		eñe	[ny]	canyon		



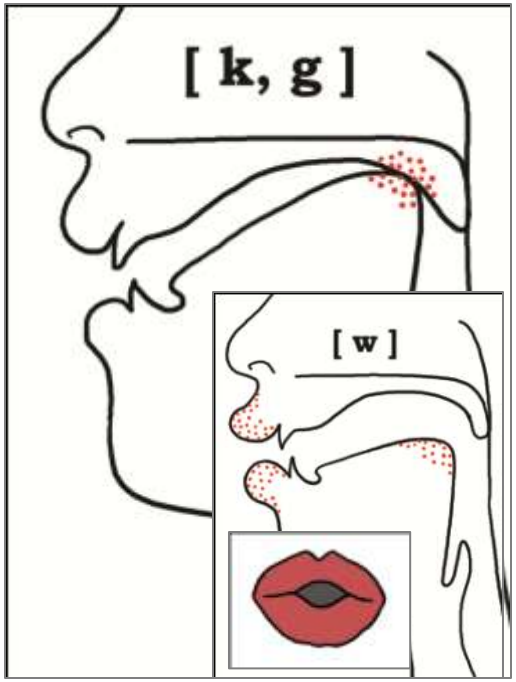


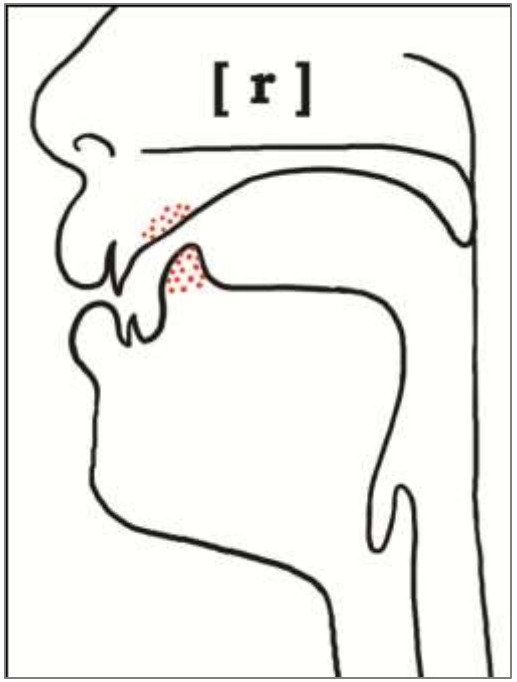
LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
O o	ou	o				
P p	pi:	pe	[p]	piano		piano
			[f]	photo		foto



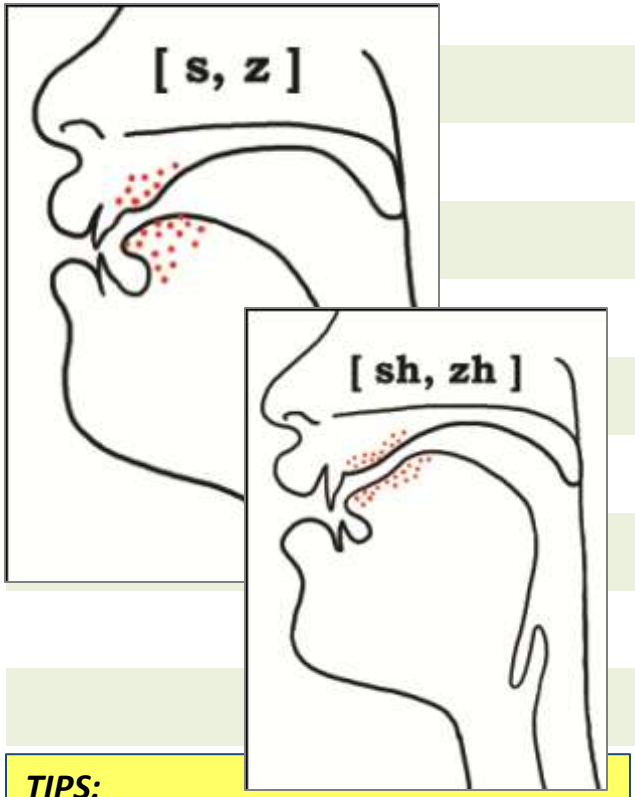


LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
Q q	quiú	cu	[kw]	quiet	[k]	quieto
R r	ar	erre (ere)	[r]	reason	[rr]	razón
			[r]	carriage	[rr]	carruaje





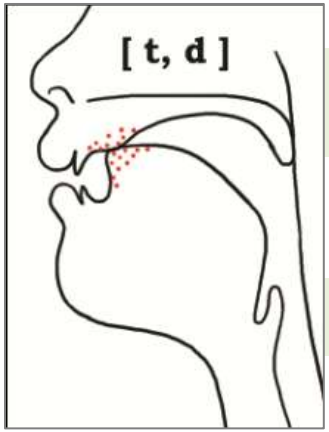
LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
S s	es	ese	[s]	sound		sonido
			[s]	scene		escena
			[s]	science		ciencía
			[sk]	scale	[s] – [k]	escala
			[sk]	school	[s] – [k]	escuela
			[z]	is	[s]	es, está
			[zh]	usual	[s]	usual
			[sh]	shampoo	[ch]	champú
			[shən]	mission	[sion]	misión
			[ʒən]	vision	[sion]	visión
			[chən]	tension	[sion]	tensión

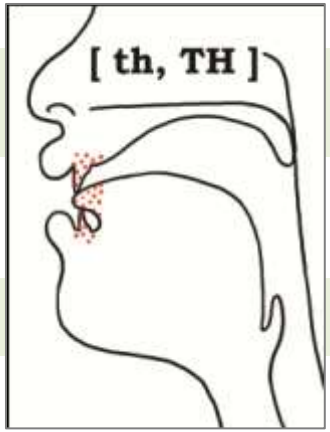


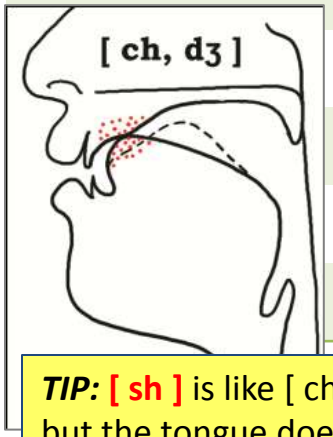
TIPS:

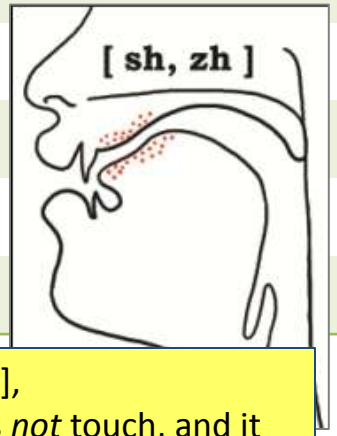
- **[z]** is [s], but strong with tone.
- **[zh]** is **[sh]**, but strong with tone.
- **[sh]** is like [ch], but the tongue does *not* touch, and it sounds like a short stream of noise.

LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
T t	ti:	te	[t]	total		total
			[t^h]	Betty	COMO	oro
			[th]	thin	COMO ESPAÑA	cierto
			[TH] fuerte	this	COMO ESPAÑA	lado
			[ch]	picture	[t]	pictura
			[chr]	try	[tr]	tratar
			[chən]	question		pregunta
			[chən]	attention	[sion]	atención
			[shən]	vacation	[sion]	vacación



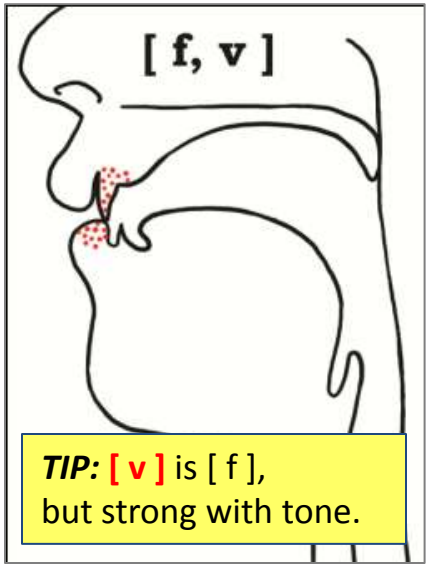


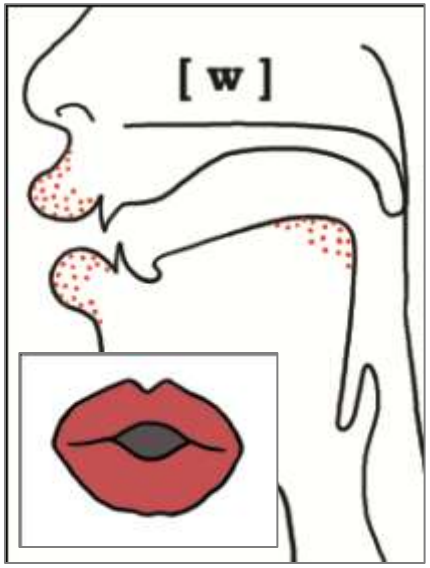


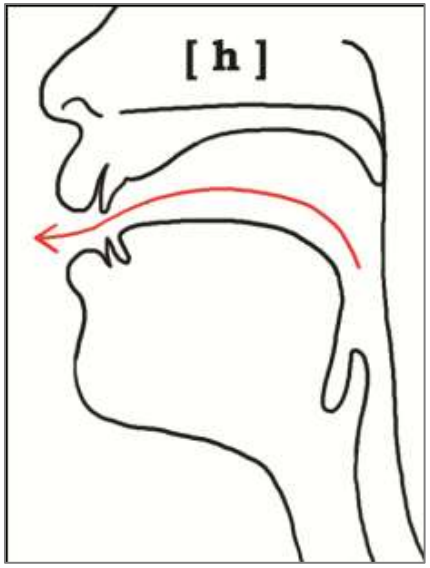
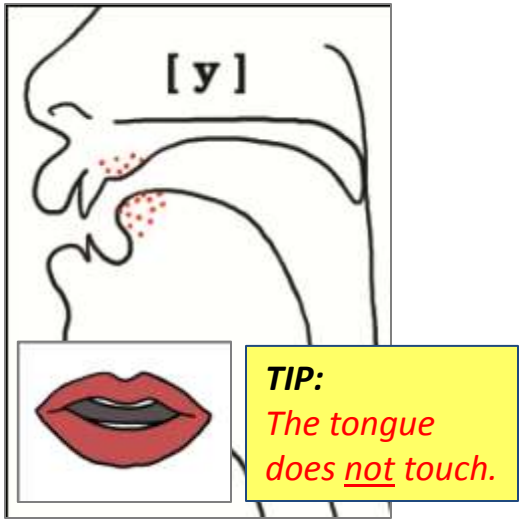
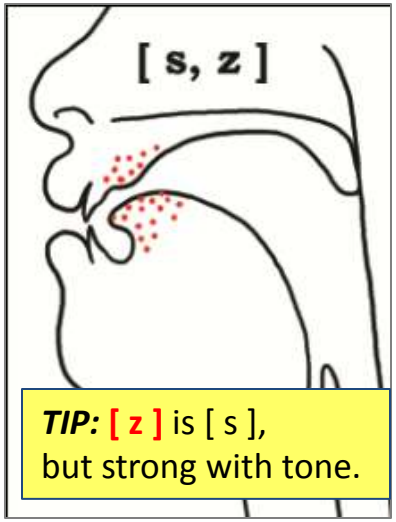


TIP: **[sh]** is like [ch],
but the tongue does *not* touch, and it sounds like a short stream of noise.

LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
U u	yu:	u				
V v	vi:	uve (ve)	[v]	vote	[b]	voto
W w	'da-bol-yu:	doble uve (doble ve)	[w]	wine	[b]	vino
			[w]	what		qué
			[h]	who		quién







LETTER	ENGLISH NAME	SPANISH NAME	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH WORD	SPANISH SOUND	SPANISH TRANS.
X x	ecs	equis	[ks]	excuse	[s]	excusa
			[gz]	exact	[ks]	exacto
Y y	uai	ye (i griega)	[y]	Yankee	[dʒ]	yanqui
Z z	zi:	ceta (zeta)	[z]	zone	[s]	zona