

Pronunciation – c, s, z: Transcript

Context

Hola y Buenos días. In this lesson we're going to work on our pronunciation of the letters **c**, **s**, and **z**. The easy part is that they can all be pronounced exactly alike. We'll also point out when the **c** is not pronounced like an **s** or **z**.

Information

1. The letter **s** is always pronounced like the **s** in the English words “some” or “pass”. Be sure not to make it sound like the **s** in the English word “president” or “rose” or “houses”.

esposo
sobrino
estado
nervioso
soltero
sesenta

2. The letter **z** is also pronounced like the **s**. It is not pronounced like the **z** in English.

perezoso
vez
lápiz
pizarra
tiza
cerveza

3. The letter **c** has two pronunciations in Spanish. When it is followed by **i** or **e**, it is pronounced like **s**. When it is followed by **a**, **o**, **u** or by a consonant, it is pronounced like **k**.

Here are some examples of **c** pronounced like an **s**:

ciudad
necesario
francés
cien
veces

Here are some examples of **c** pronounced like a **k**:

carta

casa
coche
casado
corto
cuarenta
nunca

Review

The important thing to remember is that there is no “z” sound in Spanish. If you see an **s** or a **z**, they always get pronounced like the **s** in “pass.” The **c**, on the other hand, can sound like an **s** or **k** depending on what letter follows it. Okay, now it’s time to go practice. Have fun! *Adiós*.