

## Pronunciation – I, II, y: Transcript

### Context

*Hola y Buenos días.* In this lesson we're going to talk about the pronunciation of the letters **I**, **II**, and **y**. Of course, you may still be trying to figure out why **I** and **II** are pronounced so differently, but not to worry. I'll give you a basic introduction and then we'll work on the pronunciation of the different letters.

### Information

1. Let's start out by talking about the letter **I**. In English we have two ways of pronouncing the letter – with the back of the tongue high in the mouth in words like “large” or “long,” and with the tongue in a lower position when the letter appears in the middle or at the end of a word like “tall” or “already.” Listen to these words again in English and notice the difference. “Large, long, tall, and already.”
2. The good news is that in Spanish there is only one pronunciation of the letter **I**, and it is similar to the **I** in English used at the beginning of words, like in “large” or “long.”

Listen to the pronunciation of the following words and pay close attention to the letter **I**. *Hablo, lugar, cálculo, aldea, cartel, almuerzo, regular, colchón. Repite. Hablo, lugar, cálculo, aldea, cartel, almuerzo, regular, colchón.*

3. The letter **II** used to be officially recognized as a separate letter in the Spanish alphabet and, although it no longer carries that distinction. The **II** in Spanish is pronounced exactly like the letter **y** in English and Spanish. It's pretty important to remember that the **II** is pronounced differently than the **I** in order to keep your communication clear and accurate. That way, a word like *ella* (e-ya) will be understood as “she” instead of understood as the name Ella is pronounced incorrectly (e-la).

Listen to the pronunciation of the following words and pay close attention to the letter **I**. *Ella, llamar, callar, brillante, maravilloso, villa, llenar, sellar. Repite. Ella, llamar, callar, brillante, maravilloso, villa, llenar, sellar.*

4. As a consonant, the letter **y** is pronounced in Spanish the same way it is in English. It can also be put together with a vowel to form a diphthong.

Listen to the pronunciation of the following words and pay close attention to the **y** as a consonant. *Yo, ya, ayudar, mayo, arroyo, apoyar. Repite. Yo, ya, ayudar, mayo, arroyo.*

Now listen to the pronunciation of these words and in which the **y** works with another vowel as a diphthong. *Hoy, doy, soy, hay. Repite. Hoy, doy, soy, hay.*

## **Review**

So the **I** is nothing like the **II** but the **II** has a lot in common with the **y**. The only difference between the **II** and the **y** is that the **y** can also function with a vowel to form a diphthong.