

Pronunciation – n and ñ: Transcript

Context

Hola y Buenos días. In this lesson we're going to talk about the pronunciation of the letters **n** and **ñ**. These letters have close equivalents in English so you should come out of this lesson sounding like you've been speaking Spanish all your life.

Information

1. The letter **n** is pronounced basically the same as the **n** in English. The tip of the tongue touches the roof of the mouth just behind the upper teeth while the breath is directed through the nose to produce the nasal sound. Let's practice with these words – *poner, nada, nadir, paciencia*.
2. The letter **ñ** isn't an official letter of English alphabet, but it is essentially the same sound as the combination of **n** and "y" or **n** and "i" in many English words like "Kenya" and "onion" when they are pronounced quickly. You make this sound by pressing the middle of the tongue against the middle of the roof of the mouth while directing the breath through the nose. The main difference between the "ny" or "ni" of English and the **ñ** in Spanish is the fact that it's possible to pronounce the English sounds separately if done slowly. The **ñ** can never be pronounced as two separate sounds. Listen to these words – *caña buñuelo, piñón*
3. Now, let's practice your pronunciation.

mañana
banana
niño
poner
año
nada
pañuelo
ningún
inútil
tiña

Review

So the **n** is a lot like the "n" in English and the **ñ** had an English counterpart as well. Just remember, you can't separate the different sounds of the **ñ**. It's a complete package. Okay. That's it for this lesson.