

## Pronunciation – r and rr: Transcript

### Context

*Hola y Buenos días.* Today we're going to talk about the letter **r**. This letter is often the source of mispronunciation so let's spend just a bit of time making sure we understand how it's supposed to sound.

### Information

1. Let's start with the single letter **r**. To correctly pronounce the **r** in Spanish, you tap the roof of your mouth once very quickly with the tip of your tongue while keeping it very tense. This is the same sound as the “t” or “d” in English words like “better” and “butter” when they are pronounced quickly in conversational English. Listen to these English and Spanish words.

letter *pero*  
batter *cara*  
Betty *ahora*  
Freddy *para*

2. The double **r** or **rr** in Spanish is one of the most difficult sounds for many English speakers. It's one of those sounds that we all recognize when we hear it, but sometimes we have trouble making the sound ourselves. To produce the **rr**, the tip of the tongue is tapped multiple times against the roof of the mouth while holding the tongue very tense. You may not be able to produce it perfectly right away, but with practice you should find it easier and easier. Listen to these examples.

*carro, perro, entierro, desarrollo, error, parrilla, correr, barra*

3. Here are the basic rules:
  - a. The letter **r** is pronounced as a single tap like the “t” or “d” of English in all cases except when it is the first letter of a word and after the letters “l”, “s” and “n”.
  - b. The letter **r** is pronounced as a multiple tap like the **rr** in Spanish whenever it is the first letter of a word or follows “l”, “s” or “n”.
  - c. The letter **rr** is always pronounced as a multiple tap.

What these rules mean for spelling is that if you hear a single tap **r**, it will always be spelled **r**. If you hear a multiple tap **rr**, it can be spelled either **r** or **rr**. This means you need to pay close attention to the spelling of vocabulary words as you learn them.

## **Review**

Well, that was easy enough. A **r** is a single tap and a **rr** or an **r** at the beginning of a word is pronounced with a trill or a double tap. You may not be able to make these sounds perfectly yet, but you can come very close with some regular practice. That's it for this lesson. *Adiós.*