Lesson 1A
Introduction to the Spanish Alphabet

Do you remember how excited you were to start school?? Your first backpack?? Your first day of class??

Most of us began our formal education by studying each letter of the "English" alphabet, the basis of our language. Our study of the Spanish language should begin the same way, by studying the "Spanish" alphabet.

The English alphabet contains 26 letters but there doesn't seem to be a universal agreement on exactly how many letters the Spanish alphabet contains.

Traditional Spanish Alphabet (30 letters): the English alphabet with the addition of four letters; ch, ll, ñ, and rr.

New Spanish Alphabet (28 letters): the English alphabet with the addition of only two letters: ñ, and rr.

The chart below shows all 30 letters … but remember that ch, and ll are no longer considered to be separate letters in the most recently defined Spanish Alphabet!!

Let-ter	**Spanish Name** (Pronunciation)	**Let-ter**	**Spanish Name** (Pronunciation)	**Let-ter**	**Spanish Name** (Pronunciation)
a	**la a** (ah)	**j**	**la jota** (hoe-tah)	**r**	**la ere** (eh-ray or air-A)
b	**la be (grande)** (bay)	**k**	**la ka** (kah)	**rr**	**la erre** (er-r-ray or air-ray)
c	**la ce** (say)	**l**	**la ele** (eh-lay or L-A)	**s**	**la ese** (eh-say or S-A)
ch	**la che** (chay)	**ll**	**la elle** (el-yeah or A-yeah)	**t**	**la te** (tay)
d	**la de** (day)	**m**	**la eme** (eh-may or M-A)	**u**	**la u** (oo – like too)
e	**la e** (ay or A)	**n**	**la ene** (eh-nay or N-A)	**v**	**la ve(be) chica** (bay)
f	**la efe** (eh-fay or F-A)	**ñ**	**la eñe** (en-yeah or N-yeah)	**w**	**la doble ve(be)** (doe-blay-bay) **la doble u** (doe-blay-oo)
g	**la ge** (hay)	**o**	**la o** (owe)	**x**	**la equis** (eh-keys or A-keys)
h	**la hache** (ah-chay)	**p**	**la pe** (pay)	**y**	**la i griega** (ee-gree-ay-gah or E-gree-A-gah)
i	**la i** (ee)	**q**	**la cu** (coo)	**z**	**la zeta** (say-tah)

Pronunciation: Here is a fabulous video clip with a native Spanish speaker pronouncing each letter of the alphabet and some Spanish words that begin with each letter. One of the great advantages of an online course is that you are in control!! If you don't hear or understand what is said during a presentation, you can stop and rewind ... as many times as you want! You can also watch the video until you feel that you have learned what is being presented. Please ... take your time ... personalize this course to your specific needs so you can learn at your own pace!! To begin the video, click on the link below !! (When finished, click on the "Back (←)" button at the top, left corner of your internet browser (or close any new windows that opened) to return to this page in the EHS site.)

#1. http://www.youtube.com/v/pvFOfO-vVx4

Here is another internet site to explore. I really like this site because the audio file contains the full alphabet!! Practice saying each letter along with the recording … at least 10 times!! When finished practicing the Spanish alphabet at this site, click on the "Back (←)" button at the top, left corner of your internet browser to return to this page in the EHS site.

#2. http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/grammar/alphabet.shtml

This is a wonderful free Spanish course available on the internet that this course will be using quite frequently! You might even search this site to find answers to your individual questions, but remember that you can always email your teacher with any questions or concerns! Once again when finished reading this information, click on the "Back (←)" button in the top, left corner of your internet browser to return to this page in the EHS site.

#3. http://spanish.about.com/cs/forbeginners/a/beg_alphabet.htm

A Spanish Alphabet Song!! – Just click on the link below!!

#4. http://www.youtube.com/v/qvIxn5ZT7AU

Just a few other vocabulary words that are used with the alphabet:

Spanish Words in bold -- *English Translation in bold and italics*

el alfabeto -	***alphabet***	**el acento (‘: á,é,í,ó,ú)-**	***accent***
la letra –	***letter***	**la tilde (~: ñ) -**	***tilde (“squiggle”)***
mayúscula -	***upper case (capital)***	**la diéresis (¨: ü) -**	***dieresis, diersis (Both words are used.)***
minúscula -	***lower case (small)***		

Summary of Lesson: You should now know the Spanish names for 30 letters of the Spanish alphabet, the sounds that they make (pronunciation in Spanish), and the other vocabulary words listed at the end of this lesson.

There will be a summary at the end of each lesson with links to activities so that you can practice the concepts from this lesson. You should complete as many as you individually need for mastery of the lesson materials, but they are not considered to be graded assignments. **Don’t skip this part of the lessons!!** All quizzes and tests that are graded are taken from these assignments and assume that you have learned this curriculum.

Here are some great games and activities made by teachers for Spanish students!! When finished with each activity, click on the “Back (←)” button at the top, left corner of your internet browser until you are returned again to this page in the EHS site.

#5. http://www.quia.com/quiz/704752.html (**Not a Quiz for this course!!** Just a Great Listening Practice of the Spanish Alphabet!)
#6. http://www.quia.com/ws/461634.html (Alphabet Word Search)
#7. http://www.quia.com/mc/461634.html (Alphabet Matching)
#8. http://www.quia.com/cc/461634.html (Alphabet Concentration)

Required Assignment SpIQ102-Lesson 1A: Spanish Alphabet and Accents: It is now time to do your second required assignment!! Go to Part 3: “Assignments, Quizzes, Tests” on the Topic Outline page. Click on the second assignment – “SpIQ102 Lesson 1A: Spanish Alphabet and Accents”. After completing the assignment, return to part 2: “Unit 01 - Lesson 1B” to continue with the course!!