

Online Resources for Spanish Pronunciation

WordReference, Forvo, UCLA, Linguee, Acapela Group

The screenshot shows the WordReference.com interface for the word 'terminar'. At the top, there's a search bar and navigation tabs for 'WordReference', 'Collins', and 'WR Reverse (98)'. The main content area features the word 'terminar' with an audio player and a dropdown menu for dialects: 'MÉXICO', 'ESPAÑA', and 'ARGENTINA'. Below the word, there are sections for 'Principal Translations' and 'Word of the day: sound | tumble'.

WordReference

<http://www.wordreference.com/es/>

Description

While primarily known as a multilingual dictionary, this ever-updating website has many tools to support learner pronunciation. Some dictionary entries have IPA transcriptions that show feminine and masculine production variation, examples of the entry in context, and audio files of the word pronounced in different dialects. There is also a lively online forum community where native and non-native speakers discuss grammar, usage, and pronunciation questions.

Example of Use

Choose a specific word to work on. Listen to the audio file of the word in different dialects and practice speaking the word aloud in contexts provided by the site. Ask a question about pronunciation and sociolinguistics on the forum and interact with speakers around the world about these topics.

This content is also featured in the following publications:

Bajorek, Joan Palmiter (2017). "Free Pronunciation Technology: Maximizing the Potential of Forvo and NetProF Pronunciation Feedback" Ed. Edwige Simon. *The FLTMag*.

<http://fltmag.com/>

The screenshot shows the Forvo website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Languages', 'Categories', 'Pronounce', 'Events', and 'Users'. A search bar contains the word 'menos'. Below the search bar, there are filters for 'Spanish (55)', 'Portuguese (7)', and 'Galician (4)'. The main content area is divided into 'Words' and 'Phrases'. The 'Words' section lists several entries for 'menos' with their respective pronunciations. The 'Phrases' section shows examples of 'menos' used in context, such as 'Come poco y cena menos, que la oficina del estómago.' and 'Este tramo de carretera tiene una alta siniestralidad, al menos pongamos un cartel de aviso.'

Forvo

<https://forvo.com/>

Description

Geared towards more intermediate learners, Forvo is wikipedia-like large collection of over 100,000 spoken sound files, many which are repetitions of the same utterance in Spanish that include information about the speaker such as their gender and geographical location. Sound files are voted on by users of the site and the word or phrase is often shown in context. Registered users can be more active members of the community and can add words to be pronounced, vote on sound files, create a list of favorites, add files themselves, and download sound files.

This site requires users to have pre-existing knowledge of vocabulary and grammar structures to understand and navigate through the site to find specific information, thus it may not be as helpful for beginning learners.

Example of Use

Learners can search for specific words or phrases and listen to them in context. Especially for entries with several sound files, students can consider dialectal differences among varieties of Spanish.

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Fonética: Los sonidos del español

consonantes vocoides

modo lugar voz vocales semi-consonantes semi-vocales diptongos

oclusivas fricativas africadas nasales espirantes laterales vibrantes

Nasales

[m]
[ɲ]
[ɲ]
[ɲ]
[ɲ]
[ɲ]
[ɲ]
[ɲ]

[ɲ] [ɲ]*

animation with sound step-by-step description

IPA/Hispanic Linguistics equivalences anatomy feedback

[ɲ] Play All

[ɲá.pa] ñapa

[á.ɲo] año

[kam.pá.ɲa] campaña

[em.pé.ɲo] empeño

Sounds of Spanish

<http://soundsofspeech.uiowa.edu/spanish/spanish.html>

Description

Available on website and smartphone platforms, this interactive pronunciation tool provides the organization of phonemes by consonants and vowels and their respective features. Each phoneme has its IPA symbol, an animation of a sagittal diagram of the articulation, sound files, and video of human production of the phoneme in words in onset, coda, and medial positions.

Example of Use

This is a fantastic resource for learners of Spanish who are interested in learning more about phonetics and segmental features. Students can test themselves on their knowledge of phonemes and hear specific examples. The biggest strength of this resource is its thoroughness and organization of anatomy and linguistic features.

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The screenshot shows the Linguee website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: "Acerca de Linguee", "Linguee in English", "Iniciar sesión", and "Contacto". Below these is the Linguee logo and a search bar with "español" and "inglés" selected, and a search input field containing "joker". The search results are displayed under the heading "Diccionario inglés-español". The word "joker" is listed as a "sustantivo" (noun) with a pronunciation icon. Below it, the Spanish word "comodín" is listed with its gender and pronunciation. A section titled "menos frecuente:" lists several related Spanish words: "bufón", "cachondo", "chistoso", "gracioso", and "burlón". At the bottom of the search results, there is a "Wikipedia" section and a "Fuentes externas" (External sources) section. This section contains three examples of the word "joker" used in context, each with a side-by-side translation from English to Spanish and a source link.

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Linguee

<http://www.linguee.es/ingles-espanol>

Description

Part dictionary, part corpus search, this website and phone app shows dictionary translations with sound files for the different vocabulary terms. The site also provides the word or phrase in context from online searches with a side to side translation. In addition to the website corpus the dictionary draws upon, the website publishes the most popular searches on Linguee by frequency and is constantly updated.

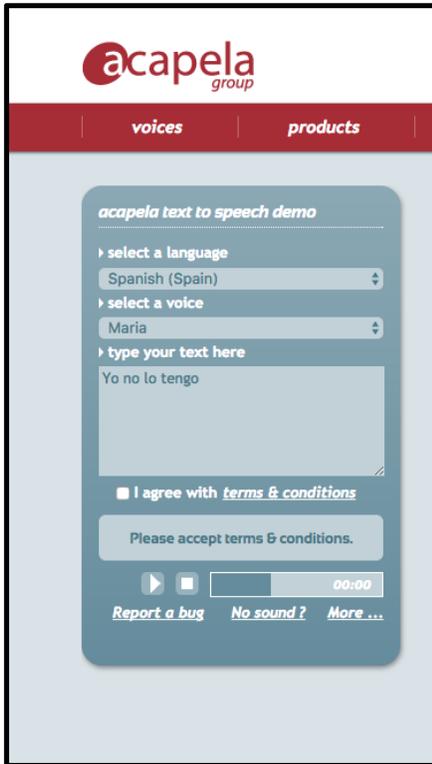
Example of Use

Learners can use this site to consider pronunciation and usage context to better understand appropriateness of words in online contexts.

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<http://fltmag.com/>



Acapela Group

<http://www.acapela-group.com/>

Description

This free website provides text-to-speech audio for short to medium length texts, a maximum of 300 text characters. Subscribers and those who purchase products may have expanded features. 2 voices from Spain and 4 voices from the US are supported for the Spanish language. Although some voices are more naturalistic than others, the segmental and suprasegmental features are addressed in the sound production. The voices will also pronounce nonwords and incorrect spellings of words.

Example of Use

Learners can use this resource to listen to longer utterances and compare varieties of Spanish using the specific texts they are most interested in.

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