

# The Alphabet

The **ALPHABET** comprises 26 letters: 5 vowels (**a, e, i, o, u**) and 21 consonants:

| Letter   | Noun in Neo               | Pronunciation                         |
|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>a</b> | <b>a</b>                  | th <u>a</u> t, <u>a</u> dd            |
| <b>b</b> | <b>be</b> ( <i>bay</i> )  | <u>b</u> est                          |
| <b>c</b> | <b>ce</b> ( <i>chay</i> ) | <b>ch</b> ur <u>ch</u> <sup>(1)</sup> |
| <b>d</b> | <b>de</b> ( <i>day</i> )  | <u>d</u> ay                           |
| <b>e</b> | <b>e</b> ( <i>ay</i> )    | <u>b</u> ed, <u>d</u> ay, <u>N</u> eo |
| <b>f</b> | <b>ef</b>                 | <u>f</u> ather                        |
| <b>g</b> | <b>ge</b> ( <i>gay</i> )  | <u>g</u> ay, <u>g</u> oal             |
| <b>h</b> | <b>he</b> ( <i>hay</i> )  | <u>h</u> ear <u>t</u> , <u>h</u> ome  |
| <b>i</b> | <b>i</b> ( <i>ee</i> )    | <u>i</u> s, <u>e</u> ar               |
| <b>j</b> | <b>je</b> ( <i>jay</i> )  | <u>j</u> et, <u>J</u> ohn             |
| <b>k</b> | <b>ke</b> ( <i>kay</i> )  | <u>k</u> ee <u>p</u> , <u>c</u> an    |
| <b>l</b> | <b>el</b>                 | <u>l</u> ong                          |
| <b>m</b> | <b>em</b>                 | <u>m</u> other                        |

| Letter   | Noun in Neo               | Pronunciation                              |
|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>n</b> | <b>en</b>                 | <u>n</u> o, <u>n</u> one                   |
| <b>o</b> | <b>o</b>                  | <u>l</u> ot, <u>n</u> ote                  |
| <b>p</b> | <b>pe</b> ( <i>pay</i> )  | <u>p</u> oor, <u>p</u> erson               |
| <b>q</b> | <b>ku</b> ( <i>koo</i> )  | <u>q</u> ueen, <u>c</u> ook <sup>(2)</sup> |
| <b>r</b> | <b>er</b> ( <i>air</i> )  | <u>r</u> ed, <u>r</u> oom                  |
| <b>s</b> | <b>es</b>                 | <u>s</u> it, <u>s</u> ister                |
| <b>t</b> | <b>te</b> ( <i>tay</i> )  | <u>t</u> ool, <u>t</u> ea                  |
| <b>u</b> | <b>u</b> ( <i>oo</i> )    | <u>t</u> ool, <u>c</u> ook                 |
| <b>v</b> | <b>ve</b> ( <i>vay</i> )  | <u>v</u> ain, <u>v</u> oid                 |
| <b>w</b> | <b>we</b> ( <i>way</i> )  | <u>w</u> ell, <u>w</u> ay                  |
| <b>x</b> | <b>xe</b> ( <i>ksay</i> ) | a <u>x</u> <sup>(3)</sup>                  |
| <b>y</b> | <b>ye</b> ( <i>yay</i> )  | <u>y</u> es, <u>y</u> et                   |
| <b>z</b> | <b>ze</b> ( <i>zay</i> )  | <u>z</u> oo, <u>r</u> ose                  |

<sup>(1)</sup> For letter **c** pronunciation **ts** like **tsar** is acceptable.

<sup>(2)</sup> Letter **q** needs no following **u** to convey its **kw** sound, just as the sound of **x** is really **ks**. Rather than proper letters, **q** and **x** are convenient signs to replace respectively **ku** (or **kw**) and **ks**; both **ku** (or **kw**) and **ks** are available if preferred. *Letter q is always followed by a, e, i, or o.*

<sup>(3)</sup> Never **gz** as example

Letter combinations **sh** and **kh** are pronounced same as in English.

## PRONUNCIATION

Neo, like Spanish and Italian, is pronounced exactly as it is spelt. No letter is mute.

Every letter has one sound, always the same.

Therefore, if a text is dictated correctly, writing is simple and spelling mistakes are practically excluded.

## VARIABILITY OF WORDS

An ending **s** is added to *nouns* and *pronouns* in the plural.

*Verbs* are conjugated according to [the list](#).

*All other words are invariable.*

## STRESS

**STRESS** falls on :

1. *the last but on syllable of words ending with a vowel:* **l**í**bro** book; **t**á**blo** table; **p**á**tro** father; **m**á**tro** mother; **á**l**mo** soul; **ko**r**ágo** courage; **ko**r**ága** courageous; **ke**m**íó** chemistry; **se**r**íó** series; **ge**o**gra**f**íó** geography; **ge**o**gra**f**á** geographical; **di**s**tr**í**bo** distribution; **di**s**tr**í**bi** to distribute; **un**á**lma** unanimous; **un**al**méso** unanimity.
2. *the last syllable of words ending with a consonant:* **am**ó**r** love; **am**í**k** friend; **ga**r**dén** garden; **ka**n**ón** gun; **ave**n**túr** adventure; **expe**r**imént** experiment; **mi am**á**r** I love; **vu ve**n**ár** you come; **zi vi**d**ór** they will see; **vu ve**n**úr** you would come.

The **s** of the plural does not displace the stress: **l**í**bro**s****, **t**á**blo**s****, **m**á**tro**s****, **se**r**íó**s****, **am**í**ko**s****, **ga**r**dáno**s****, **ave**n**túro**s****, **expe**r**iménto**s****.

Letter **y**, being a consonant, cannot carry the stress: **fó**l**yo** leaf; **dó**l**yo** mourning, **dó**l**yi** to mourn; **se**r**ye** seriously (**se**r**ie** means "in series").

Before another vowel, **i** always gets stress, even in words that already have another stress: **fo**l**íó** madness; **mí**o**píó** shortsightedness; **bí**o**logíó** biology.

Stress never falls on the vowel **u** in the combination **guo**: **língu**o**** language; **ambígu**e**** ambiguously, or after **a** and **e**: **pláudi** to applause; **káuzo** cause; **kláuzo** clause; **áuto** motor-car; **néutra** neutral; **réumo** rheumatism; **réuma** rheumatic.

Compound words have two or more stresses, each component keeping its own stress: **dórfoskó**l**** village school; **ártístor** Art-History; **ís**n**ón** nineteen; **nónek nónisnón** 999; **vírvéstdepartmé**n**t** men's-clothing-department.

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