SPANISH PRONUNCIATION

(A VISUAL LEARNING MAP)

VOWELS

- "a" is like English "ah" sound like "car" or "bath"
- "a" is like English "ah" sound like "car" or "bath"
- "i" is like English "ee" sound as "tee" or "green"
- "e" is like English "ay" sound as in "men"
- "o" is like English short "o" as in "top" or "hot"

CONSONANT RULES

- "r" is always slightly "rolled" in Spanish
- "c" before "e" or "i" = English "th"
- "g" before "e" or "i" = Scottish "ch" (e.g. loch)
- "g" in all other cases = English hard "g" (e.g. go)
- "h" is almost silent
- "s" is usually short and sharp in Spanish
- "v" is usually like an English "b" (almost!)

CONSONANT SOUNDS

- "z" = English "th" as in "thick" or "thanks"
- "ch" = English "ch" as in "chat" or "charming"
- "j" is like a guttural Scottish "ch" as in "loch"
- "ll" = English "y" as in "yoghurt" or "yoke"
- "ñ" = English "ny" sound as in "canyon"
- "y" is *almost* an English "j" sound as in "judge"

SPOKEN STRESS

- If a word ends in a vowel or "n" or "s" then stress the next to last syllable: e.g. examen, hombre
- If word ends in a consonant (but not "n" or "s") then stress last syllable: e.g. papel, ciudad.

REGIONAL VARIATIONS

- "c" sound in Latin America is like an "s" not the Spain mainland "th" (consonant rule above).
- "ll" in Andalucia and Argentina becomes almost a soft "sh" sound