

# Rules for Spanish Accent Marks

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This document shows the rules to determine if a word needs or not an accent mark (tilde). The // denotes transcriptions in the T29 level of Mexbet. The " " denotes the example words and the dots show the syllabification of those words.

In Mexbet, a vowel with a "\_7" is a stressed vowel. In this document, the syllables in bold are the stressed syllables.

### Spanish accents

Spanish accents (tildes) can only be written over the five vowels (a, e, i, o, u), and the accent is written from lower left to upper right: á, é, í, ó, ú.

### Spanish stress rules

In Spanish, an accent mark over one vowel of some word, indicates that the vowel is stressed. The syllable where the stressed vowel belongs, is the *stressed syllable*. To determine if a word needs the accent mark or not, one needs to see which syllable is the stressed one. This means that the stress of any word does not depend on the accent mark, but the accent mark depends on where the stress is. At the end, this also implies that one has to previously know which is the stressed syllable of any word in Spanish to determine if that word needs a tilde or not.

As a rule of thumb, if the word does not have an accent mark, it means that the stressed syllable is the next to last, except when the word ends in a consonant different to "n" or "s". In that case, the stressed syllable is the last one. See the examples below:

When the word ends in a consonant (not "n" or "s") and the word does not have a tilde, the stressed syllable is the last one:

"comer" - "co.**mer**" - / k o . m e\_7 r(/

"ciudad" - "ciu.**dad**" - / s i u . d a\_7 d /

"profesor" - "pro.fe.**sor**" - / p r( o . f e . s o\_7 r(/

"animal" - "a.ni.**mal**" - / a . n i . m a\_7 l /

"madrid" - "ma.**drid**" - / m a . d r( i\_7 d /

When the word ends in a vowel, "n" or "s", and the word does not have a tilde, the stress is on the next to last syllable:

"todo" - "**to**.do" - / t o\_7 . d o /

"inteligente" - "in.te.li.**gen**.te" - / i n . t e . l i . x e\_7 n . t e /

"examen" - "e.**xa**.men" - / e k . s a\_7 . m e n /

"joven" - "**jo**.ven" - / x o\_7 . b e n /

"lunes" - "**lu**.nes" - / l u\_7 . n e s /

"calcetines" - "cal.ce.**ti**.nes" - / k a l . s e . t i\_7 . n e s /

### Accent mark rules

There are four rules to determine if a word needs an accent mark or not. All of them depend on the position of the stressed syllable in the word.

The word needs a tilde when it ends in a vowel, "n" or "s", and the stress is on the last syllable:

"cambiará" - "cam.bia.**rá**" - / k a m . b i a . r ( a \_ 7 /

"comeré" - "co.me.**ré**" - / k o . m e . r ( e \_ 7 /

"ubicación" - "u.bi.ca.**ción**" - / u . b i . k a . s i o \_ 7 n /

"canción" - "can.**ción**" - / k a n . s i o \_ 7 n /

"además" - "a.de.**más**" - / a . d e . m a \_ 7 s /

"pasarás" - "pa.sa.**rás**" - / p a . s a . r ( a \_ 7 s /

The word needs a tilde when it **does not** end in a vowel, "n" or "s", and the stress is on the next to last syllable:

"cárcel" - "**ár**.cel" - / k a \_ 7 r ( . s e l /

"árbol" - "**ár**.bol" - / a \_ 7 r ( . b o l /

"césped" - "**cés**.ped" - / s e \_ 7 s . p e d /

"débil" - "**dé**.bil" - / d e \_ 7 . b i l /

The word needs always a tilde, if the stressed syllable is the antepenult:

"cuadrilátero" - "cua.dri.**lá**.te.ro" - / k u a . d r i . l á \_ 7 . t e . r ( o /

"fantástico" - "fan.**tás**.ti.co" - / f a n . t á \_ 7 s . t i . k o /

"océano" - "o.**cé**.a.no" - / o . s e \_ 7 . a . n o /

"lágrima" - "**lá**.gri.ma" - / l a \_ 7 . g r i . m a /

The word needs always a tilde, if the stressed syllable is prior to the antepenult:

"asegurándose" - "a.se.gu.**rán**.do.se.lo" - / a . s e . g u . r ( a \_ 7 n . d o . s e . l o /

"apréndetelo" - "a.**prén**.de.te.lo" - / a . p r ( e \_ 7 n . d e . t e . l o /

"firmándose" - "fir.**mán**.do.se.lo" - / f i r ( . m a \_ 7 n . d o . s e . l o /

"háganselo" - "**há**.gan.se.lo" - / a \_ 7 . g a n . s e . l o /

## **Adverbs end in "mente"**

In Spanish, the adverbs end in "mente" are the only words with two stressed syllables. For example:

"alfabéticamente" - "al.fa.**bé**.ti.ca.**men**.te" - / a l . f a . b e \_ 7 . t i . k a . m e \_ 7 n . t e /

"artísticamente" - "ar.**tís**.ti.ca.**men**.te" - / a r ( . t i \_ 7 s . t i . k a . m e \_ 7 n . t e /

"paralelamente" - "pa.ra.**le**.la.**men**.te" - / p a . r ( a . l e \_ 7 . l a . m e \_ 7 n . t e /

"solamente" - "**so**.la.**men**.te" - / s o \_ 7 . l a . m e \_ 7 n . t e /

## **Reference**

<https://www.fluentu.com/blog/spanish/spanish-accent-marks/>