

# Spanish Pronunciation & Accents

Some integrations, additions, and modifications (2023)

46.28. The sequences /V<sub>i</sub>, V<sub>E</sub>, V<sub>u</sub>, V<sub>σ</sub>/ can change, respectively, into [ʼEi, ʼai] [ʼae, ʼai] [ʼau] [ʼao/ʼau] (respectively): *reír* [rɛˈiɾ, ɽrɛˈiɾ] /rɛˈiɾ/, *maíz* [maiθ, ɽmaiθ, <sup>a-s</sup>] /maˈiθ/, *país* [paiθ, ɽpaiθ, <sup>a-s</sup>] /paˈiθ/, *caído* [kaˈiðo, ɽkaˈiðo] /kaˈiðo/, *traído* [traˈiðo, ɽtraˈiðo] /traˈiðo/, *abí* [aˈi, ɽai] /aˈi/, *oído* [oˈiðo, ɽoˈiðo] /oˈiðo/, *maestro* [maˈɛstro, m̃ɛstro, ɽmai-, <sup>a-s</sup>] /maˈestro/, *baúl* [baˈul, ɽbaul] /baˈul/, *ataúd* [ˈatauð, ɽˈatauð] /ˈatauð/, *ahora* [aˈσra, ɽaura] /aˈora/. Notice that modern neutral *reina* and *vaina* /rɛˈina, βaˈina/ come from *reína* and *váina* /rɛˈina, βaˈina/!

46.29. Besides, we have: *aguja* [aˈɣuxa, aˈu-, ʼau-, <sup>a-xa</sup>] /aˈɣuxa/, *parece* [paˈ(r)ɛθe, ʼpae-, ʼpai-, <sup>a-se</sup>]; *auto* [ˈauto, ɽˈaɽto] /ˈauto/, *Austria* [ˈaustrja, ɽˈaˈu-, <sup>a-s</sup>] /ˈaustrja/.

In some cases, the *Real Academia Española* accepts two possibilities: *balaustre*/*balaústre* /βaˈlaustre, βalaˈustre/, *saúco*/*sauco* /saˈuko, ʼsauko/, *zaino*/*zaino* /ʃaˈino, ʃaˈino/, &c.

In other cases, the second variant is regional (especially in America): *boina*/*boína* /βoˈina, βoˈina/. For *ahora*, *aún* and *ahí*, both [aˈσra, aˈun, aˈi] and [ˈaora, ʼaun, ʼai] are neutral, as well, mainly in quicker speech.

46.30. Especially in uneducated American Spanish even verbs like the following can change as indicated – /V<sub>V</sub>/ into ʼ/V<sub>j</sub>Vʼ/: *caía(n)* [kaˈia(n), ʼkaˈja(n), ɽkaˈja(n)] /kaˈia(n)/, *creía(n)* [kreˈia(n), ʼkreˈja(n), ɽkreˈja(n)] /kreˈia(n)/, *huía(n)* [uˈia(n), ʼwia(n), ʼurja(n), ɽurja(n)] /uˈia(n)/; or /CVV/ into ʼ/CjVʼ/: *comía(n)* [koˈmia(n), ɽkoˈmja(n)] /koˈmia(n)/, *había(n)* [aβia(n), ɽaβja(n)] /aβia(n)/ – but cf § 28.7-8.

In some areas, we can find the insertion of [β] or [ɣ], if there is a back vowel: *cohete* [koˈɛte, koˈβɛte] /koˈete/, *Faustino* [faʊstiˈno, <sup>a-s</sup>, ʃaβu-] /faʊstiˈno/, *zanahoria* [θanaˈσrja, <sup>a-s</sup>, ʼɣσ-] /ʃanaˈorja/.

46.31. /Vu/ diphthongs can lose one of their elements: *automático* [ˈautoˈmatiko, ɽato-] /autoˈmatiko/, *autoridad* [aʊtoˈriðað, ɽato-] /aʊtoˈriðað/, *Augusto* [auˈɣusto, ʃaˈ-, <sup>a-s</sup>] /auˈɣusto/, *aunque* [auŋke, ɽaŋ-] /ʼaunke/, *augmentar* [uɛmenˈtar], *aeroplano* [aˈroplano], *maestro* [m̃ɛstro, <sup>a-s</sup>], *se me ha caído* [ʃɛˌmakaˈiðo, <sup>a-s</sup>], *lo ha dicho* [laˈðiˌtʃo], *ahogarse* [oˈɣarʃe, <sup>a-se</sup>].

Also: *Eugenio* [euˈɣɛnjo, ɽu-, <sup>a-ɣɛ-</sup>] /euˈxenjo/, *Eusebio* [euˈʃɛβjo, ɽu-, <sup>a-ɣ-</sup>] /euˈseβjo/, *me importa* [mimˈpɔrta], *preocupar* [ˌprokuˈpar], *estadounidense* [eʃˌtaðuniˈðɛnʃe, <sup>a</sup>eʃˌtaðuniˈðɛnʃe]. Mainly in México and Honduras also *estadunidense* [-ðuniˈð-] is used. Notice also: *muy* → *mu'* [ˈmwi; ʼmui; ɽmu] /ˈmwi; ʼmui/).

46.32. By analogy with other words, the sequences /je, we/ can appear irregularly (and even in unstressed syllables): *enredo* [en'rɛdo, ↓'rjɛ-] /en'rɛdo/, *diferencia* [dife'rɛnθja, ↓'rjɛn-, <sup>a</sup>-sja] /ðife'renθja/, *setecientos* [sɛtɛθjɛntos] <sup>a</sup>[s-, 'sj-, -s], *novcientos* [nɔβɛθjɛntos] <sup>a</sup>[sj-, -s]. In some cases, two forms are accepted: *nuevísimo*/*novísimo*, *buenísimo*/*bonísimo*.

46.33. Sometimes, we also find: /je → e/: *paciencia* [paθjɛnθja, ↓'θɛn-] <sup>a</sup>[-'sjɛnθja, ↓'sɛn-] /pa'sjɛnθja/ (and other words in *-iencia*: *conciencia*, *apariencia*, &c), *quiebra* [kʲɛβra, ↓'kɛ-] /kʲɛβra/, *friego* [frjɛɣo, ↓'frɛ-] /frjɛgo/, *aguardiente* [aɣwar'djɛnte, ↓'dɛn-] /aɣwar'djente/, *dieciseis* [djeθi'sɛis, ↓dɛ-, <sup>a</sup>-si'sɛis] /dʲɛθi'sɛis/.

Besides, /we → o/: *pueblo* (verb) [pɔβlo], *muestrario* [moʃ'trarjo, <sup>a</sup>-s]. The *Real Academia Española* admits both /je, we/ and /e, o/: *cimentar*, *desmembrar*, *asolar* (from *suelo*), *engrosar*. Including /nje/ → ↓/ɲe, ne/: *nieva* [nʲɛβa, ↓ɲɛ, ↓'nɛ-] /nʲɛβa/, *niebla* [nʲɛβla, ↓ɲɛ, ↓'nɛ-] /nʲɛβla/.

46.34. Other simplifications of the type /jV, wV/ → /V/ are: *juncia* [χunθja, ↓θa] <sup>a</sup>[χunθja, ↓sa] /χunθja/, *cuestión* [kwɛstjɔn, ↓kuɔ-, <sup>a</sup>-s] /kwɛstjɔn/, *buitres* [bwirtɾɛs, ↓burtɾɛs, <sup>a</sup>-s] /bwirtɾɛs/. Also: /VV/ → /V/ – /ei → e/ (with numbers): *veinte* [βɛinte, ↓βɛn-] /βɛinte/, *treinta* [trɛinta, ↓trɛn-] /trɛinta/; /ai → i/: *treinta y uno* [trɛnta'juɲo, ↓trɛn-'tjuɲo] /trɛnta'juɲo/, *curenta y dos* [kwaɾɛnta'iðos, ↓ti, <sup>a</sup>-s] /kwaɾɛnta'iðos/.

fig 46.4. Uneducated realizations of /VC/ sequences, becoming true diphthongs, [VV] (see fig 7.2).

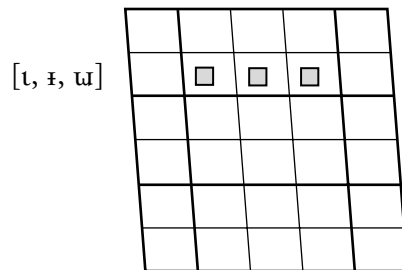


fig 46.4 shows the frequent quick uneducated realizations of /VC/ sequences, for words in either stressed or unstressed syllables, followed by a heterosyllabic /C/: /VC<sup>#</sup>C-/. Thus, /VC/ becomes one of the following true diphthongs: [Vɪ, Vɨ, Vʉ]. If /C/ is nasal, the two vocoids of the resulting diphthongs are (totally, [ṼṼ], or partially, [ṼṼ]) nasalized, currently: [ĩ, ẽ, ɛ̃, ã, õ, ɔ̃, ã] + [ĩ, ɨ̃, ʉ̃].

Although with possible oscillations, and overlappings for different speakers, we more frequently find the following distribution (notice that *front* contoids are from labial to palatal, while *back* ones are from prevelar to uvular):

[ɪ] when /V/ is /i, e/ and /C/ is *front*

[ɨ] when /V/ is /i, e/ and /C/ is *back* or when /V/ is /u, o, a/ or /C/ is *front*

[ʉ] when /V/ is /u, o, a/ and /C/ is *back*.

Here are some examples:

*desde* [ɛɪ], *verde* [ɛɪ], *estos* [ɛɪ], *perfecto* [ɛɪ, ɛɪ], *perder* [ɛɪ], *despierto* [ɛɪ, ɛɪ], *lec-*

*ción* [eɪ], *advierto* [aɪ, eɪ], *aspecto* [aɪ, eɪ], *árbol* [aɪ], *afgano* [aɪ], *apto* [aɪ], *cápsula* [aɪ], *abdomen* [aɪ], *actúo* [aɪ], *actor* [aɪ], *Magdalena* [aɪ], *acción* [aɪ], *taxi* [aɪ], *doctor* [σɪ], *juzgar* [uɪ], *alcalde* [aɪ, aɪ], *exacto* [eɪ, aɪ], *observar* [oɪ, eɪ], *absurdo* [aɪ, uɪ], *obstáculo* [oɪ], *golpe* [σɪ];

*digno* [ĩĩ], *ipnosis* [ĩĩ], *estrabismo* [ei, iu], *siempre* [ẽĩ], *solenne* [ẽĩ], *técnica* [ẽĩ], *admiro* [ãĩ], *carne* [ãĩ], *almacén* [ãĩ], *franja* [ãĩ], *magnífico* [ãũ], *olmo* [õĩ], *cónyuge* [õĩ], *dogma* [õũ], *alumno* [ũĩ], *entonces* [ẽĩ, õĩ];

*circunstancia* [it, ùĩ], *excelente* [eɪ, ẽĩ], *extranjero* [eɪ, ãĩ], *atmósfera* [ãĩ, õĩ], *concepto* [õĩ, eɪ], *construcción* [õĩ, uɪ].

### Mexico

52.4.9. Let us add the more typical vocogram of the Spanish accent found in Chiapas, while straight afterwards we will provide many regional intonation patterns, even if they do not always differ much. However, certain are surely peculiar, as it also happend in other accents.

The diphthongal realizations shown in the second vocogram of fig 52.2.3 occur typically in free syllables and in tunes. In emphatic pronunciation, such diphthongs may be found in stressed checked syllables, as well.

In addition, the last two vocograms show the most typical local realizations in unstressed syllables, for the five vowels, with peculiar voicelessness, in broader accents. Let us see, particularly, the taxophones [i, i; u, u]. Final /e/ and especially /o/ (indicated by [\*]) are more typical the northern areas; /e/, mainly in Michoacán, but /o/ also accors in western and eastern parts. This happens variably in more southern areas, as in Oaxaca.

fig 52.2.3. Chiapas: typical vocogram.

