

Use of Accent Marks



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Use of Accent Marks (cont.)



Accent marks can be confusing and even frustrating.

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Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

Once you know the rules, however, everything about them seems to fall into place.

Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

If you have learned
1) how to divide words into syllables and
2) the rules of stress,
you are ready to learn why accent marks occur over vowels in certain Spanish words.

Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

A couple of things about accents to begin with:

1) They occur only over vowels

a, e, i, o, & u

2) An accent is a short diagonal line directly over the vowel it is marking.

á, é, í, ó, ú

Use of Accent Marks (cont.)


Now—the rules

Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

Accent marks are used

Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

1. to indicate a question word:


¿quién? ¿cómo? ¿dónde?
 ¿cuándo?  ¿por qué?
 ¿qué? ¿cuánto?

The accent here is over the already-stressed vowel.
No change in pronunciation.

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Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

1. to indicate a question word:

¿quién? ¿cómo? ¿dónde?
 ¿cuándo?  ¿por qué?
 ¿qué? ¿cuánto?

An odd thing about these is that they also have an accent if they are inside exclamation marks. ¡Qué tal! ¡Cómo elegante!

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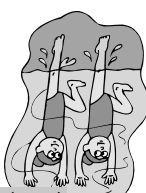
Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

You'll be glad to know that there are VERY few of these.

2. to distinguish between two, usually very short words:

tu	your	tú	you
el	the	él	he
si	if	sí	yes

The accent here is also over the already-stressed vowel.
No change in pronunciation..




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Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

2. to make the weak vowel in a diphthong strong:


María geografía
 día
 continúe aún




The accent here changes the pronunciation of the word.

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4. to indicate that the rules of stress are broken


 cómico francés
 simpático café
 tímido



The accent here also changes the pronunciation of the word.

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Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

Here you have the rules all together.

Use of Accent Marks

Accent marks are used

1. to indicate a question word: ¿quién? ¿cómo? ¿dónde?;
2. to distinguish between two, usually very short words:

tu	tú
el	él
si	sí

- to make the weak vowel in a diphthong strong:
María geografía día

4. to indicate that the rules of stress are broken: cómico, simpático, tímido, francés, café.



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Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

Now, let's practice:

Why is there an accent mark in the following words?

Sofía to make the weak vowel in a diphthong strong

tú to distinguish it from the other word spelled just like it

adiós to show that the rules of stress are broken

¿qué? to indicate a question word

Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

Let's practice some more:

Why is there an accent mark in the following words?

cómico to show that the rules of stress are broken

mí to distinguish it from the other word spelled just like it

¿cuándo? to indicate a question word

geografía to make the weak vowel in a diphthong strong

Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

...and some more:

Why is there an accent mark in the following words?

música to show that the rules of stress are broken

inglés to show that the rules of stress are broken

¿dónde? to indicate a question word

latín to show that the rules of stress are broken

Use of Accent Marks (cont.)

...and more:

Why is there an accent mark in the following words?

álgebra to show that the rules of stress are broken

biología to make the weak vowel in a diphthong strong

¿cuánto? to indicate a question word

tío to make the weak vowel in a diphthong strong



Use of Accent Marks

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