

DIVISION OF SYLLABLES

1. In general, each word has as many syllables as it has vowels or diphthongs*, and whenever possible, the syllable will end in a vowel.

Bien (1)* Ho-la; bue-no; gra-cias (2) a-ro-ma; Fe-li-pe(3) me-di-ci-na; te-lé-fo-no(4)

*diphthong - Any combination of a strong vowel (a, e, and o) and a weak vowel (i and u) or a combination of two weak vowels. Strong vowels do not combine. **Note:** an accent mark on the *weak vowel* will break the diphthong

2. A single consonant between two vowels goes with the following vowel.

a-mi-go; ma-ña-na; o-fi-ci-na; se-ño-ra;

3. Except as noted below, two consonants coming together are generally separated.

án-gel; miér-co-les; Ro-ber-to; lec-ción; per-so-na

a. If the second of the two consonants is *r* or *l*, the consonants generally are not separated. The usual inseparable combinations include *bl, br, cl, cr, dl, dr, fl, fr, gl, gr, pl, pr, tl, and tr*.

ha-blár; glo-bo; Ma-drid; o-tro

b. The letters *ch, rr* and *ll* are never separated.

no-che; mu-cha-cha; ca-rro; ci-garro; mi-llón; e-lla

Práctica. Remembering the rules for division of syllables, divide the following words. If the word just has one syllable, underline the word.

Modelo: Ellos son simpáticos. E/Illos son sim/pá/ti/cos

1. amigo perro acción

2. profesores cigarillos españoles

3. hablar inglés bien

4. los churros de ellas

5. Ana y Julio son los alumnos

6. buenos días señoritas

Now, see how well you can pronounce the words. Refer to the explanation of Stress if you have any problems.