



Spanish Lessons in Surrey-SLS

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Spanish pronunciation

One of the main differences in Spanish pronunciation is that many Spaniards often pronounce the z and the c before i or e like the "th" in "thought," so "Cecilia" sounds like "thethilia"; while many Latin Americans pronounce those letters as the s in "sun" so "Cecilia" will be pronounced "Cecilia" like in English. Therefore these two sounds Z and C will be easier to learn for English speakers if the teacher is from Latin America because all words with c before the i and e are the same as in English.

Other small differences in pronunciation are the speakers in Argentina who often pronounce the ll and y like the "s" in "sugar." In Chile and Cuba you will hear speakers drop s sounds at the end of the word, so "vamos" sounds like "vamo" and "tres" becomes "tre". In Bolivia, the j sounds like the "ch" in "loch" and in Cuba the "do" at the end of a word becomes "o" so "pescado" becomes "pescao".

But not of the differences stated above in pronunciation is a problem for the English student because in the Spanish speaking world we see them as accents and do not interrupt communication.

The differences in Spanish vocabulary are as common as the British-American differences so you learn them as you go along visiting different countries in Latin America. Again, it will not interrupt communication but on the contrary it will enrich your vocabulary.