

Unit 4

The Consonants j, l, ll, ñ, r, and rr

These letters resemble English consonants, but their pronunciation is generally quite different.

The Letter j

In much of Latin America, this letter is pronounced like the English *h* in *house*.

Say:	jugo	juice
	jamás	never
	mujer	woman
	viaje	journey, trip
	tarjeta	card
	reloj	watch, clock

There are other, "raspy" versions of this sound used in Mexico, much of South America, and Spain. Say these words as they would be spoken in Mexico. (Repeat above words.)

jengibre	ginger
rajar	to cut (split)
cofanjuje	-(made up word)

The Letter ñ

Although Spanish *ñ* resembles the *ny* of English *canyon*, there is a difference. Spanish *ñ* is a single consonant, while English *ny* represents two separate sounds, each belonging to a different syllable. Contrast: English *can-yon*; Spanish *ca-ñón*.

Say:	cañón	canyon, cannon
	niño,-a	child
	año	year
	añadir	to add
	sueño	dream
	compañero,-a	companion

cigüeña	-stork
meñique	-little finger
ñoñar	-spoil/pamper