Unit 7

Special Orthographic Features

Spanish has a special symbol, the **diéresis** (English, *diaeresis*), consisting of two small dots which appear over the letter **u**—hence **ü.** Its meaning is that the **u** is to be pronounced in the combinations **güe, güi,** where it is normally silent and serves only to signal that the **g** is "hard." Say these words that have **gue, gui** combinations without the **diéresis:**

Say:	**guerra**	war
	guerrilla	guerrilla
	guía	guide
	guitarra	guitar

Now say these words, which have these combinations with **diéresis**; pronounce it like an English *w.*

Say:	**vergüenza**	shame
	sinvergüenza	rascal
	cigüeña	stork
	agüero	omen
	averigüe	find out (command)
	lingüista	linguist

The Letter q

This letter always occurs in the combination **qu.** It is pronounced as English *k,* but without the aspiration. Avoid the English pronunciation of **qu** as *kw.* Contrast: English *quit*; Spanish **quitar.**

Say:	**que**	that
	quien	who(m)
	quince	fifteen
	aquel	that

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