La fonética (Phonics & Pronunciation) - Background

We have created a series of 4 Spanish 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons. These are individual lessons (not a complete unit); they are sequential and are designed to be appropriate for each year of Key Stage 2. This series of 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons are important as Spanish is a notoriously difficult language to pronounce for foreign language learners. As a language, it contains many sounds that we do not have in the English language.

Ideally, each year group should be taught one appropriate 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lesson at the start of each academic year before embarking on their full Language Angels units. We recommend you teach the lessons in sequence (starting with Lesson 1 and moving through to Lesson 4) rather than, for example, jumping straight into Lesson 4 in the series for Year 6 or straight into Lesson 3 for Year 5. These would still work as individual lessons, but your pupils will miss out on the important phonic sounds and phonemes taught in previous lessons in the series. Teachers of mixed-age classes may wish to teach 2 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons at the start of each year.

For example: for a Year 6 class we would suggest teaching all 4 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons in the series. If teachers feel it will take too much of your planned Spanish teaching time to teach all 4 lessons in sequence, we suggest spreading the lessons over various half-terms so that all 4 lessons are covered by the end of the academic year. The important thing is to ensure all year groups have covered all 4 of the 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons by the end of Key Stage 2. You will find that pronunciation will improve noticeably if your pupils are able to complete all 4 of the Spanish 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons.

The 4 lessons in this series can be repeated as required. These sounds are linked to our materials but are not an exhaustive list of Spanish phonemes. There are others that the pupils will explore and encounter as they continue with their language learning journey. The phonemes have been organised as follows:

Phonics & Pronunciation - Lesson 1

ch	j	ñ	ll	rr

Phonics & Pronunciation - Lesson 2

ca	ce	ci	co	cu

Phonics & Pronunciation - Lesson 3

ga	ge	gi	go	gu

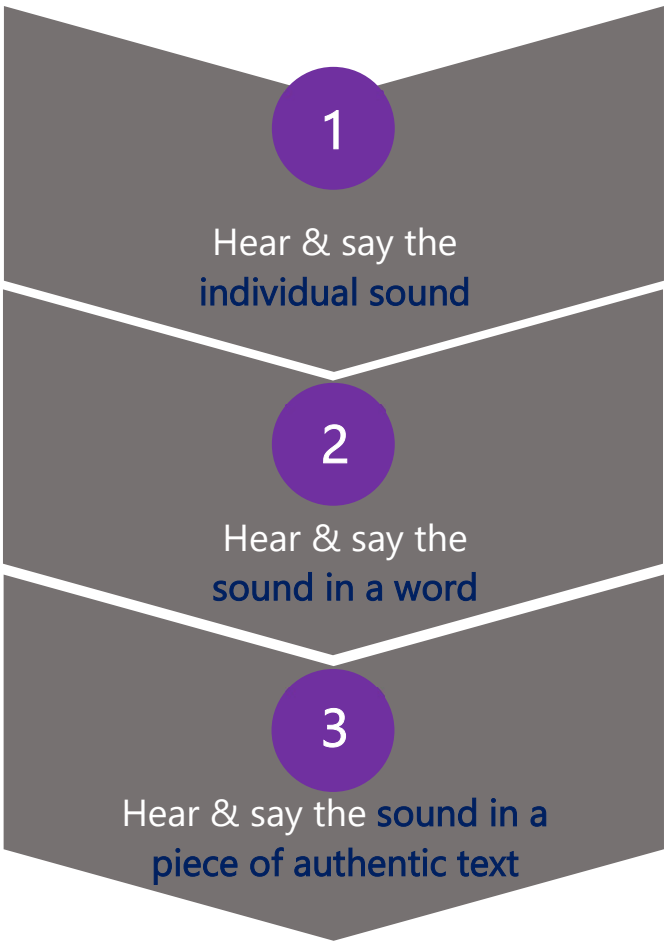
Phonics & Pronunciation - Lesson 4

b	v	cc	qu	z

La fonética (Phonics & Pronunciation) – Methodology and Pedagogy

The 4 lessons in the 'Phonics & Pronunciation' series have been designed to introduce each phonic sound/ phoneme on its own first and pronounced in an exaggerated form to help the pupils hear it pronounced clearly so as to be able to repeat and practise it. Once it has been heard, we discuss how to actually make the sound and link it (where possible) to a similar sound in English. The pupils will then see the sound in a Spanish word. Finally, by the end of each lesson, the pupils will see each of the sounds in a piece of unknown text, in a relevant appropriate word and pronounced at near native speed.

There is precise methodology and pedagogy incorporated into each lesson. We teach these phonics / phonemes in 3 clear steps:



The more sounds the pupils hear, learn and recognise, the more able they will be to decode and read unknown words and text in Spanish. Our young Spanish learners (including EAL pupils) will find it easier to mimic and reproduce the Spanish sounds than teenagers or adult learners would. Their throat muscles and vocal cords are still developing so are soft and flexible. Yet another advantage of youth!

It is worth remembering, however, that the phonics will be taught in a slightly different way to the way we learn English phonics as not only is the language very different, but we also have much less time and are learning as foreign language learners, not native speakers.

Over the course of the 4 lessons in this series, we will gradually and systematically introduce pupils to 20 key Spanish phonic sounds and phonemes with 5 sounds being introduced per lesson. The whole Spanish alphabet and all the vowel sounds will also be explored and repeated in each of the 4 lessons.

The sounds we have chosen for our series of 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons are the most recognised and relevant for this age group. NB: The variety of Spanish we are teaching is Castilian Spanish, which is the variety typical of central and northern mainland Spain. Some pupils, however, may have knowledge of other

varieties of Spanish spoken in the world e.g. Spanish from Latin America. In the case that these pupils do question the information on our resources, they should be reminded that they are not wrong, and that it is just because our resources use phonemes and vocabulary from a different variety of Spanish. Each phonic sound/phoneme is associated with and presented alongside an age-appropriate Spanish word. The lessons will give the pupils enough phonic knowledge to be able to read a piece of unknown Spanish text with increased confidence, accuracy, and fluency.

The lessons are structured to follow a particular order of activities. There is quite a lot of material to get through, so we suggest only a few class repeats on each slide. The most important material from each lesson will be repeated throughout the 'Phonics & Pronunciation' series. To help embed and consolidate learning, you also have access to desk-based activities, a karaoke song and a mouth mechanics guide video linked to the sounds introduced in each lesson.

The pupils will also explore the following linguistic concepts which are particular to the Spanish language as they progress through the four lessons:

- Pronunciation of Spanish vowels
- Pronunciation of specific letter strings in Spanish
- The use of accents in Spanish

Vowel sounds in Spanish:

a	e	i	o	u
In Spanish, the letter 'a' is pronounced like an 'ah' sound. For example, it is like the 'a' in the English word 'cat'. The tongue should be low down in the mouth.	This Spanish, 'e' sound is a short, crisp 'e' sound made with the tongue in a mid to high position at the front of the mouth. It is pronounced as 'eh', similar to how we pronounce the 'e' sound in the English word 'egg'. The lips should be slightly pulled back.	The Spanish, the letter 'i' is pronounced very closely to how we pronounce the letter combination 'ee' in English', for example, 'see' or 'keep'. The tongue should be in a high up position at the front of the mouth. The lips are unrounded and drawn back.	The Spanish 'o' sound is pronounced similarly to the way we pronounce the letter 'o' in the English word 'or'. It is a short, crisp sound. The tongue should be at mid-height towards the back of the mouth The lips should be rounded.	The Spanish letter 'u' is pronounced as 'ooh' but a little shorter and more clipped. The position of the tongue in the mouth is similar to how it is when we say the English words 'who' or 'shoe', but the tongue should be slightly further back in the mouth in a high up position. The lips should be rounded.