Hannah Lippard
Ling 103: Intro to Phonetics

IPA cheat sheet for (Latin American) Spanish speakers
Sounds you already know but might not know you know

Consonants

Phonemes in Spanish that aren't in English
/ɲ/, /r/, /x/, and /ʝ/ are Spanish phonemes.

phoneme	example	IPA	English gloss
/ɲ/	espa**ñ**ol	[espaˈɲol]	'Spanish'
/r/	pe**rr**o	[ˈpɛro]	'dog'
/x/	hi**j**o	[ˈɪxo]	'son'
/ʝ/	a**y**er	[aˈʝeɾ]*	'yesterday'

Allophones in Spanish that aren't in English
[ɱ], [β], and [ɣ] are allophones of /n/, /b/, and /g/.

phoneme	allophone	example	IPA	English gloss
/n/	[n]	ca**n**a	[ˈkana]	'grey hair'
	[ɱ]	i**n**fluir	[iɱfluˈiɾ]	'to have influence'
/b/	[b]	**b**ebé	[beˈβe]	'baby'
	[β]	be**b**é	[beˈβe]	'baby'
/g/	[g]	**g**ato	[ˈga̟to]	'cat'
	[ɣ]	ami**g**o	[aˈmiɣo]	'friend'

Vowels

Phonemes in Spanish that aren't in English
Spanish has three vowel phonemes that English does not: /e/, /o/, and /a/. Each has two allophones.

phoneme	allophone	example	IPA	English gloss
/e/	[e]	**b**ebé	[beˈβe]	'baby'
	[ɛ]	p**e**rro	[ˈpɛro]	'dog'
/o/	[o]	**co**mo	[ˈkomo]	'how'
	[ɔ]	**co**n	[kɔn]	'with'
/a/	[a]	r**a**t**a**	[ˈra̪ta]	'rat'
	[ɑ]	s**a**l	[sɑl]	'salt'

…and don't forget the [d̪ɛn̪ˈt̪al] stops!



*The tap [ɾ] in *ayer* is an allophone of /r/, but Spanish also has a phoneme /ɾ/. For a minimal pair, compare *carro* [ˈkaro] 'car' and *caro* [ˈkaɾo] 'expensive.'