**Rules for Stress**

*In Spanish, words are spelled just like they sound. In order to take advantage of this simple and nearly perfect system of spelling, one must first know the rules for stress – that is, how to know which syllable is pronounced the loudest.*

1. Words ending in a vowel, -n, or -s are stressed on the next to the last (penultimate) syllable:

nada **na** – da

limonada li – mo – **na** – da

zapatos za – **pa** – tos

origen o – **ri** – gen

compro **com** – pro

esta **es** – ta

estas **es**– tas

1. Words ending in any consonant except -n or -s are stressed on the last syllable:

doctor doc – **tor**

ciudad ciu – **dad**

comer co – **mer**

1. When rules #1 and #2 above are not followed, a written accent is used:

compró com – **pró**

está es – **tá**

estás es – **tás**

1. Written accents are also used to differentiate between words that are identically spelled and pronounced the same but have different meanings:

**si** (if) **sí** (yes) **sόlo** (only) **solo** (alone)

**mi** (my) **mí** (me) **más**  (more) **mas** (but)

**el** (the) **él** (he) **cuándo** (when?) **cuando** (when)

**tu** (your) **tú** (you)

\***Monosyllables** (one-syllable words) **do not bear an accent mark**! Only in cases to differentiate between words that are identically spelled (see above).

**RULES FOR ACCENT MARKS**

Dos tipos de acento: **acento prosódico** (sílaba tónica without **tilde**) y **acento ortográfico** (silaba tónica **with tilde**)

**La tilde**: the accent mark

**Sílaba tόnica**: the most stressed syllable in a word

**Palabras AGUDAS**: when the stress is placed on the last syllable; they bear an accent mark when they finish in a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) “n” or “s”

Examples: ca-mi-**nό**  o-ra-**ciόn** pa-**pá** to-**cό**  ja-**bόn**

**Palabras GRAVES O LLANAS**: when the stress is placed on the-next-to-last syllable; they bear an accent mark when they finish in a consonant other than ‘n” or “s”

Examples: **ár**-bol **lá**-piz **án**-gel **cár**-cel **már**-tir

**Palabras ESDRÚJULAS**: when the stress is place on the third-from-the-last syllable telefono proposito. They always bear an accent mark.

Examples: te-**lé**-fo-no pro-**pό**-si-to es-**drú**-ju-la

**Palabras SOBRESDRÚJULAS**: when the stress is place on the fourth-from-the last syllable. The always bear an accent mark. They are words made by adding pronouns to commands and gerunds.

Examples: **cόm**-pra-me-lo (buy it to me) **trá**-e-me-lo (bring it to me)

When an adverb is formed by adding **-mente** to the feminine form of an adjective, the accent mark is retained, if the adjective form has one.

Examples:

**fácil** easy **fácilmente** easily **rápido** quick **rápidamente** quickly

**PRÁCTICA: ¿Qué tipo de palabra es? ¿Lleva tilde?**

1. me-ca-ni-co
2. o-ra-dor
3. ca-ra-me-los
4. en-se-ñar
5. en-tre-te-ner
6. te-ne-dor
7. sa-lon

8. u-ni-ver-sal

9. pe-ta-lo

10. a-rroz

11. la-gri-ma

12. da-me-lo

13. trai-ga-me-lo

14. an-den

15. es-ca-lon

16. ten-ta-cion

17. mal-cri-a-do

18. luz

19. por-ton

20. pe-rio-di-co

21. al-bum

22. a-zu-car

23. a-gil