

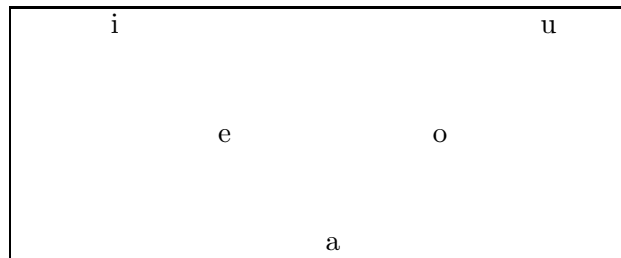
Phonetics and orthography

1 Consonants of Basque

		Labial	Lamino-dental	Apico-alveolar	Palatal or postalveolar	Velar	Glottal
Nasal (voiced)		m		n	ɲ		
Plosive	Voiceless	p	t		c	k	
	Voiced	b	d		ʝ	g	
Affricate (voiceless)			t͡s	t͡s	t͡ʃ		
Fricative	Voiceless	f	s	ʃ			h
	Voiced				ʝ — x		
Lateral				l	λ		
Rhotic	Trill			r			
	Tap			r̄			

2 Vowels of Basque

Most speakers have only the same five vowels as in Spanish, illustrated in the diagram below. The exact quality of each vowel might vary a bit depending on the environment, but they are pretty stable.



Speakers of Zuberoan additionally have a sixth vowel [oe], written *ü*, but in pronunciation similar to German *ö*. This dialect also has nasalized versions of these vowels, which is clearly an influence from French.

3 Basque orthography

Basque employs the following 22-letter variation of the standard Roman alphabet. The letters C, Q, V, W, and Y are only used to spell out foreign words and expressions (e.g., *whisky*, *status quo*...).

A B D E F G H I J K L M N Ñ O P R S T U X Z

Mostly, each letter is mapped into the standard sound. However, there are some special phonotactic rules that one must remember:

- With only some exceptions, the letter *h* is silent. For example, *hiru* ‘three’ and *Ainhoa* (a female name) are pronounced [i.ru] and [ai.noa] rather than [hi.ru] or [ain.hoa].
- The set of three fricative sibilants [s̺], [s̺̺], and [ʃ] are represented by the letters *s*, *z*, and *x*, respectively. Specifically, *z* and *x* are never pronounced as they are in German.
- Each of the three sibilants above has a corresponding affricate [t̺s̺], [t̺s̺̺], and [tʃ], written with the digraphs *ts*, *tz*, and *tx*, respectively.
- The letter *ñ* corresponds to the palatal nasal [ɲ], though sometimes it is replaced with the digraph *in*. For example, the word for *female teacher* can be written both as *andereino* and *andereño*.
- In addition, the following digraphs are also somewhat common:
 - *dd* corresponds to the voiced palatal plosive [d̺].
 - *tt* corresponds to the voiceless palatal plosive [t̺].
 - *rr* corresponds to the apico-alveolar trill [r].
 - *ll* (sometimes written *il*) corresponds to the palatal lateral [λ].