

SYLLABLE DIVISION AND STRESS (ACCENT)

Every syllable **MUST** have a vowel. So find the vowels and you have found the syllables.

What do I do if I have more than one vowel together?

That will depend on if they are strong vowels or weak vowels.

Strong vowels – **a, e, o**

Weak vowels - **u, i** (Just remember you and I are weak without our Lord.)

Two strong vowels together = two syllables

One strong vowel + one weak vowel = **Diphthong** (diptongo)

It forms a blended sound making one syllable with the strong vowel receiving slightly more emphasis.

Two weak vowels = **Diphthong** (diptongo)

It forms a blended sound making one syllable with the second vowel receiving slightly more emphasis.

Now that I know how to say each syllable, which one do I stress?

The stressed syllable of any word is the second to last if the word ends in a vowel, N, or S.
(Vowel, N, or S - Second to last takes the stress)

For all other words (those that end in a consonant other than N or S) the stress falls on the last syllable.

So what's with those funny accent marks?

They have four uses:

1. If any words are pronounced contrary to the above rules, a written accent mark is required. The accent mark shows us where the stress falls when the rules are broken.
2. It makes a weak vowel strong.
3. It differentiates between words that are spelled the same but have different meanings. For example:
“sí” means yes and “sí” means if.
4. Used with interrogative words when they are used as question (even in indirect questions) and exclamation words.