

Spanish Vowels and Diphthongs

Multiple-Choice Practice Worksheet

For each question, choose the answer that best describes how the highlighted vowel or diphthong is pronounced in Spanish. Part 1 covers the five pure vowels; Part 2 covers all fourteen Spanish diphthongs.

Part 1: The Five Pure Vowels

Vowel: A

1. In the word *casa* (house), how are both **a** vowels pronounced?
 - A) Like the *a* in 'cake' — a long gliding sound
 - B) Like the *a* in 'father' — open, short, and steady
 - C) Like the *a* in 'cat' — flat and nasal
 - D) Like the *u* in 'cup' — reduced and neutral
2. The word *mañana* (tomorrow) has three **a** vowels. Which statement is correct?
 - A) The stressed *a* sounds different from the unstressed ones
 - B) All three *a*'s sound identical — Spanish vowels don't reduce with stress
 - C) Unstressed *a*'s reduce to a neutral 'uh' sound
 - D) The first *a* is longer than the others
3. An English speaker pronounces *agua* (water) with the *a* sounding like the 'a' in 'cake'. What is wrong?
 - A) Nothing — that is close enough
 - B) The Spanish *a* should be open and flat like 'father', not a gliding diphthong
 - C) The Spanish *a* should be shorter and more like 'uh'
 - D) The Spanish *a* should sound like the 'a' in 'cat'
4. In the word *hablar* (to speak), the *h* is silent. Which sound does the word actually begin with?
 - A) A soft breath, then *a*
 - B) A glottal stop, then *a*
 - C) Directly with the open *a* vowel — like 'father'

D) A reduced 'uh' sound

5. Which English word contains the **closest** sound to the Spanish **a**?

A) *cake*

B) *cat*

C) *father*

D) *sofa* (the final syllable)

Vowel: E

6. In the word *mesa* (table), how is the **e** pronounced?

A) Like the *e* in 'they' — gliding toward 'ee'

B) Like the *e* in 'bed' — short, steady, no glide

C) Like the *e* in 'the' — reduced and neutral

D) Like the *ee* in 'see'

7. In *leche* (milk), the **e** appears twice. How do both sound compared to each other?

A) The stressed *e* is longer; the unstressed *e* reduces to 'uh'

B) Both sound identical — Spanish *e* never reduces

C) The first *e* is higher pitched than the second

D) The unstressed *e* disappears in fast speech

8. A student pronounces *enero* (January) with the first *e* sounding like 'ay'. What is the error?

A) Spanish *e* should be reduced to 'uh' when unstressed

B) Spanish *e* should be a steady, pure sound with no glide toward 'ee'

C) Spanish *e* should sound like 'ee'

D) There is no error — 'ay' is acceptable

9. In *bebé* (baby), there are three **e** vowels. How should they all sound?

A) The accented final *é* is longer and higher; the others are shorter

B) All three sound the same — short, steady, like 'bed'

C) The accented *é* glides like English 'ay'

D) The unstressed *e*'s reduce to schwa 'uh'

10. Which English word contains the **closest** sound to the Spanish **e**?

- A) *they*
- B) *see*
- C) *bed*
- D) *the* (unstressed)

Vowel: I

11. In the word *libro* (book), how is the **i** pronounced?
- A) Like the *i* in 'like' — a diphthong gliding from 'ah' to 'ee'
 - B) Like *ee* in 'see' but short and clipped
 - C) Like the *i* in 'sit' — lax and brief
 - D) Like 'uh' when unstressed
12. In *sí* (yes) vs. *si* (if), does the accent mark change the vowel sound?
- A) Yes — *sí* has a higher, longer *ee*; *si* is reduced
 - B) No — both have the exact same *ee* vowel; the accent only marks stress
 - C) Yes — *si* sounds like 'uh'; *sí* sounds like 'ee'
 - D) Yes — *sí* glides; *si* is flat
13. In the word *isla* (island), how does the **i** sound at the start?
- A) Like the 'i' in 'island' in English — a diphthong 'eye'
 - B) Like a pure, short *ee* — 'EES-la'
 - C) Like the 'i' in 'sit'
 - D) Like 'uh'
14. When **i** appears unstressed next to another vowel (e.g. *bien*, *gracias*), what happens?
- A) It stays a full *ee* and forms its own syllable
 - B) It weakens into a *y*-like glide and blends into a diphthong
 - C) It is dropped entirely
 - D) It becomes a schwa
15. Which English word contains the **closest** sound to the Spanish **i**?
- A) *like*
 - B) *sit*
 - C) *see*

D) *sir*

Vowel: O

16. In the word *poco* (a little), how are both **o** vowels pronounced?
- A) Like the o in 'go' — gliding toward 'oo' at the end
 - B) Like the o in 'go' but without the glide — short and steady
 - C) Like the o in 'hot'
 - D) Like 'uh' when unstressed
17. A student pronounces *noche* (night) with the o gliding into 'oo' at the end. What is the error?
- A) Spanish o should sound like 'aw'
 - B) Spanish o should be a pure steady sound — no glide toward 'oo'
 - C) Spanish o should be reduced to 'uh' before a consonant
 - D) There is no error
18. In *doctor* used in Spanish, how are the two **o** vowels pronounced?
- A) Like English 'doctor' — second o reduces to 'uh'
 - B) Both are the same pure, steady sound
 - C) The stressed o glides; the unstressed o reduces
 - D) Like 'aw'
19. When unstressed **u** or **o** appears next to another vowel (e.g. *auto*), what can happen?
- A) It always stays a full o and forms its own syllable
 - B) It can glide into a w-like sound forming a diphthong
 - C) It is dropped entirely
 - D) It becomes 'uh'
20. Which English word contains the **closest** sound to the Spanish **o**?
- A) *hot*
 - B) *go* — but stop before the oo-glide
 - C) *more*
 - D) *sofa* (first syllable)

Vowel: U

21. In the word *luna* (moon), how is the **u** pronounced?
- A) Like the *u* in 'cute' — gliding from 'y' to 'oo'
 - B) Like *oo* in 'food' — short and pure
 - C) Like the *u* in 'cup' — reduced and neutral
 - D) Like the *u* in 'pull' — lax and short
22. In *gusto* (pleasure), the **u** is between *g* and *s*. How is it pronounced?
- A) Silent — like the *u* in *guerra*
 - B) Like a short, pure *oo*
 - C) Like 'uh'
 - D) Like the *u* in 'cute'
23. In *música* (music), there are two **u** vowels. How do they compare?
- A) The stressed *ú* is longer; the unstressed *u* reduces to 'uh'
 - B) Both are the same pure *oo* sound — Spanish *u* never reduces
 - C) The unstressed *u* disappears in natural speech
 - D) The accented *ú* sounds like English 'you'
24. When **u** appears unstressed next to another vowel (e.g. *bueno*, *cuatro*), what happens?
- A) It stays a full *oo* and forms its own syllable
 - B) It becomes a *w*-like glide, blending into a diphthong
 - C) It is dropped entirely
 - D) It becomes 'uh'
25. Which English word contains the **closest** sound to the Spanish **u**?
- A) *cute*
 - B) *pull*
 - C) *cup*
 - D) *food*

Part 2: The Fourteen Diphthongs

A diphthong occurs when a weak vowel (*i* or *u*) combines with a strong vowel (*a*, *e*, *o*) or another weak vowel, forming a single syllable with a smooth glide between the two sounds.

Diphthong: AI / AY — as in aire, hay

26. In the word *aire* (air), how is the diphthong **ai** pronounced?
- A) Two separate syllables: 'a' then 'i'
 - B) A single gliding sound from 'a' toward 'ee' — like 'eye'
 - C) Like the 'ay' in English 'day'
 - D) Like 'ah' held long
27. The word *hay* (there is) ends in **ay**. How is this pronounced?
- A) Like English 'hay' — gliding toward 'ee'
 - B) Like 'AY' — open a gliding to ee, rhyming with English 'eye'
 - C) Like 'ah'
 - D) Like 'ay' in 'day' with a glide toward 'w'
28. How many syllables does *bailar* (to dance) have?
- A) Three: ba-i-lar
 - B) Two: bai-lar — ai is one syllable
 - C) Two: ba-ilar
 - D) One
29. In *vaina* (pod/sheath), how is the **ai** pronounced compared to two separate vowels?
- A) Ai forms two syllables: va-i-na (3 syllables total)
 - B) Ai blends into one syllable: vai-na (2 syllables)
 - C) The i is silent before n
 - D) Ai sounds like 'ay' in English 'day'
30. Which English word most closely matches the sound of the Spanish diphthong **ai/ay**?
- A) *day*
 - B) *eye*
 - C) *oy* (as in 'boy')
 - D) *ow* (as in 'cow')

Diphthong: EI / EY — as in reina, ley

31. In *reina* (queen), how is the diphthong **ei** pronounced?

- A) Two separate syllables: re-i-na
 - B) A glide from 'e' (like 'bed') toward 'ee' — in one syllable
 - C) Like the 'ee' in 'see' held long
 - D) Like English 'ray'
32. The word *ley* (law) ends in **ey**. How does it sound?
- A) Like English 'lay'
 - B) Like 'LEY' — e gliding to ee, similar to English 'lay' but starting lower
 - C) Like 'LEE'
 - D) Like two syllables: le-y
33. How many syllables does *peine* (comb) have?
- A) Three: pe-i-ne
 - B) Two: pei-ne
 - C) One
 - D) Two: pe-ine
34. In the phrase *seis personas* (six people), how is **ei** in *seis* pronounced?
- A) Two syllables: se-is
 - B) One syllable gliding from e to ee: like 'SEYS'
 - C) Like 'SEES'
 - D) Like 'SAYS'
35. How does the Spanish diphthong **ei** differ from the pure vowel **e**?
- A) There is no difference — they sound identical
 - B) Ei starts at e and glides toward ee; pure e stays flat with no movement
 - C) Ei is longer; pure e is shorter
 - D) Ei is two syllables; pure e is one

Diphthong: OI / OY — as in hoy, oiga

36. In *hoy* (today), how is the diphthong **oy** pronounced?
- A) Like English 'hoy' — o then y sound
 - B) Like 'OY' — o gliding toward ee, like English 'boy'
 - C) Like 'OH'

D) Like two syllables: o-y

37. In *oigo* (I hear), how is the **oi** pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: o-i-go
- B) One syllable: oi glides from o to ee — 'OY-go'
- C) Like 'OH-ee-go'
- D) The i is silent

38. Which English diphthong sounds most like Spanish **oi/oy**?

- A) The 'ow' in 'cow'
- B) The 'oy' in 'boy'
- C) The 'ay' in 'day'
- D) The 'ee' in 'see'

39. In *boina* (beret), how many syllables are there?

- A) Three: bo-i-na
- B) Two: boi-na
- C) Two: bo-ina
- D) One

40. A student pronounces *hoy* as two syllables: 'OH-ee'. What is wrong?

- A) Nothing — two syllables is correct
- B) OY is a diphthong — it must be one smooth gliding syllable, not two separate vowels
- C) The o should be silent
- D) The y should sound like English 'y' in 'yes'

Diphthong: AU — as in *auto*, *causa*

41. In *auto* (car), how is the diphthong **au** pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: a-u-to
- B) One syllable gliding from 'a' toward 'oo' — like English 'ow' in 'cow'
- C) Like 'AH' held long
- D) Like 'AW' as in 'law'

42. In *causa* (cause), how many syllables does the word have?

- A) Three: ca-u-sa
- B) Two: cau-sa
- C) Two: ca-usa
- D) One

43. Which English word most closely matches the Spanish diphthong **au**?

- A) *law*
- B) *ow* (as in 'cow')
- C) *go*
- D) *awe*

44. In *aunque* (although), how is the **au** pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: a-un-que
- B) One syllable: au glides from a to oo — 'OWN-ke'
- C) The u is silent
- D) Like 'AWN-ke'

45. How does Spanish **au** differ from the pure vowel **a**?

- A) They sound identical
- B) AU starts at a and glides toward oo; pure a stays flat with no movement
- C) AU is two syllables; pure a is one
- D) AU is longer; pure a is shorter

Diphthong: EU — as in *Europa*, *deuda*

46. In *deuda* (debt), how is the diphthong **eu** pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: de-u-da
- B) One syllable gliding from 'e' toward 'oo'
- C) Like 'YOO' as in English 'you'
- D) Like 'AY-oo'

47. How many syllables does *Europa* (Europe) have?

- A) Four: e-u-ro-pa
- B) Three: eu-ro-pa
- C) Three: e-u-ro-pa

D) Two: eu-ro

48. The diphthong **eu** is rare in Spanish. Which of these words contains it?

- A) *euro* (the currency)
- B) *pueblo* (town) — ue, not eu
- C) *bueno* (good) — ue, not eu
- D) Both B and C

49. In the diphthong **eu**, which vowel leads and which glides?

- A) U leads; e glides
- B) E leads (stronger vowel); u glides toward oo
- C) Both are equally strong with no glide
- D) E is silent; u carries the whole sound

50. Which English sound is the **closest** approximation to Spanish **eu**?

- A) 'you'
- B) 'ew' as in 'few' — but starting with a purer e, not 'y'
- C) 'oo' as in 'food'
- D) 'ay' as in 'day'

Diphthong: IA — as in *gracias*, *hacia*

51. In *gracias* (thank you), how is the **ia** pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: gra-ci-as
- B) One syllable: i glides quickly to a — 'GRA-syas'
- C) The i is fully pronounced as 'ee' then a as a separate syllable
- D) Like 'YA' but with a hard g

52. In the diphthong **ia**, which vowel is the glide and which is the nucleus?

- A) A is the glide; i is the nucleus
- B) I is the glide (y-sound); a is the nucleus (main vowel)
- C) Both are equal — neither glides
- D) It depends on the word

53. How many syllables does *hacia* (toward) have?

- A) Three: ha-ci-a
- B) Two: ha-cia
- C) Two: haci-a
- D) One

54. In *familia* (family), the ending **-ia** is a diphthong. How is it pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: fa-mi-li-a (4 syllables total)
- B) One syllable at the end: fa-mi-lia (3 syllables total)
- C) The i is silent: fa-mi-la
- D) The a is silent: fa-mi-li

55. The diphthong **ia** sounds like which English consonant + vowel combination at the start?

- A) 'wa-'
- B) 'ya-'
- C) 'ha-'
- D) 'ja-'

Diphthong: IE — as in *bien*, *tierra*

56. In *bien* (well/good), how is the diphthong **ie** pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: bi-en
- B) One syllable: i glides as 'y' into e — 'BYEN'
- C) Like 'BEE-en'
- D) The i is silent

57. In *tierra* (earth/land), how many syllables are there?

- A) Three: ti-e-rra
- B) Two: tie-rra
- C) Three: ti-er-ra
- D) Two: tier-ra

58. In *quiero* (I want), the **ie** diphthong appears. How is it pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: qui-e-ro
- B) One syllable: ie blends as 'ye' — 'KYE-ro'
- C) Like 'KEE-e-ro'

D) The e is silent

59. Which English word most closely captures the sound of Spanish **ie**?

A) 'yes' — the 'ye' combination

B) 'we'

C) 'ear'

D) 'eye'

60. In *miedo* (fear), the **ie** appears after *m*. How does the full word sound?

A) 'mi-E-do' — three syllables

B) 'MYE-do' — two syllables, ie as one diphthong

C) 'MEE-do' — i absorbs e

D) 'mi-ye-do' — three syllables

Diphthong: **IO** — as in radio, labio

61. In *radio* (radio), how is the diphthong **io** at the end pronounced?

A) Two syllables: ra-di-o

B) One syllable: i glides as 'y' into o — 'RA-dyo'

C) Like 'RA-dee-oh'

D) The o is silent

62. How many syllables does *labio* (lip) have?

A) Three: la-bi-o

B) Two: la-bio

C) Two: lab-io

D) One

63. In *precio* (price), the ending **-io** is a diphthong. How is the full word syllabified?

A) pre-ci-o (3 syllables)

B) pre-cio (2 syllables)

C) prec-io (2 syllables)

D) pre-ci-o (3 syllables with io split)

64. The diphthong **io** sounds like which English consonant + vowel combination?

- A) 'wo-'
- B) 'yo-'
- C) 'ho-'
- D) 'jo-'

65. In *patio* (patio/courtyard), which syllable breakdown is correct?

- A) pa-ti-o (3 syllables)
- B) pa-tio (2 syllables)
- C) pat-io (2 syllables)
- D) pa-t-io (3 syllables)

Diphthong: UA — as in *agua*, *cuatro*

66. In *cuatro* (four), how is the diphthong **ua** pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: cu-a-tro
- B) One syllable: u glides as 'w' into a — 'KWA-tro'
- C) Like 'KOO-a-tro'
- D) The u is silent

67. In *agua* (water), how many syllables are there?

- A) Three: a-gu-a
- B) Two: a-gua
- C) Two: ag-ua
- D) One

68. The diphthong **ua** sounds like which English consonant + vowel?

- A) 'ya-'
- B) 'wa-'
- C) 'ha-'
- D) 'va-'

69. In *cuando* (when), how is **ua** pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: cu-an-do
- B) One syllable: ua as 'wa' — 'KWAN-do'
- C) The u is silent after c

D) Like 'KOO-AN-do'

70. How does **ua** in *agua* differ from **gu** in *guerra*?

A) No difference — both u's are silent

B) In *agua*, the u is pronounced (forming a diphthong with a); in *guerra*, the u is silent (just keeps g hard)

C) In *guerra*, the u is pronounced; in *agua*, it is silent

D) Both u's are fully pronounced

Diphthong: UE — as in *bueno*, *puerta*

71. In *bueno* (good), how is the diphthong **ue** pronounced?

A) Two syllables: bu-e-no

B) One syllable: u glides as 'w' into e — 'BWE-no'

C) Like 'BOO-e-no'

D) The u is silent

72. In *puerta* (door), how many syllables are there?

A) Three: pu-er-ta

B) Two: puer-ta

C) Two: pu-er-ta

D) Three: pu-e-rta

73. In *nuevo* (new), the **ue** diphthong appears. How is the word syllabified?

A) nu-e-vo (3 syllables)

B) nue-vo (2 syllables)

C) nu-ev-o (3 syllables)

D) One syllable

74. How does **ue** in *bueno* differ from **ue** in *guerra*?

A) No difference — the u is always silent after g

B) In *bueno*, ue is a diphthong (u pronounced as w-glide); in *guerra*, u is silent after g before e

C) In *guerra*, ue is a diphthong; in *bueno*, u is silent

D) Both u's are fully pronounced as 'oo'

75. Which English word most closely captures the Spanish diphthong **ue**?

- A) 'way'
- B) 'we'
- C) 'woo'
- D) 'where'

Diphthong: UI / UY — as in *cuidado*, *muy*

76. In *cuidado* (careful/care), how is the diphthong **ui** pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: cu-i-da-do
- B) One syllable: u glides as 'w' into i (ee) — 'kwi-DA-do'
- C) Like 'KOO-ee-da-do'
- D) The u is silent

77. The word *muy* (very) ends in **uy**. How is it pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: mu-y
- B) One syllable: u glides as 'w' into ee — like 'mwee'
- C) Like English 'moo-ee'
- D) Like 'MOY'

78. How many syllables does *ruido* (noise) have?

- A) Three: ru-i-do
- B) Two: rui-do
- C) Three: ru-id-o
- D) Two: ru-ido

79. The diphthong **ui** sounds like which English consonant + vowel?

- A) 'yi-'
- B) 'wi-' (as in 'we')
- C) 'hi-'
- D) 'vi-'

80. In *fui* (I went), how is **ui** pronounced?

- A) Two syllables: fu-i
- B) One syllable: 'FWEE'

- C) Like 'FOO-ee'
- D) The i is silent

Diphthong: **UO** — as in *cuota*, *antiguo*

81. In *cuota* (quota/fee), how is the diphthong **uo** pronounced?
- A) Two syllables: cu-o-ta
 - B) One syllable: u glides as 'w' into o — 'KWO-ta'
 - C) Like 'KOO-o-ta'
 - D) The u is silent
82. In *antiguo* (old/ancient), how many syllables does the word have?
- A) Five: an-ti-gu-o
 - B) Four: an-ti-guo
 - C) Four: an-tig-u-o
 - D) Three: an-ti-guo
83. The diphthong **uo** is rare in Spanish. Which of these words contains it?
- A) *uno* (one) — u and o are in separate syllables
 - B) *cuota* (fee) — uo is a diphthong
 - C) *euro* — eu, not uo
 - D) *duo* (duo) — u and o are separate
84. In **uo**, which vowel is the glide and which is the nucleus?
- A) O is the glide; u is the nucleus
 - B) U is the glide (w-sound); o is the nucleus (main vowel)
 - C) Both are equal
 - D) U is silent
85. Which English sound most closely matches Spanish **uo**?
- A) 'woo-'
 - B) 'wo-' as in 'woke'
 - C) 'yo-'
 - D) 'oo-'

Diphthong: IU — as in ciudad, triunfo

86. In *ciudad* (city), how is the diphthong **iu** pronounced?
- A) Two syllables: ci-u-dad
 - B) One syllable: i glides as 'y' into u (oo) — 'syoo-DAD'
 - C) Like 'SEE-oo-dad'
 - D) The u is silent
87. In *triunfo* (triumph), how is the **iu** pronounced?
- A) Two syllables: tri-un-fo
 - B) One syllable: iu blends as y-glide into oo — 'tryoon-fo' or 'tri-OOM-fo'
 - C) Like 'tree-OON-fo'
 - D) The i is silent
88. In the diphthong **iu**, which vowel is the glide?
- A) U is the glide; i is the nucleus
 - B) I is the glide (y-sound); u is the nucleus
 - C) Both are equal — neither glides
 - D) It depends on the word
89. How many syllables does *viuda* (widow) have?
- A) Three: vi-u-da
 - B) Two: viu-da
 - C) Three: vi-ud-a
 - D) Two: vi-uda
90. The diphthong **iu** sounds like which English consonant + vowel combination?
- A) 'wu-'
 - B) 'yu-' as in the start of 'you'
 - C) 'hu-'
 - D) 'vu-'

Answer Key

Part 1: The Five Pure Vowels

Vowel: A

- Q1: B** — Spanish a is always open and short like 'father'. It never glides or reduces.
- Q2: B** — Unlike English, Spanish vowels never reduce. All three a's in mañana sound exactly the same.
- Q3: B** — The 'a' in 'cake' glides toward 'ee' at the end. Spanish a is pure and steady — no glide.
- Q4: C** — H is silent, so hablar starts straight on the a: 'ab-LAR'. The a is open and clear.
- Q5: C** — The 'a' in 'father' is open and back — the closest English equivalent. 'cat' is too nasal; 'sofa' is a schwa.

Vowel: E

- Q6: B** — Spanish e is like 'bed' but without any glide. It is short, tense, and pure.
- Q7: B** — Spanish vowels never reduce regardless of stress. Both e's in leche sound the same.
- Q8: B** — English 'ay' glides toward 'ee'. Spanish e stays flat and steady — no movement.
- Q9: B** — The accent mark on é shows stress only — it never changes the vowel quality.
- Q10: C** — 'bed' is closest — but the Spanish e is slightly more tense and has no glide at all.

Vowel: I

- Q11: B** — Spanish i is always the pure 'ee' sound, short and tense. It never diphthongizes like English 'like'.
- Q12: B** — Accent marks mark stress or distinguish homophones — they never change vowel quality.
- Q13: B** — Spanish i = pure ee. isla = 'EES-la', not 'EYE-sla' as an English speaker might say.
- Q14: B** — Unstressed i next to another vowel becomes a y-glide: bien = 'BYEN', gracias = 'GRA-syas'.
- Q15: C** — 'see' is closest — Spanish i is that same ee sound, just shorter and clipped.

Vowel: O

- Q16: B** — Spanish o is like 'go' but pure — no oo-glide. Both o's in poco sound identical.

Q17: B — English 'no' ends with a w-glide. Spanish o stays flat: hold the sound like a musical note.

Q18: B — Even in loanwords, Spanish vowels never reduce. Both o's are pure: 'dok-TOR'.

Q19: B — Unstressed o or u next to another vowel becomes a w-glide: auto = 'OW-to'.

Q20: B — 'go' is closest, but stop before the w-glide. Spanish o is a pure mid-back vowel.

Vowel: U

Q21: B — Spanish u is always the pure oo sound — short and steady. Never the 'yoo' of English 'cute'.

Q22: B — In gusto, gu is followed by a consonant (s), not e/i — so the u is fully pronounced as a pure oo.

Q23: B — Spanish u is always pure oo regardless of stress. The accent only marks where stress falls.

Q24: B — Unstressed u before/after another vowel glides into a w: bueno = 'BWEH-no', cuatro = 'KWAT-ro'.

Q25: D — 'food' is closest — pure oo. 'cute' starts with a y-glide; 'pull' is too lax; 'cup' is a different vowel entirely.

Part 2: The Fourteen Diphthongs

Diphthong: AI / AY — as in aire, hay

Q26: B — AI blends smoothly in one syllable: open a gliding toward ee. Like English 'eye' but starting more open.

Q27: B — hay = 'AY' (rhymes with 'eye'). The h is silent; ay = the ai diphthong.

Q28: B — AI is a diphthong — one syllable. bailar = bai-LAR (2 syllables).

Q29: B — Diphthongs always count as one syllable. vaina = vai-na, 2 syllables.

Q30: B — 'eye' is the closest — the ai diphthong starts open (a) and glides to ee. English 'day' is close but starts higher.

Diphthong: EI / EY — as in reina, ley

Q31: B — EI starts at the e position (like 'bed') and glides toward ee — all in one syllable.

Q32: B — ey = the ei diphthong. Similar to English 'lay' but the e starts a bit lower and purer.

Q33: B — EI is a diphthong — one syllable. peine = pei-ne (2 syllables).

Q34: B — seis = one syllable, e gliding toward ee. Rhymes loosely with English 'race' but with a pure e start.

Q35: B — The key distinction: pure e is steady and flat; ei moves from e toward ee within one syllable.

Diphthong: OI / OY — as in hoy, oiga

Q36: B — oy = o gliding to ee. Very similar to English 'boy' — this is one of the easiest diphthongs for English speakers.

Q37: B — OI is a diphthong — one syllable. oigo = OY-go (2 syllables total).

Q38: B — The 'oy' in English 'boy' is the closest equivalent — Spanish oi/oy is nearly identical.

Q39: B — OI is a diphthong — one syllable. boina = boi-na (2 syllables).

Q40: B — Splitting oy into two syllables breaks the diphthong rule. It must glide smoothly in one syllable.

Diphthong: AU — as in auto, causa

Q41: B — AU glides from open a toward oo — very similar to English 'ow' in 'cow' or 'ou' in 'out'.

Q42: B — AU is a diphthong — one syllable. causa = cau-sa (2 syllables).

Q43: B — 'ow' in 'cow' starts open (like a) and glides toward oo — the same movement as Spanish au.

Q44: B — aunque = OWN-ke (2 syllables). The au diphthong is one smooth glide.

Q45: B — Pure a is steady and unchanging. AU moves — it starts at a and glides toward oo within one syllable.

Diphthong: EU — as in Europa, deuda

Q46: B — EU glides from e (like 'bed') toward oo in one syllable. It has no close English equivalent.

Q47: B — EU is a diphthong — one syllable. Europa = eu-RO-pa (3 syllables).

Q48: A — euro contains eu. pueblo and bueno have ue — a different diphthong. EU is uncommon in everyday vocabulary.

Q49: B — E is the strong vowel (nucleus); u is the weak vowel that glides. Strong vowels (a, e, o) always carry the syllable.

Q50: B — 'few' ends in oo, but starts with a y-sound. Spanish eu starts from a pure e — closer, but still not exact.

Diphthong: IA — as in gracias, hacia

Q51: B — IA is a rising diphthong — unstressed i glides like y into a. gracias = GRA-syas (3 syllables).

Q52: B — In rising diphthongs, the weak vowel (i or u) glides INTO the strong vowel (a, e, o). I becomes a y-glide.

Q53: B — IA is a diphthong — one syllable. hacia = ha-cia (2 syllables). H is silent.

Q54: B — familia = fa-MI-lia (3 syllables). The ia at the end is one diphthong syllable.

Q55: B — Unstressed i before a vowel sounds like English 'y'. IA = 'ya', UA = 'wa'.

Diphthong: IE — as in bien, tierra

Q56: B — IE is a rising diphthong — i glides as y into e. bien = BYEN (1 syllable).

Q57: B — IE is a diphthong — one syllable. tierra = TIE-rra (2 syllables). Note rr = trill.

Q58: B — quiero = KYE-ro (2 syllables). The ie diphthong is one smooth 'ye' sound.

Q59: A — The start of English 'yes' (ye-) is essentially the ie diphthong — y-glide into e.

Q60: B — miedo = MYE-do (2 syllables). IE is one syllable — i glides as y into e.

Diphthong: IO — as in radio, labio

Q61: B — IO is a rising diphthong — i glides as y into o. radio = RA-dyo (2 syllables).

Q62: B — IO is a diphthong — one syllable. labio = LA-bio (2 syllables).

Q63: B — precio = PRE-syo (2 syllables). IO is one diphthong syllable.

Q64: B — Unstressed i before a vowel = y-glide. IO = 'yo', just like ia = 'ya' and ie = 'ye'.

Q65: B — patio = PA-tyo (2 syllables). IO is always one diphthong syllable.

Diphthong: UA — as in agua, cuatro

Q66: B — UA is a rising diphthong — unstressed u glides as w into a. cuatro = KWA-tro (2 syllables).

Q67: B — UA is a diphthong — one syllable. agua = A-gwa (2 syllables).

Q68: B — Unstressed u before a vowel = w-glide. UA = 'wa', just like ue = 'we' and ui = 'wi'.

Q69: B — cuando = KWAN-do (2 syllables). UA is one diphthong: w-glide into a.

Q70: B — Key rule: gu before e/i = silent u (guerra, guitarra). UA is its own diphthong — the u is always pronounced.

Diphthong: UE — as in bueno, puerta

Q71: B — UE is a rising diphthong — u glides as w into e. bueno = BWE-no (2 syllables).

Q72: B — UE is a diphthong — one syllable. puerta = PWER-ta (2 syllables).

Q73: B — nuevo = NWE-vo (2 syllables). UE is one diphthong syllable.

Q74: B — After g before e, u is silent (guerra = GE-rra). In bueno, ue is a genuine diphthong — u is a w-glide.

Q75: B — 'we' = w-glide into ee. Spanish ue = w-glide into e (slightly lower). 'we' is the closest English match.

Diphthong: UI / UY — as in cuidado, muy

Q76: B — UI is a rising diphthong — u glides as w into i. cuidado = kwi-DA-do (3 syllables).

Q77: B — muy = MWEE (1 syllable). UY is the same diphthong as UI — u glides as w into ee.

Q78: B — UI is a diphthong — one syllable. ruido = RWEE-do (2 syllables).

Q79: B — Unstressed u before i = w-glide. UI = 'wi' — like the start of English 'we' or 'week'.

Q80: B — fui = FWEE (1 syllable). A common word — the ui diphthong in one quick syllable.

Diphthong: UO — as in cuota, antiguo

Q81: B — UO is a rising diphthong — u glides as w into o. cuota = KWO-ta (2 syllables).

Q82: B — UO is a diphthong — one syllable. antiguo = an-TI-gwo (3 syllables... wait: an-TI-guo = 3 syllables, the uo is one).

Q83: B — cuota has the uo diphthong. In uno, the u and o are in different syllables (u-no). Duo can be split in careful speech.

Q84: B — Weak vowel (u) glides into the strong vowel (o). This is the pattern for all rising diphthongs.

Q85: B — 'wo' as in 'woke' — w-glide into o — is the closest English equivalent to Spanish uo.

Diphthong: IU — as in ciudad, triunfo

Q86: B — IU is a diphthong — i glides as y into oo. ciudad = syoo-DAD (2 syllables).

Q87: B — triunfo = tryOOM-fo (2 syllables). IU is one diphthong — i becomes a y-glide before oo.

Q88: B — I is the weak/glide vowel here — it becomes a y-sound before the stronger u (oo).

Q89: B — IU is a diphthong — one syllable. viuda = VYOO-da (2 syllables).

Q90: B — I before u = y-glide. IU = 'yu' — exactly like the start of English 'you' or 'youth'.