

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SPANISH ACCENTS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

WORD CLASSIFICATION: Accent refers to which syllable is stressed above the others. "Tilde" is the accent that is marked above the vowel of the stressed syllable.

- 1.) **AGUDAS** _ _ _ _ ' : Those words that carry the accent in the last syllable and are marked with the tilde; those words finishing in a vowel, n, or s.
- 2.) **GRAVES** _ _ _ ' _ : Carry the accent in the one before the last syllable and are tilded in all cases where the word ends in a consonant except n and s.
- 3.) **ESDRUJULAS** _ _ ' _ _ : Carry the accent in the second before last syllable and they are all tilded.
- 4.) **SOBREESDRUJULAS** _ ' _ _ _ : Carry the accent in the third before last syllable and they are all tilded.

WORDS OF WISDOM

- * Those adverbs that finish in ---**mente** will keep the tilde of the adjective that originated them.
- * All capital letters that require the tilde will carry it. For example: **El**, as a pronoun, always carries the tilde, such as **él fue** or **él busco**. **El** does not carry the tilde as an article, for example: El carro de Jaime.
- * Single syllable pronouns are not tilded except for the pronouns **tú** and **mí**.
- * Dé of dar (to give) is tilded but not de (of) as a preposition.

HIATO (IF YOU REALLY MUST KNOW)

The Hiato is the union of two vowels that are pronounced separately and can be formed by two strong vowels (a, c, o), or by one strong vowel and one weak vowel (i, u) which is accentuated. When a weak, accentuated vowel is before or after a strong vowel, the weak vowel will always have a tilde, even if there is an h in between.