

A Word About Accents

Because they are not used in English, most Americans do not understand the meaning or importance of correctly marking accents, or about writing the “squiggly thing” (~) on top of the letter “n” to make it into the Spanish letter “ñ”. However, these are very important. An accent not only marks the stressed syllable in pronunciation, in most cases it also changes the meaning of the word. The same is also the case of the “n” and the “ñ”. Please look at these examples:

si (if, whether) sí (yes)	el (the, <i>masculine article</i>) él (he, <i>third person singular pronoun</i>)	ano (anus) año (year)
mas (but) más (more; plus, <i>math</i>)	lloro (I cry, <i>verb: first person singular, present tense</i>) lloró (he/she cried, <i>verb: third person singular, past tense</i>)	cono (cone) coño (a Spanish “four letter word” you don’t need to repeat)
tu (your, yours) tú (you, <i>first person singular pronoun, informal</i>)	pena (sorrow) peña (rock)	cano (white haired) caño (sewer)
esta (this one) está (he/she/it is, <i>third person singular present tense of one of the forms of the verb “to be”</i>)		cine (movie theater) ciñe (girds)

Computer Codes for Spanish Accents and “Odd” Letters

If you are typing in WORD, accents are done this way:

For small caps:

Hold down the ctrl key and punch the ' (apostrophe) key. Release both of these, and punch the key for the vowel you want accented.

For CAPITAL letters:

Hold down the ctrl key and punch the ' (apostrophe) key. Release both of these. Hold down the shift key and punch the key for the vowel you want accented.

Note: This trick may work in other programs but not in all. For programs where this does not work, try using the following codes.

The following codes work in almost any program:

Hold down the alt key while you punch in the code for the letter you want on the NUMBER PAD:

<i>LETTER</i>	<i>CODE</i>
Á.....	0193
á.....	160
É.....	144
é.....	130
Í.....	0205
í.....	161
Ó.....	0211
ó.....	162
Ú.....	0218
ú.....	163
<hr/>	
Ñ.....	165
ñ.....	164
<hr/>	
Ü.....	0220
ü.....	129
<hr/>	
ı.....	173
ç.....	168