

Spanish Pronunciation Problems

The following sounds often cause problems for Spanish speakers. Make sure you can pronounce the difference in these pairs of words.

/i:/	/ɪ/
sheep	ship
feet	fit
cheap	chip
leek	lick

/ɔː/	/j/
jet	yet
juice	use
jaw	your
joke	yoke

/æ/	/ʌ/
cat	cut
flash	flush
rash	rush
ankle	uncle

/b/	/v/
ban	van
best	vest
boat	vote
bet	vet

/ɜ:/	/ɔ:/
bird	bored
worm	warm
work	walk
first	forced

/-k/	/-g/
back	bag
pick	pig
dock	dog
duck	dug

/ʃ/	/s/
shoe	sue
shoot	suit
shave	save
short	sort

/-ŋk/	/-ŋ/
think	thing
bank	bang
sink	sing
rank	rang

/ʒ/	/tʃ/
shoes	choose
sheep	cheap
wash	watch
wish	which

/θ/	/s/
thin	sin
fourth	force
thigh	sigh
path	pass

/ɪə/	/eə/
beer	bear
cheer	chair
dear	dare
pier	pair / pear

/s/	/es/
specially	especially
state	estate
strange	estrangle
steam	esteem

Information here is taken from a combination of my experience and Swan, M. & Smith, B. (1994). *Learner English*. Cambridge University Press.

