

Welcome to Broken English on Fluent American, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the initial s sound, especially for Spanish and Portuguese speakers. To really study pronunciation, please repeat the sounds with me as you listen. I even suggest recording yourself so you can see how you sound, if you are able. Alright, let's get started.

The letter s is pronounced in Romance languages much like in English. However, there is at least one major difference. In English, the letter s can start a word; it can then be followed by a consonant or vowel. The important thing is to start the word with an /s/ sound, not a vowel.

For instance, practice these words—be careful not to pronounce an /e/ before each s:

school            square            Spanish            scream            stare            study            skate

Let's look at some practice sentences:

I study Spanish classes in school.

Stephen screams whenever he skates.

Skillets cook steaks and scallops skillfully.

She slowly slides down slick slides.

That's it for today! Again, record yourself. See if you can pronounce the words like me, and we'll practice again next time. Thanks for listening!