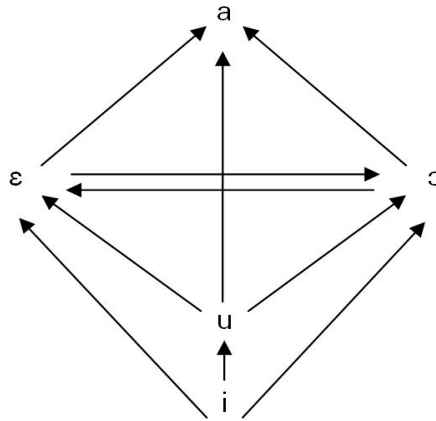


Synalepha

Synalepha occurs when a word concluding with a vowel precedes a word beginning with a vowel. The two vowels fuse as in the prepositional phrase, “de este mundo.” When “de” and “es” share a single note, only one [ɛ] is pronounced and is transcribed [dɛ_ʼes.te ʼmun.dɔ] in IPA. In vowel combinations with “a,” “a” is always stressed. The letter “i” is never stressed. Below are the rules in instances of synalepha. A quick visual guide to synalepha concludes this document.

Vowel Combination	Spanish Example	IPA Transcription
a e (<u>a</u> always stressed)	para el	ˈpa.ra:ɛl
a i (<u>a</u> always stressed)	la impaciencia	la:ɪm.pa.ˈθjen.θja
a o (<u>a</u> always stressed)	la oración	la:ɔ.ra.ˈθjɔn
a u (<u>a</u> always stressed)	echa una	ˈe.tʃa:ɪu.na
e a (<u>a</u> always stressed)	dulce acento	ˈdul.θɛ_ɑ.ˈθɛn.tɔ
e i (<u>e</u> is stressed)	me inclino	mɛ:ɪŋ.ˈkli.no
e o (<u>o</u> is stressed)	te olvidas	tɛ_ɔ:l.ˈβi.ðɛs
e u (<u>e</u> is stressed)	de un	dɛ:ɪun
i a (<u>a</u> always stressed)	mi amanece	mi_ɑ.ma.ˈne.θɛ
i e (<u>e</u> is stressed)	mi encanto	mi_ɛ:ŋ.ˈkan.tɔ
i o (<u>o</u> is stressed)	mi objeto	mi_ɔ:β.ˈxɛ.tɔ
i u (<u>u</u> is stressed)	si un	si_u:n
o a (<u>a</u> always stressed)	pero aquel	ˈpɛ.rɔ_ɑ.ˈkɛl
o e (<u>e</u> is stressed)	murió en	ˈmu.rjɔ_ɛ:n
o i (<u>o</u> is stressed)	podido imaginar	pɔ.ˈði.ðɔ:ɪ.ma.xi.ˈnar
o u (<u>o</u> is stressed)	como una	ˈkɔ.mo:ɪu.na
u a (<u>a</u> always stressed)	su amor	su_ɑ.mɔr

Vowel Combination	Spanish Example	IPA Transcription
u e (<u>e</u> is stressed)	tu eterno	tu_εi.'tɛr.nɔ
u i (u is stressed)	su intolerable	su_ɪn.tɔ.lɛ.'ra.βle
u o (o is stressed)	tu opinión	tu_ɔi.pi.'njɔn



Schematic Guide to Synalepha

Rules

1) All the arrows point to [a].

When following the arrows in this schematic, the importance of [a] in synalepha is clearly designated. In Spanish song, [a] is always stressed whenever it is combined with another vowel.

2) All the arrows point away from [i] and [u].

These vowels—[i] and [u]—are always weak and are never stressed in deference to [a], [ε], and [ɔ].

When [i] and [u], or [u] and [i] are in synalepha with each other, [u] is stressed, as indicated by the arrow pointing away from [i].

3) Which to stress, [ε] or [ɔ]?

When [ε] and [ɔ], or [ɔ] and [ε] are in synalepha, the second of the two vowels is stressed.

(Literal translation and IPA transcription © by Suzanne Rhodes Draayer—IPA Source, LLC)