

Pronunciation – ción, -sión, -tión: Transcript

Context

Hola y Buenos días. In this lesson we're going to talk about the pronunciation of the letters **-ción**, **-sión**, and **-tión**. These are pretty straightforward but there is a little wrinkle because the "tion" pronunciation is slightly different than its English counterpart, even though they are spelled the same.

Information

1. Both **-ción** and **-sión** are pronounced identically in Latin American Spanish. Both begin with an **s** sound, are followed by the diphthong **ió** and end with **n**. There are two very important keys to the proper pronunciation of **-ción** and **-sión** in Spanish.

- a. The **c** and **s** in these suffixes is always pronounced like **s** and never like the "sh", "ch" or "zh" in English.
- b. The entire suffix is always pronounced as one syllable and never split into two syllables.
- c. Listen to these pairs of words in English and Spanish.

television	<i>televisión</i>
invention	<i>invención</i>
election	<i>elección</i>
fusion	<i>fusión</i>
invitation	<i>invitación</i>

2. The **-tión** suffix is always pronounced with a distinct **t** sound in Spanish and never as a "sh" or "ch" sound like in English. Listen to these examples.

question	<i>cuestión</i>
suggestion	<i>sugestión</i>

3. Okay, let's practice telling them apart. Say the words with me and listen carefully for those that end in **-tión**.

<i>acción</i>	<i>visión</i>
<i>inscripción</i>	<i>cuestión</i>
<i>pensión</i>	<i>elección</i>
<i>congestión</i>	<i>digestión</i>

Review

Well, that's it for this lesson. Remember, **-ción** and **-sión** are pronounced the same with a crisp **s** sound and the diphthong intact. The **-tión**, however, is pronounced with a **t**. Okay, *adios*.