

**Seeing is believing:  
Student self-correction of Spanish pronunciation  
via online, real-time, visual feedback**

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We have built a set of web-based tools that take learning far beyond the classroom for students of Spanish pronunciation. Among these tools is a user-friendly web site where students record themselves and can then instantaneously (and repeatedly) compare their own voiceprint to that of a native speaker. Students continue to practice very specific sounds, one at a time, until their production “looks” like their native target.

For each phenomenon/sound, the system displays native- and nonnative-speaker speech samples (i.e., clickable sound files) alongside spectrogram representations of them. An explanation column on the left side of the page provides guidance as to how to use the spectrograms to analyze the sound. Finally, an interface enables students to produce live-generated spectrograms and to keep at it until their productions both sound and look like the output of the native speakers.

Recordings and student data are automatically submitted to an instructor interface that effortlessly monitors students’ progress.

The response from students of Spanish has been overwhelmingly positive, many citing that “seeing” their pronunciation allowed them to internalize the steps necessary to make improvements as never before. They report increased satisfaction at being able to work on their pronunciation outside of the classroom and receive the necessary feedback to assure them that they are pronouncing correctly, even without a native speaker or language expert present.

Even as engagement with this tool accords students increased autonomy and agency, it frees up class time for more critical thinking through problem sets and projects. Try out the system and experience first-hand how second-language pronunciation can be learned online!