The Puerto Rican Accent — Essentials

El acento boricua

Understand it · Entiéndelo

What you are learning · Qué vas a aprender

Compare the standard spelling with the existing labeled spoken examples. Regional pronunciation varies by speaker and setting; keep standard spelling when writing. Recognize familiar words across speakers; you do not need to imitate the regional sound changes. Grammar View shows sentence roles in the short sentence examples; use it when you want to connect these sounds with how a sentence works.

English	Spanish
the r softening toward l at the end of a syllable	Puelto Rico
an illustration of reduced s in ¿Cómo está?; the actual sound varies by speaker and setting	¿Cómo e'tá?
good morning; final s may be reduced in casual speech; compare native audio	Buenos días

Notes

 © 2026 Mark Tervan. All rights reserved.

Use it · Úsalo

Listen for meaning and context · Escucha el significado y el contexto

English	Spanish
a greeting to a parent or elder	¡Bendición!
hey, man	Acho / Chacho
okay / go ahead / see you	Dale

Common mistake · Error común

Do not treat a casual sound pattern as defective grammar or assume all Puerto Rican speakers use it.

Use it in real life · Úsalo en la vida real

When listening to someone in Puerto Rico, compare the labeled example ¿Cómo e'tá? with the standard written question ¿Cómo está? Your goal is understanding, not imitating every reduction.

Check and try again · Comprueba y vuelve a intentar

The written question stays ¿Cómo está? Compare an approved native recording when available. The synthesized practice voice may not demonstrate this regional feature.

Notes

Page 2 of 2 · v0.62.0 · © 2026 Mark Tervan. All rights reserved.