

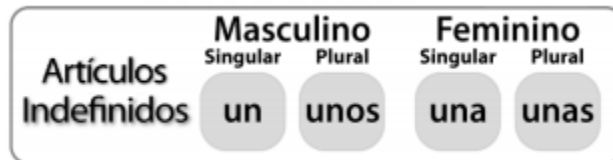
ARTÍCULOS Y SUSTANTIVOS

- The name of a person, place or thing is a noun. In Spanish, every noun has a gender, either masculine or feminine. Almost all nouns that end in **-O** are **masculine** and almost all nouns that end in **-A** are **feminine**.
- **“The”** in English is called a **definite article**. In Spanish, there are four words to say “the”. They are **“el, la, los, las.”** The definite article must agree with the **gender** and **number** of the noun that follows it.



MASCULINO		FEMININO	
SINGULAR	PLURAL	SINGULAR	PLURAL
el muchacho	→ los muchachos	la muchacha	→ las muchachas
el amigo	→ los amigos	la amiga	→ las amigas
el curso	→ los cursos	la escuela	→ las escuelas

- **“A, an, a few or some”** in English are called **indefinite articles**. In Spanish, there are four words also. They are **“un, una, unos, unas.”** Just like definite articles, the indefinite article must agree with the **gender** and **number** of the noun that follows it.



MASCULINO		FEMININO	
SINGULAR	PLURAL	SINGULAR	PLURAL
un muchacho	→ unos muchachos	una muchacha	→ unas muchachas
un amigo	→ unos amigos	una amiga	→ unas amigas
un curso	→ unos cursos	una escuela	→ unas escuelas

- Note that when a noun ends in **-E**, you have to learn whether it is masculine or feminine.

el continente	→ los continentes	la clase	→ las clases
un continente	→ unos continentes	una clase	→ unas clases

- In Spanish, as well as in other languages that assign different genders to nouns, the gender of the word does not always seem logical. Whereas some words are masculine or feminine because they refer to a male or female, most of the time the gender of the word has very little to do with the word’s meaning.

LA CONCORDANCIA DE ADJECTIVOS

- In Spanish, most adjectives change form, depending upon whether the word they modify is masculine or feminine. Notice the difference between “the tall boy” and “the tall girl.”

el chico **alto**
la chica **alta**

- Adjectives also change depending upon whether the word they modify is singular or plural. Notice the difference between “the tall boy” and “the tall boys” : “the tall girl” and “the tall girls.”

el chico **alto** la chica **alta**
los chicos **altos** las chicas **altas**

- Many common adjectives end in -o. These adjectives have four forms. The following words all mean “tall”:

alto alta altos altas

- The correct form of the adjective depends upon the noun it modifies. Is the noun masculine or feminine? Singular or plural?

libro rojo red book
pluma roja red pen
libros rojos red books
plumas rojas red pens

- Adjectives that end in -e also change form for singular or plural. To form the plural, simply add -s.

el chico **inteligente** los chicos **inteligentes**
la chica **inteligente** las chicas **inteligentes**

NOTE: If a noun ends in an -e, you must memorize whether it is masculine or feminine.

- Similarly, most adjectives that end in a consonant do change form for singular or plural, but do not change for masculine or feminine. To form the plural, add -es.

el chico **popular** los chicos **populares**
la chica **popular** las chicas **populares**

NOTE: If a noun ends in a consonant, you must memorize whether it is masculine or feminine.

- Let’s review:

- Adjectives that end in -o have four forms: alto, alta, altos, altas
- Adjectives that end in -e have two forms: inteligente, inteligentes
- Adjectives that end in a consonant have two forms: popular, populares (form the plural by adding -es)

LOS PRONOMBRES PERSONALES

- In English, when talking to people or about people, you often use pronouns like I, you, he, she, we and they. These subject pronouns replace nouns in sentences.
- Spanish is the same ... almost. Memorize the chart below.

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
I	yo	we (masculine/mix) we (feminine)	nosotros nosotras
you (informal)	tú	you all (informal)	vosotros vosotras
he she you (formal)	él ella usted	they (masculine/mix) they (feminine) you all (formal)	ellos ellas ustedes

- You may have noticed there are several versions of the word “you.” Spanish has a formal and an informal form of the word. “Usted” is more formal and is generally used to express respect. “Tú” is more familiar and is used among friends, classmates, relatives, or when speaking to a child.
- There are also two versions of the plural ‘you.’ “Ustedes” and “vosotros” are used when you are addressing or talking about other people, not including you. It is the same idea in which you would say, “Hey, you guys!” Spain is one of the only countries where you’ll hear the pronoun “vosotros” commonly used. In most of North, Central and South America, the pronoun “ustedes” is used for both plural forms of ‘you.’ For this reason, we will use the “ustedes” form exclusively.
- Did you notice there are two versions of “nosotros” and “ellos”? If the “we” or “they” is a group of all males, use the words ending in -OS. If it is a group of all females, use the words ending in -AS. But what if the group has a mixture of males and females? Always go masculine.! (Yes, it’s sexist. Sorry, ladies.)
- Note: Did you notice that the word for “he” looks exactly like the word for “the”? Look a little closer ... the word for “he” has an accent! That accent is extremely important because it changes the meaning of the word!

EL VERBO SER

- The verb “ser” means “to be” in English. It is used to express the date, occupations, characteristics, time, origin and relationships. Study the following forms of ser and their meanings.

Yo	soy	Nosotros(as)	somos
Tú	eres		
Él, Ella, Ud.	es	Ellos, Ellas, Uds.	son

yo soy	→	I am	nosotros somos	→	we are (masculine/mix)
tú eres	→	you are (informal)	nosotras somos	→	we are (feminine)
él es	→	he is	ellos son	→	they are (masculine/mix)
ella es	→	she is	ellas son	→	they are (feminine)
usted es	→	you are (formal)	ustedes son	→	you all are (group)

➤ Examples:

- **Es** el cinco de mayo. It **is** May 5th.
- Yo **soy** profesora de español. I **am** a Spanish teacher.
- Ustedes **son** inteligentes. You all **are** smart.
- ¿Qué hora **es**? What time **is** it?
- Nosotros **somos** hermanas. We **are** sisters.
- Tú **eres** alta y rubia. You **are** tall and blonde.