

# NOUNS AND ARTICLES

## Nombre y Número

### NOUNS

- Nouns are the part of speech that stand for persons, places, things or ideas. In Spanish, all nouns are either masculine or feminine. Most nouns that end in **-o** or that refer to males are masculine:
  - el libro                                      el señor
  - el plano                                      el profesor
  - el museo                                      el hombre
  - el amigo
- Most nouns that end in **-a** or that refer to females are feminine:
  - la agenda                                      la señora
  - la biblioteca                                      la profesora
  - la música                                      la mujer
  - la amiga
- Some nouns that end in **-a** and **-ma** are masculine. Some nouns that end in **-o** are feminine:
  - el día                                      la foto
  - el mapa                                      la radio
  - el idioma                                      la mano
  - el problema
- The gender of nouns that end in **-e** or a consonant cannot be predicted. It is necessary to memorize whether they are masculine or feminine.
  - el café                                      la clase
  - el parque                                      la noche
  - el viaje                                      la tarde
  - el lápiz                                      la leche
  - el reloj
  - el papel
- Some nouns that refer to people end in **-e**, **-ista**, or a consonant. They change their article but not their form in the feminine.
  - el/la estudiante                                      el/la joven
  - el/la dentista                                      el/la piloto
- The days of the week are masculine.  
*Viajo el domingo y llego el lunes.*
- The names of languages are masculine.  
*Comprenden el español y el francés..*
- Numbers as nouns are masculine.  
*Hoy es el tres de junio.*
- Feminine nouns that begin with stressed **a** or **ha** take the masculine article **el** in the singular to avoid a double a sound. They take the feminine article **las** in the plural form.
  - el agua                                      las aguas
  - el hacha                                      las hachas

I. ¿Masculino o femenino? Write the masculine or feminine form of the definite article next to each noun.

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. _____ diccionario | 5. _____ mapa    |
| 2. _____ pluma       | 6. _____ té      |
| 3. _____ juguete     | 7. _____ agua    |
| 4. _____ clase       | 8. _____ japonés |

II. ¿Él o ella? Write the missing noun that is the masculine or feminine counterpart in each pair of nouns

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. el señor     | la _____        |
| 2. el _____     | la arquitecta   |
| 3. el _____     | la mujer        |
| 4. el abogado   | la _____        |
| 5. el _____     | la médica       |
| 6. el ingeniero | la _____        |
| 7. el dentista  | la _____        |
| 8. _____        | la programadora |

### PLURALS

- In Spanish, nouns that end in a vowel form the plural by adding **-s**:
  - el jugo                                      los jugos
  - la playa                                      las playas
  - el café                                      los cafés
  - el deporte                                      los deportes
  - el cine                                      los cines
- Nouns that end in a consonant form the plural by adding **-es**:
  - el papel                                      los papeles
  - la mujer                                      las mujeres
  - el autobús                                      los autobuses
  - el lápiz                                      los lápices
  - el/la joven                                      los/las jóvenes
  - el programador                                      los programadores
  - la composición                                      las composiciones
- Nouns stressed on the last syllable in the singular lose their accent mark in the plural: **autobús---autobuses** , **composición---composiciones**
- Nouns that have a written accent mark on the next to last syllable in the singular keep the accent in the plural: **lápiz---lápices**. Also note that when **-es** is added to a final **-z**, the z changes to **c**.
- Examen and joven add an accent mark in the plural: **examen---exámenes** , **joven---jóvenes**
- Nouns of more than one syllable ending in an unstressed vowel plus **s** do not add a plural ending.
  - el lunes                                      los lunes
- The masculine plural of nouns that refer to people includes both males & females, as well as males only:
  - los señores**                                      *men, man and woman, men and women*
  - los ingenieros**                                      *male engineers, male and female engineers*
  - los jóvenes**                                      *young men, young men and women*

**III. En plural.** Write the plural form of these nouns and their articles.

1. el bolígrafo \_\_\_\_\_
2. la videocinta \_\_\_\_\_
3. la mano \_\_\_\_\_
4. la televisión \_\_\_\_\_
5. el viernes \_\_\_\_\_
6. el sándwich \_\_\_\_\_
7. el autobús \_\_\_\_\_
8. la flor \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFINITE ARTICLES**

- In Spanish, the definite article (**the** in English) changes form to agree with the noun. It will be either masculine or feminine & either singular or plural.

	<b>masculine</b>	<b>feminine</b>
<b>singular</b>	el	la
<b>plural</b>	los	las

el piano	la flauta
los pianos	las flautas

- The definite article **el** is used before the names of languages. It is omitted after **hablar** & the prepositions **de** and **en** and usually omitted after **aprender, enseñar, estudiar, leer, and practicar.**

*Hablamos español.*  
*Escriben en francés.*  
*Lee el diccionario de inglés.*  
*¿Estudias (el) alemán?*

- The definite article is used before titles, except when the person is addressed directly:

*El profesor Cela enseña el lunes.*  
*Profesor Cela, ¿enseña Ud. el lunes?*

- The definite article is used with days of the week except after **ser** when expressing dates.

*Regresan el domingo.*  
*Lupe trabaja los sábados.*  
*Hoy es jueves.*

**IV. ¿Qué falta?** Complete the following chart by filling in the blank spaces with the correct form of the singular definite article and writing out the plural definite article and noun.

singular definite article + noun	plural definite article + noun
1. _____ bicicleta	_____
2. _____ día	_____
3. _____ foto	_____
4. _____ reloj	_____
5. _____ paquete	_____
6. _____ noche	_____
7. _____ idioma	_____
8. _____ computadora	_____

**V. ¿Falta el artículo?** Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the definite article where it is needed. Mark the space with an X if no article is required.

1. Montamos en bicicleta \_\_\_\_\_ domingo.
2. Marta habla \_\_\_\_\_ chino.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ profesora no enseña mañana.
4. Compran comida \_\_\_\_\_ sábados.
5. Escribimos cartas en \_\_\_\_\_ ruso.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ señor, ¿qué busca Ud.?
7. Hoy es \_\_\_\_\_ lunes.
8. Leo un libro de \_\_\_\_\_ historia.

**INDEFINITE ARTICLES**

- In Spanish, the indefinite article (**a** and **an** in English) changes its form to agree with the noun. It will be either masculine or feminine and either singular or plural.

	<b>masculine</b>	<b>feminine</b>
<b>singular</b>	un	una
<b>plural</b>	unos	unas

un piano	una flauta
unos pianos	unas flautas

- The plural of indefinite articles **unos** and **unas** are the same as some, a few, and a couple in English:

*Preparamos unas hamburguesas.*  
*Recibo unos regalos.*

- The indefinite article is left out before nouns of profession, occupation, and nationality:

*Luis es abogado.*  
*Los alumnos son mexicanos.*

**VI. ¿Qué falta?** Complete the following chart by filling in the blank spaces with the correct form of the singular indefinite article and writing out the plural indefinite article and noun.

singular indefinite article + noun	plural indefinite article + noun
1. _____ periódico	_____
2. _____ discoteca	_____
3. _____ colegio	_____
4. _____ torta	_____
5. _____ cine	_____
6. _____ mapa	_____
7. _____ papel	_____