



MASCULINE / FEMININE SINGULAR / PLURAL

In Spanish, all nouns are either **masculine** or **feminine**:

1. If the noun is **masculine**, use “**el**” as the definite article and “**un**” as the indefinite article.
2. If the noun is **feminine**, use “**la**” as the definite article and “**una**” as the indefinite article.

el	=	the (masculine)
la	=	the (feminine)
un	=	a/an (masculine)
una	=	a/an (feminine)

As a general rule, nouns ending in “**o**” are **masculine**...

el libro	el carro	el dinero	el teatro
<i>the book</i>	<i>the car</i>	<i>the money</i>	<i>the theater</i>

...but a few nouns ending in “**o**” are **feminine**:

la mano	la moto*	la foto**	la radio
<i>the hand</i>	<i>the motorbike</i>	<i>the photo</i>	<i>the radio</i>

*short for “motocicleta”

**short for “fotografía”

As a general rule, nouns ending in “**a**” are **feminine**...

la revista	la bicicleta	la moneda	la fiesta
<i>the magazine</i>	<i>the bicycle</i>	<i>the coin</i>	<i>the party</i>

...but a few nouns ending in “**a**” are **masculine**:

el idioma	el drama	el día	el aroma	el clima
<i>the language</i>	<i>the drama</i>	<i>the day</i>	<i>the aroma</i>	<i>the climate or weather</i>

el problema	el planeta	el mapa	el sistema	el fantasma
<i>the problem</i>	<i>the planet</i>	<i>the map</i>	<i>the system</i>	<i>the ghost</i>

Nouns that end in “**d**” are **usually feminine**, with a few exceptions:

la pared	la verdad	la libertad	el récord
<i>the wall</i>	<i>the truth</i>	<i>liberty</i>	<i>the record</i>

Nouns that end in “**ión**” are **usually feminine**, with a few exceptions:

la constitución	la obligación	la concepción	el camión	el avión
<i>the constitution</i>	<i>the obligation</i>	<i>the conception</i>	<i>the bus or truck</i>	<i>the plane</i>

Nouns that end in “z” are **mostly feminine**, with a number of exceptions:

la paz <i>the peace</i>	la nariz <i>the nose</i>	la luz <i>the light</i>	la voz <i>the voice</i>
el arroz <i>the rice</i>	el lápiz <i>the pencil</i>	el maíz <i>the corn</i>	el disfraz <i>the disguise</i>

Nouns that end in “e” may be **either masculine or feminine**:

el elefante <i>the elephant</i>	el gigante <i>the giant</i>	el estante <i>the shelf</i>	el maquillaje <i>the make-up</i>
la llave <i>the key</i>	la calle <i>the street</i>	la frase <i>the phrase</i>	la carne <i>the meat</i>
la noche <i>the night</i>	la nube <i>the cloud</i>	la suerte <i>the luck</i>	la tarde <i>the afternoon</i>

Many nouns referring to **people** have both **masculine** and **feminine** forms:

Español	English	Español	English	Español	English
enfermero	m. nurse	dueño	m. owner	hijo	son
enfermera	f. nurse	dueña	f. owner	hija	daughter
maestro	m. teacher	hermano	brother	nieto	grandson
maestra	f. teacher	hermana	sister	nieta	granddaughter
viudo	widower	niño	boy	abuelo	grandfather
viuda	widow	niña	girl	abuela	grandmother
esposo	husband	actor	actor	tío	uncle
esposa	wife	actriz	actress	tía	aunt

Some nouns referring to **people** use a single form for both genders:

Español	English
el guía	m. guide
la guía	f. guide
el gerente	m. manager
la gerente	f. manager
el comandante	m. commander
la comandante	f. commander
el dentista	m. dentist
la dentista	f. dentist



SINGULAR / PLURAL

1. If a noun is plural:

a. The articles are:

- "The" = **"los"** (masculine) or **"las"** (feminine)
- "Some" = **"unos"** (masculine) or **"unas"** (feminine)

b. For nouns that end in **"a"**, **"o"**, or **"e"** ...add **"s"**

- la casa becomes **las casas**
- el libro becomes **los libros**
- el gigante becomes **los gigantes**

c. For nouns that end in **consonant**... add **"es"**

- el árbol becomes **los árboles**
- la universidad becomes **las universidades**
- la constitución becomes **las constituciones***

** Note that the accent over the "o" is removed*

c. For nouns that end in **"z"**... change the **"z"** to **"c"** and add **"es"**

- la voz becomes **las voces**
- el lápiz becomes **los lápices**

2. All **adjectives must agree** with the modified noun, in **gender and number**

a. For adjectives that can either end in **"o"** or **"a"**

Singular	Plural
el libro blanco	los libros blancos
la casa blanca	las casas blancas

b. For adjectives that end in a **consonant**

Singular	Plural
el día normal	los días normales
la cosa usual	las cosas usuales

c. For adjectives that end in **"e"**

Singular	Plural
el hombre gigante	los hombres gigantes
la necesidad urgente	las necesidades urgentes