

Género/Número CW/HW

Nouns in Spanish

Nouns in Spanish are identified in the same way as nouns in English. A noun is a word that can be a person, place, thing, animal, idea, or event. A noun that is not specific is called a **common noun**. Some nouns refer to a specific person, place, thing, etc. These are called **proper nouns**. Sometimes, nouns are made up of two or more words. These are referred to as **compound nouns**.

Gender of Nouns

One of the most important differences that we find in Spanish nouns is called gender. Gender means that a word can be classified as masculine, feminine, or neuter. Do not confuse the terms masculine and feminine with the biological terms used in English. Many nouns have a grammatical gender that is not related to any biological gender. Gender can often be determined by looking at the end of the noun.

General rules:

Feminine Endings

- **a** la casa, la biblioteca house, library
- **dad**, - **tad** la ciudad, la libertad city, liberty
- **z** la nariz nose
- **ión**, - **ción** la reunión, la nación meeting, nation
- **umbre** la costumbre custom
- **ie** la especie species

Masculine Endings

- **l** el papel paper
- **o** el libro book
- **n** el jardín garden
- **e** el parque park
- **r** el dolor pain
- **s** el interés interest

Plurals of Nouns

Another issue that we talk about when we discuss nouns is called number. As it suggests, this means whether a noun is referring to one or more than one of a certain thing. In English, we form plurals by putting an s at the end of the noun. In Spanish it's pretty simple, if a word ends in a vowel, add an "s," if it ends in a consonant, add an "es."

If the noun ends in a vowel, add - s.

Examples: libro + s = libros

silla + s = sillas

If a noun ends in a consonant, add – es to make it plural.

Examples: ciudad + es = ciudades

borrador + es = borradores

If a noun ends in – ión, add – es and drop the accent.

Examples: el avión = los aviones

la televisión = las televisiones

If a noun ends in – z, change the z to c, and add – es.

Examples: el lápiz = los lápices

la actriz = las actrices

The definite articles (**el, la**) also change in the plural form.

Examples: el libro = los libros

la ciudad = las ciudades

Articles

In Spanish, there are eight articles depending on whether the noun is singular or plural, whether it is masculine or feminine, and whether you are using the definite or indefinite article. The article matches the gender and the number of the noun.

Here are the rules of Spanish articles.

Definite Articles Indefinite Articles

el is the singular, masculine article **un** is the singular, masculine article

el muchacho the boy **un** muchacho a boy

la is the singular, feminine article **una** is the singular, feminine article

la muchacha the girl **una** muchacha a girl

los is the plural, masculine article **unos** is the plural, masculine article

los muchachos the boys **unos** muchachos some boys

las is the plural, feminine article **unas** is the plural, feminine article

las muchachas the girls **unas** muchachas some girls

Remember that **el**, **la**, **los**, and **las** all mean “the” and **un**, **una**, **unos**, and **unas** all mean “a,” “an,” and “some.”

VOCABULARIO

abuelo grandfather

acción action

actriz actress

anís anise

árbol tree

auto car

biblioteca library

bicicleta bicycle

borrador eraser

cartón carton

casa house

certidumbre certainty

ciudad city

comal clay plate for cooking tortillas

contador accountant

conversación conversation

cortinaje curtains

costumbre custom

delicadez weakness

dolor pain

elefante elephant

especie species

expansión expansion

favor favor

gato cat

guitarra guitar

habilidad capability, cleverness

habitación room

hermana sister

hora hour

institución institution

interés interest

jardín garden

lápiz pencil

libertad liberty

libro book

maestro teacher (male)

maestra teacher (female)
manzana apple
mapa map
mayo May
mesa table
minuto minute
muchacha girl
muchachas girls
muchacho boy
muchachos boys
música music
nación nation
nariz nose
oficina office
olor smell
orbe orb
papel paper
parque park
perro dog
pluma feather, pen
profesor professor
reglaje adjustment
regular regular
reunión meeting
roca rock
rosa pink, rose
segundo second
silla chair
sobrino nephew
tendón tendon
universidad university
verificación verification
voto vote

English Nouns

Directions: Circle all of the nouns in the following English sentences.

1. Mary is a student at my school.
2. The girl who lives in the white house has a dog.
3. My brother gave George a new computer for his birthday.
4. My family visited Disneyland last year.
5. My teacher gives her students a lot of homework.

Spanish Nouns

Nouns in Spanish have **gender**. This means they are identified as either masculine or feminine. The following chart gives general rules for identifying the gender of nouns based on how the word ends.

- l el papel - a la casa, la biblioteca
- o el libro - **dad**, - **tad** la ciudad, la libertad
- n el jardín - z la nariz
- e el parque - **ión**, - **ción** la reunión, la nación
- r el dolor - **umbre** la costumbre
- s el interés - **ie** la especie

These rules are generally true, although there are some exceptions.

1. Which word is masculine?

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| a. casa | b. pluma | c. libro | d. mesa |
|---------|----------|----------|---------|

2. Which word is feminine?

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| a. muchacho | b. hermana | c. abuelo | d. jardín |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|

3. Which word is masculine?

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------|------------|----------------|
| a. institución | b. árbol | c. maestra | d. universidad |
|----------------|----------|------------|----------------|

4. Which word is feminine?

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|--------------|---------|
| a. anís | b. sobrino | c. habilidad | d. olor |
|---------|------------|--------------|---------|

5. ¿Cuál es la palabra femenina?

- a. reglaje b. perro c. tendón d. delicadez

Directions: Write the word “masculine” or “feminine” on the line next to the noun.

Ejemplos: perro masculine

vaca feminine

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 6. gato | 11. comal |
| 7. orbe | 12. certidumbre |
| 8. pluma | 13. cartón |
| 9. cortinaje | 14. contador |
| 10. expansión | 15. verificación |

To make a noun plural:

If the noun ends in a vowel, add - s.

ejemplos: libro + s = libros

silla + s = sillas

If a noun ends in a consonant, add – es to make it plural.

ejemplos: ciudad + es = ciudades

borrador + es = borradores

If a noun ends in – ión, add – es and drop the accent.

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The definite articles (**el, la**) also change in the plural form.

ejemplos: el libro = los libros

la ciudad = las ciudades

Directions: Circle the correct plural form of each word.

1. el libro

- a. los libroes b. los libros

2. la habitación

- a. las habitaciones b. las habitaciones

3. el lápiz

a. los lápices

b. los lápizes

4. el árbol

a. los árbols

b. los árboles

5. la silla

a. las silllas

b. las sillaes

6. la pluma

a. las plumaes

b. las plumas

7. el profesor

a. los profesors

b. los profesores

8. la actriz

a. las actrices

b. las actrices

