



El género de los nombres / The Gender of Nouns



In Spanish, every noun has a **gender**: it is either feminine or masculine. There is no way to know if a word is masculine or feminine simply by knowing what it means. You must learn the gender of each noun along with the word for the noun.

el árbol
(masculine)



la flor
(feminine)

Here are some general rules that apply to the gender of nouns in Spanish.
But be careful—there are always exceptions!

Most words that end in **a** are feminine. Most words that end in **o** are masculine.

Write **F** next to each feminine noun and **M** next to each masculine noun.

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| _____ silla | _____ dinero | _____ mesa | _____ cuchara |
| _____ tienda | _____ plato | _____ vaso | _____ perro |

* Exceptions to the rule: *día* and *mapa* are masculine, *mano* is feminine.

Words that end in **ción, sión, tad, dad,** and **umbre** are almost always feminine.

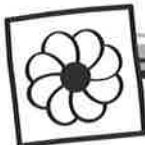
Examples: *libertad, conclusión, televisión, lumbre, universidad, nación, personalidad, conversación*

Words that end in **a** but that come from Greek are masculine.

Examples: *problema, sistema, idioma, tema, clima, programa, poema, telegrama*

Write **F** next to each feminine noun and **M** next to each masculine noun.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| _____ poema | _____ lumbre | _____ sistema | _____ tema |
| _____ mapa | _____ planeta | _____ fracción | _____ comunicación |
| _____ nación | _____ universidad | _____ conversación | _____ lección |





Los nombres plurales *Plural Nouns*



It is easy to form the **plural** of a noun in Spanish once you know a few rules.

- ▶ If the noun ends with a vowel, add **s**.

Example: el conejo – los conejos

- ▶ If the noun ends with a consonant, add **es**.

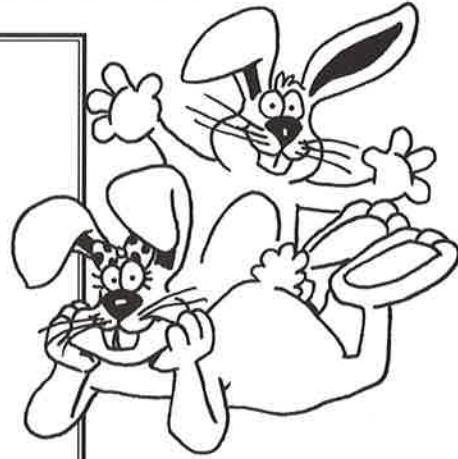
Example: el árbol – los árboles

- ▶ If the noun ends with **z**, change it to **c** and add **es**.

Example: el lápiz – los lápices

- ▶ If the noun ends with **es** or **is**, it does not change in the plural.

Example: el lunes – los lunes



Escriba los nombres en plural.

Write the nouns in the plural form.

árbol _____

flor _____

lombriz _____

gato _____

pájaro _____

saltamontes _____

castor _____

pluma _____

tigre _____

iguana _____

animal _____

planta _____

hoja _____

búho _____

luz _____

conejo _____

venado _____

ballena _____





Artículos / Articles



In Spanish, as in English, there are **definite** and **indefinite** articles.
In Spanish, the article you use depends on the gender of the noun that follows it.

Definite article

(equivalent to English "the")

Use when you are talking about a specific noun or group of nouns.

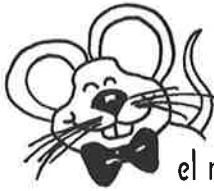
el (masculine, singular)
la (feminine, singular)
los (masculine, plural)
las (feminine, plural)

Indefinite article

(equivalent to English "a," "an," or "some")

Use when you are not talking about a specific noun or group of nouns.

un (masculine, singular)
una (feminine, singular)
unos (masculine, plural)
unas (feminine, plural)



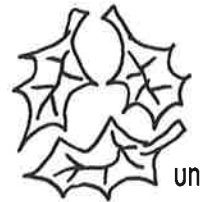
el ratón



los ratones



una hoja



unas hojas

Write the appropriate **definite** article for each noun.

_____ sillas (f./pl.)

_____ tazón (m./sing.)

_____ cocina (f./sing.)

_____ salero (m./sing.)

_____ cuchillos (m./pl.)

_____ servilletas (f./pl.)

_____ taza (f./sing.)

_____ tenedor (m./sing.)

_____ plato (m./sing.)

Write the appropriate **indefinite** article for each noun.

_____ comida (f./sing.)

_____ pimentero (m./sing.)

_____ comedor (m./sing.)

_____ mesa (f./sing.)

_____ vaso (m./sing.)

_____ mantel (m./sing.)

_____ tazas (f./pl.)

_____ cuchara (f./sing.)

_____ platillos (m./pl.)

