

NOUNS AND ARTICLES

Unidad 1



A noun is a word used to indicate a person, place, thing, or idea.

- **Person:** Juan, mujer, dentista
- **Place:** jardín, universidad, Venezuela
- **Thing:** libro, bus, teléfono
- **Idea:** libertad, inteligencia, amabilidad

Nouns in Spanish are either **masculine** or **feminine**

- **Masculine nouns** often end in **o** or **ma** (bolígrafo, programa).
- **Feminine nouns** often end in **a**, **dad**, **tad**, **ción**, **xión**, **sión**, or **umbre** (ventana, canción, libertad, costumbre).
- **Excepciones:**
 - la foto, la radio, la mano (*hand*): these are feminine nouns despite ending in **o**.
 - el día, el mapa: these are masculine nouns despite ending in **a**.

ARTICLES: In Spanish also indicate **gender** and **number** of nouns and could they be definite or indefinite.

- A **definite article** refers to a specific person, place, or thing, and is the equivalent of "**the**" in English.

	DEFINITE ARTICLES	
	MASCULINE	FEMENINE
SINGULAR	el	la
PLURAL	los	las

Ex: la clase /las clases
el cuaderno/los cuadernos

ARTICLES: In Spanish also indicate **gender** and **number** of nouns and could they be definite or indefinite.

- An **indefinite article** does not refer to a specific person, place, or thing. It is the equivalent of **a**, **an**, or **some** in English.

	INDEFINITE ARTICLES	
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	un	una
Plural	unos	unas

Ex: Un lápiz/Unos lápices.
Una niña/Unas niñas

THE NUMBER (SINGULAR OR PLURAL) OF NOUNS

- The plural of nouns is formed by adding **s** if it ends in a vowel, or by adding **es** if it ends in a consonant. Now let's look at some examples of the definite and indefinite articles and singular and plural nouns

SINGULAR	PLURAL
el libro o (the book)	los libro s (the books)
el coche e (the car)	los coche s (the cars)
la mesa a (the table)	las mesa s (the tables)
la flor r	Las flore s (the flowers)
un libro (a book)	unos libro s (some books)
un coche e	unos coche s (some cars)
una mesa a (a table)	unas mesa s (some tables)
una flor r (a flower)	unas flore s (some flowers)

Some nouns, especially those which refer to profession or nationality, have a masculine form when referring to a man, and a feminine form when referring to a woman. The words ending in '-ista' do not change the ending, but the article does change

Masculine	Feminine
un inglés (an English man)	una inglesa (an English woman)
el mexicano (the Mexican man)	la mexicana (the Mexican woman)
un abogado (a male lawyer)	una abogada (a female lawyer)
un turista (a male tourist)	una turista (a female tourist)

OJO

- When you learn a new noun, you should also learn its definite article (el, la). There are several reasons for this:
- Because you cannot predict the gender of most nouns.
- Because not every noun that ends in -o is masculine, and not every noun that ends in -a is feminine.
- Because many nouns end in letters other than o or a.
- Because the definite article (el, la) is your clue as to whether a noun is masculine or feminine.