

U2-1

**Adjectives: Agreement and
Placement**

Describing yourself and others: Adjectives

What is an adjective?

Adjectives are words that describe the qualities or states of nouns: enormous, silly, yellow, fun, fast. Adjectives in Spanish must agree in **gender** (masculine / feminine) and **number** (singular / plural) with the noun they describe.

A. Gender Agreement

- If an adjective describes a masculine noun, the adjective must take the masculine ending. If an adjective describes a feminine noun, the adjective must take the feminine ending.
 - Adjectives ending in **-o** will also end in **-o** when they describe a masculine noun.
 - ◆ EX: bonito, guapo, simpático, alto.
 - Adjectives ending in **-o** will end in **-a** when they describe a feminine noun.
 - ◆ EX: bonita, guapa, simpática, alta.
 - Adjectives ending in **-e** will not change to reflect gender.
 - ◆ EX: inteligente, importante, interesante.

A. Gender Agreement

→ Adjectives ending in a consonant will no change to reflect gender.

◆ EX: azul, feliz, difícil.

→ Adjectives of nationality that end in a consonant, add – **a** to make feminine.

◆ EX: francés – francesa

Un chico: **guap**o, **simpático**o, **alt**o, inteligente, feliz, francés

Una chica: **guap**a, **simpática**a, **alt**a, inteligente, feliz, frances**a**

B. Number Agreement

- In Spanish, nouns and adjectives agree in gender and number. When adjectives describe a plural noun or multiple nouns, the adjective must be changed to the plural form.

Unos chicos: guapos**, simpá**icos**, alt**os**, inteligent**es**, felic**es**, frances**es****

Unas chicas**: guap**as**, simpá**icas**, alt**as**, inteligent**es**, felic**es**, frances**as****

- Just like with articles and subject pronouns, if adjectives describe a group of masculine and feminine nouns, the masculine form of the adjective is used.

Las chicas y Juan son simpáicos**.**

Elisa, Carina y Roberto son altos**.**

C. Plural Adjectives

- If the adjective ends in a vowel, add -s to make the adjective plural.
 - un chico guap**o** – unos chicos guap**os**
 - una chica guap**a** – unas chicas guap**as**
- If the adjective ends in a consonant, add -es to make the adjective plural.
 - un chico difíci**l** – unos chicos difícil**es**
 - una chica difíci**l** – unas chicas difícil**es**
- Just like you learned with nouns ending in -z, if an adjective ends in -z, change the z to c and then add -es to make the adjective plural.
 - un chico feliz- unos chicos felic**es**
 - una chica feliz – unas chicas felic**es**

D. Positioning Adjectives

- In Spanish, descriptive adjectives usually **come after** the nouns they describe. In English, adjectives usually **precede** the nouns they describe.
- Una clase **interesante** **VERSUS** an **interesting** class
 - Una casa **pequeña** **VERSUS** a **small** house

E. Using Adjectives Effectively

- When you are listing multiple adjectives to describe a particular noun, you can use **comas(,)**, **y** (*and*), or **o** (*or*). Note that each adjective must reflect the number and gender of the noun it describes.
 - El profesor es simpático, paciente **y** trabajador.
The professor is nice, patient, and hardworking.
 - Mi amiga es extrovertida, generosa, cómica **y** amable.
My female friend is extroverted, generous, funny and kind.
 - Adela y Sofía son divertidas, inteligentes, activas **y** atléticas.
Adela and Sofía are fun, smart, active and athletic.