

Did You Get It? Presentación de gramática

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Level 1A p. 66



Goal: Learn about definite and indefinite articles.

Gender and Number

In Spanish, all nouns are either masculine or feminine. Like in English, all nouns are also singular or plural. Read the following sentences paying attention to the boldfaced letters.

el libro	<i>(the book)</i>	los libros	<i>(the books)</i>
la chica	<i>(the girl)</i>	las chicas	<i>(the girls)</i>
el hombre	<i>(the man)</i>	los hombres	<i>(the men)</i>
la mujer	<i>(the woman)</i>	las mujeres	<i>(the women)</i>

EXPLANATION: Nouns ending in **-o** in Spanish are usually *masculine*. Nouns ending in **-a** are usually *feminine*. Some words do not end with **-o** or **-a**. To form the plural of a noun, add **-s** if it ends in a vowel. Add **-es** if it ends in a consonant.

Definite Articles

Definite articles are used with nouns to indicate specific persons, places, or things. Read these sentences, paying special attention to the boldfaced words.

E l libro es bueno.	<i>(The book is good.)</i>
L a mujer es alta.	<i>(The woman is tall.)</i>
L os libros son buenos.	<i>(The books are good.)</i>
L as mujeres son altas.	<i>(The women are tall.)</i>

EXPLANATION: English has one definite article: *the*. Spanish has four: **el, la, los, las**. The definite article must agree in gender and number with the noun following it.

Indefinite Articles

Indefinite articles are used with nouns to indicate *unspecific* persons, places, or things. Read these sentences, paying special attention to the boldfaced words.

Es un artista.	<i>(He is an artist.)</i>
Es una mujer.	<i>(She is a woman.)</i>
Son unos correos electrónicos.	<i>(They are some emails.)</i>
Son unas mujeres.	<i>(They are some women.)</i>

EXPLANATION: English has three indefinite articles: *a, an, some*. Spanish has four: **un, una, unos, unas**. Like definite articles, indefinite articles must agree in gender and number with the nouns following them.