



¡Bienvenidos!
(Welcome!)

Comenzando en Español
(Getting Started in Spanish)

Comenzando en español:

Objectives of this class:

- Prepare you to be successful in the weekly class exercises of *Let's Speak Spanish*
- Establish clear learning priorities: What you need to learn first, what can come later
- Acquaint you with the language as spoken by native speakers



Comenzando en español:

Spanish differs from English in several ways:

- **Pronunciation** is different; and sometimes the words you hear seem to run together.
- All nouns are either **masculine** or **feminine**; and adjectives must agree with the noun in both gender and number.
- Verb **conjugation** is complex, with an extra second person and extensive use of subjunctive mood. (“If I were you”)
- **Word order** may be more like “Old English” than modern English. (“To you I give the book” / “To me it is pleasing”)



Comenzando en español:

Of these differences, the most important is:

Pronunciation

(Pronunciación)



Comenzando en español:

Success in pronunciation will allow you to:

- Aprender vocabulario más rápido
(Learn vocabulary more rapidly)
- Hablar con más confianza
(Speak with more confidence)
- Escuchar con más comprensión
(Listen with more understanding)



Comenzando en español:

Spanish pronunciation offers a special feature missing in English:

It follows the rules!

- Vowels are pronounced only one way
- Consonants are usually pronounced one way, and exceptions follow consistent rules
- Accent of syllables follows consistent rules, and accent marks identify exceptions



Comenzando en español:

To help you get started, we will focus on...

- **Pronunciation**
- **Noun-Adjective Agreement** (Masculine/Feminine, Singular/Plural)

...over the next three days

When we start the main class, we will supply you with the specific vocabulary, verb conjugation and word order needed each exercise.



Comenzando en español:

Nuestra agenda (Our agenda)

- **Hoy** (Today)
 - Las Vocales (Vowels)
 - Las Consonantes (Consonants)
- **Mañana** (Tomorrow)
 - El Acento en las Sílabas (Syllable Accent)
 - Los Diptongos (Diphthongs)
- **Pasado Mañana** (Day after Tomorrow)
 - Género: Masculino y Femenino
(Gender: Masculine and Feminine)
 - Número: Singular y Plural
(Number: Singular and Plural)
 - Concordancia: Substantivos y Adjetivos
(Agreement: Nouns and Adjectives)



Comenzando en Español

(Getting Started in Spanish)


Día Uno

(Day One)

- Las Vocales
- Las Consonantes



Su Guía (Your Guide)



Pronunciation Guide

1. The 5 Basic Vowels ("Vocales")

A = "ah" (as in "ball") **E** = "ay" or "eh" (as in "may") **I** = "ee" (as in cheese) **O** = "oh" (as in "Okay") **U** = "ew" or "oo" (as in "New" or "Moon")

To hear these vowels pronounced and used in words, go to this Quizlet list:
<https://quizlet.com/317907929/lss-pronunciation-the-3-vowels-flash-cards/>

2. The Consonants ("Consonantes")

D, F, K, L, M, N, P, S, T, and W are the same as in English

B and V are both the same as an English **B**

C and G are pronounced differently depending on the vowel that follows:

Ca = "Kah"	Ce = "Say"	Ci = "See"	Co = "Koh"	Cu = "Kew"
Ga = "Gah"	Ge = "Hay"	Gi = "Hee"	Go = "Goh"	Gu = "Gew"

H is always silent!

J is pronounced like an English **H** (as in "Hotel")

LL is pronounced like an English **Y** (as in "Yellow") or in some regions like a **G** (as in "Wage")

Ñ is called "enyay" and is pronounced "neyah" (as in "Canyon")

Q is pronounced like an English **K** (as in "kite")

Available for download at <https://bordercommunityalliance.org/spanish-classes> and www.tegnos.org

Each section has **Quizlet link** to audio flashcards to help you hear and pronounce the sounds

Las Vocales: A, E, I, O, U

A

ah

E

ay/eh

I

ee

O

oh

U

ew / oo

Sounds like in English →

ball

may

bee

boat

dew / boot

Ejemplos en español →

alma

este

ingles

ojo

uso

cama

beso

bici

boda

búho

dama

dedo

dicho

todo

duda

**Let's
Speak
Spanish!**

(Vamos a hablar en español!)

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Las Vocales: A, E, I, O, U

Revisión (Review)

- **A** is always the same: “ah.” It is never *ă* as in “cat” or *ā* as in “ace”
- **E** is between an American “ay” and an Canadian “eh.” It is never “ee” as in “cheese”
- **I** is always “ee,” but a little more clipped than in English. It is never *ĩ* as in “bit” nor *ī* as in “ice.”
- **O** is always “oh,” but a little more clipped than in English.
- **U** is always “oo” as in “moon” or “ew” as in “new.” It is never “eeyou” as in “united” or “uh” as in “button”



Revisión de pronunciación:

Las Vocales

You can practice the vowels using Spanish/English cognates:

Animal

Casual

Material

Mineral

Serial

Actor

Doctor

Color

Error

Familiar

Particular

Peculiar

Cultural

Radio

Patio

Versión

Unión

Diversión

Area

Plaza

Gas

Plan

Menú

Taxi

Perfume

Base

Cable

We will try this later in the small group sessions



Las Consonantes:

These consonants are the same in English and Spanish:

D	Dedo
F ¹	Figura
L	Lana
M	Mesa
P	Plato
T	Tipo
W	Wasabi ²

1. Also used for “Ph” in English
2. Most words with “W” are of foreign origin

Las Consonantes: B y V

Ba/Va

“Bah”

Baja
Vamos

Be/Ve

“Bay”

Beso
Verdad

Bi/Vi

“Bee”

Bicho
Virus

Bo/Vo

“Boh”

Bonita
Voz

Bu/Vu

“Boo”

Burro
Vulgar



Las Consonantes: C y G

Ca

“Kah”

Casa

Ce

“Say”

Cena

Ci

“See”

Cita

Co

“Koh”

Cobre

Cu

“Kew”

Cuba

Ga

“Gah”

Gafas

Ge

“Hay”

Gente

Gi

“Hee”

Gigante

Go

“Goh”

Gota

Gu

“Gew”

Gusto

Las Consonantes: G y Gu

Ga

“Gah”

Gafas

Gue

“Gay”

Guerra

Gui

“Gee”

Guitarra

Go

“Goh”

Gota

Gu

“Gew”

Gusto



Las Consonantes: H y J

Ha

“Ah”

Hasta

He

“Ay”

Helado

Hi

“Ee”

Hijo

Ho

“Oh”

¡Hola!

Hu

“Ew”

Humo

Ja

“Hah”

Jamón

Je

“Hay”

Jefe

Ji

“Hee”

Jirafa

Jo

“Hoh”

Joven

Ju

“Hoo”

Jugo



Las Consonantes: Y, LL

ya/lla

“Yah”

Ya

Llama

ye/lle

“Yay”

Yema

Llegada

yi/lli

“Yee”

Yerno

Allí

yo/llo

“Yoh”

Yo

Lloro

yu/llu

“Yew”

Yunque

Lluvia

Note: The pronunciation of Y and LL will vary from region to region, even in a single country. It may also sound like “sh” as in “show,” “j” as in “just.”

**Let's
Speak
Spanish!**

Vamos a hablar en español!

virtual

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Las Consonantes: N (en-nay) y Ñ (en-yay)

na

“Nah”

nada
nariz

ne

“Nay”

negro
necesito

ni

“Nee”

ningún
nivel

no

“Noh”

nombre
nosotros

nu

“New”

número
nunca

ña

“neYAH”

piña
niña
araña

ñe

“neYAY”

muñeca
compañero
añojo

ñi

“neYEE”

albañil
meñique

ño

“neYOH”

año
baño
otoño

ñu

ñu
pañuelo

Let's
Speak
Spanish!

(Vamos a hablar en español!)

virtual

Las Consonantes: R y RR

R is pronounced **three different ways**:

In the *middle* of a word: *With a slight roll of the tongue*

caro

pero

cero

At the *beginning* of a word: *With a harder roll of the tongue*

radio

rato

razón

As a *double-R* (“RR”): *With a very hard roll of the tongue*

carro

perro

cerro



Revisión de pronunciación:

Las Consonantes: Q y K

Q is pronounced like an **English K** (as in “kite”) and is almost always followed by “u”

¿Por qué? quitar

The “**qua**” sound in English is replaced by “**cua**” in Spanish

¿Cuál? ¿Cuánto? ¿Cuándo?

K is also pronounced like an **English K** (as in “kite”), but almost all words starting with K are foreign adoptions

kayak kétchup kilo koala kung-fu



Revisión de pronunciación:

Las Consonantes: CH, X, CC

CH is pronounced “**ch**” (as in “Chat”)

chapo

chico

cheque

cholla

churro

X is usually pronounced “**ks**” (as in “Talks”)

axioma

exacto

Ixtapa

oxidado

yuxtaposición

Note: X also is pronounced like an English H in certain proper names (e.g. “Mexico,” “Xavier”)

CC also is pronounced like “**ks**” (as in “Axis”)

acción

dirección

ficción

occidental

producción



Las Consonantes: S y Z

Sa/Za

“Sah”

Sabor

Zapatos

Se/Ze

“Say”

Sed

Zeta

Si/Zi

“See”

Simpático

Zinc

So/Zo

“Soh”

Sorpresa

Zorro

Su/Zu

“Soo”

Sudor

Zurdo

Ce

“Say”

Cena

Centro

Ci

“See”

Cita

Cine



Resumen: Vocales y Consonantes

The English "H" Sound:

A	E	I	O	U
JA	JE	JI	JO	JU
	GE	GI		

The "K" Sound:

A	E	I	O	U
CA	QUE	QUI	CO	CU
KA	KE	KI	KO	KU

The English "G" Sound:

A	E	I	O	U
GA	GUE	GUI	GO	GU

The "KS" Sound:

A	E	I	O	U
AX	EX	IX	OX	UX
ACC	ECC	ICC	OCC	UCC

The "S" Sound:

A	E	I	O	U
SA	SE	SI	SO	SU
	CE	CI		
ZA	ZE	ZI	ZO	ZU



Comenzando en Español

(Getting Started in Spanish)

Los Ejercicios: Día Uno



Getting Started in Spanish Day 1 Exercise: Vowels & Consonants

Spanish Academy Guatemala

Spanish Vowels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCg9ymU3TYI>

Spanish Consonants

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0xMz2xwREs&t=281s>

Take turns pronouncing the words from the following lists.

Cognados (Cognates)

animal	area
casual	coma
mineral	plaza
actor	gas
doctor	plan
color	menú
error	taxi
familiar	versión
particular	unión
cultural	diversión

Lista 1

ESPAÑOL	INGLÉS
alma	soul
cama	bed
dama	lady
este	this (or east)
beso	kiss
dedo	finger
bici	bike
dicho	saying
ojo	eye
boda	wedding



Comenzando en Español

(Getting Started in Spanish)

Día Dos

(Day Two)

- El acento en las sílabas
- Los diptongos



Pronunciación Día 2

El Acento en las Sílabas



Pronunciation Guide

3. Stress on Syllables

The **next-to-the last syllable** is stressed in:

- all words that end in a vowel:
 - casa (KAH-sah)
 - casita (Kah-SEE-tah)
 - pollo (POH-yoh)
 - elefante (el-ay-FAHN-tay)
- all words that end in “n” or “s”:
 - examen (eks-AH-mayn)
 - equis (AY-kees)



El acento en las sílabas:

For all words that end in a **vowel***

The **next-to-the last syllable** is stressed:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| • <u>ca</u> sa | (KAH-sah) | • not <u>ic</u> ia | (noh-TEE-seeah) |
| • ca <u>s</u> ita | (kah-SEE-tah) | • farm <u>a</u> cia | (fahr-MAH-seeah) |
| • <u>p</u> ollo | (POH-yoh) | • not <u>ic</u> ia | (Noh-TEE-seeah) |
| • <u>m</u> ano | (MAH-Noh) | • <u>n</u> ovio | (NOH-beeoh) |
| • ele <u>f</u> ante | (Ay-lay-FAHN-tay) | • <u>a</u> nuncio | (ah-NOON-seeoh) |

"ia" and "io" are diphthongs and considered a single sound

*Mostly "a", "o", and "e." Words ending in "i" or "u" are usually foreign adoptions.



El acento en las sílabas:

For all words that end in a **vowel**:

The **accent remains the same** when an “s” is added for plurals:

- casa → casas
- casita → casitas
- pollo → pollos
- mano → manos
- elefante → elefantes
- noticia → noticias
- farmacia → farmacias
- noticia → noticias
- novio → novios
- anuncio → anuncios



El acento en las sílabas:

For all words that end in “n” or “s”

The **next-to-the last syllable** also is stressed:

- imagen (ee-MAH-hayn)
- examen (ayk-SAH-mayn)
- joven (HOH-bayn)
- tenis (TAY-nees)
- equis (AY-kees)



El acento en las sílabas:

For all words that end in “n” or “s”

The **accent remains the same** when “es” is added for plurals:

- imagen → imágenes
- examen → exámenes
- joven → jóvenes
- tenis
- equis

But an accent mark is added



El acento en las sílabas:

For all other words

The **last syllable** is stressed:

- verdad (bayr-**DAHD**)
- terminal (tayr-mee-**NAHL**)
- doctor (Dohk-**TOHR**)
- actriz (ahk-**TREES**)
- azul (ah-**SEWL**)
- feliz (fay-**LEES**)
- cantar (kahn-**TAHR**)
- comer (koh-**MAYR**)
- dormir (dohr-**MEER**)



El acento en las sílabas:

All other words

The **accent remains the same** when an “es” is added for plurals

- verdad → verdades
- terminal → terminales
- doctor → doctores
- actriz → actrices
- azul → azules
- feliz → felices



El acento en las sílabas:

Syllables with an **accent mark** (acento escrito)

Syllables with an **accent mark above the vowel** are always stressed:

- café (cah-**FAY**)
- balcón (bahl-**KOHN**)
- policía (poh-lee-**SEE**-ah)
- geografía (gee-oh-grah-**FEE**-ah)
- lápiz (LAH-pees)
- pájaro (**PAH**-hah-roh)
- colibrí (coh-lee-**BREE**)



Pronunciación Día 2

Los Diptongos (Dos Vocales)



Los diptongos

En inglés ¡los diptongos son muy difíciles!

Por ejemplo, el diptongo “/eə/”

Pear

Pear (“/eə/”)

Pair

Near, Year (“/iə/”)

Pare



Los Diptongos (Dos Vocales)

ai / ay (“ah-ee”)

oi / oy (“oh-ee”)

ui / uy (“ew-ee”)

ei (“ay-ee”)

eu (“ay-ew”)

baile, hay

oir, hoy

ruido, muy

seis, veinte

Europa, deuda



Los Diptongos (Dos Vocales)

ia (“ee-ah”)

seria, novia

ie (“ee-ay”)

bien, cielo

io (“ee-oh”)

idioma, medio

iu (“ee-ew”)

viuda, ciudad

ua (“ew-ah”)

agua, cuando

ue (“ew-ay”)

bueno, puerta

uo (“ew-oh”)

antiguo, monstruo



Los diptongos

Nota especial: gue, gui, güe, güi

For “gue” and “gui”, the “g” has a hard sound, and the “u” is silent

gue is pronounced “**gay**” as in

guerra

sigue

gui is pronounced “**gee**” as in

guitarra

guía

For “güe” and “güi”, the g has a hard sound, and the “u” is pronounced

güe is pronounced “**gooway**” as in

vergüenza

bilingüe

güi is pronounced “**gooe**” as in

lingüista

pingüino



Los diptongos

A sound similar to a diphthong also occurs when a word than starts in a vowel* follows a word that ends in a vowel:

La otra semana
A la una

Y a la tienda
Y otro día

Estilo anticuado
Juan buscó en la caja

Me han dicho
¿Me está siguiendo?

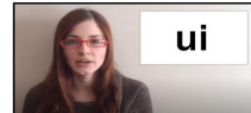
* or an "h"



Comenzando en Español

(Getting Started in Spanish)

Los Ejercicios: Día Dos



Getting Started in Spanish Day 2 Exercise: Acento y Diptongos

YouStudySpanish
Accent the Right Syllable
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rSal88v-8g>

1, 2, 3 Spanish
Spanish Diphthongs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0xMz2xwREs&t=281s>

Take turns pronouncing the words from the following lists.

EI Acento

ESPAÑOL	INGLÉS	ESPAÑOL	INGLÉS
novelista	novelist	feliz	happy
farmacia	pharmacy	verdad	truth
anuncios	advertisements	café	coffee
noticias	news	balcón	balcony
imagen	image	policía	police
imágenes	images	farmacia	pharmacy
examen	exam	geografía	geography
exámenes	exams	lápiz	pencil



Comenzando en Español

(Getting Started in Spanish)

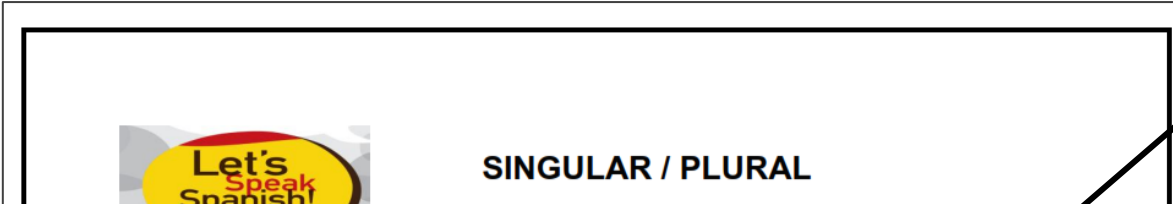
Día Tres

(Day Three)

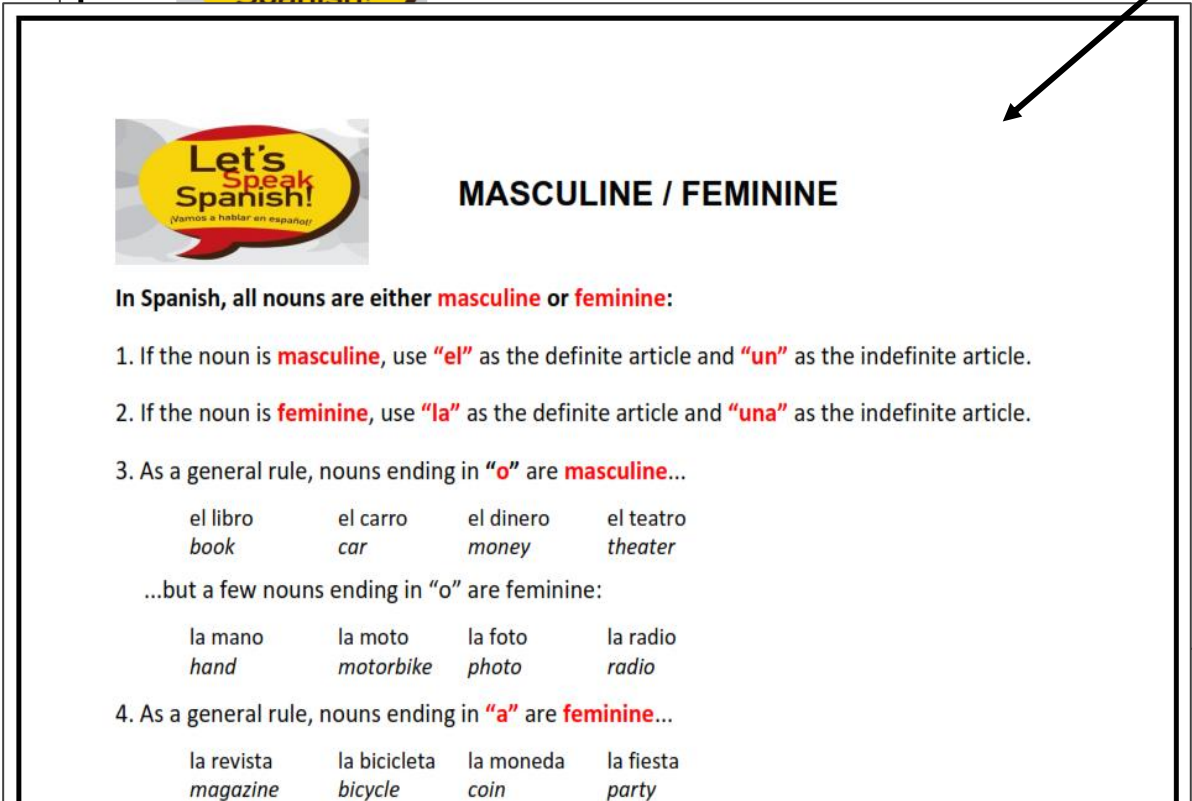
- Masculino / Femenino
- Singular / Plural



Sus Guías (Your Guides)



SINGULAR / PLURAL



MASCULINE / FEMININE

In Spanish, all nouns are either **masculine** or **feminine**:

1. If the noun is **masculine**, use **"el"** as the definite article and **"un"** as the indefinite article.
2. If the noun is **feminine**, use **"la"** as the definite article and **"una"** as the indefinite article.
3. As a general rule, nouns ending in **"o"** are **masculine**...

el libro	el carro	el dinero	el teatro
book	car	money	theater

...but a few nouns ending in "o" are feminine:

la mano	la moto	la foto	la radio
hand	motorbike	photo	radio
4. As a general rule, nouns ending in **"a"** are **feminine**...

la revista	la bicicleta	la moneda	la fiesta
magazine	bicycle	coin	party

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Each section has **Quizlet link** to audio flashcards to help you hear and pronounce the sounds used in sample words



Revisión de gramática:

Masculino / Femenino

In Spanish, all nouns are either **masculine** or **feminine**:

1. If the noun is **masculine**, use “**el**” as the definite article and “**un**” as the indefinite article.
2. If the noun is **feminine**, use “**la**” as the definite article and “**una**” as the indefinite article.

el = **the** (masculine)

la = **the** (feminine)

un = **a/an** (masculine)

una = **a/an** (feminine)



Revisión de gramática:

Masculino / Femenino

As a general rule, nouns ending in “o” are **masculine**...

el libro

the book

el carro

the car

el dinero

the money

el teatro

the theater

...but a few nouns ending in “o” are **feminine**:

la mano

the hand

la moto*

the motorbike

la foto**

the photo

la radio

the radio

*short for “motocicleta”

**short for “fotografía”



Revisión de gramática:

Masculino / Femenino

As a general rule, nouns ending in “a” are **feminine**...

la revista

the magazine

la bicicleta

the bicycle

la moneda

the coin

la fiesta

the party

...but a few nouns ending in “a” are **masculine**:

el idioma

the language

el drama

the drama

el día

the day

el aroma

the aroma

el clima

the climate or weather

el problema

the problem

el planeta

the planet

el mapa

the map

el sistema

the system

el fantasma

the ghost

Epecially words that end in “ma”



Revisión de gramática:

Masculino / Femenino

Nouns that end in “**d**” are **usually feminine**, with a few exceptions:

la pared
the wall

la verdad
the truth

la libertad
liberty

el récord
the record

Nouns that end in “**ión**” are **usually feminine**, with a few exceptions:

la constitución
the constitution

la obligación
the obligation

la concepción
the conception

el camión
the bus or truck

el avión
the plane



Revisión de gramática:

Masculino / Femenino

Nouns that end in “z” are **mostly feminine**, with a number of exceptions:

la paz
the peace

la nariz
the nose

la luz
the light

la voz
the voice

el arroz
the rice

el lápiz
the pencil

el maíz
the corn

el disfraz
the disguise

Nouns that end in “e” may be **either masculine or feminine**:

el elefante
the elephant

el gigante
the giant

el estante
the shelf

el maquillaje
the make-up

la llave
the key

la calle
the street

la frase
the phrase

la carne
the meat

la noche
the night

la nube
the cloud

la suerte
the luck

la tarde
the afternoon



Revisión de gramática:

Masculino / Femenino

Many nouns referring to **people** have both **masculine** and **feminine** forms:

Español	English
enfermero	m. nurse
enfermera	f. nurse
maestro	m. teacher
maestra	f. teacher
viudo	widower
viuda	widow
esposo	husband
esposa	wife

Español	English
dueño	m. owner
dueña	f. owner
hermano	brother
hermana	sister
niño	boy
niña	girl
actor	actor
actriz	actress

Español	English
hijo	son
hija	daughter
nieto	grandson
nieta	granddaughter
abuelo	grandfather
abuela	grandmother
tío	uncle
tía	aunt



Revisión de gramática:

Masculino / Femenino

Some nouns referring to **people** use a single form for both genders:

Español	English
el guía	m. guide
la guía	f. guide
el gerente	m. manager
la gerente	f. manager
el comandante	m. commander
la comandante	f. commander
el dentista	m. dentist
la dentista	f. dentist



Revisión de gramática:

Singular / Plural

The definite article **changes in the plural** for both masculine and feminine words:

Singular

el/la = the

un/una = a/an

Plural

los/las = the

unos/unas = some



Revisión de gramática: Singular / Plural

For nouns that end in **“a”, “o”, or “e” ...add “s”**

- la casa becomes *las casas*
- el libro becomes *los libros*
- el gigante becomes *los gigantes*

For nouns that end in **consonant... add “es”**

- el árbol becomes *los árboles*
- la universidad becomes *las universidades*
- la constitución becomes *las constituciones**

For nouns that end in **“z”... change the “z” to “c” and add “es”**

- la voz becomes *las voces*
- el lápiz becomes *los lápices*

* Note that the accent over the “o” is removed



Revisión de gramática:

Singular / Plural

When referring to a **mixed group** of people (male / female), use the **masculine**:

Español	English
los hijos	the sons, the sons & daughters
las hijas	the daughters
mis nietos	my grandchildren, my grandsons
mis nietas	my granddaughters
los abuelos	the grandparents, the grandfathers
las abuelas	the grandmothers
mis amigos	my friends, my male friends
mis amigas	my female friends
los niños	the children, the boys
las niñas	the girls



Revisión de gramática:

Adjective Agreement

Adjectives usually **follow** nouns:

The white house

La casa blanca

A red pencil

Un lápiz rojo

The pretty girl

La niña bonita

A poor man

Un hombre pobre



Revisión de gramática:

Adjective Agreement

All **adjectives must agree** with the modified noun, both in **gender** *and* **number**

a. For adjectives that end in “o” or “a”

Singular

el libro **negro**

la casa **blanca**

Plural

los libros **negros**

las casas **blancas**

b. For adjectives that end in a **consonant**

Singular

el año **normal**

la cosa **usual**

Plural

los años **normales**

las cosas **usuales**

c. For adjectives that end in “e”

Singular

el hombre **gigante**

la necesidad **urgente**

Plural

los hombres **gigantes**

las necesidades **urgentes**



Revisión de gramática:

Singular / Plural

Remember that not all nouns ending in “a” are feminine, and not all nouns ending in “o” are masculine:

The black hand

La mano negra

A complicated problem

Un problema complicado

An old photo

Una foto vieja

The secret map

El mapa secreto



Revisión de gramática:

Singular / Plural

Note that some words in the singular actually refer to the plural, and vice versa:

People	La gente
Clothes	La ropa
Monday	Los lunes
Tuesday	Los martes
God	El dios



Comenzando en Español

(Getting Started in Spanish)

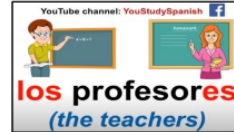
Los Ejercicios: Día Tres



Getting Started in Spanish Day 3 Exercise: Masculino / Femenino y Singular / Plural



Happy Languages
Masculine and Feminine in Spanish
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Emf4lFIE8TE>



YouStudySpanish
Plural Nouns in Spanish
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WS27SpFRxeA>

¿El o La?

Assign the correct masculine ("el") or feminine ("la") article to these words:

Español	English	Español	English	Español	English
casa	house	libro	book	paz	peace
bicicleta	bicycle	carro	car	luz	light
fiesta	party	dinero	money	arroz	rice
revista	magazine	teatro	theater	lápiz	pencil
idioma	language	verdad	truth	elefante	elephant
drama	drama	libertad	liberty	gigante	giant
aroma	aroma	constitución	constitution	llave	key

