

# Articles

Spanish · British English › Spanish

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## Noun Gender (Masculine and Feminine) in Spanish

Hi there! In Spanish, just like in English, nouns have a gender. But here's the good news: it's simpler! There are only two: **masculine** (**masculino**) and **feminine** (**femenino**). No tricky neuter gender! Isn't that a relief? Let's learn how to spot them.

Understanding a noun's gender is super important because it affects the type of **article** (**el/la**) and any adjectives that describe it. Luckily, there are some straightforward rules that will help you master this skill quickly.

- Most nouns ending in the letter **-o** are **masculine**. For example: *el libro* (the book), *el perro* (the dog).
- Most nouns ending in the letter **-a** are **feminine**. For example: *la casa* (the house), *la mesa* (the table).
- Nouns ending in a consonant can be either **masculine** (e.g., *el sol* – the sun) or **feminine** (e.g., *la flor* – the flower). For these, it's best to learn the gender along with the noun itself.

Definite Article + Noun: **El** (masc. sing.) / **La** (fem. sing.)

Yo tengo el libro rojo.

*I have the red book.*

Ella ve la mesa grande.

*She sees the big table.*

Besides the endings **-o** and **-a**, there are other clues that can help you figure out a noun's gender. Take a look at the table below:

| Gender                | Typical Endings                                  | Examples                                                                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Masculine (masculino) | <b>-o, -e, -l, -r, -s, -ma</b>                   | el libro, el coche, el sol, el dolor, el país, el problema                        |
| Feminine (femenino)   | <b>-a, -ción, -sión, -dad, -tad, -umbra, -ie</b> | la casa, la nación, la televisión, la ciudad, la libertad, la costumbre, la serie |

Watch out for exceptions! Not all nouns fit neatly into these rules. Some masculine nouns end in **-a** (e.g., *el día*, *el mapa*) and some feminine nouns end in **-o** (e.g., *la mano*, *la foto*). It's always best to learn new nouns together with their articles!

**Remember this:** The ending **-MA** often means a **masculine** noun! *El problema*, *el tema*, *el clima*. This can be a bit of a trick, as they might sound feminine, but they're masculine!

These exercises will help you practise and remember these rules. Good luck!

## Part 1 – Choose the correct word

Circle the option that correctly fills each gap.

1. Leo \_\_\_\_\_ periódico.  
*I am reading a newspaper.*  
A) uno    B) un    C) unos    D) una
2. \_\_\_\_\_ flor es roja.  
*The flower is red.*  
A) Las    B) El    C) Los    D) La
3. Ella tiene \_\_\_\_\_ sillas.  
*She has some chairs.*  
A) una    B) un    C) unas    D) unos
4. Hay \_\_\_\_\_ pájaros en el cielo.  
*There are some birds in the sky.*  
A) una    B) un    C) unas    D) unos
5. \_\_\_\_\_ coche es azul.  
*The car is blue.*  
A) La    B) El    C) Los    D) Las
6. \_\_\_\_\_ hombres trabajan mucho.  
*The men work a lot.*  
A) Los    B) La    C) Las    D) El
7. Ella compra \_\_\_\_\_ mesa.  
*She is buying a table.*  
A) unas    B) un    C) una    D) uno
8. \_\_\_\_\_ playas son hermosas.  
*The beaches are beautiful.*  
A) Las    B) La    C) El    D) Los

## Part 2 – Fill in the gap

Write the missing word or phrase on the line.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ flor es roja.  
*The flower is red.*
2. Yo veo \_\_\_\_\_ perro.  
*I see a dog.*
3. Tengo \_\_\_\_\_ foto bonita.  
*I have a nice photo.*
4. \_\_\_\_\_ playas son hermosas.  
*The beaches are beautiful.*
5. \_\_\_\_\_ sol brilla hoy.  
*The sun is shining today.*

6. Veo \_\_\_\_\_ casas grandes.

*I see some big houses.*

### Part 3 – Translate

*Write each word in Spanish on the line.*

1. some › \_\_\_\_\_

2. some (f.) › \_\_\_\_\_

3. the (f.) › \_\_\_\_\_

4. a (m.) › \_\_\_\_\_

5. the (m. pl.) › \_\_\_\_\_

6. a (f.) › \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 4 – Match the pairs

*Write the letter of the matching translation next to each term.*

| Term |      | Translation |              |
|------|------|-------------|--------------|
| 1.   | las  | A           | some (f.)    |
| 2.   | un   | B           | the (f.)     |
| 3.   | unas | C           | the (f. pl.) |
| 4.   | el   | D           | a (m.)       |
| 5.   | la   | E           | a (f.)       |
| 6.   | los  | F           | the (m.)     |
| 7.   | unos | G           | some         |
| 8.   | una  | H           | the (m. pl.) |

## Answer Key

### Part 1 – Choose the correct word

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| 1. B) un   | 5. B) El  |
| 2. D) La   | 6. A) Los |
| 3. C) unas | 7. C) una |
| 4. D) unos | 8. A) Las |

### Part 2 – Fill in the gap

- |        |         |
|--------|---------|
| 1. La  | 4. Las  |
| 2. un  | 5. El   |
| 3. una | 6. unas |

### Part 3 – Translate

- |         |        |
|---------|--------|
| 1. unos | 4. un  |
| 2. unas | 5. los |
| 3. la   | 6. una |

### Part 4 – Match the pairs

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. C (the (f. pl.)) | 5. B (the (f.))     |
| 2. D (a (m.))       | 6. H (the (m. pl.)) |
| 3. A (some (f.))    | 7. G (some)         |
| 4. F (the (m.))     | 8. E (a (f.))       |