

Basic Adjectives

Spanish · British English › Spanish

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Adjective Agreement in Spanish: Gender and Number

In Spanish, adjectives (**adjetivos**) describe nouns (**sustantivos**). They must **agree** with the noun in both **gender** (masculine/feminine) and **number** (singular/plural). This is a very important rule to learn right at the beginning of your Spanish journey!

Noun (gender + number) + **Adjective (gender + number)**

Let's look at how adjectives change to match their nouns.

Adjectives ending in -o (masculine) and -a (feminine)

Most adjectives change their ending depending on the noun's gender. If the noun is masculine, the adjective ends in **-o**. If the noun is feminine, the adjective ends in **-a**.

Gender	Singular	Plural
Masculine	buen o	buen os
Feminine	buen a	buen as

El libro es bueno.

The book is good.

La manzana es buena.

The apple is good.

Adjectives ending in -e (gender-neutral)

Some adjectives end in **-e**. These adjectives stay the same for both masculine and feminine nouns in the singular form. They only change in the plural, by adding **-s**.

Gender	Singular	Plural
Masculine/Feminine	grand e	grand es

El coche es grande.

The car is big.

La casa es grande.

The house is big.

Adjectives ending in a consonant

Adjectives ending in a consonant can be a bit trickier. We have two main types:

- **Gender-neutral:** For masculine and feminine singular nouns, they have the same form (e.g., fácil - easy). In the plural, we add **-es**.
- **Gender-specific:** These adjectives add an **-a** for the feminine singular (e.g., español/española). In the plural, we add **-es** for masculine and **-as** for feminine. These often include nationalities or personality

traits.

El examen es fácil.

The exam is easy.

La pregunta es fácil.

The question is easy.

Gender	Singular	Plural
Masculine	español	español <u>es</u>
Feminine	español <u>a</u>	español <u>as</u>

Mi amigo es español.

My friend (male) is Spanish.

Mi amiga es española.

My friend (female) is Spanish.

How to form the plural of adjectives

It's simple! Just remember two rules:

- If the adjective ends in a **vowel (-a, -e, -o)**, add **-s**. (e.g., bonito -> bonitos, grande -> grandes)
- If the adjective ends in a **consonant**, add **-es**. (e.g., fácil -> fáciles, español -> españoles)

Watch out! (¡Ojo!)

In Spanish, the adjective almost always comes **AFTER** the noun it describes.

el coche rojo (the red car)

el rojo coche (unless in poetry or for special emphasis, but at A1 level, stick to: adjective after the noun).

Memory trick: Adjectives are like best friends!

Think of the noun as the 'boss'. It tells its adjective 'best friend' what **gender** and **number** to be. The adjective always **matches** its noun and almost always **follows** it!

Los libros son **interesantes**.

~~Los libros son interesante.~~

The noun "libros" is plural, so the adjective "interesante" must also be plural: "interesantes".

Part 1 – Choose the correct word

Circle the option that correctly fills each gap.

1. El coche es _____.

The car is nice.

A) bonito B) bonita C) bonitas D) bonitos

2. Las flores son _____.

The flowers are small.

A) pequeños B) pequeño C) pequeña D) pequeñas

3. Los dibujos son _____.

The drawings are ugly.

A) feo B) fea C) feos D) feas

4. Mi padre es _____.

My father is hard-working.

A) trabajadores B) trabajadora C) trabajador D) trabajadoras

5. Las condiciones son _____.

The conditions are bad.

A) malas B) mala C) malo D) malos

6. Ella está _____ ahora.

She is busy now.

A) ocupado B) ocupadas C) ocupada D) ocupados

7. El libro es _____.

The book is red.

A) rojas B) rojos C) rojo D) roja

8. Las preguntas son _____.

The questions are easy.

A) fáciles B) fáciles C) fácil D) fáciles

Part 2 – Fill in the gap

Write the missing word or phrase on the line.

1. La paella es _____.

Paella is Spanish.

2. La cocina está _____.

The kitchen is clean.

3. Mis amigos son _____.

My friends are good.

4. La chica es _____.

The girl is nice.

5. Este libro es _____.

This book is interesting.

6. Mis padres están _____.

My parents are happy.

Part 3 – Translate

Write each word in Spanish on the line.

1. pretty › _____

2. big › _____

3. ugly › _____

4. difficult › _____

5. Spanish › _____

6. happy › _____

Part 4 — Match the pairs

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

Term		Translation	
1.	difícil	A	new
2.	joven	B	difficult
3.	azul	C	young
4.	verde	D	green
5.	grande	E	blue
6.	nuevo	F	red
7.	pequeño	G	small
8.	rojo	H	big

Answer Key

Part 1 — Choose the correct word

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. A) bonito | 5. A) malas |
| 2. D) pequeñas | 6. C) ocupada |
| 3. C) feos | 7. C) rojo |
| 4. C) trabajador | 8. B) fáciles |

Part 2 — Fill in the gap

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. española | 4. simpática |
| 2. limpia | 5. interesante |
| 3. buenos | 6. felices |

Part 3 — Translate

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. bonito | 4. difícil |
| 2. grande | 5. español |
| 3. feo | 6. feliz |

Part 4 — Match the pairs

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. B (difficult) | 5. H (big) |
| 2. C (young) | 6. A (new) |
| 3. E (blue) | 7. G (small) |
| 4. D (green) | 8. F (red) |