

Name:

Guided Notes - Grammatical Gender: Review and New Concepts (1/30/18)

This lesson will review the concept of grammatical gender and give more specific examples of masculine and feminine nouns in Spanish.

Grammatical Gender:

With some exceptions, we cannot think of biological gender when thinking about the gender of a noun. There is nothing feminine about *la mesa* (the table) or masculine about *el tenedor* (the fork). In fact, some objects that are actually associated with men or women don't match the most likely gender in Spanish: for example, *la corbata* (the necktie) and *el maquillaje* (makeup).

We will address the gender of living objects later.

- Examples:
- ***El niño pequeño*** corre por ***el sendero nuevo***.
The small boy runs along the new path.
 - Hay ***unas aves blancas*** en ***el árbol muerto***.
There are some white birds in the dead tree.

Below we will roughly divide masculine and feminine nouns based on their endings, and discuss other traits of grammatical gender.

1. Masculine Nouns

With some exceptions, the following endings indicate that a noun is masculine:

<u>Ending</u>	<u>Examples</u>
-o	el gato → the cat un mono → _____ el banco → the bank
-ma, -pa, -ta	el planeta → the planet un problema → a problem el mapa → the map el idioma → _____ *be aware of exceptions: la forma → the form; la maleta → suitcase
accented vowel (á, é, í, ó, ú)	el colibrí → _____ el ají → the chili pepper un sofá → a sofa/couch

consonant other than -d or -z	el reloj → _____ un rumor → a rumor el árbol → the tree
-e	el estante → the shelf un mensaje → a message el cobre → _____ el hambre → the hunger

Exceptions → The chart below lists some exceptions to the above rules, and the following are feminine:

Words ending in -e	Words ending in consonant other than -d or -z	Words ending in -o
la calle → street la llave → key la gente → _____ la nieve → snow la sangre → blood la suerte → _____ la clase → class la corriente → current la serpiente → serpent la torre → _____ la muerte → death la nube → cloud la carne → _____	la miel → _____ la sal → salt la flor → _____ la labor → labor la piel → skin la coliflor → cauliflower	la mano → _____ la radio → radio la moto → _____ la foto → photograph (some of these are shortened versions of words that are feminine, such as <i>fotografía</i>)

2. Feminine Nouns

With some exceptions, the following endings indicate that a noun is feminine:

<u>Ending</u>	<u>Examples</u>
-a	la guitarra → the guitar una casa → _____ la comida → the food
-dad	la capacidad → the capacity la felicidad → happiness
-ud, -tud, -umbre	la incertidumbre → _____ la cumbre → the summit, peak una virtud → a virtue la salud → _____ la actitud → the attitude la costumbre → _____

-itis	la gastritis → gastritis la laringitis → laryngitis (these words are often medical terms)
-z	la vejez → old-age la paz → _____ la nariz → the nose la luz → _____
-ión	la sesión → _____ una vacación → a vacation la canción → _____

Exceptions → The chart below lists some exceptions to the above rules, and the following are masculine:

Words ending in -d	Words ending in -z	Words ending in -a
el huésped → guest, lodger el césped → _____ el alud → avalanche, rockslide el ataúd → _____ el abad → abbot (religious leader)	el aprendiz → apprentice, learner el cáliz → _____ el arroz → rice el pez → _____ el lápiz → pencil el ajedrez → _____ el maíz → corn el avestruz → ostrich el disfraz → _____ el haz → bundle el albornoz → bath robe, gown	(Many of these include the -ma, -pa, and -ta examples in the masculine nouns section) el drama → drama el esquema → schematic, diagram el dilema → dilemma el sistema → system el carisma → charisma el clima → climate, weather el fantasma → _____ el día - day

3. Animals and Humans

- Generally speaking, animal names still have only one grammatical gender: masculine or feminine. In order to distinguish whether an animal is *biologically* male or female, we add *macho* or *hembra* respectively to clarify the biological gender.
 - El gato hembra → The female cat
 - La lagartija macho → The male lizard
 - El elefante hembra → The female elephant
- Professions follow the following rules:

Ending	How to change from masculine to feminine	Examples
-o	Change the article and change the ending from -o to -a	el abogado/la abogada - _____ el psicólogo/la psicóloga - psychologist el enfermero/la enfermera - nurse

-r (and less commonly other consonants)	Change the article and add an -a to the end	el escultor/la escultora - sculptor el traductor/la traductora - translator el bailarín/la bailarina - _____ el profesor/la profesora - professor
-ista, -ia, -e, -ta	Change the article	el poeta/la poeta - poet el dentista/la dentista - dentist el policía/la policía - police officer el artista/la artista - artist el estudiante/la estudiante - student

4. Feminine Nouns with Masculine Article

Whenever a feminine noun is stressed on the first syllable, we must use the masculine articles “el” or “un.”

Examples: el agua →
 el hacha →
 un águila →

We will, however, use the proper feminine article whenever these nouns are plural.

Examples: las aguas
 las hachas
 unas águilas

*Remember that these words are still feminine, and we will want to use feminine adjectives!

Examples: el agua fría →
 el hacha antigua →
 el águila majestuosa →