

NOUNS, GENDER AND ARTICLES

August 23-25

NOUNS

WHAT ARE NOUNS?

- A simple definition that you have surely known since elementary school is that a noun is a part of speech that indicates a person, place or thing.
- Nouns can be modified by adjectives, and are often led by an article (the/a)
- Nouns often serve as the subjects for our action words, verbs

GENDER

- In Spanish, unlike English, nouns have a gender
 - Masculine and feminine
- We should not think of this type of gender as related to our concept of biological gender
- Yes, in some cases, we differentiate some nouns, like professions, based on whether we are talking about a man or woman (ex. el doctor/la doctora; the male doctor/the female doctor)
- But in most cases when we refer to gender, we are referring to grammatical gender
- Let's explore this concept more

GENDER

- Let's look at the gender of nouns that represent inanimate objects:
 - La mesa (the table, a feminine noun)
 - El techo (the ceiling, a masculine noun)
- There is nothing inherently feminine in a table, nor masculine in a ceiling
- The whole point of a noun having gender in the first place is it affects the other parts of speech around it, such as articles and adjectives
- Once again, when we talk about gender, we are talking about **GRAMMATICAL GENDER**

HOW DO WE KNOW?

- *For now*, a working rule we can follow is that masculine nouns end in 'o' and feminine nouns end in 'a'
- Examples of feminine nouns:
 - La chica (the girl)
 - La botella (the bottle)
- Examples of masculine nouns:
 - El perro (the dog)
 - El río (the river)
- If we want to make these nouns plural we add an 's' (botellas, perros)

ARTICLES

WHAT IS AN ARTICLE?

- Articles are a part of speech that point out or refer to nouns
- We have two articles:
 - Definite article: the
 - Indefinite article: a/an
- Example: I see **an** apple; Where is **the** cat?
- The definite article refers to a specific entity (we know the cat we are talking about); whereas the indefinite article refers to something nonspecific (there is one apple out of many in a pile)
- **IN SPANISH, THE ARTICLE MUST MATCH THE GENDER AND NUMBER OF THE NOUN IT MODIFIES**

THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE IN SPANISH

- The indefinite article: a/an (singular); some (plural)
- In Spanish:

	Singular	Plural
Masculine	Un	Unos
Feminine	Una	Unas

PRACTICE

Insert the correct indefinite article

_____ gato

_____ camas

_____ rana

_____ libro

PRACTICE

Insert the correct indefinite article:

un gato

unas camas

una rana

un libro

THE DEFINITE ARTICLE IN SPANISH

- The definite article: the
- In Spanish:

	Singular	Plural
Masculine	El	Los
Feminine	La	Las

PRACTICE

Insert the correct definite article

_____ pato

_____ llamas

_____ carros

_____ mochila

PRACTICE

Insert the correct definite article

el pato

las llamas

los carros

la mochila

DICTIONARIES

*Not all nouns follow the simple rule we outlined earlier. Therefore, for words that do not end in 'a' or 'o,' we must use a dictionary to tell us what the gender of the noun is.