

# LOS SUSTANTIVOS Y LOS ARTÍCULOS

Nouns &  
Articles

# NOUNS

- a person, place, thing or idea
- In Spanish, nouns have variable gender/number

# GENERO DE LOS SUSTANTIVOS

Gender of  
nouns



un libro

a book

un rubí

a ruby



un menú

a menu

un reloj

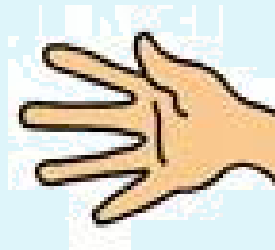
a watch

Normally, nouns ending in o, í, ú or a consonant are masculine.

## SUSTANTIVOS MASCULINOS

Note: The fact that a noun is masculine, other than those that denote human beings, has nothing whatever to do with sexual attributes.

Of course, there are exceptions. One is *una mano*.



# MÁS IRREGULARES

Words ending in **í** or **ú** (accented) are fairly rare in Spanish and, as mentioned, are normally masculine.

- un colibrí
- un esquí
- un rubí
- un gurú
- un iglú
- un menú
- a hummingbird
- a ski
- a ruby
- a guru
- an igloo
- a menu

Words ending in **i** or **u** (unaccented) are even more rare, and may be masculine or feminine.

Un/una cursi (a pretentious person)

Una tribu (a tribe)

# MASCULINE NOUNS

To identify our masculine nouns, we will start with the indefinite masculine article *un*, which in English is a or an

In addition, nouns that denote male persons are normally masculine.

un hombre      *a man*

un muchacho      *a boy*

un profesor      *a professor (m)*

un doctor      *a doctor (m)*

To identify our feminine nouns, we will start with the indefinite feminine article *una*, which in English is a or an



una mesaa      *a table*



una ciudadad      *a city*



una nación      *a nation*

Normally, nouns ending in **a**, **ad**, **ción**, or **sión** are feminine.

**Two exceptions are *un mapa* and *un día*.**

## FEMININE NOUNS

Note:

Again, the fact that a noun is feminine, other than those that denote human beings, has nothing to do with sexual attributes.

# FEMININE NOUNS

In addition, nouns that denote female persons are normally feminine or have a feminine form that is the counterpart of the masculine.

una mujer

*a woman*

una muchacha

*a girl*

una profesora

*a professor (f)*

una doctora

*a doctor (f)*



# NOUNS ENDING IN E

Words that end with **e** are suspect, that is, they may be masculine or they may be feminine

## *Masculine*

un coche <u>e</u>	<i>a car</i>
un bote <u>e</u>	<i>a can</i>
un frente <u>e</u>	<i>a front</i>
un bate <u>e</u>	<i>a bat (baseball)</i>
un bache <u>e</u>	<i>a pothole</i>

## *Feminine*

una noche <u>e</u>	<i>a night</i>
una calle <u>e</u>	<i>a street</i>
una frente <u>e</u>	<i>a forehead</i>
una peste <u>e</u>	<i>a plague</i>
una llave <u>e</u>	<i>a key</i>

When in doubt about the gender of a noun ending in e, or any noun, look it up in a dictionary.

# NOUNS ENDING IN -MA

Words that end with *-ma* are usually masculine

un problemama

un aromama

un temama

un programama

un sistemama

un diagramama

un diplomama

un climama

But there are a few exceptions:

una trama

una diadema

una estratagema

# NUMERO DE LOS SUSTANTIVOS

Pluralization  
of Nouns

# PLURALIZATION

Nouns are pluralized differently in Spanish than in English.  
If a noun ends in **a, á, e, é, o, ó, i** or **u**, we simply add **s**.

<i>Singular</i>	<b>casa</b>	<b>casas</b>	<i>Plural</i>
	<b>mamá</b>	<b>mamás</b>	
	<b>llave</b>	<b>llaves</b>	
	<b>café</b>	<b>cafés</b>	
	<b>libro</b>	<b>libros</b>	
	<b>dominó</b>	<b>dominós</b>	
	<b>cursi</b>	<b>cursis</b>	
	<b>tribu</b>	<b>tribus</b>	

# PLURALIZATION

The rare word that ends in **í** or **ú** can be pluralized by adding either **s** or **es**.

<i>Singular</i>	colibrí	colibrís/colibrí <u>es</u>	<i>Plural</i>
	esquí	esquí <u>s</u> /esquí <u>es</u>	
	rubí	rubí <u>s</u> /rubí <u>es</u>	
	iglú	iglú <u>s</u> /iglú <u>es</u>	
	menú	menú <u>s</u> /menú <u>es</u>	
	tabú	tabú <u>s</u> /tabú <u>es</u>	

# PLURALIZATION

If a noun ends in a **consonant**, we add **es**.

	borrador	borradores <u>s</u>	
	orden	órdenes <u>s</u>	
<i>Singular</i>	papel	papeles <u>s</u>	<i>Plural</i>
	pared	paredes <u>s</u>	
	reloj	relojes <u>s</u>	
	señor	señores <u>s</u>	

# PLURALIZATION

Polysyllabic words that end in **s**, and are stressed on any syllable except the last one, maintain the same form in the plural as in the singular. We show that they are plural by using the plural article.

	el lunes	los lunes	
<i>Singular</i>	el oasis	los oasis	<i>Plural</i>
	la tesis	las tesis	

If stressed on the last syllable, they are pluralized normally.

el autobús	los autobuses
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# PLURALIZATION

Generally, adjectives are pluralized just like nouns.

If an adjective ends in a **vowel**, we simply add **s**.

<i>Singular</i>	bonito	bonitos <u>s</u>	<i>Plural</i>
	inteligente	inteligentes <u>s</u>	

If an adjective ends in a **consonant**, we add **es**.

fácil	fáciles <u>s</u>
común	comunes <u>s</u>



# PLURALIZATION

When a noun or an adjective ends in **z**, we must change the **z** to **c** before adding **es**.

*Singular*

*Plural*

nouns

lápiz

lápices

luz

luuces

adjectives

feliz

felices

audaz

audaces

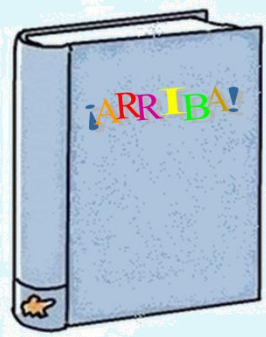
# LOS ARTÍCULOS DEFINIDOS / INDEFINIDOS

Definite &  
Indefinite  
Articles

# DEFINITE & INDEFINITE ARTICLES

## Definite Articles (el, la)

- Refers to a specific item
- Es **el** libro que usamos en la clase de español. (It's the book we use in Spanish class)



## Indefinite Articles (un, una)

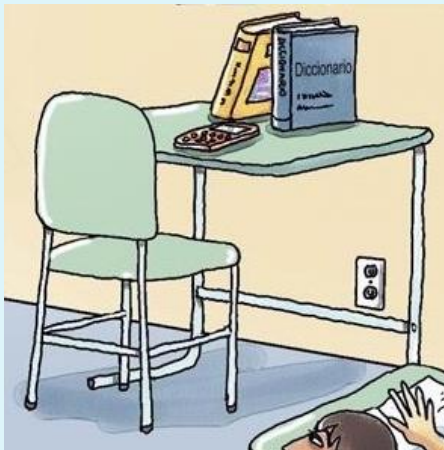
- Refers to a non-specific item
- Es **un** libro. (It's a book, any old book)



# DEFINITE & INDEFINITE ARTICLES



**Es una silla.** It's *a* chair, any old chair.



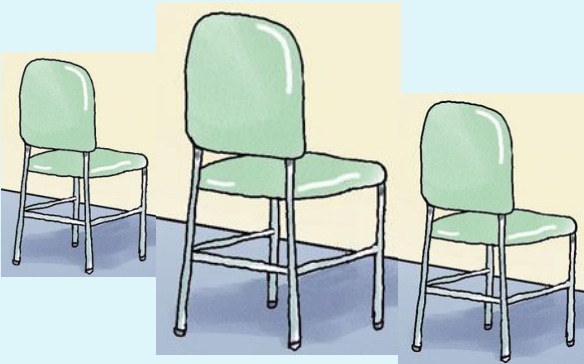
**Es la silla que usamos en la clase de español.**

It's *the* chair we use in the Spanish class.

# DEFINITE & INDEFINITE ARTICLES

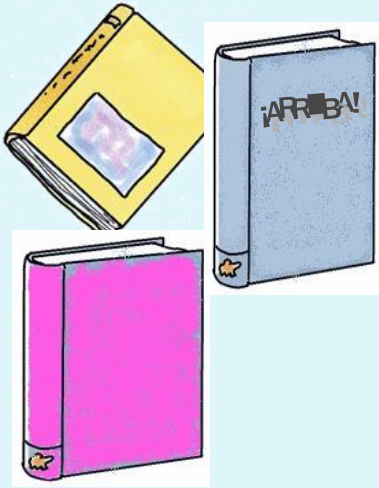


**Hay unos libros en la sala de clase.** There are *a few* books in the classroom.



**Hay unas sillas también.** There are *some* chairs, too.

# DEFINITE & INDEFINITE ARTICLES



**Son los libros para la clase de español.** They're *the* books for the Spanish class.



**Son las sillas para los estudiantes.**

They're *the* chairs for the students.

The masculine **indefinite** articles are:

un      *a, an*      un libro = a book

unos      *some, a few*      unos libros = some books

The masculine **definite** articles are:

el      *the*      el libro = the book

los      *the (English has no plural form for the)*      los libros = the books

**SUMMARY  
OF  
DEFINITE &  
INDEFINITE  
ARTICLES**

The feminine **indefinite** articles are:

una	<i>a, an</i>	una silla = a chair
unas	<i>some, a few</i>	unas sillas = some chairs

The feminine **definite** articles are:

la	<i>the</i>	la silla = the chair
las	<i>the</i>	las sillas = the chairs

**SUMMARY  
OF  
DEFINITE &  
INDEFINITE  
ARTICLES**