


- G** Nouns are naming words: they give names to people, things and abstract concepts like ideas or feelings, e.g. 'Karen', 'pen', 'happiness'.

Gender

In Spanish, all nouns have a gender: they are all masculine or feminine. (This includes things as well as people.) It is important to know a noun's gender because this tells you:

- which form of the **article** to use with it (*un* or *una*, *el* or *la*, *los* or *las*)
- the endings for **adjectives** that go with the noun.

 For more on articles and adjectives, see pp. 6–7 and 8–17.

The gender of many nouns is obvious from the ending: **-o** nouns are usually masculine and **-a** nouns are usually feminine.

	singular	plural
masculine	el chico el libro	los chicos los libros
feminine	la chica la regía	las chicas las regías

There are, however, some exceptions:

- common masculine words ending in **-a**: *el mapa*, *el día* and lots of words ending in **-ma**, e.g. *el problema*, *el sistema*, *el clima*, *el programa*
- common feminine words ending in **-o**: *la mano*, *la radio*, *la foto*, *la moto* (note, too, *el agua* and *el área*: *agua* and *área* are feminine, but *el* is used instead of *la* because *la agua* and *la área* are too hard to say).

For nouns ending in other letters, there are some patterns to help you.

- Nouns with the following endings are usually masculine:

-ma (*el idioma*) **-or** (*el color*)

The days of the week are also all masculine.

- Nouns with the following endings are usually feminine:

-ción (*la natación*) **-iz** (*la nariz*) **-ie** (*la serie*)

-dad (*la felicidad*) **-sis** (*la crisis*) **-umbre** (*la costumbre*)

For other words, you have to learn the gender when you learn the noun. A good way to do this is to learn each new noun with its definite article, e.g. *el salón*, *la catedral*.

Plural nouns

You form the plural of nouns ending in a vowel by adding **-s**: *los chicos*. For nouns ending in a consonant you add **-es**: *las catedrales*. (An exception to this is days of the week ending in **-s**: *el lunes/los lunes*.) Note that if the noun has an accent on the last syllable in the singular, this does not carry through to the plural: *el salón/los salones*.

Nouns referring to people

- Most nouns referring to men are masculine (e.g. *el hombre*) and most nouns referring to women are feminine (e.g. *la mujer*).
- When talking about a group that includes a mixture of men and women, you use masculine forms.
- When talking about jobs or other ways of describing people, you often need different forms of the noun for boys/men and girls/women, e.g. *el camarero* and *la camarera*.
- Sometimes the noun doesn't change – only the article does. This happens with nouns of professions ending in **-ante** and **-ista**: *el/la estudiante*, *el/la recepcionista*.
- If the masculine noun ends in a consonant, you generally add **-a** to the end to make it feminine: *el diseñador/la diseñadora*, *el inglés/la inglesa*.

1 Write the correct form of the article.

1 _____ jardines

5 _____ estudiante

9 _____ tienda

2 _____ universidad

6 _____ mapa

10 _____ profesor

3 _____ foto

7 _____ combinación

11 _____ camarero

4 _____ flores

8 _____ programas

12 _____ coches

Remember – what gender are most nouns ending in **-a**?

2 Circle the noun in each sentence. Identify whether it is masculine (m) or feminine (f) and singular (s) or plural (pl).

- 1 El hombre es guapo. _____
- 2 Vio a los alumnos. _____
- 3 Me interesan las matemáticas. _____
- 4 Tocamos la guitarra pero no me gusta. _____

3 Complete these sentences with appropriate nouns from the box.

opción	deporte	aplicación	semana	periódicos
autobús	novelas	niños	consumo	fanática

You won't need to use all the words.

- 1 Reducir el _____ eléctrico es la única _____.
- 2 Me gusta leer las _____ pero no me interesan los _____.
- 3 Leo las noticias a través de una _____ en mi móvil cuando estoy esperando el _____.
- 4 El treinta por ciento de los _____ gasta más de veinte euros a la _____.

4 Rewrite these sentences making the nouns plural. Then translate your sentences into English.

Make sure your translation sounds natural in English.

- 1 Me dio un caramelo y una naranja. _____

- 2 Conocí a un hombre y a una mujer. _____

- 3 Compraron el mapa y la radio. _____

5 Translate these sentences into Spanish.

Remember that you need the definite article when you are talking about things you like/dislike.

- 1 I like films but I'm not interested in cartoons. _____

- 2 I buy vegetables and a cake at the market. _____

- 3 Last winter I went to the mountains. _____

This also needs the definite article

6 Translate this passage into Spanish.

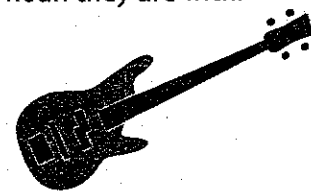
Use *No debo*.

My friends and I are going to spend a few days in Mexico. The weather is very sunny there. I'm going to meet them at the railway station tomorrow at 10. Ana is bringing a map. I mustn't forget my phone because I want to listen to some songs on the train.

G Articles are used with nouns. In Spanish, the words for 'the' (the definite article) and 'a' (an) and 'some' (the indefinite article) change according to the gender and number of the noun they are with.

Definite articles

	singular	plural
masculine	el chico (the boy)	los chicos (the boys)
feminine	la chica (the girl)	las chicas (the girls)



*El piso es pequeño pero los dormitorios son grandes.
Durante las vacaciones, toco la guitarra todos los días.*

The house is small but the bedrooms are big.
During the holidays, I play the guitar every day.

You use the definite article in Spanish in the same way as you do in English, with the following exceptions. Here *el/la/los/las* is used where you wouldn't use 'the' in English:

- opinions: *Me chiflan las telenovelas.* I love soap operas.
- parts of the body: *Tiene el pelo castaño.* She/he has brown hair.
- days of the week: *el lunes* on Monday
- times: *Son las dos.* It's two o'clock.
- abstract nouns: *la paz* peace
- languages: *el francés* French
- school subjects: *las matemáticas* Maths

Lo

Spanish also has a neuter form of 'the' - **lo** - which you use to describe 'the ... thing / part'. **Lo** is used with an adjective (not a noun) and the adjective form doesn't change.

The following expressions with **lo** + adjective are particularly useful:

- ¡Lo bueno es que todos mis amigos están aquí!* The good thing is that all my friends are here!
- Lo malo es que voy a llegar tarde.* The bad thing is that I am going to arrive late.
- Lo mejor fue cuando vi el partido de fútbol.* The best part was when I saw the football match.
- Lo peor fue el tiempo.* The worst thing was the weather.

Indefinite articles

	singular	plural
masculine	un chico (a boy)	unos chicos (some boys)
feminine	una chica (the girl)	unas chicas (some girls)

Compré una falda roja y unas botas negras. I bought a red skirt and some black boots.
Tiene un perro y unos peces. He has a dog and some fish.

You use the indefinite article in Spanish in the same way as in English, with one exception. When talking about jobs, *un/una* is not used where you would use 'a/an' in English:

Es policía. He's a police officer.

When a group has at least one male member, you use the **masculine plural** form of the article and noun. So *unos profesores* could refer to a group of male teachers, or to a group of male and female teachers.

1 Put these words under the correct article heading.

hermana series policíacas ojos serpientes
laboratorios telediario playa programa de deportes

★ Many nouns ending *-ma* are masculine.

el	la	los	las

2 Circle the nouns which don't go with the article each time.

- 1 un zoo partido de fútbol niña comedias receptionista gato
- 2 una bocadillos mañana actriz cocina cara libro
- 3 unos clientes zapatos documentales videos barrio amigas
- 4 unas verduras churros telenovelas tiendas restaurante camisas

★ Look at the section on nouns on p. 4 to work out whether nouns are masculine or feminine to decide which article you need. Look up the word in a dictionary if you aren't sure.

3 Choose the correct form to complete each sentence.

- 1 Me gusta la / el / las chaqueta a rayas.
- 2 Llevó unas / unos / los medias azul oscuro.
- 3 ¿Cómo es un / unas / una buen amigo?
- 4 A Javier le gusta leer el / las / una revistas.
- 5 Fui a uno / los / el laboratorios.
- 6 En mi insti hay un / una / unas aulas.
- 7 Mi madre tiene un / el / lo pelo rubio.
- 8 El / La / Lo bueno es que hace sol.

4 Read each sentence. Are there any articles missing? Add in the correct article where necessary, then translate these sentences into English.

- 1 Me gustan documentales. _____
- 2 Compré botas moradas. _____
- 3 Mi madre es diseñadora. _____
- 4 Malo es que me duele cabeza. _____

★ Remember: sometimes you need an article in Spanish when you wouldn't use one in English, and vice versa.

5 Translate these sentences into Spanish.

- 1 I have a sister and a brother. _____
- 2 I like ice cream and I love pop music. _____
- 3 On Saturday I bought some jeans and some boots. _____

Remember that you include the definite article when giving your opinion about things.

6 Translate this passage into Spanish.

I really like spending the summer holidays in Spain, but I don't like hotels. I prefer to rent an apartment or a country house. **A year ago**, I visited Sitges with a friend. On Saturday, we went to the beach. I swam in the **sea**, then at two o'clock we went to a café. **The best thing** was the churros. They were fantastic!

Use Hace ...

Use Lo ...

masculine or feminine?



G Verbs are used in different tenses. Tenses tell us when the action of the verb happened, is happening or will happen, i.e. in the past, present or future.

You use the **present tense** to talk about things that are taking place now or happen repeatedly or are general statements of fact or belief.

Lleva una camiseta. She's wearing a T-shirt. *Vivo en Madrid.* I live in Madrid.

It is also used for things that you are planning to do soon.

¿Me mandas un SMS luego? Will you send me a text later?

In Spanish, the ending of the verb tells you who or what the subject is. There are two types of verb: regular and irregular. **Regular verbs** have the same pattern of endings. **Irregular verbs** don't follow these patterns and have to be learned individually (see pp. 38-39).

Categories of regular verb

In Spanish, regular verbs fall into three categories. You can identify them by the **infinitive** form (the form used in the dictionary which does not express any particular tense or person): the different groups end in **-ar**, **-er** and **-ir**. To make the different forms, remove **-ar**, **-er** or **-ir** to find the stem (the part that does not change). Then add the following endings to the stem.

	hablar (to speak)	comer (to eat)	escribir (to write)
(yo)	hablo	como	escribo
(tú)	hablas	comes	escribes
(él/ella/usted)	habla	come	escribe
(nosotros/nosotras)	hablamos	comemos	escribimos
(vosotros/vosotras)	habláis	coméis	escribís
(ellos/ellas/ustedes)	hablan	comen	escriben



Exceptions

Some verbs are regular in the present tense apart from the 'I' form: *hago* (*hacer* - to do/make), *salgo* (*salir* - to go out), *veo* (*ver* - to see/watch).

Key time expressions

To help you recognise the present tense, look out for key time expressions like these: *hoy* (today), *ahora* (now), *en este momento* (now), *los lunes* (on Mondays), *todos los días* (every day).

1 Circle the correct verb form. Then translate the verbs into English.

- tú *entras / entramos* _____
- él *escucho / escucha* _____
- nosotras *salís / salimos* _____
- ellas *ven / ves* _____
- yo *hago / hace* _____
- vosotros *vivo / vivís* _____

★ Look carefully at the ending to help you identify the correct verb form.

2 Look at the infinitives and highlight the stem of each verb. Then complete the sentence with the correct form.

- trabajar Yo _____ como voluntario.
- leer Señor Gómez, ¿usted _____ novelas?
- tocar Los chicos _____ el saxofón.
- correr Ana _____ más rápido que yo.
- compartir Mis padres y yo _____ una pizza.
- ayudar ¿ _____ a tu madre?

3 Identify and correct the errors in the verbs.

- 1 Mis amigos y yo toca el teclado dos veces a la semana. _____
- 2 Jorge abramos la ventana. _____
- 3 Cuando sus tías viajáis por España, siempre compras recuerdos. _____
- 4 ¿Isabel y Juan, no bebes limonada? _____
- 5 ¿Dónde vive tus primos? _____
- 6 Cuando hace calor, yo nadan pero mi amigo descansas. _____

★ Identify the infinitive form – then you will know which endings to use.

4 Look at the verb table on page 36. What patterns can you find in the endings across the three categories to help you translate the verbs correctly?

- 1 yo form: _____
- 2 él/ella/usted form: _____
- 3 nosotros/nosotras form: _____
- 4 vosotros/vosotras form: _____
- 5 -ar verbs: _____
- 6 -er verbs: _____

5 Translate these sentences into Spanish.

Look very carefully at the subject of each verb in a sentence – it isn't always the same for each one.

- 1 We live in the country but our mother works in the city.

- 2 I don't drink milk and my brother doesn't eat cheese.

- 3 Ana sees Luke every day. They read books in the library.

6 Translate this passage into Spanish.

At the weekends, I work in a bookshop with a café. All the shop assistants speak lots of languages. We sell books and we also help the customers. My manager looks for and orders books online. In the afternoon, I prepare drinks in the café. Where do you work? Do you and your friends earn a lot of money?

Use *encargar*.

G Regular verbs have a set pattern of endings in the present tense (see pp. 36–37), but irregular verbs do not follow these patterns and have to be learned individually. The verbs you will use most frequently in Spanish are all irregular – so you need to learn them thoroughly and practise them often. The table below gives the present tense for four of the most common irregular verbs.

	ser (to be)	estar (to be)	ir (to go)	tener (to have)
(yo)	soy	estoy	voy	tengo
(tú)	eres	estás	vas	tienes
(él/ella/usted)	es	está	va	tiene
(nosotros/nosotras)	somos	estamos	vamos	tenemos
(vosotros/vosotras)	sois	estáis	vais	tenéis
(ellos/ellas/ustedes)	son	están	van	tienen

Some verbs are regular in the present tense apart from the 'I' form:

hago (*hacer* – to do/make) *salgo* (*salir* – to go out) *veo* (*ver* – to see/watch)
conozco (*conocer* – to know) *sé* (*saber* – to know) *pongo* (*poner* – to put)
doy (*dar* – to give) *traigo* (*traer* – to bring)

Ser and estar

Note that there are two verbs for 'to be' in Spanish: *ser* and *estar*. See p. 42 for full details on when to use them. To complete the activities in this section, bear in mind that you use:

- *ser* for descriptions/characteristics and times
- *estar* for location, feelings and states of being.

1 Connect each verb to its meaning in English and the correct infinitive.

- | | | |
|---------|------------|-------|
| 1 voy | a they are | ir |
| 2 están | b I go | |
| 3 tengo | c I am | estar |
| 4 está | d he is | |
| 5 van | e we are | ser |
| 6 tiene | f they go | |
| 7 somos | g I have | tener |
| 8 soy | h she has | |



2 Complete this grid with the correct verb forms. Can you see any patterns that might help you remember the different forms?

subject	tener	ir	estar	ser
Ana			está	
Ana and José	tienen			
Ana and I				somos
I		voy		

3 Complete these sentences with the correct form(s) of the correct irregular verb(s): ser, estar, ir or tener.

- 1 Mi hermano _____ gordito. En esta foto _____ un poco triste.
- 2 ¿Qué día _____ biología, Belén? Yo _____ química los lunes.
- 3 De vez en cuando mis amigos y yo _____ de paseo.
- 4 Jorge, ¿cómo _____ al insti por la mañana? Yo _____ en coche.
- 5 No **quiero** _____ al cine. ¿_____ cansado? ¡No, _____ perezoso!
- 6 ¿Qué hora _____? _____ las tres.

Think: is *triste* a description/characteristic or a way you might feel? What about *gordito*?

You can't have two present tense verbs in a row. What form of the verb do you need after *quiero*?

4 Match these sentences halves. Then translate the sentences into English.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 1 ¿De dónde | a hago mucho deporte. | _____ |
| 2 Tú | b está contento? | _____ |
| 3 Yo | c tiene hermanos. | _____ |
| 4 Es hijo único: no | d eres hablador. | _____ |
| 5 ¿Su primo | e son ustedes? | _____ |

5 Translate these sentences into Spanish.

- 1 The girls are tall and they have freckles.

- 2 My best friend goes to school by bus but I go on foot.

- 3 I'm Ana. I'm fifteen years old. I'm in Madrid.

Remember, you don't use *ser* or *estar* to give your age. Which verb do you use?

Ser or *estar* for location?

6 Translate this passage into Spanish.

My friend Greig is Scottish. He has a sister and two brothers. He goes to my school but his flat is far away. He's very cool! I **know** his brothers. I like them because they're really amusing but I know they are sometimes silly, too. Normally Greig and I **are** too tired to play with them. What are your friends like?

Remember there are two verbs for 'to know' - *saber* and *conocer*. Which do you need here?

Ser or *estar* for how you are feeling?

G Some verbs in the present tense have a spelling change in the stem (the stem is the part of the verb that you add the endings to). There are three main kinds of stem-changing verbs, those where the *e* in the infinitive changes to *ie*; those where the *o* changes to *ue*; and those where the *e* changes to *i*.

	e → ie pensar (to think)	o → ue poder (to be able to/can)	e → i pedir (to ask for)
(yo)	pienso	puedo	pido
(tú)	piensas	puedes	pides
(él/ella/usted)	piensa	puede	pide
(nosotros/nosotras)	pensamos	podemos	pedimos
(vosotros/vosotras)	pensáis	podéis	pedís
(ellos/ellas/ustedes)	piensan	pueden	piden

- Look at the six forms of the verb ***pensar***. The stem of a regular verb would be *pens-*, but you can see that for all forms of the verb except the 'we' and 'you plural' forms, the stem is *piens-*. This is the same for other common verbs of this type: *cerrar* (to close), *empezar* (to begin), *entender* (to understand), *querer* (to want), *preferir* (to prefer) and *perder* (to lose).
 - When there are two 'e's in the stem, it is the second one that changes (*empiezo, prefiero, entiendo*).

<i>Pienso que es muy simpática.</i>	I think she's very nice.
<i>Quieren ir al cine.</i>	They want to go to the cinema.
 - Now look at ***poder***: the *o* of the stem changes to *ue* in all but the 'we' and 'you plural' forms of the verb. Other common verbs that follow this pattern are: *doler* (to hurt), *soler* (to usually do something), *dormir* (to sleep), *encontrar* (to find), *costar* (to cost), *volver* (to return), *acostarse* (to go to bed), *almorzar* (to have lunch).

<i>Me duele el estómago.</i>	My stomach hurts.
<i>¿Cuánto cuestan las botas?</i>	How much do the boots cost?
 - The verb ***jugar*** (to play) is also stem-changing, but in this case it is a *u* in the stem that changes to *ue* (*juego, juegas*).

<i>Juegan mucho al tenis.</i>	They play tennis a lot.
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 - Verbs like ***pedir*** change the *e* of the stem to *i*, again in all but the 'we' and 'you plural' forms of the verb.

<i>Pido tapas en un restaurante español.</i>	I order tapas in a Spanish restaurant.
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The endings for stem-changing verbs are the same as for regular *-ar*, *-er*, and *-ir* verbs in the present tense.

1 Choose the correct form of the verb to complete each sentence.

- 1 Mi amigo *prefiero / preferimos / prefiere* estar al aire libre.
- 2 Y tú, ¿siempre *cierra / cierras / cerráis* la puerta?
- 3 Yo no *puedo / podemos / puede* ir al cine hoy.
- 4 Nosotros *juegas / jugamos / jugáis* al bádmiton después del insti.
- 5 A mí me *duelen / duelo / duele* la pierna.
- 6 Y vosotras, ¿cuándo *queréis / quieres / quieren* ver la tele?
- 7 Mi hermano y yo *sueles / solemos / suele* lavar el coche los sábados.
- 8 Las clases *empiezan / empezas / empieza* a las nueve.

★ Remember that in all tenses the 'we' form of the verb always ends *-n* and the 'they' form always ends *-n*.



2 Unjumble the stem-changing verbs in brackets to complete the sentences.

- 1 Yo _____ (*reopiefr*) hacer equitación.
- 2 De vacaciones mi hermana _____ (*esule*) ir a Marbella.
- 3 Los españoles _____ (*anujge*) mucho al baloncesto.
- 4 Nosotros no _____ (*dpsmooe*) salir esta noche.
- 5 Y tú, ¿ _____ (*useeqir*) poner la mesa?

3 Complete the following table with the missing forms of the stem-changing verbs.

	cerrar	jugar	preferir	volver
(yo)	cierro			vuelvo
(tú)		juegas	prefieres	
(él/ella/usted)	cierra		prefiere	
(nosotros/nosotras)		jugamos		volvemos
(vosotros/vosotras)	cerráis		preferís	volvéis
(ellos/ellas/ustedes)		juegan		

4 Complete these sentences with the correct form of one of the stem-changing verbs from page 40. The sentences must make sense.

- 1 Normalmente, cuando terminan las clases, yo _____ a casa a las cuatro de la tarde.
- 2 Mi hermano _____ salir con sus amigos, pero no _____ porque _____ muchos deberes.
- 3 Los billetes _____ más de cien euros. ¡Nosotros no _____ por qué!
- 4 Y tú, ¿cuántas horas _____ por noche?
- 5 ¡Ay! Me _____ la cabeza.

5 Translate these sentences into Spanish.

Not all forms of stem-changing verbs have a spelling change. See p. 40.

1 We play football at the weekend.

Remember, you can't say a el.

2 She wants to go to the centre tomorrow.

3 I prefer to watch films in the cinema.

6 Translate this passage into Spanish.

Use the verb *soler* with the infinitive.

My friends usually go on holiday to France but my family and I prefer Spain. My brother always wants to do water sports and there are lots of different activities. The bad thing is that I usually drink too much cola and I often get stomach ache. I can't drink water because it's horrible.

Remember that adjectives usually come after the noun they describe.

Use *lo* with an adjective.

