

Definite and Indefinite Articles in Spanish (+ Free PDF)

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Spanish Articles

The Spanish language has definite and indefinite articles.

Spanish Articles

definidos	singular	plural
masculino	el	los
femenino	la	las

indefinidos	singular	plural
masculino	un	unos
femenino	una	unas

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La and *las* are definite articles. Let's learn more about these words!

Definite Articles

In Spanish, there are four definite articles. They are *el*, *la*, *los*, *las*, and they are all equivalent to the English word "the".

El

Use *el* with masculine nouns that are singular.

- **el carro** (the car)
- **el mapa** (the map)

- **el avión** (the airplane)

La

Use *la* with feminine nouns that are singular.

- **la silla** (the chair)
- **la flor** (the flower)
- **la mesa** (the table)

Los

Use *los* with masculine nouns that are plural.

- **los carros** (the cars)
- **los mapas** (the maps)
- **los aviones** (the airplanes)

Las

Use *las* with feminine nouns that are plural.

- **las sillas** (the chairs)
- **las flores** (the flower)
- **las mesas** (the table)

Are there any exceptions to the rules above? Yes, there is one.

Special Rule

There is one special rule to use the definite article *el* in Spanish.

This rule applies to some nouns that start with the vowel “a”. The rule goes like this:

If a **feminine** noun starts with the vowel “**a**”, and that vowel is **stressed**, use the definite article ***el*** instead of ***la***.

Let me explain.

In Spanish, articles agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify.

Therefore, we use feminine nouns with feminine articles. We say, for example, “*la niña* (the girl).”

Some feminine nouns start with the vowel “a” in Spanish. Some examples are *agua* (water), *águila* (eagle), *aula* (classroom), and *ave* (bird).

The **strength of the voice** in those words **falls in the first “a”** of each word.

When a feminine word starts with a stressed vowel “a”, use *el* instead of *la*.

- **el agua** (the water)
- **el águila** (the eagle)
- **el aula** (the classroom)
- **el ave** (the bird)

Though all of the nouns above are feminine, the article that accompanies them is masculine.

Oh! And this rule applies to the Spanish indefinite article *un*, too. Let’s learn more about these articles!

- **un águila** (an eagle)
- **un ave** (a bird)

Indefinite Articles

In Spanish, there are four indefinite articles. They are *un*, *una*, *unos*, *unas*.

Un and *una* are equivalent to the English words “a” and “an”. *Unos* and *unas* are equivalent to the word “some”.

Un

Use *un* with masculine nouns that are singular.

- **un carro** (a car)
- **un mapa** (a map)
- **un avión** (an airplane)

Una

Use *una* with feminine nouns that are singular.

- **una silla** (a chair)
- **una flor** (a flower)
- **una mesa** (a table)

Unos

Use *unos* with masculine nouns that are plural.

- **unos carros** (some cars)
- **unos mapas** (some maps)
- **unos aviones** (some airplanes)

Unas

Use *unas* with feminine nouns that are plural.

- **unas sillas** (some chairs)
- **unas flores** (some flowers)
- **unas mesas** (some tables)

If in a conversation, you don't want to mention the noun you are talking about, *un* becomes *uno*. Let me give you an example.

- **¿Quieres un burrito?** (Do you want a burrito?)
- **Sí, quiero uno.** (Yes, I want one.)