

Infinitives are often used in Spanish much like they are in English—to complete or complement the main verb. Remember that the verb's tense does not affect the infinitive's meaning or form:



VERB	VERB + INFINITIVE
conseguir (to manage to)	Conseguimos hablar con el profesor. We managed to talk to the professor.

Other verbs that may be followed directly by an infinitive include:

creer	(to believe)	olvidar	(to forget)
decidir	(to decide)	parecer	(to seem to)
dejar	(to allow, to let)	pensar	(to intend)
desear	(to want)	permitir	(to allow)
escuchar	(to listen to)	poder	(to be able to)
esperar	(to hope, to wait)	preferir	(to prefer)
hacer	(to do, to make)	prohibir	(to prohibit)
intentar	(to try to)	prometer	(to promise)
lograr	(to achieve)	querer	(to want)
mandar	(to order to)	recordar	(to remember)
merecer	(to deserve)	saber	(to know)
necesitar	(to need, to have to)	soler	(to be accustomed to)
ofrecer	(to offer)	temer	(to fear)

An infinitive is also used after verbs of sense perception, such as **oír**, **ver**, **sentir**, **mirar**, and **escuchar** to indicate a completed event or action. Notice the difference when a gerund is used instead:

Le oí cantar.

I heard him sing.

Le oí cantando.

I heard him (while he was) singing.

¿Me vieron salir?

Did you see me leave?

¿Me vieron saliendo?

Did you see me (as I was) leaving?

Remember that an active infinitive is used in Spanish, whereas the English equivalent is passive. Verbs of this type include **dejar**, **mandar**, and **hacer**:

Les hicimos correr una milla.

We made them run a mile.

Mandé comprar los boletos.

I ordered tickets to be purchased.

Several verbs in Spanish require the prepositions **a**, **de**, or **en** before being joined with an infinitive. The following are used with **a**, which include verbs that express motion:

VERB	VERB + a + INFINITIVE	
bajar a (to descend)	Bajemos a comer.	<i>Let's go down(stairs) to eat.</i>
irse a (to leave)	Se fueron a jugar.	<i>They went out to play.</i>
subir a (to go up)	Ha subido a dormir.	<i>He has gone up(stairs) to sleep.</i>
aprender a (to learn to)	Aprenderé a bailar.	<i>I'll learn how to dance.</i>
comenzar a (to begin to)	Comenzó a llover.	<i>It began to rain.</i>
ayudar a (to help to)	Ayúdeme a hacerlo.	<i>Help me do it.</i>

Other such verbs are:

acercarse a	(to approach)	enseñar a	(to teach, to show how)
acostumbrarse a	(to be accustomed to)	invitar a	(to invite to)
aplicarse a	(to apply oneself to)	llegar a	(to get to, to achieve)
atreverse a	(to dare to)	llevar a	(to lead to)
cuidar a	(to take care of)	meterse a	(to start to)
decidirse a	(to decide to)	negarse a	(to refuse to)
dedicarse a	(to devote to)	pararse a	(to stop to)
disponerse a	(to get ready to)	ponerse a	(to begin to)
echarse a	(to begin to)	prepararse a	(to get ready to)
empezar a	(to begin to)	volver a	(to do again)

These verbs require a **de** before an infinitive:

VERB	VERB + de + INFINITIVE	
acabar de (to have just done something)	Acaba de sentarse.	<i>He has just sat down.</i>
dejar de (to stop)	Dejaron de gritar.	<i>They stopped yelling.</i>
tratar de (to try to)	No he tratado de entrar.	<i>I haven't tried to enter.</i>

Other such verbs include:

acordarse de	(to remember)	fastidiarse de	(to be weary of)
arrepentirse de	(to regret)	guardarse de	(to keep from)
asustarse de	(to be afraid of)	jactarse de	(to boast of)
avergonzarse de	(to be ashamed of)	quejarse de	(to complain of)
cansarse de	(to grow tired of)	olvidarse de	(to forget)
cuidar de	(to take care of)	presumir de	(to boast about)
encargarse de	(to take charge of)	terminar de	(to stop)

And these verbs take the preposition **en** before an infinitive:

VERB	VERB + en + INFINITIVE
consistir en (to consist of)	Su objetivo consiste en buscar el tesoro. <i>His objective consists in searching for the treasure.</i>
insistir en (to insist upon)	Insistió en pintar su carro de blanco. <i>He insisted in having his car painted white.</i>
quedar en (to agree to)	Han quedado en salir en la tarde. <i>They have agreed to leave in the afternoon.</i>

Other verbs using **en** include:

consentir en	(to agree to)	pensar en	(to think of)
dudar en	(to hesitate over)	persistir en	(to persist in)
empeñarse en	(to insist on)	tardar en	(to delay in)
fijarse en	(to concentrate on)	terminar en	(to end by)
insistir en	(to insist on)	vacilar en	(to hesitate over)

There are also a few verbs that require the preposition **con** before the infinitive. Here are some examples:

amenazar con (to threaten to)	Amenazó con irse. <i>She threatened to leave.</i>
contar con (to count on)	Cuento contigo. <i>I'm counting on you.</i>
soñar con (to dream about)	Sueña con los angelitos. <i>Dream about little angels.</i>

TIP

The infinitive often makes Spanish grammar easier. For example, when the subject of the main verb is the same as the one of the dependent verb, a dependent infinitive may be used:

Creo que ella tiene razón.	<i>I think she's right.</i>
Creo <u>tener</u> razón.	<i>I think <u>I</u> am right.</i>
Geraldo dijo que eran locutores.	<i>Geraldo said they were announcers.</i>
Geraldo dijo <u>ser</u> locutor.	<i>Geraldo said <u>he</u> was an announcer.</i>



LA PRÁCTICA 1

To complete the sentence, put one of the missing words—**a**, **de**, or **en**—on each line below. If one is not needed, leave the line blank:

1. Le ayudaron **a** caminar.
 2. Acaban _____ llegar.
 3. Pensamos _____ hacerlo más tarde.
 4. Quisiera _____ invitar a Susana.
 5. Me cansé _____ manejar solo.
 6. Llegará _____ ser un policía.
 7. Insistían _____ no comprar un nuevo estéreo.
 8. ¡Fíjate _____ tus estudios!
 9. Se olvidó _____ enviarle el regalo.
 10. Podemos terminar _____ pintar mañana.
-

The Infinitive After Prepositions

El infinitivo después de preposiciones

The infinitive is often used as an object of a preposition. In Spanish, the preposition goes first and the verb infinitive follows:

Lo hicimos para ayudarte.

We did it in order to help you.

Están cansados de mirar televisión.

They're tired of watching TV.

Comeremos después de jugar fútbol.

We'll eat after playing soccer.

La besé sin saber su nombre.

I kissed her without knowing her name.

Iría a pesar de no tener dinero.

He'd go in spite of having no cash.

Other prepositions used with infinitives are:

por medio de

by means of

al

upon

con tal de

provided that

por

by

en vez de, en lugar de

instead of

en caso de

in case of

hasta

until

antes de

before

In Spanish, the infinitive is also used after **que** in phrases such as **algo que**, **poco que**, **mucho que**, **tanto que**, and **nada que**:

Tenían mucho que hacer.

They had a lot to do.

No hay nada que limpiar.

There is nothing to clean.

However, if the sentence expresses a search, a request, or a need for something, the preposition **para** is generally used instead:

Buscaron algo para leer.

They looked for something to read.

Necesito tantas cosas para arreglarlo.

I need so many things to fix it.

When **estar** is followed by **para** and the infinitive, it means *to be about to*, but when **estar** is followed by **por** and the infinitive, it means *to be in favor of*:

Estoy para salir.

I'm about to leave.

Estoy por terminarlo.

I'm in favor of finishing it.

TIP

Note how in Spanish an infinitive is used after a preposition, whereas in English, a gerund (present participle) is used:

después de viajar

after traveling

antes de comer

before eating



LA PRÁCTICA 2

Put the words in order in each of the following sentences:

1. bonito/ para/ busco/ comprar/ algo Busco algo bonito para comprar.
2. el desayuno/ listos/ comer/ estábamos/ para _____
3. la noche/ sin/ trabajaba/ toda/ dormir _____
4. correré/ caminar/ al parque/ en lugar de _____
5. antes de/ te/ acostarme/ llamé _____
6. que/ nada/ no/ decirle/ hay _____
7. béisbol/ después de/ se bañaron/ jugar _____
8. música/ para/ tocar/ estoy _____
9. mucho/ tenía/ hacer/ ella/ que _____
10. carro/ tener/ iría/ no/ a pesar de _____

More Uses of the Infinitive

Otros usos del infinitivo

The infinitive is frequently used after impersonal expressions:

Es importante despertar temprano.	<i>It's important to get up early.</i>
Es necesario apagar las luces.	<i>It's necessary to turn out the lights.</i>
Es difícil cortar la carne.	<i>It's difficult to cut meat.</i>

Notice how the object naturally follows the transitive verb infinitive in this construction:

Es difícil cortar la carne.	<i>It's difficult to cut meat.</i>
INFINITIVE OBJECT	

However, if the object (or clause) does not follow the infinitive of a transitive verb, the construction **adjective + de + infinitive** is used:

La carne es difícil de cortar.	<i>Meat is difficult to cut.</i>
OBJECT ADJ. + DE + INFINITIVE	

Infinitives are also used after an interrogative adverb or “question word” in a sentence:

¿Sabía qué hacer?	<i>Did she know what to do?</i>
¿Entienden cómo decirlo?	<i>Do they understand how to say it?</i>
¿Encontraste dónde mandarlas?	<i>Did you find out where to send them?</i>

The words **debe** (should) and **debe de** (must) have different meanings when they precede the infinitive:

Ella debe llegar a las nueve.	<i>She should arrive at nine.</i>
Ella debe de estar enferma.	<i>She must be sick.</i>

The phrases **tener que** (to have to) and **hay que** (one must) also precede the infinitive and have very practical uses:

Ella tenía que manejar rápido.	<i>She had to drive fast.</i>
Hay que evitar problemas monetarios.	<i>One must avoid financial problems.</i>

Sometimes infinitives are used in elliptical expressions or casual commands:

¡Ella relajarse?	<i>Her, relax?</i>
¡A estudiar!	<i>Off to study!</i>

TIP

The “perfect” infinitive is formed with the word **haber** + past participle, and it expresses an action that took place prior to the action of the main verb:
Se fueron sin haber dicho nada.

They left without having said anything.



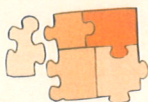
LA PRÁCTICA 3

Fill in the appropriate preposition to complete each sentence:

1. (*in order to*) Comemos _____ vivir. para
2. (*after*) Caminaré _____ almorzar. _____
3. (*instead of*) Se acostó _____ salir. _____
4. (*of*) Estoy cansado _____ leer. _____
5. (*without*) Entramos _____ pagar. _____
6. (*before*) Se bañaron _____ comer. _____
7. (*upon*) Se fue _____ oír las voces. _____
8. (*in spite of*) Me llama _____ vivir en Cuba. _____
9. (*provided that*) Iremos _____ ver al alcalde. _____
10. (*until*) Estaré con él _____ llegar a casa. _____

Use infinitives as you translate these sentences into Spanish:

11. It's possible to swim in the lake. Es posible nadar en el lago.
12. The room is easy to paint. _____
13. We have to write these words. _____
14. You (form. sing.) must play tennis. _____
15. Tell (inf.) me what to do. _____
16. They have many things to buy. _____
17. Off to work! _____
18. Does she know how to pronounce it? _____
19. It's important to bring the books. _____
20. I was looking for something to eat. _____



EL REPASO

Answer these questions as you review this section on Spanish verbs. Combine infinitives with prepositions in all your answers:

1. ¿Qué hace Ud. para mejorar su pronunciación en español?
 2. ¿Habló Ud. español ayer?
 3. ¿Escuchaba Ud. música latina con sus amigos?
 4. ¿Va a tomar Ud. una clase de español el próximo año?
 5. ¿Por cuánto tiempo ha estudiado Ud. el español?
 6. ¿Había Ud. comprado otro libro de gramática antes de comprar éste?
 7. ¿Está practicando Ud. el español en este momento?
 8. ¿Anoche estaba leyendo un libro en español?
 9. ¿Viajaría Ud. a España si tuviera la oportunidad?
 10. ¿Por qué quiere Ud. aprender más español?
-

Culture Capsule 2

Religious Holidays in Latin America

Las celebraciones religiosas en Latinoamérica

La conquista española trajo consigo la influencia católica a Latinoamérica. Las fiestas religiosas más importantes son la Navidad, la Pascua de Reyes, la Cuaresma, y la Pascua de Resurrección. La celebración de la Navidad es muy similar a la estadounidense, con la gente saliendo de compras, decorando sus hogares con árboles navideños, ornamentos, y luces. Sin embargo, en Latinoamérica, el festejo de la Navidad es el día 24 en la noche (Nochebuena). En esta ocasión, las familias se juntan para conmemorar el nacimiento del niño Jesús o la encarnación de Dios, y compartir una cena suculenta, brindis y regalos. En muchos países latinoamericanos también se asiste a una misa navideña a las 12 de la noche o Misa de Gallo. La mañana comienza con un desayuno suntuoso de chocolate caliente y panetón o rosca navideña (panes dulces con frutas secas, pasas, y glaseado de azúcar). Las decoraciones de Navidad se mantienen generalmente hasta el día 6 de enero, cuando se celebra la llegada de los Reyes Magos.

La fiesta de los Reyes Magos es conocida como la Pascua de Reyes. En esta oportunidad, muchas familias y amistades se juntan en la noche del 5 de enero para celebrar el comienzo de la Epifanía o manifestación de Jesús como Dios. En algunos países latinoamericanos, los niños esperan recibir sus regalos en esta fecha. Las decoraciones típicas de esta época en muchas iglesias son de color verde, el cual simboliza crecimiento y vida. Al mismo tiempo, otros lugares en Latinoamérica celebran este día con festivales, donde se preparan y venden muchas comidas autóctonas, bajo el son de música típica y la representación de bailes folclóricos, con vestimentas tradicionales y ornamentadas.

Otra celebración importante es la Cuaresma, la cual comienza el primero de marzo y termina el día anterior a la Pascua de Resurrección. La Cuaresma son cuarenta días de reflexión y arrepentimiento en preparación a la Semana Santa. En la mayoría de las iglesias, la decoración es de color morado o azul, colores que simbolizan adoración y veneración divina.

Finalmente, otra festividad importante es la Pascua de Resurrección, donde se celebra la resurrección de Jesús tres días después de la Pascua Judía. En la mayoría de las iglesias los colores de la celebración son blanco y dorado. Una costumbre tradicional en el día de Pascua de Resurrección es la asistencia a un misa en la mañana del domingo para luego disfrutar con los familiares un almuerzo o cena, indicando el término del ayuno.

PREGUNTAS

- ¿Qué sirven para el desayuno en Navidad?
- ¿Qué es la Cuaresma?
- ¿En qué fecha se celebra la Nochebuena?
- ¿Cómo celebran la fiesta de los Reyes Magos?
- ¿Cuál es una costumbre tradicional en el día de la Pascua de Resurrección?

PART III:
*Nouns, Modifiers, and
Other Parts of Speech*

13

Nouns and Articles

¿Cuánto sabe usted?

How Much Do You Know Already?



1. What is the difference in meaning between **un agua** and **el agua**?
2. Change the sentence **El lápiz es verde** to the plural.
3. What is the plural for **el paraguas**?
4. Is **dentista** a masculine or feminine noun?
5. How do you say *It's the best* in Spanish?

The Nouns

Gender

El género

Nouns in Spanish are either **MASCULINE (el)** or **FEMININE (la)** in gender. The general rule is that most masculine nouns end in **-o** and most feminine nouns end in **-a**:

MASCULINE	FEMININE
el libro	la mesa
el carro	la tarjeta
el tiempo	la puerta
el perro	la libra
el juego	la computadora
el estómago	la tinta
el estudio	la cara
el punto	la mancha
el establo	la letra

Obviously, in terms of one's gender, masculine nouns refer to males, while feminine nouns refer to females:

MASCULINE	FEMININE
el niño	la niña
el muchacho	la muchacha
el señor	la señora
el profesor	la profesora
el hombre	la mujer
el hermano	la hermana
el rey	la reina

There are, however, some nouns that end in **-o** that are feminine, and some nouns that end in **-a** that are masculine. They need to be memorized:

MASCULINE	FEMININE
el planeta	la foto
el día	la mano
el tranvía	la radio

Notice the final **-ma** pattern with these masculine nouns:

MASCULINE	FEMININE
el clima	el emblema
el problema	el dilema
el sistema	el diploma
el programa	el enigma
el idioma	el poema
el diagrama	el drama

Nouns that end in any letter besides **-o** or **-a** in Spanish generally need to be learned separately:

MASCULINE	FEMININE
el desfile	la luz
el pie	la carne
el barril	la cárcel
el cine	la flor
el baile	la gente
el cajón	la llave
el jardín	la miel
el amor	la clase
el pan	la red
el arroz	la torre
el papel	la piel
el mes	la voz
el puente	la fuente
el ataúd	la señal

By looking at the last few letters of a noun, one can often determine its gender. For example, nouns ending in **-dad**, **-tad**, **-tud**, **-umbre**, **-ión**, **-cia**, **-sis**, **-itis**, **-nza**, **-ie**, **-ez**, or **-eza** are usually feminine:

la verdad
la libertad
la virtud
la certidumbre
la unión
la importancia

la parálisis
la amigdalitis
la resperanza
la serie
la madurez
la tristeza

Similarly, nouns ending in **-ambre**, **-or**, **-aje**, **-án**, or **a vowel that is stressed** are usually masculine:

el hambre
el tractor
el garaje
el desván
el champú

TIP

La foto (photograph) and **la moto** (motorcycle) are actually abbreviated forms of the words **la fotografía** and **la motocicleta**.



LA PRÁCTICA 1

Indicate the gender of these nouns correctly by inserting **el** or **la**:

1. el disfraz
2. _____ mapa
3. _____ edad
4. _____ cometa
5. _____ lodo
6. _____ pasaporte
7. _____ especie
8. _____ pared
9. _____ tema
10. _____ rubí
11. _____ faringitis
12. _____ pez

13. _____ valor
14. _____ cumbre
15. _____ jarabe



LA PRÁCTICA 2

Each one of these is a common **MASCULINE** noun ending in the letter **a**; spell it correctly:

1. maoidi **idioma** _____
2. mlica _____
3. mntfsaaa _____
4. bolpamre _____
5. groaamrp _____
6. pmaa _____
7. ardam _____
8. pteoa _____
9. pnaaelt _____
10. smtasie _____
11. mleaid _____
12. dirmgaaa _____

More About Nouns and Gender

Otros aspectos de los sustantivos y sus géneros

Nouns referring to people that end in **-or**, **-és**, **-ón**, and **-ín** are generally masculine, and simply require the addition of an **-a** to become feminine. Notice there is no accent in the feminine form:

el director	la directora
el japonés	la japonesa
el campeón	la campeona
el bailarín	la bailarina

Some nouns that refer to people change their article but keep only one form:

el/la dentista	el/la pianista
el/la especialista	el/la estudiante
el/la cantante	el/la guía
el/la demócrata	el/la líder
el/la profesional	el/la modelo
el/la atleta	el/la testigo
el/la mártir	el/la joven
el/la intérprete	el/la espía

TIP

The letters of the alphabet are feminine: **la a, la hache, la i.**

However, a few nouns apply to both females and males:

la persona	el águila
el fantasma	el bebé
el amor	el personaje
el pájaro	la rata
el búho	la víctima

Remember, too, that many words change meaning with a change in gender:

el papa	pope	la papa	potato
el policía	police officer	la policía	police department
el capital	capital (money)	la capital	capital city
el mañana	tomorrow	la mañana	morning
el cura	priest	la cura	cure
el frente	front	la frente	forehead
el radio	radius	la radio	radio programming
el orden	orderliness	la orden	command

Still other nouns are altered slightly when they change from the masculine to the feminine form.

MASCULINE	FEMININE	MASCULINE	FEMININE
el poeta	la poetisa	el tigre	la tigresa
el rey	la reina	el león	la leona
el héroe	la heroína	el caballo	la yegua
el duque	la duquesa	el gallo	la gallina
el conde	la condesa	el toro	la vaca

The names for most trees are masculine, but their fruit is generally feminine:

MASCULINE TREE	FEMININE FRUIT
el palto	la palta
el olivo	la oliva
el peral	la pera
el naranjo	la naranja
el cerezo	la cereza
el manzano	la manzana
el almendro	la almendra

Masculine nouns include the names for the days of the week and the months of the year, colors and numbers, languages and foreign words, and the names for rivers, oceans, and seas:

Trabajo el lunes y él trabaja el martes.

I work on Monday and he works on Tuesday.

Enero es el mes más frío. *January is the coldest month.*

(Months are not preceded by articles, but are masculine in construction.)

El nuevo vestido no va ni con el rojo ni con el verde.

The new dress goes neither with the red nor the green one.

El tres y el siete siempre me traen mucha suerte.

Three and seven always bring me a lot of luck.

El griego y el hebreo son idiomas difíciles de aprender.

Greek and Hebrew are difficult languages to learn.

Estudiaba el marketing, pero trabajo en el delivery.

I studied marketing, but I work in delivery.

El océano Atlántico es más frío que el Pacífico.

The Atlantic Ocean is colder than the Pacific.

El río Orinoco te llevará hasta el Caribe.

The Orinoco River will take you to the Caribbean.

Compound words that are made up of a verb and a noun are also masculine:

El sacacorchos está en el lavaplatos. *(The bottle opener is in the dishwasher.)*

VERB-NOUN

VERB-NOUN

Verb infinitives used as nouns are masculine as well:

El beber alcohol es prohibido. *Drinking alcohol is prohibited.*

A noun that begins with a stressed **a** or **ha** is considered feminine, even though it takes the masculine article in the singular and the feminine article in the plural:

El agua está fría. *The water is cold.*

Las aguas de Hawaïi son lindas. *The Hawaiian seas are lovely.*

The word **arte** is masculine in the singular and feminine in the plural:

El arte en el pasillo es magnífico. *The art in the hallway is magnificent.*

Quisiera estudiar las artes. *I would like to study the arts.*



LA PRÁCTICA 3

Identify the correct gender of each noun below. Write **el/la** if both genders apply or leave blank if no article is used:

1. **el** paraguas
2. _____ mayo
3. _____ turista
4. _____ persona
5. _____ Mississippi
6. _____ agente
7. _____ águila
8. _____ fantasma
9. _____ turista
10. _____ jazz

Translate the following nouns into Spanish. Some may require both **el** and **la**:

11. French el francés, la francesa
 12. apple _____
 13. victim _____
 14. Thursday _____
 15. potato _____
 16. forehead _____
 17. artist _____
 18. eighteen _____
 19. olive tree _____
 20. champion _____
-

Number

El número

“Number” refers to a noun being either SINGULAR or PLURAL. As in English, Spanish nouns form the plural by adding **s** or **es**. Those ending in a vowel add **s**; those ending in **y** or a consonant add **es**:

Singular	Plural
el hombre	los hombres
la cama	las camas
el cliente	los clientes
la lágrima	las lágrimas
la blusa	las blusas
el reloj	los relojes
la mujer	las mujeres
la ley	las leyes
el papel	los papeles
el azúcar	los azúcares

Notice how nouns with an accent mark on the next to the last syllable (**azúcar**) in the singular do not lose the accent in the plural form (**azúcares**). However, nouns with a final stressed syllable generally have no accent mark in the plural:

el autobús	los autobuses
el francés	los franceses
el cartón	los cartones

Other spelling changes include those nouns ending in **-z**, which becomes **-ces** in the plural:

Compré el lápiz verde una vez.
Compré los lápices rojos dos veces.

I bought the green pencil once.
I bought the red pencils twice.

And nouns ending in **-í** or **-ú** add **-es** instead of **-s** in the plural:

Hay un dibujo de un colibrí en el menú.
There's a drawing of a hummingbird on the menu.

Hay un dibujo de los colibríes en los menús.
There's a drawing of hummingbirds on the menus.

Some nouns remain the same in both the singular and the plural. These consist of more than one syllable and end in an unstressed vowel + **s**:

el análisis	los análisis
el paraguas	los paraguas
el miércoles	los miércoles
la tesis	las tesis
el lunes	los lunes

Other nouns are either always or almost always used in the plural form:

las tenazas	los alrededores
los alicates	los gemelos
las cosquillas	los víveres
los modales	los anteojos
las tijeras	

TIP

Don't forget that the masculine noun in the plural often refers to males and females combined:

Vendrán todos mis tíos.
All my aunts and uncles will come.

Los maestros llegaron.
The (male and female) teachers arrived.

¿Quiénes son tus hermanos?
Who are your brothers and sisters?

Some nouns shift their stress to another syllable in the plural form (e.g., **régimen** → **regímenes**), while nouns such as **examen** and **origen** actually add an accent mark (e.g., **exámenes**, **orígenes**).

Also remember there is no plural form for a proper name referring to a family (for example, **Los García van a tener una fiesta**); however, a plural form is used when a group of people happen to have the same name (**Hay muchos Garcías en Los Angeles**).

Spanish often uses the singular when the plural is used in English:

Recibieron Uds. su cheque.
Nos quitamos el abrigo.
Se mojaron la cabeza.

You all got paychecks.
We took off our coats.
They got their heads wet.



And nouns ending in -r or -s instead of -s in the plural

- Change these isolated words to their plural form.
1. rey los reyes
 2. inglés los ingleses
 3. reloj los relojes
 4. ganador los ganadores
 5. trombón los trombones
 6. jabalí los jabalís
 7. sábado los sábados
 8. cruz las cruces
 9. abrelatas los abrelatas
 10. té los tés

al form and **NO** if it does not:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 11. tráfico | NO |
| 12. crisis | |
| 13. algo | |
| 14. deber | |
| 15. razón | |
| 16. hambre | |
| 17. alma | |
| 18. salud | |
| 19. pez | |
| 20. oeste | |

The Articles

The Definite Article

El artículo definido

The definite articles in Spanish correspond to the article *the* in English. The four Spanish definite articles must agree with their nouns in both gender and number.



	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	el	la
Plural	los	las

el papel y la pluma
los papeles y las plumas

the paper and the pen
the papers and the pens

Definite articles are used more frequently in Spanish than they are in English. Not only do they appear before specific persons, places, and things, but they are also used with nouns in a general or generic sense:

El cartero no vino.

The mail carrier didn't come.

La leche tiene muchas vitaminas.

Milk has a lot of vitamins.

Definite articles can be used before abstract nouns as well:

La vida es difícil.

Life is tough.

¿Dónde está la justicia?

Where is justice?

The definite article is not used, however, before those nouns that refer to an unspecified amount or only part of a complete set:

Jaime vendía zanahorias.

Jaime used to sell carrots.

Tu amiga necesita amor y cariño.

Your friend needs love and care.

Other Common Uses of the Definite Article

- Before titles of address followed by a proper name, except when the person is being spoken to directly:

La doctora Smith es la cirujana. *Dr. Smith is the surgeon.*
¿Cuándo se casó el Sr. Prado? *When did Mr. Prado get married?*
¿Profesor Lara, qué hora es? *Professor Lara, what time is it?*

The definite article is dropped, however, before titles such as **don**, **doña**, **Santo**, **San**, and **Santa**:

¿Has leído las palabras de San Pedro?
Have you read the words of St. Peter?

- With articles of clothing and parts of the body. Notice how English uses possessive pronouns instead:

Me voy a quitar la camisa. *I'm going to take off my shirt.*
Le duelen los brazos. *Her arms hurt.*

- With the time of day, the days of the week, and the seasons of the year.

Tengo cita a las tres. *I have an appointment at three.*
Trabajaban los viernes. *They used to work on Fridays.*
El otoño es mi estación favorita. *Fall is my favorite season.*

However, the definite article may be eliminated after the word **en** when it is implied that something happens every season:

Juego tenis en verano. *I play tennis in the summer.*

Also remember that the definite article is not used with the days of the week when they follow the verb **ser**:

Hoy es lunes y ayer fue domingo.
Today is Monday and yesterday was Sunday.

- With the names of mountains, rivers, and oceans:

Hemos viajado por los Andes.
We have traveled through the Andes.

El río Panamá queda en Centroamérica.
The Panama River is located in Central America.

Me compraría una casa en la costa del Pacífico.
I would buy a house on the Pacific Coast.

- With the names of some countries; however, all cities, countries, and continents require the definite article when they are modified:

El Brasil tiene música linda y alegre.

Brazil has beautiful music.

Estudiaron la historia de la Grecia antigua.

They studied the history of ancient Greece.

Los inmigrantes vendrán del África central.

The immigrants will come from central Africa.

Those countries that are generally preceded by a definite article include **la Argentina, el Ecuador, el Perú, el Brasil, el Panamá, el Paraguay, el Uruguay, la República Dominicana, los Estados Unidos, el Canadá, la India, el Japón, and la Suiza.**

- Before the names of languages, except when the name follows the word **en** or the verb **hablar**:

El inglés es difícil de aprender.

English is difficult to learn.

Me encanta conversar en francés.

I love to converse in French.

Todos hablaban italiano.

Everyone was speaking Italian.

- Before infinitives or adjectives that are used as nouns:

El correr es buen ejercicio.

Running is good exercise.

Quiere comprar el más chico.

He wants to buy the smallest one.

Some phrases in English require the definite article in Spanish when translated:

Let's go home.

Vamos a la casa.

It's two dollars per pound.

Cuesta dos dólares la libra.

What was on TV?

¿Que salió en la televisión?

Conversely, some phrases that require the definite article in English do not include it in the Spanish translation:

Se mudaron a Buenos Aires, capital de la Argentina.

*They moved to Buenos Aires, **the** capital of Argentina.*

Paramos en la gasolinera en camino.

*We stopped at the gas station on **the** way.*

¿Qué saben Uds. de Luis XIV?

*What do you know about Louis **the** Fourteenth?*

However, the definite article is almost never used after the verb **haber**. Nor is it used in compound nouns that are formed by the word **de**:

Habían moscas en la cocina.

There were flies in the kitchen.

Nora tiene dolor de estómago.

Nora has a stomachache.

TIP

Remember that there are only two contractions in Spanish, and they both include the definite article **el**:

de + el = del

Son plantas **del** desierto.

They are plants of/from the desert.

a + el = al

Fuimos **al** parque ayer.

We went to the park yesterday.

The only exception is when the article is part of a proper name:

¡Vamos a El Paso! *Let's go to El Paso!*



LA PRÁCTICA 5

Translate these sentences into Spanish:

1. The office opens at seven o'clock.

La oficina abre a las siete.

2. Love is everywhere.

3. It costs a dollar a foot.

4. They have not worked at night.

5. The man and woman are here.

6. Put on your sweater, my love.

7. My friend will come on Thursday.

8. We went to church.

9. Lima is in Peru.

10. Mrs. Toledo has arrived.

Fill in the blank with a definite article only if the sentence needs one:

11. Vivían en **la** España romántica.

12. He hablado con ____ Sr. Hugo.

13. No puede decirlo en ____ inglés.

14. Tomaban ____ cerveza toda la noche.

15. ____ primavera es la estación más hermosa.

16. Venga a Quito, ____ capital del Ecuador.

17. Mañana no es ____ martes.
18. Lo escuchamos en ____ radio.
19. ____ Uruguay está en América del Sur.
20. Cruzaría ____ océano Atlántico.
21. Hay ____ niños en el jardín.
22. ____ choferes manejan los camiones.
23. Hola, ____ Dra. Roberts.
24. ____ montar caballo es divertido.
25. Hablo ____ alemán.

The Indefinite Article

El artículo indefinido

Like the definite articles, the indefinite articles must change so that they agree with their nouns in both gender and number. The indefinite articles **un** and **una** are similar to the articles *a* or *an* in English, while **unos** and **unas** mean *some* or *a few*:

	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	un	una
Plural	unos	unas

un papel y **una** pluma

a paper and a pen

unos papeles y **unas** plumas

some papers and a few pens

The singular masculine form **un** is used before all feminine nouns that begin with a stressed **a** or **ha**. The plural form of the article, however, is in the feminine:

Vimos un águila.

We saw an eagle.

Vimos unas águilas.

We saw a couple of eagles.

Tenían un hacha.

They had a hatchet.

Tenían unas hachas.

They had some hatchets.

Other nouns following these rules are **agua** (water), **ancla** (anchor), **alga** (algae), **alma** (soul), **arca** (ark), **área** (area), **arma** (weapon), **habla** (speech), **hada** (fairy), **harpa** (harp), **hambre** (hunger), **haba** (bean).

Indefinite articles are primarily used before count nouns in a general sense, including those nouns in a series:

Una persona honesta devolvió el dinero.

An honest person returned the money.

**Encontré un cuaderno, una pluma,
y un lápiz.**

I found a notebook, a pen, and a pencil.

However, the indefinite article is usually dropped after the verbs **tener**, **llevar**, **buscar**, **comprar**, **sacar**, and **usar**:

¿Compraste carne?

Did you buy meat?

Han tenido problemas.

They've had problems.

Voy a llevar impermeable.

I'm going to wear a raincoat.

The indefinite article is also omitted before a predicate noun that indicates nationality, profession, religion, gender, rank, or marital status. These sentences often include the verb **ser**:

Es pintor.

He's a painter.

Son griegos.

They're Greek.

Soy cristiana.

I'm a Christian.

However, when the predicate noun is modified, the indefinite article is used:

Él es un pintor de casas.

He's a house painter.

Son unos griegos que hablan francés.

They're Greeks who speak French.

Yo soy una cristiana evangélica.

I'm an evangelical Christian.

The definite article is also omitted in many common expressions and exclamations. These include phrases with **¡Qué...!**, **mil**, **ciento**, **medio**, **otro**, **sin**, **tal**, and **cierto**:

¡Qué vista tan bonita!

What a pretty view!

Media hora

A half hour

¡Mil gracias!

Many (a thousand) thanks!

Cierto hombre

A certain man

¡Sin duda!

Without a doubt!

Otro día

Another day

The use or omission of an article can change the meaning of a sentence. Notice how these three sentences differ in translation:

Ella no quiere agua.

She doesn't want (any) water.

Ella no quiere el agua.

She doesn't want the water (that we know about).

Ella no quiere un agua.

She doesn't want a (serving of) water.

TIP

Un and **una** are also the cardinal number *one* in Spanish:

Sólo tenían una pelota.

They only had one ball.

Quisiera dos naranjas

y un plátano.

I'd like two oranges and

one banana.



LA PRÁCTICA 6

Fill in each line with the appropriate indefinite article.

1. un alma
2. agua
3. arpas
4. medio kilo
5. hacha
6. cierta persona
7. irlandés
8. áreas
9. policía
10. hambre

Fill in the lines with either the definite or indefinite article if it is required. Otherwise, leave it blank:

11. ¿Dónde está el arma que compraste?
 12. Creo que tiene problemas personales.
 13. Trajo agua y leche?
 14. Soy japonés.
 15. ¡Qué lástima!
 16. No me lavé manos.
 17. Me costó cien dólares.
 18. Música clásica me interesa mucho.
 19. Me dijo que clima había cambiado.
 20. ¿Sabes tocar arpa?
-

The Neuter Article *lo*

El artículo neutro lo

Lo is considered the neuter article in Spanish because it refers to neither the feminine nor the masculine. It is primarily used before the masculine singular form of an adjective that is being used as a noun simply to express a specific quality or abstract idea:

Lo bueno es que ellos hablan español. Lo malo es que no van a venir.

The good thing is they speak Spanish. The bad news is they're not coming.

Siempre terminan con lo más importante.

They always finish with the most important (thing).

Lo is also used before past participles:

Lo dicho fue interesante.

What has been said was interesting.

No entiendo lo escrito.

I don't understand what has been written.

The construction **lo + adjective** or **adverb + que** expresses *how* in English. Notice that the gender or number of the adjective does not matter:

Sabemos lo inteligentes que son.

We know how smart they are.

¿Vieron lo caro que fue?

Did you see how expensive it was?

Él me decía lo bien que hacías ese trabajo.

He told me how well you were doing that job.

When **lo** precedes **de** or **del**, it implies *the matter or business concerning*:

No hemos estudiado lo del incidente de Watergate.

We haven't studied the matter concerning Watergate.

El maestro explicará lo del examen final.

The teacher will explain the business about the final exam.

The article **lo** is also part of several common expressions in Spanish:

Lo contrario

The opposite

Lo más posible

As much as possible

Lo único

The only one

Lo mismo

The same thing

Lo mejor

The best



LA PRÁCTICA 7

Translate these phrases into Spanish using the neuter article **lo**:

1. It's the good, the bad, and the ugly. **Es lo bueno, lo malo, y lo feo.**
2. I heard the matter concerning the doctor. _____
3. She ran as little as possible. _____
4. We saw how tall he is. _____
5. They would do the same. _____
6. What's been done is the most important. _____
7. Have they read what is written? _____
8. I know how necessary it is. _____
9. We deserve the best. _____
10. It surprises me how well he sings. _____

Possession with *de* *La posesión con de*

Possession in Spanish is expressed by **de** or by the construction **de + article + possessor**. Obviously, there is no **'s** as there is in English:

Tenemos el carro de Ramón.
No es la casa de Adela.

We have Ramón's car.
It isn't Adela's house.

Abra la puerta de la oficina.
DE + ARTICLE
+ POSSESSOR

Open the office door.

Necesito los nombres de las chicas.
DE + ARTICLE
+ POSSESSOR

I need the girls' names.

TIP

¿De quién es el suéter?

¿De quién son estos

formularios?

Whose forms are these?

They looked for the hospital entrance.

¿Dónde estará la esposa del Dr. Lara?

Where in the world is Dr. Lara's wife?



Show possession between the following sets of words:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. El gato/ mi hermana | el gato de mi hermana |
| 2. Las páginas/ el libro | |
| 3. El dueño/ estos zapatos | |
| 4. Los libros/ Dra. Ortega | |
| 5. El restaurante/ el hotel | |
| 6. Las herramientas/ los obreros | |
| 7. Las recetas/ Silvia | |
| 8. El negocio/ tu familia | |
| 9. Las sonrisas/ Carla y Lidia | |
| 10. El trono/ rey David | |

14

The Adjectives

¿Cuánto sabe usted?

How Much Do You Know Already?



1. What does **Bailo tanto como tú** mean?
2. Is it **No necesito tanto dinero**, or **No necesito dinero tanto**? Why?
3. What does **suavísimo** mean in English?
4. What are people from Berlin called in Spanish?
5. What do you call people from Costa Rica in Spanish?

Adjective Agreements

Concordancias del adjetivo

An adjective is a word that limits or describes a noun or pronoun. An adjective in Spanish must agree with the noun it modifies in gender and in number. Adjectives ending in **o** in the masculine change to **a** to form the feminine, and the plural is formed by adding an **s**:

Delicious		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	delicioso	deliciosa
Plural	deliciosos	deliciosas

Adjectives ending in either a **consonant**, **-e**, or **-ista** have only one singular and one plural form:

Easy	
	MASCULINE/FEMININE
Singular	fácil
Plural	fáciles

Big	
MASCULINE/FEMININE	
Singular	grande
Plural	grandes

Socialist	
MASCULINE/FEMININE	
Singular	socialista
Plural	socialistas

Adjectives ending in the suffixes **-án**, **-ón** or **-dor** add an **-a** to form the feminine. The plurals are formed by adding **-es** to the masculine and **-s** to the feminine. Notice how the accent mark is dropped when an ending is added:

Lazy		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	holgazán	holgazana
Plural	holgazanes	holgazanas

Whining		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	llorón	llorona
Plural	llorones	lloronas

Hard-working		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	trabajador	trabajadora
Plural	trabajadores	trabajadoras

Most adjectives of nationality or place of origin have four basic forms—two masculine (**-o**, **-os**) and two feminine (**-a**, **-as**):

Italian		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	italiano	italiana
Plural	italianos	italianas

South American		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	sudamericano	suadmericana
Plural	sudamericanos	sudamericanas

Those nationalities ending in a consonant follow the same rules as other adjectives—the **a** is added to form the feminine, **es** is added to form the masculine plural, and the accent mark is dropped when an ending is added:

French		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	francés	francesa
Plural	franceses	francesas

Spanish		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	español	española
Plural	españoles	españolas

However, a few nationalities and places of origin are unique and have only one singular and one plural form. These generally have the suffixes **-ita**, **-ense**, **-a**, **-í**, and **-ú**:

Vietnamese	
MASCULINE/FEMININE	
Singular	vietnamita
Plural	vietnamitas

Canadian	
MASCULINE/FEMININE	
Singular	canadiense
Plural	canadienses

Iraqi	
MASCULINE/FEMININE	
Singular	iraquí
Plural	iraquíes

• Countries and nationalities in Spanish

Alemania — alemán	Irán — Iraní
Arabia Saudita — saudí	Irlanda — irlandés
la Argentina — argentino	Israel — israelí
Australia — australiano	Italia — italiano
Austria — austriaco, austríaco	el Japón — japonés
el Brasil — brasileño	Kuwait — kuwaití
Bélgica — belga	Líbano — libanés
Bolivia — boliviano	Marruecos — marroquí
el Canadá — canadiense	México, Méjico — mexicano, mejicano
Chile — chileno	Noruega — noruego
China — chino	Nueva Zelanda — neozelandés
Colombia — colombiano	Nicaragua — nicaragüense
Corea del Norte — norcoreano	los Países Bajos — holandés
Corea del Sur — sudcoreano	Palestina — palestino
Costa Rica — costarricense, costarricense	el Panamá — panameño
Cuba — cubano	el Paraguay — paraguayo
Dinamarca — danés	el Perú — peruano
el Ecuador — ecuatoriano	Polonia — polaco
Egipto — egipcio	Portugal — portugués
El Salvador — salvadoreño	Puerto Rico — puertorriqueño
Escocia — escocés	la República Dominicana — dominicano
España — español	Rusia — ruso
los Estados Unidos — estadounidense, norteamericano	Siria — sirio
Finlandia — finlandés	Sudáfrica — sudafricano
las Filipinas — filipino	Sudán — sudanés
Francia — francés	Suecia — sueco
Gales — galés	la Suiza — suizo
Gran Bretaña — británico	Tailandia — tailandés
Grecia — griego	Taiwan — taiwanés
Guatemala — guatemalteco	Túnez — tunecino
Haití — haitiano	Turquía — turco
Honduras — hondureño	el Uruguay — uruguayo
Hungría — húngaro	Venezuela — venezolano
la India — indio	Vietnám — vietnamita
Inglaterra — inglés	Yemen — yemení
Irak, Iraq — irakí, iraquí	

Remember that adjectives of nationality (**los gentilicios**) are not capitalized in Spanish:

- Continents

Africa — africano
la Antártida — antártico
el Ártico — ártico
Asia — asiático
Centroamérica — centroamericano
Europa — europeo

- Islands

las Antillas — antillano
las Bahamas — bahamiano
las Canarias — canario
Córscica — corsicano
Creta — cretense
Mallorca — mallorquín
Malta — maltés

- Cities

Berlín — berlinense
Bogotá — bogotano
Buenos Aires — bonaerense, porteño
Florence — florentino
Lima — limeño
Londres — londinense
Madrid — madrileño
Moscú — moscovita
Nuevo York — neoyorquino
París — parisino, parisiense
Roma — romano

TIP

Learn those adjectives that describe topics that interest you most. Notice these spelling changes:

indígena (indigenous), **agícola** (agricultural),
persa (Persian), **andaluz** (Andalusian).

These are adjectives of religion:

cristiano (Christian), **judío** (Jewish), **islámico** (Islamic), **católico** (Catholic), **budista** (Buddhist),
hindú (Hindu), **mormón** (Mormon), **protestante** (Protestant).



LA PRÁCTICA 1

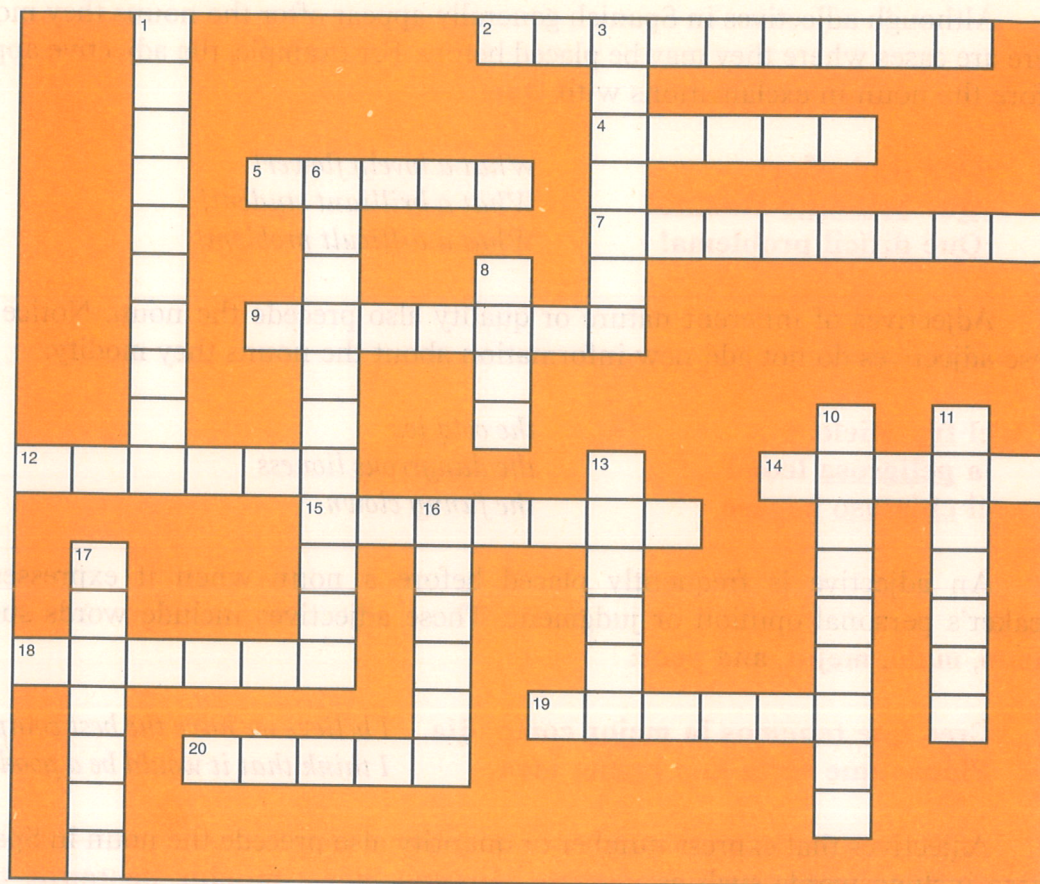
Read each sentence and tell what it is about. Use **hay** to respond:

1. La sopa está caliente. **Hay sopa caliente.** _____
2. Las plumas son negras. _____
3. Los niños son preguntones. _____
4. Las amigas son cosmópólitás. _____
5. Los ingleses están alegres. _____
6. El aire está fresco. _____
7. La fruta está podrida. _____
8. Los compañeros son comunistas. _____
9. El agua está sucia. _____
10. Los estudiantes son canadienses. _____

For each country below, write the feminine plural form for its nationality:

11. Alemania **alemanas** _____
12. Grecia _____
13. Italia _____
14. España _____
15. Vietnam _____
16. el Brasil _____
17. Portugal _____
18. El Salvador _____
19. China _____
20. Puerto Rico _____

CROSSWORD 8



Translate these into Spanish:

Across

- 2. any
- 4. silly
- 5. clever
- 7. funny
- 9. third
- 12. several
- 14. happy
- 15. some
- 18. sad
- 19. pink
- 20. long

Down

- 1. hard-working
- 3. ancient
- 6. interesting
- 8. worse
- 10. dangerous
- 11. painted
- 13. Pole
- 16. Greek
- 17. beautiful

Adjective Position

La posición del adjetivo

Although adjectives in Spanish generally appear after the nouns they modify, there are cases where they may be placed before. For example, the adjective appears before the noun in exclamations with **Qué**:

¡Qué <u>linda</u> flor!	What a lovely flower!
¡Qué <u>brillante</u> alumno!	What a brilliant student!
¡Qué <u>difícil</u> problema!	What a difficult problem!

Adjectives of inherent nature or quality also precede the noun. Notice how these adjectives do not add new information about the nouns they modify:

el <u>frío</u> hielo	the cold ice
la <u>peligrosa</u> leona	the dangerous lioness
el <u>chistoso</u> payaso	the funny clown

An adjective is frequently placed before a noun when it expresses the speaker's personal opinion or judgment. These adjectives include words such as **bueno**, **malo**, **mejor**, and **peor**:

Creo que tenemos la <u>mejor</u> compañía.	I believe we have the best company.
Pienso que sería una <u>buen</u> a idea.	I think that it would be a good idea.

Adjectives that express number or quantity also precede the noun in Spanish. These include words such as **alguno**, **ninguno**, **poco**, **mucho**, **bastante**, **tanto**, **suficiente**, **todos**, **otro**, **cada**, **varios**, **mismo**, and **ambos**:

Hemos tenido <u>bastante</u> ayuda.	We've had plenty of help.
Le faltan <u>dos</u> tornillos.	It's missing two screws.
No necesito <u>tanto</u> dinero.	I don't need that much money.
Tendrán que comprar <u>otra</u> cámara.	They'll have to buy another camera.
Hablábamos el <u>mismo</u> idioma.	We spoke in the same language.

Some adjectives actually differ in meaning depending on whether they precede or follow a noun. Notice how a few have shortened forms:

<u>diferentes</u> sitios several places	<u>comidas diferentes</u> distinct foods
el <u>alto</u> puesto the high position	el <u>árbol alto</u> the tall tree
la <u>pobre</u> situación the pathetic situation	la <u>mujer pobre</u> the impoverished woman
un <u>simple</u> saludo a mere greeting	una <u>persona simple</u> a simple-minded person

el único calcetín
the only sock

viejos amigos
long-time friends

el medio galón
the half gallon

cierta persona
certain person

un buen médico
a fine doctor

el gran actor
a great actor

la corbata única
the unique tie

cuchillos viejos
old knives

la clase media
middle class

promesa cierta
sincere promise

una niña buena
a well-behaved girl

un martillo grande
a large hammer

However, the adjective generally follows the noun when it is modified by an adverb:

No fue un problema tan difícil.
Ella tenía pelo muy largo.
Quiero una bebida más dulce.

It wasn't that difficult a problem.
She had very long hair.
I want a sweeter drink.

In addition, demonstrative and possessive adjectives in Spanish always precede the nouns they modify:

Esas respuestas son excelentes.
¿Dónde están nuestros periódicos?

Those answers are excellent.
Where are our newspapers?

Generally speaking, when an adjective follows a noun in Spanish, it often carries a more emphatic meaning than if it were placed before:

Fue un hermoso día.
It was a beautiful day.

Fue un día hermoso.
It was a beautiful day!





LA PRÁCTICA 2

Translate these phrases from English into Spanish:

1. the only pen la única pluma
 2. bad luck _____
 3. a very delicious pear _____
 4. white snow _____
 5. the green chairs _____
 6. a certain teacher _____
 7. the same paper _____
 8. an impoverished man _____
 9. the new flowers _____
 10. What big eyes! _____
-

Adjectives in Shortened Forms

Adjetivos abreviados

Some adjectives drop their final **o** when placed before a masculine noun. Notice the accent mark on **ningún** and **algún**:

uno	<u>un</u> televisor
bueno	<u>buen</u> padre
malo	<u>mal</u> día
primero	<u>primer</u> hijo
tercero	<u>tercer</u> plato
alguno	<u>algún</u> libro
ninguno	<u>ningún</u> carro

In some cases, **grande**, **ciento**, and **Santo** drop their final syllable before a noun. For example, **grande** becomes **gran** before a noun when it carries the meaning of *excellence* rather than large in size:

Ella es una gran cantante.
Tengo pies grandes.

She's a great singer.
I have big feet.

Ciento becomes **cien** only when it is directly followed by a masculine or feminine plural noun:

Habían cien mesas en la fiesta de boda.

There were one hundred tables at the wedding reception.

Mi abuelo va a cumplir cien años.

My grandfather is going to turn one hundred.

Me pagaron ciento treinta dólares.

They paid me one hundred thirty dollars.

Santo (*Saint*) becomes **San** when it is followed by a proper noun not beginning with **To...** or **Do...**:

San José y San Francisco

Santa Ana y Santo Domingo

TIP

The word **cualquiera** drops the final **a** when followed by any singular noun:

Pueden reparar cualquier reloj.

They can fix any watch.

Veremos cualquier película.

We'll see any movie.



LA PRÁCTICA 3

Write the shortened forms of each adjective below along with its definition in English:

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. tercero | <u>tercer</u> | <u>third</u> |
| 2. cualquiera | _____ | _____ |
| 3. ciento | _____ | _____ |
| 4. grande | _____ | _____ |
| 5. primero | _____ | _____ |
| 6. alguno | _____ | _____ |
| 7. malo | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Santo | _____ | _____ |
| 9. ninguno | _____ | _____ |
| 10. bueno | _____ | _____ |

More Uses of the Adjective

Usos adicionales del adjetivo

An adjective that modifies two or more plural nouns of the same gender remains in the plural of that gender:

Encontramos monedas y estampillas antiguas.

We found antique coins and stamps.

Les mando besos y abrazos amorosos.

I send you loving kisses and hugs.

However, if the nouns are of different genders, the adjective is generally left in the masculine plural:

Son niños y niñas europeos.

They're European boys and girls.

Necesita una cuchara y un tenedor limpios.

He needs a clean spoon and fork.

When two adjectives modify a noun, they are generally placed after it, joined by the word **y**:

Ella es una estudiante inteligente y disciplinada.

She is an intelligent and disciplined student.

However, the two adjectives may also be joined without the **y**, where the adjective of greater emphasis is mentioned last:

Tenía un mueble elegante francés.

I had an elegant French piece of furniture.

Pescan en las aguas azules frías.

They fish in the cold blue waters.

Hay un hueco profundo peligroso.

There's a dangerous deep hole.

Nouns in Spanish may be used as adjectives also. A noun, however, does not have to agree in number and gender with the noun it modifies:

¿Quién es la reina Madre?

Who is the Queen Mother?

Eran programas piloto.

They were pilot programs.

Somos primos hermanos.

We're first cousins.

Past participles can also be used as adjectives, but they must agree in both gender and number with the nouns they modify. They frequently give the location or condition of people and things:

Hay dos paquetes envueltos. *There are two wrapped packages.*
Mira la ropa mojada. *Look at the wet clothing.*
Buscaron dulces escondidos. *They looked for hidden candies.*

Past participles are frequently used as adjectives after the verbs **ser** and **estar**:

Los parlantes fueron desconectados. *The speakers were disconnected.*
No estoy sentado en la cocina. *I'm not sitting in the kitchen.*

Most adjectives in Spanish can also be used as nouns. They simply replace the deleted noun with the English equivalent of *the* ___ *one*, or *the* ___ *person*. Notice the use of the definite articles **el**, **la**, **los**, and **las**:

No encuentra el azul. *She cannot find the blue one.*
Acabo de hablar con la alta. *I just spoke to the tall lady.*
Trajo comida para los pobres. *He brought food for the poor people.*
Tenemos que cambiar las viejas. *We have to change the old ones.*
la Cruz Roja *the Red Cross*



LA PRÁCTICA 4

Translate the adjective correctly and place it after each noun or nouns:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. UGLY | mesas y sillas | <u>mesas y sillas feas</u> |
| 2. MODERN | apartamentos y casas | _____ |
| 3. FAT AND SMALL | conejos | _____ |
| 4. WIDE | calles y caminos | _____ |
| 5. RED and BLUE | el único libro | _____ |
| 6. SWEET | plátanos y duraznos | _____ |
| 7. SPANISH | vendedores y clientes | _____ |
| 8. NEW AND PRETTY | pantalones | _____ |
| 9. HAPPY | muchachas y muchachos | _____ |
| 10. DIFFICULT | el otro problema | _____ |

Combine the three key words correctly, making sure all words agree:

11. 4/ casa/ pintar

cuatro casas pintadas

12. 1/ ojo/ cerrar

13. 5/ chica/ confundir

14. 2/ juguete/ perder

15. 9/ carta/ escribir

16. 6/ plato/ preparar

17. 8/ huevo/ freír

18. 3/ cheque/ firmar

19. 7/ papa/ pelar

20. 10/ olla/ cubrir

Create sentences that replace the noun with an article and adjective:

21. Me dió un vaso sucio.

Me dió el sucio.

22. ¿Dónde están las medias negras?

23. Traígame la piña grande.

24. Llevaron las maletas nuevas.

25. No me gusta la pintura azul.

26. ¿Has visto el drama italiano?

27. Solamente sirva el agua fría.

28. ¿Prefieres leer la novela romántica?

29. Invitamos a los estudiantes ingleses.

30. A mí me interesa la película religiosa.

Comparison of Adjectives, Adverbs, Nouns, and Verbs

Comparación de adjetivos, adverbios, sustantivos y verbos

In Spanish, the comparison of two adjectives is usually formed by placing the word **más** or **menos** before an adjective, followed by the word **que**:

Jorge es más alto que su hermano.

Jorge is taller than his brother.

Esta caja es menos pesada que la otra.

This box is less heavy than (not as heavy as) the other one.

Las ventanas fueron más caras que las puertas.

The windows were more expensive than the doors.

Los estudiantes estarán menos nerviosos que los profesores.

The students will be less nervous than (not as nervous as) the teachers.

The adjectives **bueno** and **malo**, however, have irregular comparative forms and do not require adverbs such as **más** or **menos**:

bueno (good) → **mejor** (better)

malo (bad) → **peor** (worse)

La sopa de pollo es mejor que la ensalada de atún.

The chicken soup is better than the tuna salad.

Su viaje a Europa fue peor que su viaje a las Bahamas.

Her trip to Europe was worse than her trip to the Bahamas.

However, the expressions **más bueno** and **más malo** are sometimes used to describe a person's moral character:

Tu primer novio fue más malo que el que tienes ahora.

Your first boyfriend was a worse guy than the one you have now.

The comparative forms for **grande** and **pequeño** are also irregular, but strictly refer to age:

Arturo es mayor que el dueño de la compañía.

Arturo is older than the owner of the company.

Creo que tu padre es menor que mi madre.

I believe your father is younger than my mother.

Adverbs are compared in Spanish much like adjectives:

Virginia manejaba menos cuidadosamente que Miguel.

Virginia used to drive less carefully than Miguel.

El pasto ha crecido más rápidamente que los arbustos.

The grass has grown faster than the bushes.

The comparison of equality in Spanish involves the construction **tan + adjective/adverb + como**.

Tus ojos son tan azules como el cielo.

Your eyes are as blue as the sky.

Ellos juegan tan bueno como Uds.

They play as well as you.

Lo hizo tan fácilmente como un profesional.

He did it as easily as a professional.

However, when two nouns are compared as equals, **tan** changes to **tanto**. Notice how **tanto** must agree with the noun it modifies:

**Mis abuelos tuvieron tantos hijos
como mis padres.**

*My grandparents had as many children
as my parents.*

TIP

Mejor and **peor** generally precede the nouns they modify, whereas **mayor** and **menor** usually follow them:

mejor idea *better idea*

primo menor *younger cousin*

When two verbs are compared as equals, **tan** simply changes to **tanto**:

La Sra. Nario cultiva flores tanto como su vecina.

Mrs. Nario plants flowers as much as her neighbor.

Remember that the pattern for comparing nouns or verbs is similar to the comparison of adjectives or adverbs:

ADJECTIVES: **Es más agudo que una navaja.**

It's sharper than a razor.

ADVERBS: **Pablo se mueve más lentamente que una tortuga.**

He moves slower than a turtle.

NOUNS: **Ella tiene más paciencia que una Santa.**

She has more patience than a Saint.

VERBS: **Ellos trabajan más que nosotros.**

They work more than us.



LA PRÁCTICA 5

Use either **más** or **menos** to make these comparisons true:

1. King Kong/ alto/ ratón Mickey más alto que
2. El elefante/ pesado/ el ratón _____
3. Un baile/ divertido/ un trabajo _____
4. Las gallinas/ fuerte/ los caballos _____
5. El dinero/ importante/ la vida _____
6. El acero/ duro/ la madera _____
7. Los ríos/ profundo/ los océanos _____
8. Superhombre/ famoso/ tú _____
9. Los conejos/ peligrosos/ los tigres _____
10. El desierto/ seco/ la selva _____

Replacements for *que* **Reemplazos de *que***

Than is translated by **de** or **del** instead of **que** before any numeral:

Perdieron menos del 25 por ciento. *They lost less than 25 percent.*

No tenía más de diez dólares. *He didn't have more than ten dollars.*

Que is also replaced by **de** before phrases which take the place of a deleted noun, such as **el que**, **la que**, **los que**, and **las que**:

Recibimos más juguetes de los que nos regalaste.

We received more toys than (the toys) you gave us.

Comieron menos comida de la que ella preparó.

They ate less food than (the food) she prepared.

Whenever a clause suggests that there is already a standard for comparison established in a sentence, **que** is replaced by **de lo que**:

La conversación fue más larga de lo que pensamos.

The conversation was longer than (what) we thought.

Remember that a subject pronoun may also follow **que** in a comparative sentence, unless the pronoun is an object of the verb, requiring the **que + a + stressed pronoun** construction:

Bailo mejor que tú.

I dance better than you.

Usas el teléfono más que nosotros.

You use the phone more than we do.

Él quiere más a Cecilia que a ella.

He loves Cecilia more than her.

A ellos les gustó el baile más que a él.

They liked the dance more than he did.

Nadie or **nada** may also follow **que** in a comparative sentence:

Esa actriz canta mejor que nadie.

That actress sings better than anyone.

Más que nada, quisiera recibir mi diploma.

More than anything, I would like to receive my diploma.



LA PRÁCTICA 6

Translate these sentences into Spanish:

1. *He is older than his sister.*

Él es mayor que su hermana.

2. *She cooks more than I.*

3. *The magazines are more interesting than the newspapers.*

4. *That ball is better than the other one.*

5. *I run slower than Juan.*

6. *The situation was more difficult than what he said.*

7. *They have as many books as the library.*

8. *You (sing. form.) study less than us.*

9. *Sara dances better than anyone.*

10. *It will take less than two hours.*

11. *She is as pretty as a rose.*

12. *The kitchen is worse than the bathroom.*

13. *We used more pens than the ones you (sing. inf.) bought.*

14. *The girls worked more carefully than the boys.*

15. *My grandfather is younger than my grandmother.*

Superlatives

Superlativos

The superlative in Spanish generally consists of the definite article and noun followed by the simple comparative form:

el	gato	más	grande	<i>the biggest cat</i>
DEF. ART.	NOUN	COMPARATIVE FORM		
	la pregunta más complicada	<i>the most complicated question</i>		
	el artículo menos interesante	<i>the least interesting article</i>		
	los relojes más ruidosos	<i>the loudest clocks</i>		

To complete a superlative sentence in Spanish, the word **de** is often added to a prepositional phrase.

Fue la pregunta más complicada de la clase.

It was the most complicated question in the class.

Leíamos el artículo menos interesante de la revista.

We read the least interesting article in the magazine.

Compró los perros más ruidosos de la tienda.

He bought the loudest dogs in the store.

The absolute superlative in Spanish consists of the suffix **-ísimo**, which gives the adjective a meaning that might be expressed in English by *very* or *extremely*. If the adjective ends in an unaccented vowel, the vowel is dropped before the suffix:

Este tren es lentísimo.

This train is very slow.

Estábamos cansadísimos.

We were extremely tired.

La piedra fue durísima.

The rock was very hard.

Ellas estaban ocupadísimas.

They were extremely busy.

If the adjective ends in a consonant or accented vowel, the suffix is simply added. In terms of spelling, the **z** changes to **c**, the **c** changes to **qu**, and the **g** changes to **gu** when **-ísimo** is added:

difícil → **difícilísimo**

feliz → **felicísimo**

rico → **riquísimo**

largo → **larguísimo**

Technically, there are six adjectives in Spanish that do not require adverbs in the comparative and superlative forms, although some are not used in everyday speech:

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
bueno	mejor	óptimo
malo	peor	pésimo
grande	mayor	máximo
pequeño	menor	mínimo
alto	superior	supremo
bajo	inferior	ínfimo

Still another common use of the suffix **-ísimo** is with the adverb **mucho**:

¡Muchísimas gracias!
Thank you so very much!

Te amo muchísimo.
I love you very, very much.



Although uncommon, the following absolute superlative forms are also considered irregular:

amable (friendly)

bueno (good)

cierto (true)

fiel (faithful)

sabio (wise)

nuevo (new)

fuerte (strong)

amabilísimo

bonísimo

certísimo

fidelísimo

sapientísimo

novísimo

fortísimo



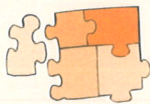
LA PRÁCTICA 7

Change these words to the superlative form, and then translate to English:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. cuchillo útil | <u>el cuchillo más útil</u> | <u>the most useful knife</u> |
| 2. soldados valientes | _____ | _____ |
| 3. doctora capaz | _____ | _____ |
| 4. oficinas elegantes | _____ | _____ |
| 5. avenida ancha | _____ | _____ |
| 6. policías simpático | _____ | _____ |
| 7. programa terrible | _____ | _____ |
| 8. divorcio rapid | _____ | _____ |
| 9. árboles verdes | _____ | _____ |
| 10. mesera cortés | _____ | _____ |

Change these words to the absolute superlative form:

11. tela fina la tela finísima
12. poema famoso _____
13. cara pálida _____
14. tareas fáciles _____
15. comida rica _____
16. falda hermosa _____
17. perro feroz _____
18. retratos feos _____
19. pelo largo _____
20. hombre feliz _____



EL REPASO

- Name three irregular verbs in the present tense.
- Name three irregular verbs in the preterit tense.
- Name three irregular verbs in the future tense.
- Name three irregular past participles.
- Name three irregular present participles.
- Name three irregular verbs in the subjunctive mood.
- Name three irregular informal commands.
- Name three common uses of the definite article.
- Name three adjectives that have shortened forms.
- Name three nationalities found in the Far East.