

Spanish Articles

Definite & Indefinite Master el, la, los, las, un, una, unos, unas

1. Definite Articles (THE)

Use for **SPECIFIC** items - "THE cat" not just any cat!

Articles must match the gender and number of the noun

el masculine singular

el gato (the cat)

/ehl GAH-toh/

la feminine singular

la casa (the house)

/lah KAH-sah/

los masculine plural

los gatos (the cats)

/lohs GAH-tohs/

las feminine plural

las casas (the houses)

/lahs KAH-sahs/

2. Indefinite Articles (A/AN/SOME)

Use for **ANY** item - "A book" not a specific one!

Also must match gender and number

un masculine singular

un libro (a book)

/oon LEE-broh/

una feminine singular

una mesa (a table)

/OO-nah MEH-sah/

unos masculine plural

unos libros (some books)

/OO-nohs LEE-brohs/

unas feminine plural

unas mesas (some tables)

/OO-nahs MEH-sahs/

3. Gender & Number Agreement



Key Rule:

Articles MUST match the noun in both gender (masculine/feminine)
AND number (singular/plural)!

✓ el libro	✗ la libro	(libro is masculine)
✓ la mesa	✗ el mesa	(mesa is feminine)
✓ los libros	✗ el libros	(plural needs plural article)
✓ unas casas	✗ una casas	(plural needs plural article)

4. Real Conversation Examples



At the Café

"Quiero **un café**" - I want a coffee (any coffee)

/kee-EH-roh oon kah-FEH/

"¿Dónde está **el café**?" - Where is the coffee? (the specific one)



Shopping

"Necesito **una camisa**" - I need a shirt (any shirt)

/neh-seh-SEE-toh OO-nah kah-MEE-sah/

"Me gusta **la camisa azul**" - I like the blue shirt (specific one)

5. Common Mistakes to Avoid

✗ **la problema**

Some words ending in -a are masculine!

✓ **el problema**

✗ **el casas**

Plural nouns need plural articles

✓ **las casas**

✗ **un mesas**

Articles must match in number

✓ **unas mesas**

6. Quick Quiz

Test your understanding of Spanish articles!

1. Which article goes with "casa" (house)?

- a) el
- b) la
- c) un
- d) una

2. What's the indefinite article for "libro" (book)?

- a) el
- b) la
- c) un
- d) una

3. Is "los estudiantes" singular or plural?

- a) Singular
- b) Plural
- c) Both
- d) Neither

4. How do you say "some apples" in Spanish?

- a) los manzanas
- b) las manzanas
- c) unas manzanas
- d) unos manzanas

5. When do we use definite articles?

- a) For any item
- b) For specific items
- c) For plural items only
- d) Never

6. How do you say "I want THE coffee" (specific one)?

- a) Quiero un café
- b) Quiero el café
- c) Quiero la café
- d) Quiero los café

7. What's the correct way to say "a car" in Spanish?

- a) el coche
- b) la coche
- c) un coche
- d) una coche

8. How do you say "the shirts" (plural) in Spanish?

- a) el camisas
- b) la camisas
- c) los camisas
- d) las camisas

Visit spanishgrammar.co.uk/articles-definite-indefinite#quiz for answers