

Spanish Gender of Nouns

Master masculine and feminine nouns with clear patterns

1. Spanish Gender System Made Simple

Good News: Most words follow helpful patterns!

Learn the patterns first, memorize the exceptions



Why Gender Matters:

Get gender right and everything clicks: articles, adjectives, and agreements!

2. Gender Pattern Rules - Your Key to Success!

Most Spanish nouns follow predictable patterns based on their endings!



Masculine Patterns

-o ending:	el libro (usually)
-ma, -ta:	el problema (Greek)
-á, -í, -ú:	el sofá (stressed)
consonants:	el hotel (usually)
-aje:	el viaje (always)



Feminine Patterns

-a ending:	la mesa (usually)
-ción, -sión:	la nación (always)
-dad, -tad:	la ciudad (always)
-tud, -umbre:	la actitud (always)
-ez, -eza:	la belleza (always)

3. Professions & People - Gender Transformations

Many professions and roles change form to show gender:

-o → -a

el niño → la niña (boy → girl)
el secretario → la secretaria
(secretary)

-or → -ora

el profesor → la profesora (teacher)
el doctor → la doctora (doctor)
el director → la directora (director)

consonant → +a

el español → la española
(Spanish person)
el alemán → la alemana
(German person)

-e → -a (some professions)

el jefe → la jefa (boss)
el presidente → la presidenta
(president)
el cliente → la clienta (client)

Special cases: el rey → la reina (king → queen), el actor → la actriz (actor → actress),
el héroe → la heroína (hero → heroine), el príncipe → la princesa (prince → princess)

4. Common Gender Words - Same Form, Different Articles



Common Gender (Same Form for Both)

-ista: el/la artista (professions)
-ente: el/la estudiante (many -ente words)

These words don't change form - only the article (el/la) shows the gender.

5. Tricky Exceptions - Words That Break the Rules!

Some words break the rules - but these are the most common ones to remember!

Masculine despite -a

el día (day)

el mapa (map)

el planeta (planet)

Feminine despite -o

la mano (hand)

la foto (photo)

la moto (motorbike)

6. Everyday Examples - Practice with Common Words

These common words follow the rules we've learned. Notice patterns!

Around the House

el sofá (sofa)

la cocina (kitchen)

el dormitorio (bedroom)

la ventana (window)

Food & Drink

el café (coffee)

la leche (milk)

el pan (bread)

la fruta (fruit)

Memory Tip: Articles Show Gender

el/un = Masculine

la/una = Feminine

7. Common Mistakes to Avoid

Assuming -a = feminine

✗ **la problema**

✓ **el problema**

Some -a words are masculine!

Forgetting exceptions

✗ **el mano**

✓ **la mano**

Memorise common exceptions!

Wrong article choice

✗ **un casa**

✓ **una casa**

Articles must match gender!

Adjective disagreement

✗ **la foto es bonito**

✓ **la foto es bonita**

Adjectives must agree!

8. Practice Quiz - Test Your Gender Knowledge!

Test your understanding with these practice questions!



House rules! What gender is 'casa' (house)?

- A) Masculine
- B) Feminine
- C) Could be either
- D) No gender



School subjects! What's the gender of 'problema' (problem)?

- A) Feminine
- B) Masculine
- C) Both
- D) Neither



Transport time! Which article goes with 'coche' (car)?

- A) la
- B) el
- C) los
- D) las



City life! What gender is 'ciudad' (city)?

- A) Masculine
- B) Feminine
- C) Neutral
- D) Variable



Modern life! What's the gender of 'móvil' (mobile phone)?

- A) Feminine
- B) Masculine
- C) Both genders
- D) No gender

Professions! How do you say 'the female teacher'?

- A) el profesor
- B) la profesor
- C) la profesora
- D) el profesora

Body parts! What's the gender of 'mano' (hand)?

- A) Masculine
- B) Feminine
- C) Neutral
- D) Both

Artist check! Which article goes with 'artista' when referring to a male artist?

- A) la
- B) el
- C) los
- D) un

Visit spanishgrammar.co.uk/gender-of-nouns#quiz for answers and explanations