

1.2 Notes

Singular/Plural and Masculine/Feminine Nouns and Adjective

Nouns

A noun in English has the same definite article whether the noun is singular or plural. In Spanish, the definite article changes.

Example:

English	the notebook	the notebooks (no change in definite article)
Spanish	el cuaderno	los cuadernos (definite article sing/plural)

In English, nouns are neutral, but in Spanish, nouns have gender (masculine or feminine). Usually, nouns ending in “o” are masculine and nouns ending in “a” are feminine, but there are exceptions you will have to learn. This is why we study the nouns along with their definite articles.

Example:

English	the notebook	the jacket (no change in definite article)
Spanish	el cuaderno	la chaqueta (definite article masc./fem.)

To make an English noun plural, add “s”. To make a Spanish noun plural, add “s” if the word ends in a vowel and “es” if it ends in a consonant.

Example:

English	dog	dogs
	doctor	doctors
Spanish	perro	perros
	doctor	doctores (note –es is added here)

Adjectives

In English, adjectives are always before the noun. In Spanish, adjectives usually come after the noun, but can come before it as well.

Example:

English	The ugly dog.
Spanish	El perro feo.

In English, adjectives don’t change. In Spanish, the adjective changes **both in relation to number and gender** along with the noun.

Example:

English	The ugly dog.
Spanish	El perro feo.
English	The ugly woman.
Spanish	La mujer fea. (adjective changes with the feminine noun)
English	The ugly women.
Spanish	Las mujeres feas. (adj. changes with plural feminine noun)