

Descriptive Adjectives

by Sophia Tutorial



WHAT'S COVERED

In this lesson, you will learn about the purpose of descriptive adjectives in the Spanish language, and how they function grammatically. Specifically, this lesson will cover:

1. Los Adjetivos Descriptivos (Descriptive Adjectives)
 - a. Descriptive Adjectives Ending in "o"
 - b. Descriptive Adjectives Ending in "e"
 - c. Descriptive Adjectives Ending in a Consonant
2. Ejemplos de Adjetivos Descriptivos (Examples of Descriptive Adjectives)
 - a. Permanent Characteristics
 - b. Temporary Characteristics

1. Los Adjetivos Descriptivos (Descriptive Adjectives)

In Spanish, descriptive adjectives almost always come after nouns.

➞ **EXAMPLE** "Carro nuevo" means "new car."

This will seem strange initially, but will feel natural after you become more proficient in the language.

1a. Descriptive Adjectives Ending in "o"

If the adjective ends in the letter "o" (masculine singular form), you can change the "o" to an "a" (feminine singular form). You can add the letter "s" to either to make the plural form.

Spanish Noun and Adjective	Number	Gender	English Translation
amigo simpático	singular	masculine	nice male friend
amiga simpática	singular	feminine	nice female friend
amigos simpáticos	plural	masculine	nice male friends
amigas simpáticas	plural	feminine	nice female friends

1b. Descriptive Adjectives Ending in "e"

If the descriptive adjective ends in the letter "e," you will not change the ending to agree with the gender. You can think of the "e" as standing for "either," as it is gender neutral. You will still need to add an "s" to make the plural forms.

Spanish Noun and Adjective	Number	Gender	English Translation
amigo inteligente	singular	masculine	intelligent male friend
amiga inteligente	singular	feminine	intelligent female friend
amigos inteligentes	plural	masculine	intelligent male friends
amigas inteligentes	plural	feminine	intelligent female friends

1c. Descriptive Adjectives Ending in a Consonant

Finally, a few adjectives end in a consonant, not a vowel. Therefore, the form that ends in the consonant is the masculine singular form. This is also the feminine form for some.

➡ **EXAMPLE** "Joven" is an adjective meaning "young," and it is the same in both the masculine and feminine forms.

For others, just add an "a" to the end to make it feminine. If an adjective needs an "a" added to it for the feminine form, you will see it listed in this course like "trabajador(a)." If an adjective ends in a consonant, you have to add an "es" to make it plural.

Spanish Noun and Adjective	Number	Gender	English Translation
amigo español	singular	masculine	Spanish male friend
amiga española	singular	feminine	Spanish female friend
amigos españoles	plural	masculine	Spanish male friends
amigas españolas	plural	feminine	Spanish female friends

2. Ejemplos de Adjetivos Descriptivos (Examples of Descriptive Adjectives)

Next, you'll find some descriptive adjectives for you to learn. Note that these are all listed as masculine, singular. You must change the endings adhering to the rules noted earlier in order to make these adjectives agree with the nouns that you want to describe.

In a later lesson, you'll learn more about when to use these adjectives. For now, note that some adjectives describe permanent characteristics, while others describe temporary characteristics.

2a. Permanent Characteristics

Adjective	English Translation	Adjective	English Translation
grande	big	pequeño	small
bueno	good	malo	bad

alto	tall	bajo	short
delgado	thin	gordo	fat
joven	young	anciano	old (person)
nuevo	new	viejo	old (object)
dulce	sweet	agrio	sour
caro	expensive	barato	inexpensive

2b. Temporary Characteristics

Adjective	English Translation	Adjective	English Translation
sano	healthy	enfermo	sick
mejor	better	peor	worse
fuerte	strong	débil	weak
relajado	relaxed	preocupado	worried



SUMMARY

In this lesson, you learned about **descriptive adjectives** in the Spanish language. These adjectives typically come after nouns, and they can **end in "o," "e," or a consonant**. You also looked at some **examples of descriptive adjectives** that you can use to either describe **permanent characteristics** or **temporary characteristics**.

¡Buena suerte!

Support

If you are struggling with a concept or terminology in the course, you may contact **SpanishforNursesSupport@capella.edu** for assistance.

If you are having technical issues, please contact **learningcoach@sophia.org**.

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