

Overview of Adjectives and Articles

by Sophia Tutorial



WHAT'S COVERED

In this lesson, you will learn about how adjectives function in the Spanish language, and how to determine the correct articles to accompany them. Specifically, this lesson will cover:

1. Los Adjetivos (Adjectives)
2. Los Artículos (Articles)
 - a. Definite Articles
 - b. Indefinite Articles

1. Los Adjetivos (Adjectives)

Adjectives are words that describe nouns or pronouns. There are many different types of adjectives: articles, descriptive adjectives, quantitative adjectives, and demonstrative adjectives.

No matter the type of adjective, it must agree in number and in gender with the noun that it modifies:

- If the noun is masculine and singular, the adjective must be masculine and singular.
- If the noun is masculine and plural, the adjective must be masculine and plural.
- If the noun is feminine and singular, the adjective must be feminine and singular.
- If the noun is feminine and plural, the adjective must be feminine and plural.

2. Los Artículos (Articles)

Articles are adjectives that always come before nouns. This rule applies in both English and Spanish.

↪ **EXAMPLE** "The car" is "el carro."

All articles (like any other adjective) have four forms: masculine singular, feminine singular, masculine plural, and feminine plural.

There are two kinds of articles:

- Definite
- Indefinite

2a. Definite Articles

Definite articles refer to specific objects, such as "el amigo" (the friend). These articles are used much more frequently in Spanish than in English.

You've already learned the singular definite articles: **el** and **la**. The plural forms are **los** and **las**. They all mean **the**. The table below provides an example of these different forms.

Spanish Noun	Number	Gender	English Translation
el amigo	singular	masculine	the male friend
la amiga	singular	feminine	the female friend
los amigos	plural	masculine	the male friends
las amigas	plural	feminine	the female friends

2b. Indefinite Articles

Indefinite articles refer to non-specific objects, such as "un amigo" (a friend).

The singular forms are **un** and **una**, which mean **a** or **an**. The plural forms are **unos** and **unas**, which mean **some**. The table below again provides an example of these different forms.

Spanish Noun	Number	Gender	English Translation
un amigo	singular	masculine	a male friend
una amiga	singular	feminine	a female friend
unos amigos	plural	masculine	some male friends
unas amigas	plural	feminine	some female friends



SUMMARY

In this lesson, you learned about **adjectives** in the Spanish language. All adjectives must agree in number and gender with the nouns they are describing. **Articles** are adjectives that come directly before nouns, and there are two types: **Definite articles** are used to refer to specific objects, while **indefinite articles** are used to refer to non-specific objects.

¡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.

Source: This content has been adapted from "Spanish for Nurses" by Stephanie Langston.