

LESSON 1

AGREEMENT IN NUMBER AND GENDER

Introduction

This lesson presents:

- ✚ Definite articles
- ✚ Gender of Nouns
- ✚ Pluralization
- ✚ Agreement in number and gender

Objectives

Upon completion of this lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Discriminate between feminine and masculine gender in nouns
2. Provide the plural forms of nouns
3. Provide the masculine, feminine, singular and plural forms of the definite article
4. Recognize agreement in number and gender between nouns and the definite article
5. Use the correct form of the definite article

Prerequisites

Understand the concepts of number and gender

Decision Table

If you think you are already familiar with the objectives, proceed to Lesson 2 on page 24.

GENDER OF NOUNS

Introduction

Most nouns in Spanish are either masculine or feminine. The gender of a noun is usually determined by either its ending or by its meaning.

Masculine Nouns

Nouns ending in **-o** or that name a male being are generally masculine.

libro (book) ojo (eye)
zapato (shoe) padre (father)

Exception: mano (hand)

Feminine Nouns

Nouns ending in **-a** or that name a female being are generally feminine.

niña (girl) pluma (pen)
mujer (woman) tiza (chalk)

Exception: día (day)

Nouns ending in **-ón** that are cognates of English are feminine

lección (lesson) nación (nation)

Nouns ending in **-dad** whose English equivalent ends in **-ty** are feminine

humanidad (humanity)
fraternidad (fraternity)

PRACTICE ACTIVITY I

Write “F” for feminine or “M” for masculine:

1. maleta_____

7. mesa_____

2. libreta_____

8. silla_____

3. caballo_____

9. cerca_____

4. chica_____

10. puerta_____

5. ventana_____

11. abuelo_____

6. hombre_____

12. carro_____

Go to page 16 to check your responses.

PLURALIZATION OF WORDS

Introduction

The plural ending of a Spanish word depends on the ending of its singular form.

Words ending in a vowel

Add **-S** at the end of the word

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
mano	manos
niña	niñas

Words ending in a consonant (except Z)

Add **-ES** at the end of the word

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
mujer	mujeres
lección	lecciones

Words ending in Z

Change Z to C and add **-ES**

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
lápiz	lapices
feliz	felices

PRACTICE ACTIVITY II

Complete the following:

1. If a singular word ends in a consonant, what must be added to make it plural?_____
2. What is added to the singular word ending in a vowel to make it plural?_____
3. How are nouns ending in Z made plural?

Go to page 17 to check your responses.

PRACTICE ACTIVITY III

Make the following words plural:

1. nación_____
2. hombre_____
3. maestro_____
4. examen_____
5. profesora_____
6. señor_____
7. señora_____
8. voz_ _____
9. niñez _____
10. profesor_____

Go to page 18 to check your responses.

THE DEFINITE ARTICLE (THE)

Introduction

In English the definite article is “the.” Definite articles in Spanish are masculine, feminine, singular or plural, and they must agree in number and gender with the noun they limit.

Formation

	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	el	la
Plural	los	las

Agreement

Definite articles must agree in number and gender with the noun they limit.

	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	el libro	la niña
Plural	los libros	las niñas

Singular words beginning with stressed **a** or **ha** take on the masculine article regardless of their gender

el alma **el hacha**
el águila **el habla**

The plural remains feminine

las almas **las hachas**
las águilas **las hablas**

PRACTICE ACTIVITY IV

Answer the following questions:

1. **El** is the article form that combines with muchacho; which is the article form that combines with muchachos?

2. **Las** is the article form that combines with plumas; which is the article form that combines with pluma?

Go to page 19 to check your responses.

PRACTICE ACTIVITY V

Write the correct form of the definite article:

1. _____ muchacho

6. _____ niño

2. _____ libros

7. _____ lápices

3. _____ hacha

8. _____ madres

4. _____ hombres

9. _____ madre

5. _____ zapatos

10. _____ ojo

Go to page 20 to check your responses.

UNIT IV: USES OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

Introduction The rules that follow indicate common instances that require the use or omission of the definite article.

The definite article is:

Used to limit particular nouns Nouns which refer to specific concepts require the use of the definite article:

el libro **los médicos**
la carta **las mujeres**

Required to limit nouns used in a general sense **Water is the source of life.**
El agua....

Deleted when nouns are used in a “partitive” sense **Give me water.**
...agua.

Used in indirect address **With titles or professions:**
El profesor...
La señora...
Exception: Omitted before don (sir) or santo (saint)
Don Juan
Santo Tomás

Omitted in direct address **Professor, can you give me the answers?**
Profesor,?

PRACTICE ACTIVITY VI

Use the definite article when required:

1. _____ libro
2. _____ amor (is something important).
3. (Give me) _____ amor.
4. _____ vaca.
5. _____ Profesor García, (tell me what's wrong.)
6. _____ profesor (is a good professor).
7. _____ Santo Domingo (was a wonderful person).

Go to page 21 to check your responses.

LESSON TEST

Write “F” for feminine and “M” for masculine after the following nouns:

1. hombre _____
 2. mujer _____
 3. niño _____
 4. casa _____
 5. humanidad _____
 6. nación _____
 7. alma _____
 8. libro _____
 9. muchacho _____
 10. zapato _____
-

Change to the Plural:

1. zapato _____
 2. lapiz _____
 3. hombre _____
 4. canción _____
 5. niña _____
 6. matiz _____
 7. mujer _____
 8. mano _____
 9. vestido _____
 10. cara _____
-

Write the correct form of the definite article next to the noun:

1. _____ hombre
 2. _____ mujer
 3. _____ zapatos
 4. _____ libros
 5. _____ hacha
 6. _____ ojo
-

Use the definite article when needed:

1. _____ Profesora Pérez, (my dog ate my homework).
2. _____ Profesora Pérez (is very smart).
3. _____ agua (is important).
4. (Give me)_____ agua.
5. _____ Santo Domingo (was the founder of an important religious order).
6. _____ perro

Go to page 22 to check your responses.

ANSWER KEY

Practice Activity I

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 7. F |
| 2. F | 8. F |
| 3. M | 9. F |
| 4. F | 10. F |
| 5. F | 11. M |
| 6. M | 12. M |

ANSWER KEY

Practice Activity II

1. es
2. s
3. change the z to c and add es

ANSWER KEY

Practice Activity III

1. naciones
2. hombres
3. maestros
4. exámenes
5. profesoras
6. señores
7. señoras
8. voces
9. niñeces
10. profesores

ANSWER KEY

Practice Activity IV

1. los
2. la

ANSWER KEY

Practice Activity V

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1. el | 6. el |
| 2. los | 7. los |
| 3. el | 8. las |
| 4. los | 9. la |
| 5. los | 10. el |

ANSWER KEY

Practice Activity VI

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. el | 5. none |
| 2. el | 6. el |
| 3. none | 7. none |
| 4. la | |

ANSWER KEY

Lesson Test

I- Gender Agreement

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. M | 6. F |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. M | 8. M |
| 4. F | 9. M |
| 5. F | 10. M |

II- Pluralization

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. zapatos | 6. matices |
| 2. lápices | 7. mujeres |
| 3. hombres | 8. manos |
| 4. canciones | 9. vestidos |
| 5. niñas | 10. caras |

III- Definite Article-Agreement

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1. el | 4. los |
| 2. la | 5. el |
| 3. los | 6. el |

IV- Definite Article-Use

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. none | 4. none |
| 2. la | 5. none |
| 3. el | 6. el |

UNIT TEST DECISION TABLE

	If	Then
	You took the lesson test as a pretest and you scored 100%	Go to next lesson
Decision Table	You missed more than two questions in section 1	Go back to page 4
	You missed more than 2 answers in section II	Go back to page 6
	You missed more than 2 answers in section III	Go back to page 9
	You missed more than 2 answers in section IV	Go back to page 12
	You missed fewer than two questions in each section	Congratulations! You are ready for the next lesson