

Continue



An article is a word that is used with a noun (person, animal, thought or thing) to help define it. In English, the definite article is the and the indefinite articles are a/an, depending on the noun. The same concept applies in Spanish. However, the difficulty comes from having to remember gender because the gender of the article must match the gender of the noun. Just like English, Spanish has a definite and an indefinite article and the concept remains the same. Ready to study Spanish? Check our Online Spanish Classes

Whats is difference between the definite article and the indefinite article? The difference between the definite article and the indefinite article is that the former talks about a specific noun, and the latter talks about a generalized noun. Please buy me a bike. Please buy me the blue bike. As you can see, the definite article describes the specific blue bike, while the indefinite article describes a bike in general. Definite articles The definite article is used to refer to something specific. In English the article would be the. In Spanish, you have 4 options depending on the gender and the number. Examples: Quiero la naranja I want the orange. In this instance, we are referring to one orange, so we use the singular form and naranja is feminine, so the correct definite article to use is la. El cielo es azul the sky is blue. In this case we are referring to the sky as a whole and therefore use the singular for and cielo is masculine, so the correct definite article is el. Los libros son rojos the books are red. In this instance we are still talking about something in particular, but there is more than one so we use the plural form of the noun and the corresponding plural form article, so the correct definite article is los. Note also that the adjective rojo changes from singular to plural to correspond with the noun. Las camisetas son negras the shirts are black. Again, here you see we are talking about more than one shirt so we use the plural form of the noun and corresponding plural form of the article, las. Singular Plural Masculine El Los Feminine La Las Of course, most rules have exceptions and this rule is no different. When a feminine and singular noun begins with a stressed , a, or ha, the masculine definite article is used instead, to aide in pronunciation. When the same noun is plural, the regular feminine article is used. Singular Plural El agua Las aguas El hombre Los hombres Indefinite articles When you use the indefinite article, you are not referring to a specific person or thing. The English indefinite articles are a, an or some and as with the definite article, you have 4 options depending on the gender and the number. Singular Plural Masculine un unos Feminine una unas Examples: Quiero una galletita I want a biscuit. In this instance, its not a specific biscuit. It could be any sort of biscuit and I only want one. Galletita is feminine, so we use the una as the indefinite pronoun. Quiero leer un libro I want to read a book. Un is the indefinite article as libro is singular and masculine. Mi novio compr unas flores My boyfriend bought (some) flowers. Unas was used because flores is plural and feminine. Necesitos unos lpices para mis clases I need (some) pencils for my classes. Unos was used because lpices is plural and masculine. Consider this: The definite article el is different to the pronoun l which means he. I will always appear on its own but el will always be followed by a noun. Look at the following sentence: I compr el diario hoy. He bought the paper today. If you want to know more, check out our other blogs posts. Here is one about Por vs Para: Summary Create your free account By continuing, you agree to Quizgecko's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. Home Spanish Quizzes Online (A2-B2) Definite / Indefinite Articles Spanish Quiz Definite and Indefinite Articles in Spanish Quiz Ismael Ros World Languages 6th - 12th Grade 87 plays Medium Definite and Indefinite Articles Quiz Eric Skeen World Languages 7th - 12th Grade 29 plays Medium Articles in English are a simple matter because there are only a few words and thus are easy to remember: a, an, and the. But in Spanish, this topic is a bit more complex because there are many articles and they should agree with the gender and the number of the nouns that they refer to. In this blog post, you will learn the types of definite and indefinite articles utilized in Castilian and how natives apply them in their daily conversations. By learning this you will be able to speak with locals when you visit and learn Spanish faster. So lets start by recapping what an article is and how it works in English. When we think about grammar rules, articles are a class of words that define a noun as something specific (definite) or general (indefinite). DEFINITE ARTICLES: the can be used for plural and singular nouns. INDEFINITE ARTICLES: a and an are used for singular nouns, depending on the word beginning with a consonant or vowel sound. The words some and any may be pronouns or determiners but can also be seen employed as articles for plural nouns. Example: I would love to have an ice cream right now. -> an ice cream -> general The chocolate ice cream from the Gelateria Unno in New York is the best. -> the chocolate ice cream -> specific If you go to the supermarket please bring some ice cream tubs. -> some ice cream -> general From the examples above we can see that the definite article is the because it limits the options to one particular ice cream (in this sentence we find out the flavor, the ice cream parlor that makes it and the city where the shop is situated). Whereas an refers to the general idea of enjoying a scoop of ice cream. Same thing for some, the speaker is asking to bring a few tubs without specifying flavors, sizes or brands. To begin with, spot how the Spanish names are very similar to the English ones: DEFINITE ARTICLE -> Articulo definido o determinado INDEFINITE ARTICLE -> Articulos indefinido o indeterminado The big question is What are the definite and indefinite articles in Spanish? The answer is in the following table. This is just a list and we must cover the topic in detail, so keep reading. MASCULINE DEFINITE INDEFINITE SINGULAR El Un PLURAL Los Unos FEMININE SINGULAR La Una PLURAL Las Unas Now, regarding the sentence structure there are also similarities between both languages. Articles in English usually appear before the noun or before the adjective that is qualifying the noun. Example: (a) + (car) ARTICLE + ADJECTIVE + NOUN + (red) + (car) In Spanish grammar the articles also appear before the noun. However, the adjectives are placed after the noun. Example: The red car -> el coche rojo This is how it would look: (el) + (coche) ARTICLE + NOUN + ADJECTIVE (el) + (coche) + (rojo) Nonetheless, you may find adjectives before nouns (mainly in literature or news reports) when the author is intentionally trying to create an emotion or draw the readers attention to build an atmosphere. Example: ARTICLE + ADJECTIVE + NOUN El viejo pueblo le daba la bienvenida. The old town welcomed him. But you will never see the article sandwiched between the adjective and the noun. ARTICLE + NOUN + ADJECTIVE (INCORRECT!) Viejo el pueblo le daba la bienvenida. Yes! Articles are called articulos in Spanish. They belong to a class of words that serve to indicate if what is designated by the noun is familiar or unknown to the interlocutors as well as to point out its gender and number. In other words, articles serve to identify the noun as something known or unknown (for whoever is listening or reading), masculine or feminine, and singular or plural. Conclusively, articles are intrinsically related to gender and number. Therefore, one way to start picking the right article is to stop and think about the characteristics of the noun. Is it one thing, person, animal, object or place? Or is it a bunch of them? Is it a feminine or masculine word? If you dont know the answer to the last question, you can begin by identifying the last letter of the noun: If it ends with an o it is likely to be masculine. If it ends with an a it is likely to be feminine. This of course, is not a fixed rule, especially when it comes to proper names such as Roco (a girls name) and Guadalupe (used for both boys and girls) or nouns that finish with a consonant sound like resumen (summary) or computacin (computing). However, the vowels a and o may give you a hint of the nouns gender in common words such as nio and nia. In addition, remember that like in English, a letter s at the end of the noun usually tells us that it is a plural as in nios and nias. With the aforementioned introduction in mind, we can proceed to the inventory of Spanish Definite Articles. Remember that these kinds of articles point-out specific nouns. MASCULINE FEMININE SINGULAR El La PLURAL Los Las All of these Spanish definite articles are substituted for the English definite article the. Look at the example below, it includes people, concepts, territories, and objects. All the nouns are somehow connected to Spain but observe the differences in both languages. SPAIN SPANISH ENGLISH La Pennsula Ibrica The Iberian Peninsula El viejo mundo The old world Las joyas de la corona espaola The jewels of the Spanish crown Los reyes de Espaa The kings of Spain La monarca parlamentaria espaola The Spanish parliamentary monarchy The contractions are formed when the article is preceded by the prepositions a or de: PREPOSITION + ARTICLE = CONTRACTION EXAMPLE ENGLISH a el al Voy al cine I am going to the movies de el del Llamen de parte del Seor Varela They are calling on behalf of Mr. Varela In summary, you can rely on these rules to choose the correct definite article. Pick El for singular masculine nouns. SINGULAR MASCULINE EL SPANISH ENGLISH El beb The baby El ojo The eye El sartn The frying pan El colegio The school El doctor The doctor El elefante The elephant El lpiz The pencil Go for La for singular feminine nouns. SINGULAR FEMININE LA SPANISH ENGLISH La bebita The little baby La ventana The window La seora The lady La institucin The institution La maestra Pilar Pilar the teacher La pluma The pen La marmota The marmot/The groundhog Use Los for plural masculine nouns. PLURAL MASCULINE LOS SPANISH ENGLISH Los cachorros The puppies Los hombres de negro The men in black Los estudiantes The students Los jueces The judges Los peces The fish Los utensilios de cocina The kitchen utensils Los comercios The shops Select Las for plural feminine nouns. PLURAL FEMININE LAS SPANISH ENGLISH Las amigas The friends Las alubias The haricot beans Las abejas The bees Las tierras lejanas The distant lands Las diputadas The deputies Las letras The letters Las libreras The bookshops Neuter Spanish Definite Article Lo: There is a neuter form of the definite article called lo. It is used to transform adjectives, adverbs, possessive pronouns or participles in abstract nouns. Example: Lo mejor de la vida es -> The best thing in life is Lo peor que me ha pasado es -> The worst thing that happened to me is These are two popular Spanish sayings with lo: Lo ballado nadie me lo quita. -> Nobody can take the experience away from me. Lo mo es mo y lo tuyo taml! > Mine is mine and yours (is mine) too! A proper noun is a name used for an individual organization, place or person and is always spelled with a capital initial letter. In Spanish they are called nombres propios and work exactly the same. The trick is that if you want to master the Spanish language you have to know their gender because that affects how other parts of the sentence perform. When you start learning Spanish, you may find yourself asking Is that proper noun masculine or feminine? The reality is that at the beginning most of it is guess-work and, as you move on through your language learning journey, lots of practice. There are for sure a few guidelines regarding suffixes but then exceptions are also abundant. That is why it would be of great help to learn in an immersive environment and by taking actual lessons with a Spanish native speaker who is also a certified language teacher. Want to know more about LiveLinguas teaching methods? Anyway, here is a small taste of Spanish definite articles and proper names. SPANISH ENGLISH Los Andes The Andes La Plaza Constitucin The Constitution Square El Hotel Royal The Royal Hotel La Organizacin de las Naciones Unidas The United Nations El Ro Bravo The Brave River El restaurante Los Laureles The restaurant Los Laureles La obra Carmina Burana The Carmina Burana play Collective nouns are words that make reference to a group, ensemble or set of animals, people, places or objects. For instance, the word archipielago (archipelago) means a collection of islands (islas). Collective nouns are considered singular but can also be used in plural according to the context of the sentence. This make sure to pick the right article. Example: El archipilago de las Filipinas tiene ms de 7,600 islas. -> The archipelago of the Philippines has over 7,600 islands. La expedicin a los archipilagos del Ocano rtico fall. -> The expedition to the archipelagos of the Arctic Ocean has failed. Here is a list of the most common ones and their meaning. COLLECTIVE NOUNS SPANISH ENGLISH ARTICLE NAME COLLECTION Letras Alphabet Letters El Archipilago Islas Archipelago Islands El Cardumen Peces Shoal Fish El Enjambre Abejas Swarm Bees El Follaje Hojas verdes Foliage Green leaves El Pinar Pinos Pinewood Pine trees El Racimo Uvas Bunch/Cluster Grapes El Vocabulario Palabras Vocabulary Words El Maizal Plantas de maz Cornfield Corn plants El Rebaa Ovinos Sheep flock Sheep El Ganado Ovino, cabro, vacuno, etc. Livestock Ovine, bovine, goats, etc. La Parvada Aves Flock Birds La Constelacin Estrellas Constellation Stars La Cristallera Vasos, copas y jarras de cristal Glassware Glasses, cups, and jugs made of glass La Flota Navos o vehculos de una empresa Fleet Boats or vehicles own by a company La Flora Plantas de una regin Flora Plants from a region La Fauna Animales de una regin Fauna Animals from a region La Manada Animales salvajes Herd Wild animals La Muchedumbre Multitud de personas Crowd/Mob Large group of people La Piara Cerdos Herd of pigs, mares or mules Pigs, mares, and mules La Tropa Soldados Troop Soldiers La Arboleda rboles Grove Trees La Papelera Papel para escribir y material de oficina Stationary Writing paper and office materials La Gente Personas People Individuals La Jaura Perros Pack Dogs Countries and kingdoms have a gender so the definite article must be in agreement with it. Example: El Reino Unido est por salirse de la Unin Europea. -> The United Kingdom is about to leave the European Union. La India es un pas enigmtico. -> India is an enigmatic country. Los Balcanes se ubican al sureste de Europa. -> The Balkans are located in southeastern Europe. La Repblica Checa es un pas sin litoral. -> The Czech Republic is a landlocked country. El Mxico de ayer era ms seguro para sus ciudadanos. -> Yesterdays Mexico was safer for its citizens. Nonetheless, sometimes it is fine to write them without articles. Example: La Argentina y el Paraguay disputan sus fronteras con Bolivia. -> Argentina and Paraguay dispute their borders with Bolivia. In addition, there are nations or regions whose official names in Spanish are in fact plural. Example: Unites States of America -> Estados Unidos de Amrica United States of Mexico -> Estados Unidos Mexicanos Netherlands -> Pases Bajos In which case the articles los and las are called-in. Example: Aruba es una isla ubicada en el sur del mar Caribe que forma parte de los Pases Bajos. -> Aruba is an island located in the Southern Caribbean Sea that is part of the Netherlands. Las Amricas son el segundo continente ms grande del planeta Tierra. -> The Americas are the second largest continent of Planet Earth. Notice that, when the definite article los precede the name, the verb should appear in plural too. Example: Los Estados Unidos de Amrica participaron en las ttimas olimpiadas. -> The Netherlands participated in the last Olympic games. Finally, country demonynms are usually given in plural forms. Note that in Spanish they are not capitalized. For instance, people from Cyprus (Chipre) are known as Cypriots (cipriotas). Example: La mayora de los cipriotas pertenecen a la Iglesia Ortodoxa Autocfala de Chipre. -> The majority of Cypriots belong to the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Cyprus. On a last note, you may want to study the grammar rules shown on the chart below to help you converting countrys adjectival and demonymic forms from singular to plural. ENDING ADDITION SINGULAR PLURAL ENGLISH -vowel +s la ciudad francesa las ciudades francesas French city/cities -consonant +es el pueblo ingls los pueblos ingleses English town/towns +es el pueblo marroqu los pueblos marroques Moroccan town/towns In this section we are moving on to the articles that point-out to general individuals, places, objects, and animals. Remember that as the name suggests, Spanish indefinite articles are undefined or indeterminate. This means that the receptor of the communication might not know the specifics of the noun. However, it does indicate the gender and the number. MASCULINE FEMININE SINGULAR Un Una PLURAL Unos Unas These are the equivalent of a, an, any or some. In summary, you can rely on these rules to choose the correct indefinite article. Pick Un for singular masculine nouns. SINGULAR MASCULINE UN SPANISH ENGLISH Un mosquito A mosquito Un seor A sir Un libro A book Un lugar A place Un automvil An automobile Un pastel A cake Un elefante An elephant Go for Una for singular feminine nouns. SINGULAR FEMININE UNA SPANISH ENGLISH Una nia A girl Una araa A spider Una manzana An apple Una mueca A doll Una mesa A table Una casa A house Una enfermera A nurse Use Unos for plural masculine nouns. PLURAL MASCULINE UNOS SPANISH ENGLISH Unos jvenes Some youngsters Unos limones Some lemons Unos ruidos Some noises Unos abogados Some lawyers Unos policas Some policemen Unos caminos Some roads Unos pases Some countries Select Unas for plural feminine nouns. PLURAL FEMININE UNAS SPANISH ENGLISH Unas uvas Some grapes Unas seoritas Some ladies Unas margaritas Some margaritas Unas recetas de cocina Some cooking recipes Unas sillas Some chairs Unas monjas Some nuns Unas noticias Some news Here are a few final notes on the use of indefinite articles for you to memorize. According to the Real Academia de la Lengua Espaola (Royal Academy of the Spanish Language), when the singular feminine una precedes a noun that begins with the letter a or the sound ha such as guila and hacha then it is modified to un. Example: Un guila se posa sobre el nopal. -> An eagle perches on the cactus. Lo mat con un hacha. -> He killed him with an ax. But if there is an adjective between the article and the noun it remains the same. Example: Una hermosa guila se posa sobre el nopal. -> A beautiful eagle perches on the cactus. Lo mat con una filosa hacha. -> He/she killed him with a sharp ax. But bear in mind that Un guila hermosa is incorrect! Lastly, when the indefinite article precedes a noun that describes your profession it should be omitted. Example: Imagine that someone asks you What do you do for a living? QUESTION: A qu te dedicas? Fill in the blanks: Ayer fui ____ banco. Mi madre me compr ____ pendientes azules que he perdido esta maana. La ha mordido ____ perro. Manuel ha llamado a ____ polica federal. ____ manzanas ya estn maduras. Necesitamos ____ flores para decorar ____ tumba de mi padre. Me he comprado ____ par de zapatos. Quin se llev mi bolso? Se ____ ha robado ____ mujer. ____ camioneta roja es ____ vecino de enfrente. ____ mejor de la cena fue el postre. ANSWERS: Al Los Un La Las Unas/la Un Lo/una La/del Lo If you are looking to expand your Spanish vocabulary and learn more about how to talk like native speaker, start with our Spanish Survival Crash Course. Each day for six days, well send e-books and audio files to your inbox to help you get a basic foundation for the language, totally FREE!

Definite and indefinite articles quizlet. What are definite and indefinite articles in spanish.