

Artículos definidos e indefinidos

ARTÍCULOS INDEFINIDOS (indefinite articles)

MASCULINO (A/AN)		FEMENINO (A/AN)		
SINGULAR (A / AN)	UN (A/AN)	UN TOMATE (A TOMATO)	UNA (A/AN)	UNA MANZANA (AN APPLE)
PLURAL (SOME)	UNOS (SOME)	UNOS HUEVOS (SOME EGGS)	UNAS (SOME)	UNAS UVAS (SOME GRAPES)

ARTÍCULOS DEFINIDOS (definite articles)

MASCULINO THE		FEMENINO THE		
SINGULAR (THE)	EL	EL ARROZ (THE RICE)	LA	LA CARNE (THE MEAT)
PLURAL (THE)	LOS	LOS TOMATES (THE TOMATOES)	LAS	LAS PERAS (THE PEARS)

But...how do I know when to use El or La?



LOOK AT THE RULE...

MASCULINE NOUNS

Here are some of the letters that we usually see at the end of masculine words.

- Most words that end in the letter **-o** are masculine. Some examples are **hijo** (son), **zapato** (shoe) and **mono** (monkey).
- Nouns that end in **-ma** are masculine, such as the word **problema** (problem)
- Nouns that end in **-pa**, like the word **mapa** (map), are also masculine
- LONERS** - words that end with any of the letters in **LONERS** are usually masculine. Some examples include:

	Example	Meaning
L	papel	paper
O	mono	monkey
N	atún	tuna
E	hombre	man
R	doctor	doctor (male)
S	autobús	bus

Some Exceptions to the Masculine

These rules can help you most of the time to determine if the noun is masculine, but sometimes they do not work. There are some words that end with **-o**, **-ma**, **-pa**, **-ta**, or **LONERS** that are feminine. A few of the most common ones are:

La moto (the bike)

La radio (the radio)

La leche (the milk)



However...sometimes there is no rule...You just have to memorize that some words are different, such as

La mano (hand)

FEMININE NOUNS

Feminine nouns have different letters at the end of them than masculine ones. Here are the common endings for feminine words:

- ✿ The ending **-A** is usually feminine. Two examples are **DOCTORA** (female doctor) and **CAMISA** (shirt).
- ✿ Words that end in **-IÓN** are feminine nouns, such as **RELIGIÓN** (religion)
- ✿ Two other endings for feminine nouns are **-DAD/-TAD**, like in **FELICIDAD** (happiness) and **AMISTAD** (friendship).
- ✿ Words that end in **-TUD**, like **ACTITUD** (attitude) is also a common ending for feminine nouns

This ending is both Feminine and Masculine

words ending in **-ISTA**, are actually both, feminine and masculine. It is usually at the end of words that describe people, like: **ARTISTA** (artist) and **REALISTA** (realist).

El artista / la artista

El realista / la realista

Some other common words ending in **-A**, but are actually masculine are:

El día (The day).

El agua (The water)

ACTIVITY 4

Write the correct article for each word in red. Follow the example

INDEFINITE ARTICLE	DEFINITE ARTICLE	NOUN	TRANSLATION
Una	La	Comida	THE FOOD
		Té	
		Leche	
		Café	
		Frutas	
		Patatas/ papas	
		Queso	
		Mantequilla	
		Jamón	
		Tomates	
		Helados	