

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

La radio

La moto



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

Some Exceptions to the Feminine

There is one other ending that ends in -a, **-ista**, that is 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 that ends in **-a**, but are 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 |
| | | Deporte | |
| | | Béisbol | |
| | | Natación | |
| | | Videojuegos | |
| | | Televisión | |
| | | Amigos | |
| | | Música | |
| | | Instrumentos | |
| | | Cine | |
| | | Familia | |