**MASCULINE AND FEMININE SPANISH NOUNS**

All Spanish nouns, including people, places, animals, things, ideas and feelings, have a gender (male or female) in Spanish. The fact that inanimate objects have a gender in Spanish does not mean that things like tables and books are physically feminine or masculine. They have genders in a grammatical sense and must be used with articles and adjectives that match their gender.

There are a few general rules you can follow to determine if a noun is feminine or masculine.

**Masculine Nouns**

Most masculine nouns end in **o**. An **o** ending can indicate that a person or animal is male or that an object, idea, etc. is grammatically masculine.

For example: el tío (the uncle), el teatro (the theatre)…

**Masculine Nouns that Don't End in O**

Words that end in the following letters or letter combinations are often (but not always) masculine:

* an accented vowel (**á, é, í, ó, ú**)
* **-ma**
* a consonant other than **d**, **z**
* **e** (There are also many common words ending in e that are feminine, so this rule must be taken with a grain of salt)

For example: el colibrí (the hummingbird), el perfume (the perfume), el árbol (the tree), el programa (the programme)

**Exceptions**

The following nouns are exceptions to the above rules and are feminine, not masculine.

* Feminine words ending in **o**: **la foto, la mano, la moto, la radio.**
* Feminine words ending in **e**: **la llave, la calle, la fiebre, la carne, la frase, la gente, la nieve, la noche, la nube, la sangre, la suerte**, **la muerte, la tarde**, **la madre**, **la base, la clase**, **la clave**, **la fuente**, **la llave**, **la serpiente**, **la torre**.
* Feminine words ending in **consonants** besides **d** or **z**: **la miel, la sal, la piel**, **la coliflor**, **la flor**

**Feminine Nouns**

Most feminine nouns end in **a**. Ending in an **a** indicates that a person or animal is female or that an object, idea, etc. is grammatically feminine.

For example: la enfermera (the nurse), la piscina (the pool)…

**Feminine Nouns that Don't End in A**

* Nouns that end in in **d**, **z**, or **-ión** are also feminine.

For example: la nariz (the nose), la cancion (the song)…

**Exceptions**

The following nouns are exceptions to the above rules and are masculine, not feminine.

Masculine words ending in a: **el drama, el esquema**, **el idioma**, **el mapa**, **el planeta**, **el problema**, **el sistema**, **el tema, el día**, **el aroma**, **el clima**, **el dilemma, el fantasma, el panda**.

Masculine words ending in d: **el record**, **el césped, el huésped**.

Masculine words ending in z: **el arroz**, **el pez**, **el lápiz**, **el ajedrez**, **el maíz**, **el avestruz**, **el altavoz**, **el disfraz, el matiz**.

Masculine words ending in **-ión: el notición**, **el camión**

**REMEMBER:** Spanish articles and adjectives must match the nouns they describe in both gender (masculine/feminine) and number (singular/plural).

For example: **La** manzana es roj**a** (as *manzana* is feminine both the article and adjective need to be in the feminine form)

**El** limón es amarill**o** (as *limón* is masculine both the article and adjective need to be in the masculine form)

**The Definite Article in Spanish** (words for “the”)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine Singular | Feminine  Singular | Masculine  Plural | Feminine  Plural |
| **el** | **la** | **los** | **las** |
| **the** | | | |

**The Indefinite Article in Spanish** (words for “a/an/some”)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine Singular | Feminine  Singular | Masculine  Plural | Feminine  Plural |
| **un** | **una** | **unos** | **unas** |
| **a/an** | | **some** | |

*Retrieved and adapted from SpanishDict.com*