

# Understanding Gender in Spanish

In Spanish, every noun has a grammatical gender — **masculine** or **feminine**. This category is not always related to biological gender; rather, it is a structural feature of the language. A noun's gender affects the form of many other words in the sentence, including **articles**, **adjectives**, and **some pronouns**.

In Spanish, every noun has a **gender** — either **masculine** or **feminine**. This grammatical category affects how other words (articles, adjectives, etc.) are used with the noun.

## 1. What Is Grammatical Gender?

Gender in Spanish is a way of classifying nouns. It doesn't always relate to biological gender — it's simply a grammatical system.

- **El libro** (the book) → masculine
- **La mesa** (the table) → feminine

## 2. Common Patterns

**Masculine:** typically end in **-o**

- el chico, el zapato, el gato
- Also often end in **-ma, -r, -l** (el problema, el color, el papel)

**Feminine:** typically end in **-a**

- la chica, la casa, la gata
- Also often end in **-ción, -sión, -dad, -tad, -umbre**
- la canción, la televisión, la libertad, la costumbre

## 3. Articles and Agreement

**English    Masculine    Feminine**

|      |    |     |
|------|----|-----|
| the  | el | la  |
| a/an | un | una |

Adjectives also match gender:

- el chico alto / la chica alta

#### 4. Exceptions

- el día (masculine)
- la mano (feminine)
- el mapa (masculine)

#### 5. People and Animals

Gender often matches biological sex:

- el profesor / la profesora
- el amigo / la amiga

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