

Spanish Gender Rules for Nouns and Adjectives

36 words - 2026-07-08

Word	Type	Example	Translation	Explanation
Nouns ending in -o are usually masculine	Gender rule	El libro es nuevo.	The book is new.	Many Spanish nouns that end in -o use masculine articles.
Nouns ending in -a are usually feminine	Gender rule	La casa es grande.	The house is big.	Many Spanish nouns that end in -a use feminine articles.
Nouns ending in -ción are usually feminine	Gender rule	La canción es bonita.	The song is pretty.	Words ending in -ción usually take feminine articles.
Nouns ending in -dad are usually feminine	Gender rule	La ciudad es antigua.	The city is old.	Words ending in -dad usually take feminine articles.
Nouns ending in -tad are usually feminine	Gender rule	La libertad es importante.	Freedom is important.	Words ending in -tad usually take feminine articles.
Nouns ending in -ma are often masculine	Gender rule	El problema es serio.	The problem is serious.	Some words ending in -ma are masculine, especially words from Greek.
Nouns ending in -or are usually masculine	Gender rule	El doctor llega tarde.	The doctor arrives late.	Many nouns ending in -or are masculine.
Nouns ending in -aje are usually masculine	Gender rule	El viaje fue largo.	The trip was long.	Words ending in -aje usually take masculine articles.
Nouns ending in -umbre are usually feminine	Gender rule	La costumbre es vieja.	The habit is old.	Words ending in -umbre usually take feminine articles.
Some nouns change meaning with gender	Gender rule	La capital es alta.	The capital is high.	A few words have different meanings in masculine and feminine.
People nouns can have masculine and feminine forms	Gender rule	Mi amigo es profesor.	My friend is a teacher.	Many job and person words change form for men and women.
Adjectives must match noun gender	Agreement	La camisa blanca es bonita.	The white shirt is pretty.	Adjectives usually change to match masculine or feminine nouns.
Words ending in -o are usually masculine	Gender rule	El libro es nuevo.	The book is new.	Many Spanish nouns that end in -o are masculine.

Word	Type	Example	Translation	Explanation
Words ending in -a are usually feminine	Gender rule	La casa es grande.	The house is big.	Many Spanish nouns that end in -a are feminine.
Words ending in -ción are feminine	Gender rule	La canción es bonita.	The song is pretty.	Nouns ending in -ción are usually feminine.
Words ending in -dad are feminine	Gender rule	La ciudad es vieja.	The city is old.	Nouns ending in -dad are usually feminine.
Words ending in -tad are feminine	Gender rule	La libertad es importante.	Freedom is important.	Nouns ending in -tad are usually feminine.
Words ending in -umbre are feminine	Gender rule	La costumbre es vieja.	The custom is old.	Nouns ending in -umbre are usually feminine.
Words ending in -ma are often masculine	Gender rule	El problema es serio.	The problem is serious.	Some nouns ending in -ma are masculine, often from Greek.
Words ending in -ista can be masculine or feminine	Gender rule	El artista canta.	The artist sings.	Nouns ending in -ista often have the same form for both genders.
Words ending in -or are usually masculine	Gender rule	El doctor trabaja hoy.	The doctor works today.	Many nouns ending in -or are masculine.
Words ending in -e can be masculine or feminine	Gender rule	El estudiante lee.	The student reads.	Some nouns ending in -e can be either masculine or feminine.
Some nouns change meaning with gender	Gender rule	La capital es alta.	The capital is high.	A few nouns have different meanings in masculine and feminine.
Some nouns are always one gender	Gender rule	La mano está fría.	The hand is cold.	Some nouns do not follow a clear ending rule and must be memorized.
-o	Usually masculine	El libro es nuevo.	The book is new.	Many Spanish nouns ending in -o are masculine.
-a	Usually feminine	La mesa es grande.	The table is big.	Many Spanish nouns ending in -a are feminine.
-ción	Feminine	La canción es bonita.	The song is pretty.	Nouns ending in -ción are feminine.
-dad	Feminine	La ciudad es vieja.	The city is old.	Nouns ending in -dad are feminine.
-tad	Feminine	La libertad es importante.	Freedom is important.	Nouns ending in -tad are feminine.

Word	Type	Example	Translation	Explanation
-umbre	Feminine	La costumbre es común.	The custom is common.	Nouns ending in -umbre are feminine.
-ma	Often masculine	El problema es serio.	The problem is serious.	Many nouns ending in -ma are masculine.
-ista	Can be masculine or feminine	La artista canta muy bien.	The artist sings very well.	Nouns ending in -ista can be masculine or feminine.
-or	Usually masculine	El doctor trabaja hoy.	The doctor works today.	Many nouns ending in -or are masculine.
-e	Can be masculine or feminine	El estudiante lee mucho.	The student reads a lot.	Nouns ending in -e can be masculine or feminine.
Gender changes meaning	Different meaning by gender	El capital es dinero.	Capital is money.	Some nouns change meaning when the gender changes.
Always one gender	Always feminine	La mano está fría.	The hand is cold.	Some nouns are always one gender, no matter the ending.