

Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_

## Describing and Identifying People and Things (Articles, Adjectives, and the Verb “Ser”)

- **Nouns**. The name of a person, place or thing is a noun. In Spanish, every noun has a gender, either masculine or feminine. Many Spanish nouns end in either **o** or **a**. Most nouns that end in **o** are masculine, and most nouns that end in **a** are feminine.
- **Making words plural**. To make a word plural in Spanish just add an **s** if the word ends in a vowel, and add **es** if the word ends in a consonant. If a word ends in **z**, drop the **z** and add **ces**.

Examples:

English Noun	Singular	Plural
student	estudiante	Estudiantes <u>s</u>
friend (male)	amigo	Amigos <u>s</u>
school	escuela	Escuelas <u>s</u>
teacher/professor	profesor	profesores <u>s</u>
pencil	lápiz	lápices <u>s</u>

- **Articles**. There are two types of articles: definite and indefinite. The English word *the* is called a definite article because it is used to refer to a definite or specific thing – *the* girl, *the* school. The word *a* (*an*) is called an indefinite article because it refers to any person or thing, not a specific one – *a* girl, *a* school, *an* article.

Article	Masculine	Feminine
Definite (the)	el, los	la, las
Indefinite (a / an)	un, unos	una, unas

- **Adjectives**. A word that describes a noun is an adjective. In Spanish, an adjective must agree with the noun it describes or modifies in number and gender. If a noun is masculine, then the adjective must be in the masculine form. If a noun is in the feminine form, then the adjective must be in the feminine form. If a noun is in the plural form, then the adjective must be in the plural form. **Note:** You can make adjectives that end in **o** feminine by changing the **o** to **a**, and vice versa. Adjectives

that end in e or in a consonant can be either masculine or feminine... the gender is determined by the noun it describes or modifies.

Examples:

English sentence	Masculine Singular/Plural	Feminine Singular/Plural
The boy/girl is tall The boys/girls are tall	El muchacho es alto Los muchachos son altos	La muchacha es alta Las muchachas son altas
My friend is generous My friends are generous	Mi amigo es generoso Mis amigos son generosos	Mi amiga es generosa Mis amigas son generosas
The student is popular The students are popular	El estudiante es popular Los estudiantes son populares	La estudiante es popular Las estudiantes son populares
The teacher is interesting The teachers are interesting	El profesor es interesante Los profesores son interesantes	La profesora es interesante Las profesoras son interesantes

### ***Subject Pronouns***

Subject pronouns refer to the persons or things doing the action.

English	Spanish	
I	Yo	to talk <u>about</u> yourself...
You (informal)	Tú	to talk <u>to</u> a friend, someone you call by their first name, someone close in age...
You (formal)	Usted	to talk <u>to</u> someone you call by their last name, strangers/people you have just met, to show respect...
He, She	Él, Ella	to talk <u>about</u> a person...
We	Nosotros Nosotras	to talk <u>about</u> a group of people and you are included... girls: use <b>nosotras</b> if everybody in group including you are females...
You (plural) 'Y'all'	Ustedes	to talk <u>to</u> a group of people...
They	Ellos, Ellas	to talk <u>about</u> a group of people...

The Verb **SER** (to be). In Spanish, a verb has different forms to tell you who the subject is. Changing a verb form so that it matches its subject is called **conjugating**. This is the conjugation of the verb ser.

<b>Subject Pronoun</b>	<b>Ser</b>	<b>English</b>
Yo	<b>soy</b>	I am
Tú	<b>eres</b>	You are (informal)
Usted	<b>es</b>	You are (formal)
Él, Ella	<b>es</b>	He, She is
Nosotros	<b>somos</b>	We are
Ustedes	<b>son</b>	You are (plural)
Ellos, Ellas	<b>son</b>	They are (masc. & fem.)

\* With nouns and names of people, use the same form of the verb for él/ella or ellos/ellas.

\*\* In Spanish, subject pronouns can be omitted because the conjugation tells you who the subject is.

➤ To make a sentence negative, place **no** in front of the verb.

Example: Verónica **no** es estudiante, es profesora. (Veronica is not a student, she is a teacher.)