

Reference 1.3: Adjectives and Agreement

Adjective: Adjectives are words used in language to modify or describe a noun.

Adjective Placement: There are two types of adjectives that exist: determiners and basic. In this unit, we will be focusing on basic adjectives. In Spanish, determiners go before nouns (just like English); however, basic adjectives are placed after nouns (unlike English).

Adjective Agreement: In Spanish and many other languages we must have agreement. Agreement refers to the gender and number of the noun.

Gender: All nouns are classified as masculine or feminine. It does not mean that the noun is male or female; moreover, this is a way that the Spanish language organizes its nouns. It is always important to know the gender of a noun so that your adjective can agree with it.

Number: When we refer to the “number” of a noun, we are basically stating whether the noun is singular or plural. Nouns in English can be plural, so you are used to this; however, nouns and adjectives can be plural in Spanish. This is something that you have to get used to. Basically, if the adjective that you use to describe a plural noun, must be plural, as well.

Masculine vs. Feminine Gender: If an adjective ends in an “o”, it must be feminized if the noun that it describes is feminine.

Example 1:

- John es simpático. (John is nice.)
- Susan es simpática. (Susan is nice.)
 - **Note:** The word “nice” in Spanish is “simpático”. Since the noun “Susan” is feminine, we must change the “o” to the word “simpática” to an “a”.
 - **Note:** We only change the letter “o” to an “a”, we never change any other ending.

Masculine vs. Feminine Gender: If a noun is plural, it is important to make the adjective plural as well. If a basic adjective ends in a vowel, we add “s” to make it plural. If a basic adjective ends in a consonant, then we add “es” to make it plural.

Example 1:

- John y Susan son simpáticos. (John and Susan are nice.)
 - **Note:** The word “nice” is “simpático”. Since the noun “John y Susan” is plural, we must add an “s” to the word “simpático” in order to make the adjective to agree with the noun that it describes.

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Example 2:

- El carro es azul. (The car is blue.)
- Los carros son azules. (The cars are blue.)
 - **Note:** The word “blue” is “azul”. Since the first noun “carro” is singular, we leave the adjective “azul” alone. However, the second noun “carros” is plural; therefore, we must make “azul” plural. Since “azul” ends in the consonant “l”, we must add “es” in order to make the adjective correctly plural.

Incorrect Gender Agreement: Make sure to feminize adjectives that end in “o” only. There are a lot of adjectives that do end in “o”, so that is why this concept is taught. Also, it is important to add “s” to adjective that end in a vowel and add “es” to adjectives that end in a consonant when you are making something plural.

Example 1:

- La clase es interesante. (The class is interesting.)
 - **Note:** The word class “la clase” is feminine; however, since the word “interesante” ends in the letter “e”, we do not need to change it, at all because we only change “o” to the letter “a”

Example 2:

- Las banderas son grandes. (The flags are big.)
 - **Note:** The word “bandera” means “flags”. This word is feminine and plural; therefore we must pluralize and feminize the word “grande”, because it is the adjective that is used to describe the word “banderas”.
 - The word “grande” ends in the letter “e”, so we do not need to change it.
 - The word “grande” ends in a vowel, so we must add an “s” in order to make it plural since the noun that it describes is plural.

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el vocabulario español

1. aburrido
2. activo
3. alto
4. antiguo
5. antipático
6. atlético
7. bajo
8. bonito, guapo, lindo, hermoso
9. bueno
10. calmo, tranquilo
11. calvo
12. cómico, gracioso
13. corto
14. débil
15. delgado
16. divertido
17. flaco
18. fuerte
19. gordo
20. grande
21. inteligente
22. joven
23. largo
24. limpio
25. malo
26. mediano
27. molesto
28. moreno
29. nuevo
30. pelirrojo
31. pequeño
32. perezoso, flojo
33. rubio
34. ruidoso
35. serio
36. simpático
37. sucio
38. tonto
39. viejo

el vocabulario inglés

1. boring
2. active
3. tall, high
4. old (object)
5. mean
6. athletic
7. short, low (height)
8. pretty, beautiful, handsome
9. good
10. calm, quiet
11. bald
12. funny, hilarious
13. short (length)
14. weak
15. thin
16. fun
17. skinny
18. strong
19. fat
20. large, big
21. intelligent, smart
22. young
23. long
24. clean
25. bad
26. medium
27. annoying
28. dark-complected, brunette
29. new
30. red-haired
31. small
32. lazy
33. blonde
34. loud
35. serious
36. nice
37. dirty
38. dumb
39. old

Note: Although many vocabulary words describe people, there are some words that describe objects more than people.