Los Artículos
Nouns and Articles in Spanish

	Masculine Singular	Masculine Plural	Singular Feminine	Singular Plural	English
Definite Article	**el**	**los**	**la**	**las**	**the**
Indefinite Article	**un**	**unos**	**una**	**unas**	**a** **some (plural)**

- Nouns are words that name a *person, place* or *thing.*

- In English, all nouns use the <u>definite article</u> **the** and the <u>indefinite article</u> **a** or **an.**

- Nouns in Spanish are either masculine or feminine <u>in a grammatical sense</u> (not a biological gender). Spanish nouns use the definite article **el** or **la**, and the indefinite article **un** or **una**.

- Generally, nouns that end in –o are masculine, and use **el** or **un**, and those that end in –a are feminine and require **la** or **una.**
    - **Exceptions** **el día**   **la mano**
                    el problema
                    el mapa
                    el programa

- Nouns ending in **–d, -ción, -sión** are feminine.
    - **Examples**   **la lección**   **la universidad**   **la pared**
                    la estación   **la edad**   **la actividad**
                    la televisión

- Generally, nouns that refer to males are masculine and those referring to females are feminine. Masculine nouns ending in **–o** change to **–a** for the feminine; those ending in a consonant add an **–a** for the feminine.
    - **Examples**   **amigo**   **amiga**
                    professor   **profesora**

- Add **–s** to nouns ending in a vowel to make them plural. Add **–es** to nouns ending in a consonant to make them plural.
    - **Examples**   **casa   casas**   **señor   señores**
                      alumno alumnos   **actividad   actividades**

- **Nouns that end in –z change the z to c before adding –es.**
    - EXAMPLE   **lápiz**   **lápices**

- To refer to a mixed group, use masculine plural forms.
    - EXAMPLE   **los chicos**   *the boys and girls*

- Use definite articles with titles when talking ABOUT someone. Don't use definite articles when talking TO someone directly.
    - EXAMPLE   **La Señora Hanley habla español. (**TALK ABOUT)
                    "Buenos días, Señora Hanley".   (TALK TO)