

Nouns that refer to non-living things

Masculine nouns

ending in -o

el cuaderno	the notebook
el diario	the diary
el diccionario	the dictionary
el número	the number
el video	the video

ending in -ma

el problema	the problem
el programa	the program

ending in -s

el autobús	the bus
el país	the country

Feminine nouns

ending in -a

la computadora	the computer
la cosa	the thing
la escuela	the school
la maleta	the suitcase
la palabra	the word

ending in -ción

la lección	the lesson
la conversación	the conversation

ending in -dad

la nacionalidad	the nationality
la comunidad	the community

¡LENGUA VIVA!

The Spanish word for *video* can be pronounced with the stress on the *i* or the *e*. For that reason, you might see the word written with or without an accent: **video** or **vídeo**.

- ▶ As shown above, certain noun endings are strongly associated with a specific gender, so you can use them to determine if a noun is masculine or feminine.
- ▶ Because the gender of nouns that refer to non-living things cannot be determined by foolproof rules, you should memorize the gender of each noun you learn. It is helpful to learn each noun with its corresponding article, **el** for masculine and **la** for feminine.
- ▶ Another reason to memorize the gender of every noun is that there are common exceptions to the rules of gender. For example, **el mapa** (*map*) and **el día** (*day*) end in **-a**, but are masculine. **La mano** (*hand*) ends in **-o**, but is feminine.

Plural of nouns

- ▶ To form the plural, add **-s** to nouns that end in a vowel. For nouns that end in a consonant, add **-es**. For nouns that end in **z**, change the **z** to **c**, then add **-es**.

el chico	→ los chicos	la nacionalidad	→ las nacionalidades
el diario	→ los diarios	el país	→ los países
el problema	→ los problemas	el lápiz (<i>pencil</i>)	→ los lápices
- ▶ In general, when a singular noun has an accent mark on the last syllable, the accent is dropped from the plural form.

la lección	→ las lecciones	el autobús	→ los autobuses
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- ▶ Use the masculine plural form to refer to a group that includes both males and females.

1 pasajero	+ 2 pasajeras	= 3 pasajeros	2 chicos	+ 2 chicas	= 4 chicos
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CONSULTA

You will learn more about accent marks in **Lección 4, Pronunciación**, p. 123.