**Los Artículos - el and la**

The name of a person, place, or thing is a noun. In Spanish, every noun has a gender, either masculine or feminine. Almost all nouns that end in **o** are masculine. Almost all nouns that end in **a** are feminine. In Spanish “**the”** is either **el** or **la**. You use **el** with masculine nouns and **la** with feminine nouns.

 el muchacho la muchacha

 el amigo la amiga

An adjective is a word that describes or modifies a noun. In Spanish, the adjective must agree with the noun it modifies or describes. Study the following examples.

 El muchacho es alto.

 Él es guapo.

 La muchacha es alta.

 Ella es buena y simpática.

**Los Artículos - los and las**

Plural means **more than one**. In Spanish you add an **s** to most nouns to form the plural. To say “the” when nouns are plural, use **los** or **las**.

 el muchacho los muchachos

 el deporte los deportes

 la amiga las amigas

 la escuela las escuelas

la clase las clases

To form the plural of adjectives ending in **o, a,** or **e**, add an **s** to the singular form.

 El estudiante es serio. Los estudiantes son serios.

 La muchacha es alta. Las muchachas son altas.

 La clase es grande. Las clases son grandes.

To form the plural of an adjective that ends in a consonant, add -**es**.

 El curso es fácil. Los cursos son fáciles.

Use this chart to determine which form of “the” you need to use.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Singular noun | Plural noun |
| Masculine noun | el | los |
| Feminine noun | la | las |