

# Adjectives in Spanish

## How to describe the world around you

Gender · Number · Position · The most useful adjectives at A1

### What is an adjective?

An adjective is a word that **describes a noun** — a person, a place, a thing, or an idea. It tells us what something is like: its size, color, personality, or quality.

In English: "a **tall** man", "a **beautiful** city", "an **interesting** book."

In Spanish: "un hombre **alto**", "una ciudad **hermosa**", "un libro **interesante**."

### ◆ RULE 1 — Where does the adjective go?

→ In Spanish, adjectives go **AFTER** the noun.

This is the opposite of English, where the adjective comes **before** the noun. In Spanish, the noun always comes first.

English (adjective BEFORE noun)	Spanish (adjective AFTER noun)
a tall man	<b>un hombre alto</b>
a beautiful city	<b>una ciudad hermosa</b>
a big house	<b>una casa grande</b>
an interesting book	<b>un libro interesante</b>

→ A few very common adjectives like **bueno, malo, grande, pequeño** can go before the noun in some expressions ("un buen amigo", "un gran hombre"), but for now, always place adjectives **after** the noun — you will always be correct.

### ◆ RULE 2 — Gender Agreement (Masculine & Feminine)

→ In Spanish, adjectives must match the gender of the noun they describe.

Every noun in Spanish is either **masculine** (usually *el / un*) or **feminine** (usually *la / una*). The adjective changes its ending to match.

### 01 — Adjectives ending in **-o** → change to **-a** for feminine

Adjective	Masculine (el / un)	Feminine (la / una)
alto (tall)	El chico es alt-o.	La chica es alt-a.
bajo (short)	El hombre es baj-o.	La mujer es baj-a.
guapo (handsome/pretty)	El actor es guap-o.	La actriz es guap-a.
simpático (nice/friendly)	Pedro es simpátic-o.	Ana es simpátic-a.
serio (serious)	El profesor es seri-o.	La profesora es seri-a.

### 02 — Adjectives ending in **-e** or a consonant → same form for both genders

Adjective	Masculine (el / un)	Feminine (la / una)
inteligente (intelligent)	Él es inteligente.	Ella es inteligente.
amable (kind)	El médico es amable.	La médica es amable.
joven (young)	El chico es joven.	La chica es joven.
fácil (easy)	El examen es fácil.	La prueba es fácil.

→ **Quick tip:** If the adjective ends in **-e** or a consonant (like **-l, -r, -z**), **do not change it**. One form works for both masculine and feminine.

## ◆ RULE 3 — Number Agreement (Singular & Plural)

→ Adjectives must also match the number of the noun — singular or plural.

The rule is simple and follows the same pattern as nouns:

Rule	Singular	Plural
Ends in a vowel → add -s	alto / alta	altos / altas

Ends in a consonant → add -es	<b>joven / fácil</b>	<b>jóvenes / fáciles</b>
Ends in -z → change to -ces	<b>feliz (happy)</b>	<b>felices</b>

→ **The full picture — all four forms together:**

Adjective	Masc. Sing.	Fem. Sing.	Masc. Plural	Fem. Plural
tall	<b>alto</b>	<b>alta</b>	<b>altos</b>	<b>altas</b>
nice / friendly	<b>simpático</b>	<b>simpática</b>	<b>simpáticos</b>	<b>simpáticas</b>
intelligent	<b>inteligente</b>	<b>inteligente</b>	<b>inteligentes</b>	<b>inteligentes</b>
happy	<b>feliz</b>	<b>feliz</b>	<b>felices</b>	<b>felices</b>

→ **Mixed groups:** When a group includes both male and female people, Spanish uses the **masculine plural** form. Example: "Ana y Pedro son **simpáticos**." — even though Ana is feminine, the group uses the masculine plural.

## ◆ ESSENTIAL ADJECTIVES — A1 Vocabulary Bank

### 01 — Personality & Character

Spanish (m/f)	English	Spanish (m/f)	English
<b>simpático / -a</b>	nice, friendly	<b>antipático / -a</b>	unfriendly, unpleasant
<b>amable</b>	kind	<b>serio / -a</b>	serious
<b>inteligente</b>	intelligent	<b>tímido / -a</b>	shy
<b>trabajador / -ora</b>	hardworking	<b>perezoso / -a</b>	lazy
<b>divertido / -a</b>	fun, funny	<b>aburrido / -a</b>	boring
<b>creativo / -a</b>	creative	<b>honesto / -a</b>	honest

### 02 — Physical Appearance

Spanish (m/f)	English	Spanish (m/f)	English
<b>alto / -a</b>	tall	<b>bajo / -a</b>	short
<b>delgado / -a</b>	slim, thin	<b>gordo / -a</b>	fat, chubby

<b>guapo / -a</b>	handsome / pretty	<b>feo / -a</b>	ugly
<b>joven</b>	young	<b>mayor</b>	old / older

### 03 — Describing things & places

Spanish (m/f)	English	Spanish (m/f)	English
<b>grande</b>	big, large	<b>pequeño / -a</b>	small
<b>bonito / -a</b>	pretty, nice	<b>feo / -a</b>	ugly
<b>nuevo / -a</b>	new	<b>viejo / -a</b>	old
<b>fácil</b>	easy	<b>difícil</b>	difficult
<b>barato / -a</b>	cheap	<b>caro / -a</b>	expensive
<b>limpio / -a</b>	clean	<b>sucio / -a</b>	dirty

## ◆ EXERCISES

**Exercise 1 — Choose the correct form** | Circle or underline the correct adjective for each sentence.

1. Mi hermana es muy <b>simpático / simpática / simpáticos</b> .
2. Los profesores de esta escuela son muy <b>amable / amables / amaba</b> .
3. El apartamento es muy <b>pequeño / pequeña / pequeños</b> . (apartamento = masculine)
4. Ana y Sofía son muy <b>inteligente / inteligentes / inteligente</b> .
5. Mi perro es <b>grande / grandes / granda</b> . (perro = masculine)
6. Las calles de esta ciudad son muy <b>limpio / limpia / limpias</b> .
7. El libro es un poco <b>aburrido / aburrida / aburridon</b> . (libro = masculine)
8. Pedro y Carlos son <b>trabajador / trabajadores / trabajadora</b> .

**Exercise 2 — Make the adjective agree** | Write the correct form of the adjective in parentheses.

→ Check: Is the noun masculine or feminine? Singular or plural? Then change the adjective accordingly.

1. La ciudad es muy <b>(bonito)</b> _____ .
2. Los estudiantes son muy <b>(trabajador)</b> _____ .
3. Mi madre es <b>(serio)</b> _____ y <b>(inteligente)</b> _____ .
4. El hotel es <b>(caro)</b> _____ pero muy <b>(limpio)</b> _____ .
5. Las preguntas son muy <b>(fácil)</b> _____ .
6. Carlos es <b>(alto)</b> _____ y <b>(delgado)</b> _____ .
7. Ana y María son <b>(simpático)</b> _____ y muy <b>(amable)</b> _____ .
8. Mi teléfono es <b>(viejo)</b> _____ y <b>(feo)</b> _____ .

**Exercise 3 — Describe a real person** | Think of someone you know well — a friend, a family member, or a colleague. Write 5 sentences describing them. Use adjectives from the vocabulary bank!

**Your sentences must include:**

- At least 2 personality adjectives
- At least 1 physical appearance adjective
- Correct gender and number agreement in every sentence
- The adjective placed AFTER the noun

Who are you describing? Name / relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**◆ BONUS — Common Mistakes to Avoid**

✗ Incorrect	✓ Correct	Why?
una inteligente mujer	una mujer inteligente	Adjective goes AFTER the noun in Spanish.
mi hermano es simpática	mi hermano es simpático	"Hermano" is masculine → adjective must be masculine too.
las casas son grandes y modernos	las casas son grandes y modernas	"Casas" is feminine plural → all adjectives must match.
ella es muy trabajadora	✓ Correct!	"Trabajador" changes to "trabajadora" for feminine — well done!
los estudiantes son amablos	los estudiantes son amables	"Amable" ends in -e → just add -s for plural. Never add -o or change the ending.



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