

# 3 MINUTE SPANISH COURSE 1 RECAP NOTES





# WHAT ARE RECAP NOTES?

In each course of the **3 Minute Spanish** series, you will learn lots of words and phrases, but you'll also learn some other parts of the language such as:

- **Grammar points**
- **Pronunciation tips**
- **Accent explanations**

Whilst you'll have plenty of opportunities to practise all of this throughout the lessons, sometimes, it's nice to be able to quickly come back and recap some of the trickier aspects.

Rather than having to sit through the entire course again, you can use this **Recap Notes** booklet to refresh your memory with a short recap. You'll find a booklet for each course in the series; this booklet is purely for the language points made in 3 Minute Spanish - Course 1 (lessons 1 to 9).

I hope you enjoy 😊

Gracias

*Kieran*

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## SPANISH ACCENTS & SYLLABLES

á é í ó ú

All words are made up of syllables. They are easy to see; it's basically just how many different sounds a word has. Look at these words in English:

animal	A-NI-MAL	<b>3 syllables</b>
Spanish	SPA-NISH	<b>2 syllables</b>
impossible	IM-POSS-I-BLE	<b>4 syllables</b>
elephant	E-LE-PHANT	<b>3 syllables</b>

The general rule in Spanish is that you should stress the syllable before last in a word that ends in a vowel.

bueno	<b>BUE</b> -no
absolutamente	ab-so-lu-ta- <b>MEN</b> -te

However, sometimes you'll see a little line over a vowel in Spanish. This little line is called an accent and when you see an accent over a vowel, you should stress that part of the word instead.

fantástico	fan- <b>TÁS</b> -ti-co
aquí	a- <b>QUÍ</b>
México	<b>MÉ</b> -xi-co

## THE SPANISH H

In Spanish, the letter **H** is easy to pronounce. That's because you simply don't pronounce it at all. Whenever you see a letter **H** in a word, it's completely silent.

hotel	oh-TEL
hola	OH-lah

## THE SPANISH V

In Spanish, the letter **V** is pronounced like the English letter **B**.

Venezuela	beh-neh-SWEH-lah
vino	BEE-noh
vivo	BEE-boh
verdad	bair-DAD
Valencia	bah-LEN-see-ah

## THE SPANISH Z

In Spanish, the letter **Z** can be pronounced in two different ways, just like with the letters **V** and **C**. You can pronounce a **Z** like an **S** or like the **TH** in the word "think", and you can choose whichever you prefer.

zorro	SOH-roh or THOH-roh
azul	ah-SUL or ah-THUL



## THE SPANISH C

There are three different ways to pronounce the letter **C** in Spanish.

1. Like the letter **K**
2. Like the letter **S**
3. Like the letters **TH** in the word “*think*”

### K pronunciation

The letter **C** is pronounced like a **K** when it is put in front of the letters **A**, **O** or **U**

<b>café</b>	<i>kah-FEH</i>
<b>fantástico</b>	<i>fan-TAS-tee-koh</i>
<b>chocolate</b>	<i>cho-koh-LAH-teh</i>

### S pronunciation or TH pronunciation

The letter **C** is pronounced like an **S** or a **TH** (you can choose which one) when it is put in front of the letters **E** or **I**

<b>delicioso</b>	<i>deh-lee-see-OH-soh</i> or <i>deh-lee-thee-OH-soh</i>
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<b>precioso</b>	<i>preh-see-OH-soh</i> or <i>preh-thee-OH-soh</i>
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<b>cinco</b>	<i>SIN-koh</i> or <i>THIN-koh</i>
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It doesn't matter whether you pronounce the **C** in front of an “**e**” or an “**i**” as an “**S**” sound or a “**TH**” sound. Most of the time, you'll hear people in Spain pronounce it like a “**TH**”, and people in Latin America pronounce it like an “**S**” but that's just a generalisation; it isn't always true. You can choose whichever way you prefer.

## THE SPANISH G

There are two different ways to pronounce the letter **G** in Spanish.

1. Like the letter **G** in the word *goat*
2. Like the harsh letter **H**, similar to the **ch** in the word *loch*

### GOAT pronunciation

The letter **G** is pronounced like the **G** in *goat* when it is placed in front of the letters **A**, **O** or **U**, or any **consonant**

<b>grande</b>	<i>GRAN-deh</i>
<b>Málaga</b>	<i>MAH-lah-gah</i>
<b>gorro</b>	<i>GOH-roh</i>
<b>guerra</b>	<i>GEH-rah</i>

### H pronunciation

The letter **G** is pronounced like a harsh **H** when it is placed in front of the letters **E** or **I**

<b>Girona</b>	<i>hee-ROH-nah</i>
<b>Fuengirola</b>	<i>fwen-hee-ROH-lah</i>
<b>gire</b>	<i>HEE-reh</i>

## THE SPANISH J

In Spanish, the letter **J** has a harsh **H** sound when pronounced.

<b>José</b>	<i>ho-SEH</i>
<b>Juan</b>	<i>hwan</i>

## THE LETTER Ñ

In Spanish, you'll sometimes see a little squiggle over the top of the letter **N**. This is called a "tilde", and it changes the way the **N** is pronounced. When you see an **Ñ** with a tilde, imagine there is an invisible letter **Y** after it; this is how it is pronounced.

**año**            *AN-yoh*  
**España**        *eh-SPAN-ya*

The letter **ñ** is an extra letter in the Spanish alphabet, called "eñe" (pronounced "EN-yay"). This means that the Spanish alphabet (*el alfabeto*) has 27 letters rather than 26.

## THE SPANISH "LL"

In Spanish, when you see a single letter **L**, it is pronounced much the same as it is in English.

**elefante**        *eh-leh-FAN-teh*  
**canela**         *kah-NEH-lah*

However, if you see a double **LL** in Spanish, you should pronounce it like the letter **Y**.

**paella**            *pah-EH-yah*  
**Marbella**        *mar-BEH-yah*  
**Mallorca**        *mah-YOOR-kah*  
**ella**                *EH-yah*

## THE SPANISH R

In Spanish, you should roll your letter **R** (but if you can't quite manage it, don't worry too much about it; a normal English **R** will do). The **R roll's** technical name is an "alveolar trill", and if you can't quite manage to do it, you could try looking for a video online to show you exercises to help you achieve the correct sound. There are two types of **R rolls** in Spanish, a light roll when there is only one "r" in the word and a harsher roll when there is a double "rr".

**pero**             *PEH-roh*  
**perro**            *PEH-rroh*

## THE ACCENT EXCEPTION

The only time an accent over a letter doesn't tell you how to say the word in Spanish is when the accent is used to show the difference between two words that look the same. There are a few occasions where two words are spelled the same and sound the same but have different meanings. In Spanish, one of the words will have an accent and the other one won't; this is simply to make it easier to distinguish between the two. Here are a few of occasions where this happens:

**mi**    *my*                    **mí**    *me*  
**el**    *the*                   **él**    *him*

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

**C** before A, O & U = like a K  
before E & I = like an S

**V** like a B or a V

**G** before A, O & U = like the G in "goat"  
before E & I = like a harsh H

**Ñ** like an NY together

**H** not pronounced at all

**R** rolled slightly

**RR** rolled greatly

**J** like a harsh H

**Z** like an S or a TH

**LL** like the letter Y

## INDEFINITE ARTICLES

The words “**a**” and “**an**” are called **INDEFINITE ARTICLES** and, in Spanish, there are two different words. There’s a masculine and a feminine version.

<b>Masculine</b>	un
<b>Feminine</b>	una

The version you use depends on whether the noun it goes in front of is a masculine or a feminine noun. This is called the **gender** of the noun.

You always put the word “**un**” in front of nouns that are masculine and the word “**una**” goes in front of nouns that are feminine. The best way to know whether a noun is masculine or feminine is simply to learn its gender when you first learn the word; that way, you’ll always know that **restaurante** is masculine but **mesa** is feminine in Spanish.

### MASCULINE NOUNS

<b>un café</b>	<i>a coffee</i>
<b>un té</b>	<i>a tea</i>
<b>un restaurante</b>	<i>a restaurant</i>
<b>un chico</b>	<i>a boy</i>

### FEMININE NOUNS

<b>una mesa</b>	<i>a table</i>
<b>una reserva</b>	<i>a reservation</i>
<b>una casa</b>	<i>a house</i>
<b>una chica</b>	<i>a girl</i>

## DEFINITE ARTICLES

The word “**the**” is called a **DEFINITE ARTICLE** and, in Spanish, there are four different words. There’s a masculine version, a feminine version, and a plural version of each of those.

<b>Masculine singular</b>	el
<b>Feminine singular</b>	la
<b>Masculine plural</b>	los
<b>Feminine plural</b>	las

It’s the same as the indefinite articles in that the one you use is dependent on the noun it goes in front of. If it’s a masculine noun, you use “**el**”, a feminine noun uses “**la**” and for plural nouns, you use “**los**” or “**las**”.

### MASCULINE NOUNS

<b>el pollo</b>	<i>the chicken</i>
<b>los pollos</b>	<i>the chickens</i>
<b>el restaurante</b>	<i>the restaurant</i>
<b>los restaurantes</b>	<i>the restaurants</i>

### FEMININE NOUNS

<b>la mesa</b>	<i>the table</i>
<b>las mesas</b>	<i>the tables</i>
<b>la casa</b>	<i>the house</i>
<b>las casas</b>	<i>the houses</i>

To make a Spanish noun plural, most of the time, you simply add an **S** to the end.





# POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

The word “my” is a **POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE** and, in Spanish, there are two different versions. There’s a singular version and a plural version

**Singular** mi  
**Plural** mis

The possessive adjective you use depends on the noun. If it’s a singular noun you use “mi”, and if it’s a plural noun, you use “mis”.

## WHAT’S A NOUN?

Generally speaking, a noun is a word that you can put “the” in front of. They can be singular or plural:

singular	plural
the hotel	the hotels
the boy	the boys
the idea	the ideas
the possibility	the possibilities

In Spanish, nouns are words you can put “el”, “la”, “los” or “las” in front of. They can be masculine or feminine, singular or plural. You can usually make a noun plural by putting an “s” on the end.

masculine singular	masculine plural
el pollo ( <i>the chicken</i> )	los pollos
el coche ( <i>the car</i> )	los coches
el chico ( <i>the boy</i> )	los chicos
el café ( <i>the coffee</i> )	los cafés

feminine singular	feminine plural
la mesa ( <i>the table</i> )	las mesas
la zanahoria ( <i>the carrot</i> )	las zanahorias
la chica ( <i>the girl</i> )	las chicas
la casa ( <i>the house</i> )	las casas

### SINGULAR NOUNS

**mi café** *my coffee*  
**mi thé** *my tea*  
**mi mesa** *my table*  
**mi reserva** *my reservation*

### PLURAL NOUNS

**mis cafés** *my coffees*  
**mis té**s *my teas*  
**mis mesas** *my tables*  
**mis reservas** *my reservations*

## KEY

	MASCULINE SINGULAR	MASCULINE PLURAL	FEMININE SINGULAR	FEMININE PLURAL
THE	EL	LOS	LA	LAS
A / AN	UN	/	UNA	/
MY	MI	MIS	MI	MIS

## MASCULINE OR FEMININE?

The best way to know whether a noun is masculine or feminine is to learn the gender when you learn the noun. However, there is a general rule that works about 90% of the time.

**If a noun ends in the letter A, it's probably feminine. If it doesn't end in an A, it's probably masculine.**

**chica** - *girl* (feminine)

**casa** - *house* (feminine)

**chico** - *boy* (masculine)

**pollo** - *chicken* (masculine)

You can remember the difference by thinking of the names "**Roberto**" (masculine - ends in an O) and "**Roberta**" (feminine - ends in an A).

Oftentimes, masculine nouns end in an O, but not always. Look at these two exceptions:

**el hotel** - *the hotel*

**el restaurante** - *the restaurant*

## PARA MÍ

The phrase "para mí" literally means "for me", but you can also use it as a way of giving your opinion. You can use it to mean "in my opinion" or "I think"

**para mí, es bueno** - *I think it's good*

**para mí, es terrible** - *I think it's terrible*

## WHAT'S AN ADJECTIVE?

An adjective is a word that is used to describe something. However, a simpler explanation would be:

If you can put "**it is**" in front of a word, then it's most probably an adjective. So, in Spanish, these would be words you can put "**es**" in front of:

*it is good* - **es bueno**

*it is fantastic* - **es fantástico**

*it is delicious* - **es delicioso**

*it is perfect* - **es perfecto**

*it is bad* - **es malo**

## ES (IT) IS

The phrase "it is", in English, is made up of a subject pronoun (it) and a verb (is). In Spanish, however, subject pronouns are optional, and very often are not used at all. This is the case with "it is"; in Spanish, "es" can mean both "it is" or just "is".

**es bueno** - *it is good*

**el hotel es bueno** - *the hotel is good*

**es perfecto** - *it's perfect*

**la comida es perfecta** - *the food is perfect*

The same is true with "no es". It can mean both "it isn't" or just "isn't"

**no es bueno** - *it isn't good*

**el hotel no es bueno** - *the hotel isn't good*

Adjectives describe nouns and in Spanish, nouns can be either singular or plural, and masculine or feminine. The adjective has to change its ending slightly depending on the type of noun it's describing. This is called "agreeing the adjective"

## ADJECTIVAL AGREEMENT

Below is an example of how the adjective **PERFECTO** changes depending on the noun it's describing

### MASCULINE SINGULAR NOUN

adjective doesn't change

### MASCULINE PLURAL NOUN

add an **S** to the end of the adjective

### FEMININE SINGULAR NOUN

if there's an **O** on the end, change it to an **A**  
if there's an **E** on the end, leave it

### FEMININE PLURAL NOUN

add an **S** to the end of the feminine singular

### MASCULINE SINGULAR

el pollo es **perfecto**

### MASCULINE PLURAL

los pollos son **perfectos**

### FEMININE SINGULAR

la pizza es **perfecta**

### FEMININE PLURAL

las pizzas son **perfectas**

## SPANISH ADJECTIVES

In the table below are the different forms of the adjectives we covered in course 1. This will help you to get used to seeing the endings you need to add when agreeing the adjective, and it will also help you to familiarise yourself with the irregular adjectives.

ENGLISH	MASCULINE SINGULAR	MASCULINE PLURAL	FEMININE SINGULAR	FEMININE PLURAL
<b>GOOD</b>	bueno	buenos	buna	bunas
<b>DELICIOUS</b>	delicioso	deliciosos	deliciosa	deliciosas
<b>FANTASTIC</b>	fantástico	fantásticos	fantástica	fantásticas
<b>BEAUTIFUL</b>	precioso	preciosos	preciosa	preciosas
<b>EXTRAORDINARY</b>	extraordinario	extraordinarios	extraordinaria	extraordinarias
<b>PERFECT</b>	perfecto	perfectos	perfecta	perfectas
<b>BAD</b>	malo	malos	mala	malas
<b>TERRIBLE</b>	terrible	terribles	terrible	terribles
<b>NICE</b>	simpático	simpáticos	simpática	simpáticas