

ADJECTIVES

Adjectives are words that describe and qualify the nouns. They agree in gender and number with the noun they describe:

La Casa Blanca – The White House

Los Estados Unidos – The United States

Las Naciones Unidas – The United Nations

Gender:

a) Adjectives ending in **o** change to the feminine **a**:

blanco**o** – blanca**a**; mucho**o** – mucha**a**; italiano**o** - italiana**a**

b) Adjectives of nationality ending in a consonant add an **a**:

francés – francesa**a**; español – española**a**; alemán - alemana**a**

c) Primero, tercero, bueno, malo, alguno, and ninguno lose and **o** before a masculine noun: primer piso; buen año, algún tiempo

d) Grande loses **de** before a masculine noun:

un hombre grande – a large man

un gran hombre - a great man ; Gran Bretaña;

mi primer gran amor – my first great love

e) Any adjective ending in a consonant or in any other vowel doesn't change their ending:

un coche verde**e** – **una** camisa verde**e**; **un** tema difícil**il** – **una** pregunta difícil**il**.

Note: the descriptive adjectives normally go after the nouns they qualify:

vino dulce; vino seco; coche viejo; hombre pobre.

Placing the adjectives before the nouns changes the meaning of the adjectives:

vino dulce – sweet wine; dulce vino - sublime wine

coche viejo – old car; viejo coche – vintage car

hombre pobre – poor man (no money); pobre hombre – poor devil

La Quinta Columna – The Fifth Column. This was used by General Emilio Mola in October 1936, during the Spanish Civil War, referring to the fifth column which was already hiding in Madrid.

Number: It follows the same rules as nouns.

Demonstrative adjectives.

In Spanish there are many words for this; these; that and those.

a) When the thing owned is near the person who is speaking:

este – **esta** = this; **estos** – **estas** = these

quiero **este** libro (I want this book)

b) When the thing owned is near the person who is listening:

ese – **esa** = that; **esos** – **esas** = those

quiero **ese** libro (I want that book)

c) When the thing owned is distant from both, the speaker and the listener:

aquel – **aquella** = that; **aquellos** – **aquellas** = those

quiero aquellas estrellas (I want those stars)

The possessive adjectives are:

mi – mis = my

tu – tus = your (familiar)

su – sus = your (formal)

su – sus = his/her/its

nuestro – nuestros; nuestra - nuestras = our

vuestro – vuestra; vuestros – vuestras = your (familiar)

su – sus = your

su – sus = their

Mi casa es **su** casa (My house is your house)

Mi casa es **tu** casa (familiar)

Gris y morado es **mi** verde olivar;

blanca **mi** casa y azul **mi** mar.

¿Dónde está **nuestro** coche?