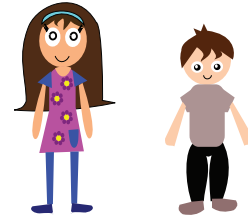


# “La” versus “El”

A noun is a person, place or thing. In the Spanish language, nouns have “gender”. Some nouns are masculine and others are feminine.

For example: **La** niña y **el** niño  
the girl and the boy



“La” and “el” are called *definite articles*, just like “the” in English. In the Spanish language, “a” is a feminine article and “el” is a masculine article.

For example: **El** libro esta en **la** mesa. **La** vaca esta comiendo.  
The book is on the table. The cow is eating.

Most of the time masculine nouns end with -o, -e, -l, -n, -r. Most of the time feminine words in with -a, -dad, -tad, -ión, -ud, -umbre.

**To translate these phrases into Spanish, choose “el” or “la” for each.**

The cat (gato) el gato

The brother (hermano) el hermano

The table (mesa) la mesa

The sister (hermana) la hermana

The car (coche) el coche

The rat (raton) el raton

The cow (vaca) la vaca

The finger (dedo) el dedo

The apple (manzana) la manzana

The foot (pie) el pie

The window (ventana) la ventana

The banana (banano) el banano

The father (padre) el padre

The monkey (mono) el mono

The mother (madre) la madre

The doll (muñeca) la muñeca

The shoe (zapato) el zapato

The head (cabeza) la cabeza