

Agreement / La concordancia

Making sure all the words agree with each other.

Ejemplo: El libro negro

Los libros negros

La bandera negra

Las banderas negras

Wow! ¡El español es diferente!

- All Spanish nouns (things) have a gender (masculine or feminine).
- The way you say “the” (el, la, los ,las) tells us whether the thing is masculine or feminine and singular or plural.
- But there’s more. The words that describe any thing (adjectives) also show us the gender and the number of the things that is being described : (negro, negros, negra, negras)

Ejemplo: La silla amarilla

Las sillas amarillas

El libro amarillo

Los libros amarillos

In English we can just say “ The yellow chair”, but in Spanish we have to make sure that all three words, “The”, “yellow” and “chair” are all agreeing with each other. In Spanish this is known as *la concordancia*. If we don’t pay attention to this rule we end up saying things like “He are a good girl.”

Some common Spanish adjectives are:

pequeño/a small
inteligente smart

grande big
loco/a crazy

- If a Spanish adjective ends in –e, (verde) or a consonant (marrón), it changes for plural but not for gender.

Ejemplo: El cuaderno verde

vs.

la mochila verde

Los cuadernos verdes

vs.

Las mochilas verdes

El libro marrón

vs.

La silla marrón.

Los libros marrones

vs.

Las sillas marrones.