

PITFALL

ARTÍCULOS DEFINIDOS

The masculine article *el* must be used with singular feminine nouns beginning with a stressed *a* or *ha*. (This makes the combination easier to pronounce). In the plural, however, the same nouns take the normal feminine *las*. (The *s* separates the *a*'s).

el agua the water
el águila the eagle
el hacha the ax

BUT

las aguas the waters
las águilas the eagles
las hachas the axes

Amsco p.131, 1.A.

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SUSTANTIVOS

Some nouns have masculine and feminine forms with *different* meanings. These words should be used with special attention to correct gender in order to avoid being misunderstood.

el pez - fish

la pez - pitch, tar

el guía - guide (person)

la guía - guide (handbook)

el tema - theme, topic

la tema - fixed idea, mania

el cometa - comet

la cometa - kite

el coma - coma

la coma - comma

el pendiente - earring

la pendiente - slope

el policía - policeman

la policía - police (force)

Amsco p.130