Nouns (Los sustantivos)

A noun is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea.

All nouns in Spanish have gender and number.

Gender: refers to masculine or feminine. man-hombre woman-mujer

Number: refers to singular and plural. hombre, hombres mujer, mujeres

Nouns that end with -o are generally masculine.

Nouns that end with -a are generally feminine.

Usually nouns ending in -ión or -d are also feminine.

el muchacho, the boy — la muchacha, the girl

el burro, the donkey — la mesa, the table

la nación, the nation — la verdad, the truth

If a noun ends with -e or any other consonant and common sense doesn't tell you the gender, you simply have to learn whether it is masculine or feminine.

el automóvil (m.) el animal (m.) el aguacate (m.) la flor (f.)

To make nouns plural:

Just add -s if the word ends with a vowel.

Add -es if the word ends with a consonant.

Exercise (Ejercicio) *Make the following words plural.*

hombre ___hombres___ mujer ___mujeres___ muchacho ___muchachos___

muchacha ___muchachas___ burro ___burros___ mesa ___mesas___

nación ___naciones___ verdad ___verdades___ animal ___animales___

Introduce nouns as having gender and number. Explain the terms gender and number.

Teach the ending for masculine nouns as usually (not always) ending in -o, and feminine nouns ending in -a. Also, most nouns ending in -ión or -d are feminine.

Teach that nouns ending in -e or any consonant, other than -d, if common sense doesn't tell you the gender, you simply have to learn which it is.

Teach making nouns plural.

Give oral practice, using nouns from the lists in Appendices A and I, pp. 219 and 233-264.

Assign the Exercise (Ejercicio).

Note: Call attention to the plural of nación and similar words that the accent mark can be dropped as it is no longer needed in the plural.

Introduce the articles, making a clear distinction in what is meant by definite and indefinite articles.

Also make it clear that *a, an,* and *one* (*un, una*) are all the same word, masculine or feminine and that the plural is *some* (*unos, unas*). The plural of *a book* is *some books*. This may even seem a bit confusing in English to some. Later the word, *algunos*, is introduced which also means *some*. For now, make sure that the student understands that the plural of *a* and *an* means *some*.

Draw the following diagram on the board (or on paper):

el, la; los, las > the

un, una > a, an, one

unos, unas > some

It may seem strange to some to think of the plural of *one* is *some*. Use some examples by saying, If you say: one man, then more than one man is some men, etc.

Assign the exercise. It gives practice using the correct article. As not all words in the ABC model list end with -a or -o, the gender is indicated by all others by either *f.* for feminine and *m.* for masculine in the list given in Appendix A, pp. 219. Have the student give the plurals of these words orally before doing the written assignment.

Clarify that the words *zapatos* and *uvas* are plural in the last but if you have only one shoe or only one grape, they are used without the *s*.

Articles (Los artículos)

There are four words meaning, the (called the definite article). There are also four words meaning, a/an (called the indefinite article). It is always necessary to use the one that matches its noun in gender and number. the = el or la; a/ an = un or una

The plural of el = los. the book, el libro the books, los libros

The plural of la = las. the table, la mesa the tables, las mesas

The plural of un = unos. a book, un libro some books, unos libros

The plural of una = unas. a table, una mesa some tables, unas mesas

un vaso, una gorra some vasos, unas gorras

Unos and unas mean some (more than one).

Exercise (Ejercicio) *Study the ABC model nouns as given on p. 1 in the alphabetic list and in Appendix A, p. 219. Write each word below with the correct article. Then on the next page, rewrite each word making it plural. Remember to use the correct plural article.*

___ a. actor ___ b. actriz ___ c. árbol

___ d. ventana ___ e. vaso ___ f. cuaderno

___ g. clase ___ h. clases ___ i. caballero

___ j. mesa ___ k. ventanas ___ l. libro

___ m. cuadernos ___ n. silla ___ o. sillas

___ p. lápiz ___ q. lápices ___ r. mesa

___ s. gato ___ t. gatos ___ u. ventanas

___ v. caballos ___ w. caballo ___ x. clases

___ y. gatas ___ z. gata ___ aa. vasos