

Adjective Form, Position, and Agreement

(La forma, posición, y concordancia de los adjetivos)

Essentially, an adjective is a word that describes or tells us more about a noun than we knew before.

Spanish adjectives normally agree, or have corresponding forms, with the nouns they modify.

Adjectives

Basically, there are two types of adjectives.

Type 1: **Four**-form adjectives.

These adjectives agree in number and gender.

Adjectives that end in o in their base form normally are four-form adjectives.

Es un chico guapo. 1

Es una chica guapa. 2

Son unos chicos guapos. 3

Son unas chicas guapas. 4

Adjectives

Basically, there are two types of adjectives.

Type 2: **Two**-form adjectives.

These adjectives agree in number only.

Adjectives that end in e in their base form normally are two-form adjectives.

Es un chico inteligente.

Es una chica inteligente.

Son unos chicos inteligentes.

Son unas chicas inteligentes.

1

2

Adjectives

Basically, there are two types of adjectives.

Type 2: **Two**-form adjectives.

These adjectives agree in number only.

Adjectives that end in a consonant are also two-form, normally.

↓

Es un chico fiel. } 1
Es una chica fiel. }

Son unos chicos fieles. } 2
Son unas chicas fieles. }

Adjectives

Basically, there are two types of adjectives.

Type 2: **Two**-form adjectives.

These adjectives agree in number only.

Adjectives that end in a consonant are also two-form, normally.

Es un chico auda**z**.

Es una chica auda**z**.

Son unos chicos auda**ces**.

Son unas chicas auda**ces**.

1

2

Adjectives

Basically, there are two types of adjectives.

Type 2: **Two**-form adjectives.

These adjectives agree in number only.

Adjectives that end in ista also are two-form.

Es un chico optimista.

Es una chica optimista.

Son unos chicos optimistas.

Son unas chicas optimistas.

1

2

Summary

Adjectives whose base form ends in o have four forms.

These adjectives agree in gender and number.

Adjectives whose base form ends in **e**, in a **consonant** (**l**, **z**, **n**, etc.) or in **ista** have two forms.

These adjectives agree in number only.

Exceptions

There are two types of exceptions to the two-form / four-form rules.

Type 1: Adjectives of *nationality*

Type 2: Adjectives that end in **ón**, **án**, **ín**, or **(d)or**

Exceptions

There are two types of irregular adjectives.

Type 1: Adjectives of *nationality*

Many adjectives of nationality are already the four-form type, since their base form ends in o.

Vladimir Putin es ruso. 1

Su esposa es rusa. 2

Sus hijos son rusos. 3

Sus hijas son rusas. 4

Notice that adjectives of nationality are not capitalized in Spanish.

Exceptions

There are two types of irregular adjectives.

Type 1: Adjectives of *nationality*

But even if an adjective of nationality ends in a consonant, it normally has four forms rather than two.

Plácido Domingo es español. 1

Su esposa es española. 2

Sus hijos son españoles. 3

Sus hijas son españolas. 4

Exceptions

There are two types of irregular adjectives.

Type 1: Adjectives of *nationality*

But even if an adjective of nationality ends in a consonant, it normally has four forms rather than two.

Jacques Chirac es francés. 1

Su esposa es francesa. 2

Sus hijos son franceses. 3

Sus hijas son francesas. 4

Notice that if the masculine singular of an adjective bears a written accent, it is omitted on all other forms.

Exceptions

The other type of irregular adjectives.

Type 2: Adjectives that end in **ón, án, ín**, or **(d)or**

Interestingly, most of the adjectives of this type are depreciative or strongly expressive.

El señor Panzudo es comil**ón**. 1

Su esposa es comil**ona**. 2

Sus hijos son comil**ones**. 3

Sus hijas son comil**onas**. 4

Again, only the masculine singular form bears a written accent.

Exceptions

The other type of irregular adjectives.

Type 2: Adjectives that end in **ón, án, ín**, or **(d)or**

Interestingly, most of the adjectives of this type are depreciative or strongly expressive.

El señor Flojo es holgaz**án**. 1

Su esposa es holgaz**ana**. 2

Sus hijos son holgaz**anes**. 3

Sus hijas son holgaz**anas**. 4

Again, only the masculine singular form bears a written accent.

Exceptions

The other type of irregular adjectives.

Type 2: Adjectives that end in **ón, án, ín**, or **(d)or**

Interestingly, most of the adjectives of this type are depreciative or strongly expressive.

El señor Boca es parlanch**ín**. 1

Su esposa es parlanch**ina**. 2

Sus hijos son parlanch**ines**. 3

Sus hijas son parlanch**inas**. 4

Again, only the masculine singular form bears a written accent.

Exceptions

The other type of irregular adjectives.

Type 2: Adjectives that end in **ón, án, ín**, or **(d)or**

Interestingly, most of the adjectives of this type are depreciative or strongly expressive.

El profesor Obrero es trabajador. 1

Su esposa es trabajadora. 2

Sus alumnos son trabajadores. 3

Sus alumnas son trabajadoras. 4

Summary

Adjectives whose base form ends in **o** have **four** forms.

These agree in gender and number.

Adjectives whose base form ends in **e**, in a **consonant** (**l, z, n**, etc.) or in **ista** have only **two** forms.

These agree in number only.

There are two groups of exceptions, which are four-form adjectives even though they end in a consonant:

⇒ Adjectives of ***nationality***

⇒ Adjectives that end in ***ón, án, ín*** or ***(d)or***

Descriptive adjectives, that is, those that express more than simple possession, location, or number, are generally placed *after* the noun.



Literally, “It’s a class good.”

Literally, “Yes, and he’s a professor very intelligent.”

3.1 Descriptive adjectives

Position of adjectives

- ▶ Descriptive adjectives and adjectives of nationality generally follow the nouns they modify.



El niño **rubio** es de España.
The blond boy is from Spain.



La mujer **española** habla inglés.
The Spanish woman speaks English.

3.1 Descriptive adjectives

- ▶ Unlike descriptive adjectives, adjectives of quantity are placed before the modified noun.

Hay **muchos** libros en la biblioteca.
There are many books in the library.

Hablo con **dos** turistas puertorriqueños.
I am talking with two Puerto Rican tourists.

3.1 Descriptive adjectives

- ▶ **Bueno/a** and **malo/a** can be placed before or after a noun. When placed before a masculine singular noun, the forms are shortened: **bueno** → **buen**; **malo** → **mal**.

Joaquín es un **buen** amigo.

Joaquín es un amigo **bueno**.



Joaquín is a good friend.

Hoy es un **mal** día.

Hoy es un día **malo**.



Today is a bad day.

3.1 Descriptive adjectives

- ▶ When **grande** appears before a singular noun, it is shortened to **gran**, and the meaning of the word changes: **gran** = *great* and **grande** = *big, large*.

Don Francisco es un **gran** hombre.
Don Francisco is a great man.

La familia de Inés es **grande**.
Inés' family is large.

TAREA

- Continue studying your adjectives
 - Begin completing your project...
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