



Spanish In Mexico Notes: 1-3 Assigning Definite Articles

As we visited the Noriega family in Querétaro, we learned the four definite articles: *el, la los* and *las*. These articles are equivalent to *the* in English, and are used differently depending on the word, gender and quantity. For example, *el* is used for the singular masculine as in *el libro*, and *la* is used for the singular feminine as in *la casa*. When nouns are plural, *los* is used for the masculine as in *los libros*, and *las* is used for the feminine as in *las casas*.

	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	el	la
Plural	los	las

Additional Information:

There are also four indefinite articles: *un, una, unos, and unas*. The singular articles are equivalent to *a* or *an* in English, and the plural articles are equivalent to *some* or *a few*. Like definite articles, they are used differently depending on word, gender and quantity. For example, *un* is used for the singular masculine as in *un libro* and *una* is used for the singular feminine as in *una casa*. When nouns are plural, *unos* is used for masculine nouns as in *unos libros*, and *unas* is used for the feminine as in *unas casas*.

	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	un	una
Plural	unos	unas

Vocabulary:

el teléfono – telephone
la ventana – window
el baño – bathroom
la cama – bed
la piscina – swimming pool
la cocina – kitchen

Extended Vocabulary:

las vacaciones – vacation
la ciudad – city
el libro – book
la casa – house
el primo – cousin

el toro – bull
la motocicleta – motorcycle
la vela – candle
el apartamento – apartment
la computadora – computer
la bandera – flag
el pájaro – bird