Review

**Reviewing the Basics:**

**Gender**

Each Spanish noun belongs to one of two classes traditionally known as masculine and feminine. Nouns referring to males are normally masculine; nouns referring to females are normally feminine. Nouns referring to objects which are neither male nor female are assigned to a gender according to their ending.

Nouns that end in L, O, N, E, R, or S are usually masculine. Nouns that end in A, D, Z, or *-ión* are usually feminine.

**Articles**

Spanish has four words for “the” according to the gender and number of the noun referred to.

**el** = masculine singular *el abuelo* the grandfather

**los** = masculine plural *los abuelos* the grandfathers or grandparents

**la** = feminine singular *la abuela* the grandmother

**las** = feminine plural *las abuelas* the grandmothers

The indefinite article translates as “a” or “an” in the singular and “some” in the plural.

**un** = masculine singular *un chico* a boy

**unos** = masculine plural *unos chicos* some boys or some young people

**una** = feminine singular *una chica* a girl

**unas** = feminine plural *una chicas* some girls

The words for “this,” “these,” “that,” and “those” work the same way:

**este, esta** = this **estos, estas** = these

**ese, esa** = that (nearby) **esos, esas** = those (nearby)

**aquel, aquella** = that (distant) **aquellos, aquellas** = those (distant)

**Subject pronouns**

**yo** = I **nosotros** = we

**él** = he **ellos** = they (masculine or mixed group)

**ella** = she **ellas** = they (feminine)

Ways of saying “you”:

**tú** familiar, singular, masculine or feminine

**vosotros** familiar, plural, masculine or mixed group (used only in Spain)

**vosotras** familiar, plural, feminine (used only in Spain)

**usted** formal, singular, masculine or feminine

**ustedes** formal, plural, masculine or feminine (used everywhere)

familiar, plural, masculine or feminine (in Latin America)

**Possessives**

**mi, mis** = my **nuestro, -a, -os, -as** = our

**tu, tus** = your (familiar, singular) **vuestro, -a, -os, -as** = your

(familiar, plural, Spain)

**sus, sus** = his, her, their, your (formal)

The **-s** ending of these words agrees with the number of objects possessed, *not with the number of possessors.*

**Present tense verbs**

A Spanish verb is cited in its infinitive form, which ends in **-r,** because the stem of a regular verb is determined from the infinitive. Verbs belong to one of three classes, whose infinitives end in **-ar, -er,** and **-ir.**

The endings for each possible subject for the three verb classes are:

*-ar -er -ir*

yo **-o -o -o**

tú **-as -es -es**

él, ella, usted **-a -e -e**

nosotros **-amos -emos -imos**

vosotros **-áis -éis -ís**

ellos, ellas, ustedes **-an -en -en**

Since the verb endings correspond to the verb’s subject, the subject pronouns are omitted in Spanish unless the speaker wants to give them special emphasis. Any verb is negated (made negative) by placing **no** immediately before it.

**Adjectives**

Like articles, adjectives agree in gender and number with the nouns they refer to.

Adjectives fall into two classes according to their endings. Those whose dictionary form ends in -**o** have four forms corresponding to the various combinations of masculine/feminine and singular/plural.

un hombre guapo a handsome man

una mujer guapa a pretty woman

unos hombres guapos some handsome men

unas mujeres guapas some pretty women

Adjectives whose dictionary form ends in -**e** or a **consonant** typically have only singular and plural forms.

un hombre fiel a faithful man

una mujer fiel a faithful woman

unos hombres fieles some faithful men

unas mujeres fieles some faithful women

Use the endings of these Spanish nouns as clues to their gender and number, and

supply the appropriate word for “the” chosen from **el, la, los,** or **las.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ profesor 5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ paz

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ amiga 6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ perro

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ jirafa 7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ matemáticas

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gatos 8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ animal

Given the possessor and the object or objects possessed, supply an appropriate

possessive adjective chosen from **mi(s), tu(s), su(s),** or **nuestro(s).**

9. (yo) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ amigos 12. (nosotros) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ casa

10. (Pedro) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ profesor 13. (usted) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ perro

11. (tú) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hermano 14. (Pedro) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gatos

According to the subject, supply the appropriate present tense form of each verb.

15. (correr) Los niños \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a la escuela.

16. (explicar) La profesora \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ matemáticas a los niños.

17. (vivir) Nosotros \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ en Australia.

18. (escribir) Yo \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cartas de amor.

**Answer Key**

1. **el** profesor 5. **la** paz

2. **la** amiga 6. **el** perro

3. **la** jirafa 7. **las** matemáticas

4. **los** gatos 8. **el** animal

9. **mis** amigos 12. **nuestra** casa

10. **su** profesor 13. **su** perro

11. **tu** hermano 14. **sus** gatos

15. Los niños **corren** a la escuela.

16. La profesora **explica** matemáticas a los niños.

17. Nosotros **vivimos** en Australia.

18. Yo **escribo** cartas de amor.