

## Glossary of Grammar

**ADJECTIVES** are words used to describe nouns, e.g. The house is very *comfortable*.  
**La casa es muy cómoda.**

**ADVERBS** provide more information about verbs, adjectives or other adverbs, e.g. *She spoke slowly. Habló pausadamente. It's absolutely necessary. Es absolutamente necesario.* They behaved *incredibly* well. **Se comportaron increíblemente bien.**

**ARTICLES** There are two types of articles, *definite and indefinite*. Definite articles are **el, la, los and las**, (*the* in English). Indefinite articles are **un and una**, (*a* in English) and **unos, unas** (*some* in English).

**CLAUSE** In a sentence such as *I hope that they come, Espero que vengan*, there are two clauses: a main clause *I hope, Espero*, and a subordinate clause *that they come, que vengan*.

**DEMONSTRATIVES** are words like *this éste, este, ésta*, that, *ése, ésa, these, éstos, éstas, those, esos, esas*.

**GENDER** There are two genders in Spanish, masculine and feminine. All nouns are, therefore either masculine or feminine, e.g. **la casa** *the house*, feminine, **el coche**, *the car*, masculine.

**GERUND** Words such as *speaking, hablando, drinking, bebiendo*, are known as gerunds.

**IMPERATIVE** The imperative is the form of the verb that is used to give directions, instructions, orders or commands, e.g. *Go straight on. Siga todo derecho. Put it here. Póngalo aquí.*

**INFINITIVE** This is the basic form of the verb, as found in the dictionary. e.g. *to speak, hablar, to answer, responder.*

**NOUNS** Nouns are words like *book, libro, difficulty, dificultad.*

**NUMBER** This word is used to indicate whether something is *singular or plural*.

**OBJECT** This is that part of the sentence which undergoes the action expressed by the verb. In a sentence such as *He sold the car to Maria, Le vendió el coche a María*, - *the car, el coche*, is said to be the *direct object* because the car is what was sold. Maria, the recipient, is the *indirect object*.

**PAST PARTICIPLE** A past participle is that part of the verb which is used in compound tenses, e.g. *I have finished. He terminado. They had returned. Habían vuelto.* *Finished, terminado, and returned, vuelto*, are the past participles.

**PERSONAL PRONOUNS** These are words such as *I, yo, he, él, she, ella, we, nosotros/as, etc.*

**POSSESSIVES** are words like *my, mi, mine, mío, your, tu, su, yours, tuyo, suyo*, are called possessives.

**PRONOUNS** are words which stand in place of nouns or noun phrases which have already been mentioned, e.g., *My friend Gloria (noun) is Spanish. She (pronoun) lives in Madrid. Mi amiga Gloria es española. Ella vive en Madrid.*

**REFLEXIVE** In a sentence such as *He washed himself, Se lavó*, the verb is said to be reflexive because the subject and object are the same. Words such as *myself, me, himself, herself, se, ourselves, nos*, are called *reflexive pronouns*

**SUBJECT** In a sentence such as *Patricia bought the house, Patricia compró la casa*, *Patricia is the subject of the verb to buy, comprar*, because it was she who bought the house.

**SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD** In a sentence such as *If I were you, Yo en tu lugar*, the verb *to be* is said to be in the subjunctive mood. The subjunctive is not used much in English nowadays, but it is common in Spanish.

**TENSE** Tenses are forms of the verb which indicate aspects of time, e.g. past, present, future. **VERBS** are words such as *to go, ir, to arrive, llegar, to eat, comer*, are verbs (they show action).