

Inclusive Language in Spanish

This website offers suggestions on how to use the Spanish language in a more inclusive way and provides suggestions for how to use gender-neutral forms. Our purpose in providing these options is not to dictate rules or determine how people should identify themselves, but rather to enable students and instructors of Spanish to express their identities through more inclusive language, even though such a system does not yet exist in the standard language.

The non-binary language system adopted here only applies to people, not to inanimate objects or animals. The masculine/feminine forms for objects and animals remain the same. For example, the sentence “*Esta es nuestra casa.*” does not change. In addition, words used to refer to people that do not mark gender also remain the same, such as “*Yo estoy triste.*” “*Mis estudiantes son inteligentes.*”, “*Tú le diste el regalo.*”.

Since there is no accepted standard yet, different speakers may choose to use different gender-neutral forms (See https://nonbinary.wiki/wiki/Gender_neutral_language_in_Spanish) and these forms may continue to evolve over time, but the suggested endings in the following table are based on the neutral -e ending. For further details on neutral forms, see Rocío Gómez’s “Pequeño manifiesto sobre el género neutro en castellano” (2016) <https://linguaultrafinitio.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/pequec3b1o-manifiesto-sobre-el-gc3a9nero-neutro-en-castellano.pdf>.

The use of non-binary forms takes time and practice, especially for people who are accustomed to using the binary system, such as native-speakers, teachers and advanced language learners of Spanish. Mistakes will certainly be made, so it is important that students and teachers be understanding and help each other in what is a process of learning for all of us.

Resumen de formas gramaticales masculinas, femininas y neutras

I. PRONOMBRES PERSONALES (PERSONAL PRONOUNS)			
	Masculino	Feminino	Neutro
Pronombres de sujeto (Subject pronouns)	él ellos nosotros vosotros	ella ellas nosotras vosotras	elle elles nosotres vosotres
Pronombres de objeto directo en 3ª persona (3rd person direct object pronouns)	lo	la	le
II. DETERMINANTES (DETERMINERS)			
Artículos definidos (Definite articles)	el, los	la, las	le, les
Artículos indefinidos (Indefinite articles)	un, unos	una, unas	une, unes
Poseivos átonos (Unstressed possessives)	nuestro, nuestros vuestro, vuestros	nuestra, nuestras vuestra, vuestras	nuestre, nuestros vuestre, vuestres
Poseivos tónicos (Stressed possessives)	mío, míos tuyo, tuyos suyo, suyos nuestro, nuestros vuestro, vuestros	mía, mías tuya, tuyas suya, suyas nuestra, nuestras vuestra, vuestras	míe, míes tuye, tuyes suye, suyes nuestre, nuestros vuestre, vuestres
Demostrativos (Demonstratives)	este, estos ese, esos aquel, aquellos	esta, estas esa, esas aquella, aquellas	este, estes ese, eses aquelle, aquelles
III. FLEXIONES DE GÉNERO (GENDER ENDINGS)			
Sustantivos y adjetivos terminados en -o y -a (Nouns & adjectives ending in -o and -a) *Note spelling change	niño, niños alto, altos chico, chicos amigo, amigos médico, médicos	niña, niñas alta, altas chica, chicas amiga, amigas médica, médicas	niñe, niñes alte, altes chique, chiques amigue, amigues* médique, médiques*
Sustantivos y adjetivos terminados en consonante (Nouns & adjectives ending in consonante)	profesor, profesores español, españoles	profesora, profesoras española, españolas	profesore, profesores españole, españoles