**Artículos y sustantivos**

1. The name of a person, place, or thing is a noun. In Spanish, every noun has a gender, either masculine or feminine. Almost all nouns that end in **–o** are masculine and almost all nouns that end in **–a** are feminine.

2. *The* in English is called a definite article. In Spanish, the definite article is either **el** or **la**. You use **el** with masculine nouns and **la** with feminine nouns.

**el** muchach**o la** muchach**a**

**el** amig**o la** amig**a**

**el** curs**o la** escuel**a**

\*Note that in the plural (more than one) **el** becomes **los** and **la** becomes **las**.

**los** muchach**os las** muchach**as**

**los** amig**os las** amig**as**

**los** curs**os las** escuel**as**

3. *A, an*, and *some* are called indefinite articles. Note the following forms of the indefinite articles in Spanish.

**un** muchach**o una** muchach**a**

**un** amig**o una** amig**a**

**unos** muchach**os unas** muchach**as**

**unos** amig**os unas** amig**as**

4. Note that when a noun ends in **–e­**, you have to learn whether it is masculine or feminine.

**el** continente **los** continentes

**la** clase **las** clases