



Gender traps and exceptions - Beginner's 2/Int. Printable

QUICK GUIDE: Spanish Gender Secrets

In Spanish, most words ending in **-o** are masculine and words ending in **-a** are feminine. But to speak like a native, you need to know the "hidden" rules!

1. The Magic Suffixes (Always Feminine ♀)

If a word ends in these, it is **always** feminine. No exceptions!

- **-ción / -sión** (English: -tion) La estación, La televisión
- **-dad / -tad** (English: -ty) La ciudad, La libertad

2. The "Greek" Mystery (Always Masculine ♂)

These words end in **-a**, but they are actually masculine!

- **El mapa** (The map)
- **El planeta** (The planet)
- **El idioma** (The language)

MINI PRÁCTICA

Exercise A: Spot the Suffix

Write **La** for these feminine words.

1. _____ lección.....2. _____ realidad
2. _____ decisión.....4. _____ universidad

Exercise B: The Rule Breakers

Write **El** or **La**. Watch out for the "Greek" words and the famous exceptions!

1. _____ **día** (The day).....2. _____ **mano** (The hand)
2. _____ **clima** (The weather).....4. _____ **problema** (The problem)

ANSWER KEY (Lite)

Ex A: 1. La... 2. La... 3. La... 4. La

Ex B: 1. El... 2. La... 3. El... 4. El