

Adjectives -- Transcript

Context

Hola y buenos días. In this lesson we're going to talk adjectives and how to use them in Spanish. Of course, you remember adjectives from your early days in elementary or middle school. They are words that describe nouns or pronouns. In the scheme of things, adjectives are pretty darn important because, without them, it would be almost impossible to develop meaningful relationships, make scientific observations, or even talk about sports in any way that is fun.

Let's look at the basic rules for adjectives in Spanish and then take a look at their forms.

Information

1. The first thing to remember about adjectives in Spanish is that there are two different kinds – descriptive or qualitative and quantitative. Descriptive adjectives generally go after the nouns they modify, as is the case with *los estudiantes inteligentes*. Quantitative adjectives, on the other hand, express how much or how many of something, and they precede the nouns they describe – *hay cinco sillas*.

Listen to the following examples of descriptive adjectives. *Los libros grandes, la casa bonita, la chaqueta verde. Ahora repite. Los libros grandes, la casa bonita, la chaqueta verde.*

Now listen to these examples of quantitative adjectives and notice their position in front of the noun. *Cuatro sillas, muchos zapatos, unas ideas. Repite. Cuatro sillas, muchos zapatos, unas ideas.*

2. The second thing to remember about adjectives is that they always have to agree in gender and number. You already know that every noun in Spanish is either masculine or feminine. And you've learned that when you use articles with nouns they have to agree. That's why we say *el libro* but *los libros*. Or *la profesora* but *las profesoras*.

Well, it's the same way with adjectives. So, adjectives will need to change in order to agree with a masculine or feminine noun. For example, we can say *el libro blanco*, but if I change *libro* to *silla*, we would need to change it to *la silla blanca*.

The same thing applies to singular and plural forms. For *los libros* the adjective would need to change to *blancos*, and for *las sillas* it would become *blancas*.

3. Finally, it's important to remember that adjectives can either have two forms (singular and plural) or four forms (masculine, feminine, singular, or plural). The easiest general rule of thumb is this. If an adjective ends in an **o** in its masculine

singular form, it will have all four forms. Take *largo*, for instance. *Largo, larga, largos, largas*. If an adjective ends in another vowel or a consonant in that masculine singular form, it will only have singular and plural forms. *Grande*, then, can be either *grande* or *grandes*. Or *popular* can only be *popular* or *populares*.

Remember, this is a general rule of thumb. Make sure you consult your book for any exceptions or additional rules.

Review – Things to Remember

So, we've learned that there are two types of adjectives and that descriptive adjectives go after the known they describe and quantitative adjectives go in front of the noun. Adjectives also have to "agree" with the noun they modify and can have two or four forms. I think you've got it. *Eso es todo*.