Un/una or el/la?
Find these small words confusing? Sort them out with the help of your dictionary.

When you look up an English noun, your dictionary tells you whether the Spanish noun is masculine (el or un), or feminine (la or una), e.g.:

- **bus noun** el autobús masc  ▶ masculine, so: the bus = el autobús  ▶ a bus = un autobús
- **bus stop noun** la parada fem  ▶ feminine, so: the bus stop = la parada  ▶ a bus stop = una parada

- Always copy the Spanish words correctly, including accents.
- Note the gender of nouns (masculine or feminine).
- Then decide how you need to use the noun:
  • If you want to say the …. use el/la
  • If you want to say a, an …. use un/una

**zoom Practice**

Khalid is in Figueres with Eva, Marisa and José and wants to write a postcard to his mother. He has almost finished. Can you help him complete his postcard?

- Look up the words in your dictionary
- Once you know their gender, decide whether you need to use el/la or un/una

Querida Madre,
¡Estoy en Figueres con mis amigos!
La pensión de la tía de José tiene ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ y ___ ___ ___ ___ comun.
Esta semana vamos a visitar ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ y ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
También voy al ___ ___ ___ para comprar ___ ___ ___ para mi amiga Elena, quiere ___ ___ ___.
Un abrazo, Khalid

Dear Mum,
I am in Figueres with my friends! José’s aunt’s guest house has a swimming pool and a shared garden. This week we are going to visit the castle, the museums and the cinema.
I’m also going to the market to buy a gift for my friend Elena, she wants a scarf.
A big hug, Khalid
Finding the right word

English words can have different meanings. For example, the word *fly* can be a verb or a noun:

- **fly** noun: see *fly* verb
- **la mosca** fem
- **to fly** verb: see *fly* noun
- **volar** [24]

When you look in your dictionary, you need to choose the right word: The insect, a *fly*, is *una mosca* in Spanish. The verb, to *fly*, is *volar*.

**zoom** Practice

1. **The right kind of beat**

   Read the two sentences below, then circle the right Spanish word for *beat* in each case.

   1. The band is great. They have a good **beat**.
   2. Add the flour, then **beat** the eggs.

   **beat** verb: *batir* / **beat** noun: *el ritmo*

2. **The right word**

   Now read the sentences below that you might use when visiting your *Zoom* friends in Spain. Take note of the underlined words.

   - Write *v* for the verbs and *n* for the nouns.
   - Then find the right Spanish word in the dictionary and write it in the second column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>v/n</th>
<th>en español</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>Queremos reservar una mesa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>¡Ese ____________ es estupendo!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marisa perdió su ____________ .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiero ____________ a un amigo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>¿Khalid, puedes ____________ esta caja?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vamos a coger el ____________ .</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Watch *zoom* español 1 Unit 4B Video drama to see the *Zoom* 1 characters on the beach.
Get the right meaning!

Elena looked in her dictionary before going to the restaurant when she was on holiday in England. She didn’t look carefully enough!

The Spanish word *carta* has several meanings:

♀ *la carta* fem noun
1 letter 2 menu 3 card

When Spanish words have more than one meaning, pick the meaning which best suits the context. Don’t make the same mistake as Elena!

**zoom** Practice

1 **WRONG translations**

Look in your dictionary and write the correct translation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 Un billete para Madrid, por favor.</th>
<th>2 Hay una pila de libros en el suelo.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The correct translation is:</td>
<td>The correct translation is:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A ___________________________ to Madrid, please.</td>
<td>There’s a ___________________________ of books on the floor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 **Another WRONG translation**

Look in your dictionary. Then

► complete the two dictionary entries
► write the correct translation of *pendiente* in this case.

1 Perdí un pendiente.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>el pendiente masc noun: ____________________</th>
<th>la pendiente fem noun: ____________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The correct translation is: I lost an ____________________.
Victory with verbs

Verbs are used in various forms and tenses, but dictionaries list the infinitive.

- Look for entries labelled verb. The infinitives will end in -ar, -er, or -ir.
- Read all the meanings given. Yours won’t necessarily be the first one!

Dejé la fiesta a medianoche. Dejé mi lapiz a Roberto.

5 de‐jar verb [17]
1 to leave

7 Dejé la fiesta a medianoche.
3 to lend

I left the party at midnight.

I lent Roberto my pencil.

zoom Practice
Amateur journalists

Look up the verbs in your dictionary, and write the infinitives of the verbs in the puzzle. Watch out for the reflexive verb!

Creamos un jardín ecológico.
El atleta nos dejó entrevistarlo.
Roberto visitó Madrid.
Juan siguió al atleta.
Describió el Pino a Pino al fin del día.
Consigó los billetes más baratos.
El atleta les ofreció unos consejos.
Los tres amigos bajaron al centro de la ciudad.
Juan recogió información sobre el trabajo.
Participaron en el festival de las velas.
Los tres se juntaron para ir al cine.

Watch zoom español 2 Video dramas to see Elena, Roberto and Juan in all of the scenes mentioned above!