

# Adjectives: Part I

Adjectives are frequently descriptive. That is, most often adjectives are used to describe a noun, or distinguish the noun from a group of similar objects. For example, an adjective might describe the color of an object.

the red pen  
the blue pen

In Spanish, most adjectives change form, depending upon whether the word they modify is masculine or feminine. Notice the difference between "the tall boy" and "the tall girl."

el chico **alto**  
la chica **alta**

Adjectives also change form depending upon whether the word they modify is singular or plural. Notice the difference between "the tall boy" and "the tall boys" ; "the tall girl" and "the tall girls."

el chico **alto**  
los chicos **altos**

la chica **alta**  
las chicas **altas**

Many common adjectives end in -o. These adjectives have four forms. The following words all mean "tall":

**alto**  
**alta**  
**altos**  
**altas**

The correct form of the adjective depends upon the noun it modifies. Is the noun masculine or feminine? Singular or plural?

libro rojo ..... red book  
pluma roja ..... red pen  
libros rojos ..... red books  
plumas rojas..... red pens

Notice how the endings of these nouns and adjectives are similar.

libro rojo  
pluma roja  
libros rojos  
plumas rojas

Adjectives that end in -e also change form for singular or plural. To form the plural, simply add -s.

la chica **inteligente**  
las chicas **inteligentes**

■ Adjectives that end in -e do not, however, change form for masculine or feminine.

**la** chica **inteligente**

**el** chico **inteligente**

**las** chicas **inteligentes**

**los** chicos **inteligentes**

■ Similarly, most adjectives that end in a consonant do change form for singular or plural, but do not change for masculine or feminine. To form the plural, add -es.

**la** chica **popular**

**el** chico **popular**

**las** chicas **populares**

**los** chicos **populares**

■ Let's review.

- Adjectives that end in -o have four forms: alto, alta, altos, altas
- Adjectives that end in -e have two forms: inteligente, inteligentes
- Most adjectives that end in a consonant have two forms: popular, populares (form plural by adding -es)