For all words in Spanish (as with any language), remember that any word has two identities: it will be a part of speech (noun, pronoun, adjective, adverb, verb, conjunction, interjection), and it will have a function (subject, object, verb, object of a preposition) in the statement. Unlike the English, words are rarely used for more than one part of speech.

For example, in English, we might say, "I'm taking a drive to town." "Drive" is a noun here. Or we might say, "I will drive to town." "Drive" is a verb here. In Spanish, any such dual roles are rare. (Go to Resources to see a primer on parts of speech.)

In Spanish, the only words that change depending on function are the personal pronouns. There are a few rules to remember about these pronouns, and the rules will be explained in this module. The next five pages will discuss nouns.
Unlike in a language like Latin, Spanish vocabulary words, when used as nouns, do not change according to case or function. For instance, as in English, the noun "house" remains the same word in “I see the house,” where "house" is the direct object, as well as “The house is white,” where "house" is the subject of the statement.

Yo veo la casa. (I see the house.)
La casa es blanca. (The house is white.)

[However, as explained in the Pronoun section, pronouns will change depending on the function (subject or object).]

Generally, English words that end in "-ty" will end in "-dad" in Spanish:
the city - la ciudad
the truth - la verdad
felicity - la felicidad

The next page will discuss gender of nouns.
Spanish nouns have gender, unlike the English: "the house" in Spanish is feminine, "la casa." Regular feminine nouns end in “a” and the article used would be feminine as well ("la"). Likewise, regular masculine nouns end in “o,” and the article used would be masculine as well ("el"): "el libro" = the book. In the next section, you will notice that plurals of nouns ending in a vowel end in “s.” (There are some words that end in vowels other than a or o, but generally they originate in another language*).

In addition, many vowels end in a consonant. Most nouns that end in the letters -ción are feminine: la canción (the song) la recepción (the reception)

Here are some examples of nouns and a few examples of the not-so-numerous exceptions to the rule: el vuelo (the flight) el hijo (the son) la puerta (the door) la sala (the living room)

* These exceptions probably originated from Greek words: el día (the day) el mapa (the map)

The next page will discuss plurals of nouns.
**Vocabulary**

**Plurals**

The rules for making a singular noun into a plural noun are fairly straightforward – much less complicated than the English rules for plurals. Simply put, if a noun ends in a vowel you add an “s, and if it ends in a consonant, you add an "es."

The other thing that is different from the English is that the article also becomes plural: "the" before a feminine singular noun is "la"; "the" before a masculine singular noun is "el"; the plurals - you guessed it - will end in "s": feminine = "las"; masculine = "los." (You will have to memorize the "el" and "los"): "el libro" and "los libros" (the book/books) "la casa" and "las casas" (the house/houses)
The following nouns are made plural by adding "es"; you will have to memorize the gender:
el papel - los papeles
el hotel - los hoteles
la flor - las flores
el sol - los soles
la luna - las lunas
el tren - los trenes
la ciudad - los ciudades

The following regular nouns are made plural by adding "s." Which article would go with each?
foto - fotos               _____ foto; _____ fotos
americano - americanos    _____ americano; _____ americanos
paella - paellas          _____ paella; _____ paellas
taco - tacos              _____ taco; _____ tacos
guitarra - guitarras      _____ guitarra; _____ guitarras
aeropuerto - aeropuertos  _____ aeropuerto; _____ aeropuertos