

English mass noun	Spanish mass noun	Spanish limited count noun
sun	el sol	los soles
water	el agua	las aguas
wool	la lana	las lanas

As with English, Spanish mass nouns sometimes show a change of meaning when they are countized. Carne refers to meat, but carnes more likely refers to the abundant flesh of an overweight person.

There are certain mass nouns in English (or perhaps count nouns with no singular form, which behave like mass nouns) similar to news, for which Spanish has count/mass equivalents:

English plural count noun/mass noun	Spanish count/mass noun
clothes	ropa
woods	bosque
oats	avena
grits	sémola
hives	urticaria

Certain names of sciences or systems in English with the suffix -ics, usually considered singular, have Spanish equivalents that are usually singular, though some can occasionally be pluralized:

mathematics	matemática
physics	física
genetics	genética
acoustics	acústica
gymnastics	gimnástica
tactics	táctica
economics	economía
athletics	atletismo

One final difficulty is almost unrelated to the mass noun/count noun distinction. Some count nouns are singular in English but plural in Spanish in their usual forms. This lack of formal equivalence often troubles students. Examples are:

English singular count noun	Spanish plural count noun
Morocco	Marruecos
vacation	vacaciones
nose	narices

Actually narices has nostrils as its primary referent, but it is the equivalent of nose in many utterances: Le pegó en las narices.

This discussion of mass and count constructions makes it possible to clarify

some of the examples cited in an earlier section on the use of determiners. When a singular noun appears with un(a), it is used in a count construction; without un(a), it is a mass construction. Note the following examples:

Count nouns	
¿Tienes un empleo?	Do you have a job?
¿Necesitas una criada?	Do you need a maid?
Mass nouns	
¿Tienes empleo?	Do you have work?
¿Necesitas criada?	Do you need domestic help?

There are pairs of English words to handle the count and mass meaning of Spanish empleo and criada (job/work, maid/help). But in the sentence ¿Tienes lápiz? there is only the English count noun pencil available. The unity of the Spanish pattern cannot be illustrated without resorting to some untypical English construction like:

¿Tienes un lápiz?	Do you have a pencil?
¿Tienes lápiz?	Are you pencil-supplied?

ADJECTIVE POSITION

The pattern for a noun phrase has been represented by the formula:

$$NP \rightarrow D (ADJ) + N (ADJ) + N + UM$$

This can now be expanded to show a more complete adjective classification and the relative sequence in which different kinds of adjectives may occur. The fullest pattern of modification is as follows:

$$todo + D + \begin{matrix} \text{Limiting} \\ \text{ADJ} \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \text{Descriptive} \\ \text{ADJ} \end{matrix} + N + \begin{matrix} \text{Desc or Lim} \\ \text{ADJ} \end{matrix} + \text{ADJ Phrase} + \text{ADJ Clause}$$

The positions in this sequence can be conveniently designated by reference to the relative order of their occurrence before or after the noun, marked by a minus for those which precede and a plus for those which follow:



Position minus 4 is occupied by the unique item todo. Position minus 3 is occupied by a class designated as determiners. These are el, un, el; the demonstratives este, ese, aquel; and the possessives (when they precede the noun).

Up to this point the classification is neat and inclusive: the relative order is fixed, and only one item from a class is allowed. The limiting and descriptive adjectives cannot be organized so neatly, without working out a subclassification, cross-classifying many of the subclassified forms, and supplying a set of special rules to account for exceptions.

Limiting adjectives are those which relate the noun to its environment in terms of order relations, amount, and quantity. More than one limiting adjective may modify the same noun, which is the source of several suborder problems. For example, ordinal numerals usually follow cardinal (primeros dos), but they may precede (dos primeros); otros must precede cardinal numerals (otros dos), but may precede or follow muchos (otros muchos, muchos otros). The comparatives más and menos usually appear in position minus 2, but when there is a cardinal numeral modifying the same noun, the comparatives move to a position after the noun (Tengo dos libros más).

There is one restriction on the co-occurrence of determiners and limiting adjectives: the determiner un does not normally appear in the same construction with a limiting adjective: ciento, otro, not *un ciento, *un otro. Uno appears as a determiner occupying position minus 3 when it has the function of indefinite reference (comparable to English a), and is a limiting adjective occupying position minus 2 when it has the function of explicit enumeration (comparable to English one). Neither as a determiner nor as an enumerator does it appear with itself or with other limiting adjectives. When it is nominalized as a substitute for hora, it can occur after the determiner la: Es la una.

The ordinal and cardinal numerals regularly appear in position minus 2, but as part of a title or formal designation they follow the noun. When the cardinal precedes a noun, it agrees in number with the noun; when it follows as a part of a title or designation, it does not:

dos libros	libro dos
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Only the first ten ordinals are normally used; cardinals are substituted for higher numbers. In calendar dates, primero is used for the first day of the month, dos, tres, and so on for succeeding days.

Multiples of cardinal numerals (from sixteen on) are built of tens and units on the pattern of treinta y uno (with the multiples of one showing gender agreement: treinta y una mujeres). One hundred is cien; numbers to 199 are ciento uno, ciento dos, and so on (with no gender agreement of ciento); numbers from 200 are doscientos (with gender agreement: doscientas mujeres).

Mil (like cien and other limiting adjectives) does not take the determiner un. Multiples of ten modifying mil plus a noun do not show gender agreement, but multiples of cien do:

treinta y un mil hombres
treinta y un mil mujeres
doscientas mil mujeres

Millón (billón, and so on), unlike the other numerals, is a masculine noun; it quantifies nouns in a following de phrase:

un millón de años

Number reference to a fraction of an integer is made by an adjective for one-half, a noun for other simple fractions, as follows:

media hora
un cuarto de hora
tres cuartos de hora

When added to a whole number, the fraction is moved to position plus 1, following the noun and the relater y:

dos horas y media
seis horas y un cuarto
nueve horas y tres cuartos

Descriptive adjectives appear both in position minus 1 and position plus 1. Many of the adjectives classified as descriptive (those which tell something of the nature of the noun they describe: color, size, nationality, affiliations or status in society, condition, and so on) can precede or follow the noun with little change of meaning. Others express an easily discernible semantic distinction when placed before or after a noun:

nuevo carro	a different car	carro nuevo	a brand new car
pobre hombre	an unfortunate man	hombre pobre	a destitute man
gran ciudad	a great city	ciudad grande	a large city
buena parte	a considerable part	parte buena	the good part

It has been suggested that the difference between these examples is that between the figurative (left column) and the literal (right column) meanings of the adjectives. Although this is a useful description of the contrast shown above, where the differences in meaning are clear in English translation, it is much less revealing where semantic differences are less overt. A more revealing, and more general, distinction is that between differentiation and enhancement: those adjectives follow which differentiate the modified noun from all other nouns (in classifying, characterizing, contrasting it with respect to all similar nouns); those adjectives precede which do not differentiate it (they express typical or inherent qualities, which enhance or express value judgments).

Another way of looking at the same distinction might be termed the "relative informativeness" of the noun and the adjective. In un famoso héroe, the order indicates that we expect heroes to be well known. But in un héroe famoso, we are differentiating the hero who is famous from others who have not been acclaimed. The item in final position carries more information. Thus when the adjective appears after the noun, the function of its position is to single out and distinguish the noun modified. The following examples illustrate the contrast between pre- and post-position:

la linda hija	the daughter, who is pretty
la hija linda	that one of the daughters who is pretty
la blanca nieve	the snow, which is white
la ropa blanca	that part of the laundry which is white—that is, the bed and table linen
mi leal amigo	my true friend
mi amigo leal	my friend who is loyal

un verdadero arte	a real art
una pintura verdadera	an authentic picture
una fantástica solución	a very good solution
un disco fantástico	an extraordinary record
el frío hielo	the cold ice
esta sopa fría	this "cold" soup

La linda hija de Don Pablo can be characterized as "one unique,"⁶ the only daughter of Don Pablo, who incidentally is pretty; but la hija linda de Don Pedro is "one of many," implying a choice from among Don Pedro's daughters based on beauty. The phrase la blanca nieve includes all snow, but la ropa blanca singles out part of the laundry distinguished by color. Mi leal amigo is my friend, who, as one expects of friends, is loyal; mi amigo leal singles out the one friend who is a real friend, that is, who is in fact loyal. In a similar way, verdadero, fantástica, frío enhance or name the essential qualities of the following noun (the first member of each pair above) but distinguish the preceding noun from others that are similar (the second).

Some descriptive adjectives are usually considered to have a distinguishing function, and therefore follow the noun. These include adjectives of nationality, affiliation in society, and color. When adjectives are themselves modified, they usually follow the noun:

Esa cara tan triste
Este policía medio bruto
Una limonada bien caliente

A modified adjective is more often selected to differentiate nouns: the relative informativeness of the adjective is usually emphasized by its being modified. Note, however, expressions like muy buenos atletas, where a modified adjective precedes the noun with muy intensifying the enhancing buenos.

Adjectives agree in number and gender with the noun, whether they follow or precede. If there are two nouns joined by the co-ordinating relater y, the adjective will be plural, and if either or both nouns are masculine, the gender form of the adjective will be masculine:

vacas y toros importados	imported cows and bulls
El carburador y la batería están descompuestos.	The carburetor and the battery are not working.

Limiting adjectives do not normally appear after the noun, in position plus 1. But there are some semantic contrasts which are marked by position, just as in the case of descriptive adjectives:

la misma señora	the same lady
la señora misma	the lady herself

6. Bull (1961).

cualquier libro	any book whatsoever
un libro cualquiera	any old book

There is one group of adjectives that regularly appear after the noun in position plus 1—the possessives when used with indefinite reference (in which case the full forms are used):

Un libro nuevo mío
Un amigo mío español

The relative position of two adjectives (descriptive, limiting or possessive) in post-position is determined by the immediate constituent structure of the noun plus its modifiers. The adjective more closely associated with the noun will occupy the position immediately following. A second adjective, then, will modify the combination of noun plus first adjective (unless y appears between the adjectives; see below). Thus the two sentences above are interpreted as A new book which is mine and A friend of mine who is Spanish. Note the following contrast:

literatura española moderna	modern Spanish literature
literatura moderna española	Spanish modern literature

There is a marginal use of demonstratives in position plus 1. A semantic element of derogatory reference is usually a consequence of this inversion:

el libro este	this miserable book
la mujer esa	that vulgar woman

Note that the demonstrative is no longer functioning as a determiner (which is confined, qua determiner, to position minus 3) but as a "descriptive" adjective.

Finally, in last positions after a noun, two different types of adjective modifiers occur: in position plus 2 a prepositional phrase, and in plus 3 a clause. The position of phrase or clause modifiers after the noun is completely obligatory, as in English. They follow all other modifiers, and if both phrase and clause are present they occur in that order:

la mujer del sombrero rojo, que vino ayer

COMPARISON

English adjectives normally occur before the noun they modify; in fact, it is this order which signals their modifying function in most instances. There are a few words often called adjectives, which were adverbs historically and are best analyzed as such now; these occur only in the predicate after be (alive, afire, asleep, agog, aboard, ashore, and so on). A small number of this group can occur also after nouns (abroad, ahead, afoot), and they retain something of their adverbial origin in that they usually occur after event nouns: his trip abroad.

There are two other English constructions that appear to place an adjective after a noun; actually both are transformations of simpler underlying constructions. The first is illustrated by the sentence I consider this book interesting. This is a complement

structure, reordered from the basic string I + consider-interesting + this book, traditionally called the "object complement." This is, of course, quite different from the Spanish construction in este libro interesante, which matches the English this interesting book.

The other noun + adjective construction is one in which the noun has a function like that of the adverbial phrase from which it is derived. We have clear as crystal, black as pitch, white as snow in the forms crystal clear, pitch black, snow white. These are not likely to be confused with the Spanish noun + adjective construction.

Position before the noun for adjectives is so normal and stable that one alters that order only to achieve some special effect. For example, a play with the title The House Beautiful was judged by one reviewer as "the play lousy."

Besides position with respect to the noun, there are certain problems of position with respect to other adjectives. One difficulty is encountered in the use of the unique member of order class minus 4: todo, which is equated with all and every in English. Note the following examples:

todo el día	all day ~ all the day
todos los días	every day; all the days

When every is used in a universal sentence, referring to an unlimited totality, the singular form of todo is used with no accompanying article:

Toda elección debe ser libre. Every election should be free.

Failure to distinguish these usages can lead to errors of the following type:

- *Yo esperaba todo día (todo el día)
- *Todos abogados son ladrones. (todos los abogados)
- *Todas señoritas son simpáticas. (todas las señoritas)
- *Todos hombres parecen iguales. (todos los hombres)

The English equivalent of order class minus 4 has not one but two members: all and both. The Spanish word for both is ambos, which could be in any (or all) of classes minus 4, minus 3, or minus 2: it never appears with other modifiers from these classes. An English speaker might, therefore, be expected to make the following errors:

- *Ambas las muchachas vinieron anoche. ambas muchachas
- *Ambos el hijo y el padre salieron. tanto el hijo como el padre . . .

In the class of limiting adjectives, several potential confusions exist. The following errors have been noted:

*un cierto hombre	cierto
*Me dió una media hora	media
*Hay dos otros cursos	otros dos
*Dame dos y media horas	dos horas y media
*Quiero dos más libras	dos libras más
*Hay exactamente doscientas y una	doscientas una
*un mil novecientos	mil
*un millón soldados	millón de

The use of y in compound numerals does not match English, and can lead to errors. And is used (optionally) between hundreds and tens; y is obligatory between tens and units.

*ciento y diez	ciento diez
*doscientos y uno	doscientos uno
*mil novecientos y catorce	mil novecientos catorce

In certain usages, the way longer numbers are divided up is different in Spanish and English. In dates, long addresses, telephone numbers, and so on, English speakers block off two numbers at a time: nineteen sixty. Spanish has no equivalent *diecinueve sesenta in dates, but does in telephone numbers. In English, we may say oh or zero (with preference for oh) in reading numbers one at a time. Spanish has only zero. Students will occasionally say *cinco o tres instead of cinco cero tres.

Since all but a small group of adjectives precede the noun in English, an English speaker is not accustomed to using order position to identify a distinction like enhancing (before noun) vs. differentiating (after noun). The tendency is to place before the noun adjectives which would come after in expressions like:

*El americano señor vino.	señor americano
*No fumamos americanos cigarillos.	cigarillos americanos
*Es una amarilla casa.	casa amarilla
*Me gusta su verde sombrero.	sombrero verde
*No señor, aquí tenemos la católica religión.	religión católica
*Tengo tres nuevas palabras.	palabras nuevas

There is a small area of conflict in the use of more than one descriptive adjective with a noun. English may or may not separate two adjectives with and:

She's an attractive, intelligent girl.
She's an attractive and intelligent girl.

Spanish normally uses y if both occur on the same side of the noun and are felt to be in a parallel modifying function:

pobre y desvalida hija
libros nuevos y útiles

When the y does not appear, the adjective closest to the noun forms an immediate constituent with it. In the following phrase, falsos modifies the concept antiguos ideales, not just ideales:

los falsos antiguos ideales

In English and Spanish, the adjective most closely identified with the noun appears closest to it. Since two adjectives can appear after the Spanish noun, the order appears to be reversed from the point of view of English:

una casa pequeña y bonita	a pretty little house
el hombre viejo y contento	the happy old man
la nieve blanca y pura	the pure white snow

PHRASES AND CLAUSES

There is one element of the expanded noun phrase which has been mentioned but not discussed: the final plus order classes of modifiers—namely, the modifying phrases and clauses. The clause closes the construction to other types of modification.

(A full discussion of phrases and clauses will be postponed until Chapter 7, where the non-verb constituents of the verb phrases are taken up, since clauses always involve conjugated verbs and since both phrases and clauses have more extensive use and fewer restrictions as modifiers in the expanded verb phrase.)

We have seen one use of prepositional phrases modifying a noun in the discussion of possessives. Spanish nouns are not inflected for possession as English nouns are; instead, a possessive construction with a *de*-phrase is used:

the boy's ball	la pelota del muchacho
the lady's purse	la bolsa de la señora
the men's room	el cuarto de los hombres

Similar constructions are not unknown in English, and in fact are preferred with most inanimate nouns:

the top of the mountain	la cima de la montaña
the surface of the water	la superficie del agua
the cover of the book	el forro del libro
the products of Cuba	los productos de Cuba

There are many other Spanish constructions in which nouns are linked by *de*. Nouns are rarely modified directly by other nouns, though this is a frequent construction in English. Note the following examples, where the second Spanish noun is generalized and therefore does not take an article:

a gold watch	un reloj de oro
a businessman	un hombre de negocios
a silver coin	una moneda de plata
straw roofs	los techos de paja
the fever season	la estación de calenturas
a student demonstration	una manifestación de estudiantes

When a particular thing is referred to, a similar construction with a determiner before the second Spanish noun is used:

the dining room table	la mesa del comedor
the car tires	las llantas del auto

Other simple prepositions which can occur in phrases modifying nouns are illustrated by the following examples:

a gift for Antonio	un regalo para Antonio
a room without a bath	un cuarto sin baño
a package with clothing (in it)	un paquete con ropa

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COMPARISON

Spanish prepositions are roughly similar to those of English in the kinds of constituents they occur with. They are essentially relater words signaling a relationship of dependency for the object of the preposition with respect to the item modified.

A problem of major proportions is the equivalence of forms in the two languages and, for the student, the proper selection. This problem can be illustrated as follows:

the girl with the white dog	la muchacha con el perro blanco
the girl with the blue dress	la muchacha del vestido azul

English *with* can be rendered by Spanish *con* or *de* depending on whether the meaning is "accompanying" (*con*) or "identified by" (*de*). (The problem of equivalent forms and meanings is presented in greater detail in Chapter 7.)

English and Spanish differ in the patterns of occurrence for compound objects of prepositions. English allows two noun objects readily; Spanish tends to repeat the preposition before each object, especially when the second object is *mi* or *ti*.

a gift for you and me	un regalo para ti y para mí.
the story about my wife and me	la historia de mi mujer y de mí.

The likely error is the production of a compound object with only one preposition, on the model of English:

- *un coche para ti y mí
- *una fiesta sin Juan y ti

English uses certain prepositions in phrases to denote location, which are attached directly to nouns, as in *the book on the table*.⁷ Spanish regularly shows this relationship in a full clause which contains the verb *estar*:

the girls in the living room	las chicas que están en la sala
the paper on the desk	el papel que está sobre el escritorio
the man on the horse	el hombre que está en el caballo
the gentleman at the door	el señor que está a la puerta

The strong pressure of conflict between these two patterns will cause English-speaking students to construct phrases like the following:

- *la señorita en la sala
- *el pobre a la puerta
- *el libro sobre la mesa
- *la pintura en la pared

A similar problem involves *con* and the verb *tener*. Note the following equivalents:

7. Within a generative grammar, these phrases result from a reduced relative clause: *the book which is on the table* → *the book on the table*. Thus the critical difference between Spanish and English on this point is that the former does not allow the reduction (by deletion) to a phrase.

the boy with the suitcase	el muchacho que tiene la maleta
the lady with the baby	la señora que tiene el nene

Spanish uses the literal equivalent of English *with* to mean "accompanied by." When *with* means "possessing" or "carrying," the clause introduced by *que tiene* is much more common. Errors are:

- *el hombre con la cartera
- *el policía con el revólver

NOUNS IN APPPOSITION

The final problem to be considered about the noun phrase is expansion by apposition. The term "apposition" is applied to the second of two nouns in juxtaposed sequence, which restates or more often modifies the first as a kind of condensed clause. Examples are: *Peter the Hermit*; *Philip, King of Macedon*.

In general, the patterns of apposition are very similar in English and Spanish:

My brother the engineer	mi hermano el ingeniero
Edison, the celebrated American inventor	Edison, el célebre inventor americano

In some constructions, when the appositive is primarily explanatory, the Spanish article is omitted:

Quito, the capital of Ecuador	Quito, capital del Ecuador
Callao, the port of Lima	Callao, puerto de Lima

COMPARISON

One interesting construction in which the article is present in Spanish but absent in English occurs when a noun is in apposition with a preceding plural pronoun:

we Mexicans	nosotros los mexicanos
you clerics	vosotros los clérigos
for us old women	para nosotras las viejas
to you young people	a ustedes los jóvenes

In examples like the first two, if the head of the noun phrase is a pronoun functioning as the subject of the sentence, the Spanish first or second person familiar plural nouns can be omitted; the verb carries the person and number information of the subject pronoun. Sentences like the following are possible:

- Los americanos somos muy afortunados.
- Los mexicanos somos muy patrióticos.
- Las españolas sois muy pudorosas.

The probable error in the appositive construction with pronouns is the inappropriate omission of the article with the noun:

- *nosotros americanos
- *nosotras estudiantes
- *ustedes abogados

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There are two other minor types of apposition that can cause errors. One is enumeration with nouns, as in the following examples:

the number three motor	el motor número tres
the number five spark plug	la bujía número cinco

The error, of course, is to say:

- *el número tres motor
- *el (or la) número cinco bujía

Finally, the titles *señor*, *señora*, and so on, even when they have the meanings *gentleman*, *lady*, retain their position before person names. Note the following equivalents:

that García gentleman	ese señor García
the Jiménez lady	la señora Jiménez

This conflict can generate the following errors:

- *ese García señor
- *la Jiménez señora

NOMINALIZATION

There is a process of considerable importance to the structure of Spanish: NOMINALIZATION. This process has already been alluded to and partly described a number of times when the patterns of nominalization had important consequences for various of the specific constituents of the noun phrase. Nominalization is a process with extensive application through all the form classes of the language.

Nominalization is said to occur when a sentence element that cannot be identified morphologically as a member of the word class noun functions in the sentence as if it were a noun. In nominalized adjectives, the nominalized form can be derived by a process of deletion:

la casa nueva	→	la nueva
el segundo muchacho	→	el segundo
las otras niñas	→	las otras

The noun in an underlying sentence is transformationally deleted, leaving the adjective with the gender and number marking of the noun to function in place of the noun. The only restriction on the use of the nominalized forms is that the context or the situation must identify the referent.

Many forms other than adjectives can function as nouns in Spanish. Note the following nominalizations:

- Adjective
- El primero está aquí.
- La otra acaba de llegar.

Verb

El hablar bien es un arte.
 Al entrar, se sentó.
 Lévese el descompuesto.⁸

Particles

hasta mañana
 en aquel entonces
 el sí de las niñas
 Ella tiene muy buen lejos. (She looks good from a distance, but . . .)
 el mañana que esperamos
 No hay pero que valga.
 el pro y la contra
 el avemaría
 de vez en cuando
 de aquí en adelante

There are numerous additional examples to demonstrate that nominalization as a process is very productive in Spanish.

As a matter of fact, nominalization as a derivational process can be verified by a number of nouns in the language which had their origin in other word classes. It is easy to see the infinitive source of el poder, el deber, el ser, los decires, el cantar de los cantares. The /-do/ form is obviously the source of la entrada, la salida, de ida y vuelta, la vista, el hecho, el dicho. Many of the present-day nouns of Spanish were adjectives in Latin, such as marido, soltero, cocinero (Latin marītus, sōlītārius, coquīnārius). That this is a continuing process can be seen in a number of forms of adjective origin which are almost nouns but which retain some of the modifying functions of an adjective, such as fuerzas enemigas and so on.

The infinitive is the nominal form of the verb in Spanish, so we cannot properly talk about the nominalization of infinitives; they are always nominals, functioning as object, complement, subject, and so on of a sentence. When an infinitive is used as the subject of a sentence in Spanish, the determiner el will appear in normal word order:

El hablar bien me gusta.
 El dormir con ventanas abiertas es saludable.

When the word order is inverted, however, the el need not appear.

Me gusta hablar bien.
 Es saludable dormir con ventanas abiertas.

In certain fixed phrases, mostly in proverbs, sayings, and the like, the el is omitted with subject infinitives:

Ver es creer.

8. Possibly should be classed as a nominalization from an adjective form.

The concept of nominalization as an explanation of how non-noun forms function as nouns helps correlate a number of details of Spanish grammar which are otherwise rather heterogeneously assigned. The pronoun class has been the dumping ground for many of the nominalized forms, both those which refer to people and those which refer to things. Descriptively this has been unfortunate, because the criteria for inclusion in the class had to be an appeal to meaning which ignored formal characteristics. Instead of forms showing person, number, case, and gender categories, a criterion like "a word that takes the place of a noun" (something all nominalized forms do) was applied.

Thus nominalized demonstratives, possessives, and a vague group of adjectives called indefinites have been analyzed as pronouns. Note the following sets:

la hija mía → la mía
 la hija bonita → la bonita
 los buenos libros → los buenos
 los otros libros → los otros

However one describes these correspondences, it should certainly be recognized that the same process is operating in all four.

There is a hierarchy within a series of modifying items that determines which adjective will be nominalized when several are present. The following chart represents this hierarchy:

Todo	Determiners	Limiting Adjective	Descriptive Adjective	Noun	Descriptive Adjective or Possessive	Phrase	Clause
todo	el un mi este	otro mismo segundo último	bueno bonito simpático nuevo		moderno americano verde mío	de . . . que . . .	
5	4	3	2		1		

Each adjective order class is labeled and illustrated by several examples. The number assigned to each class represents the order by which the function of head is determined in a series of adjectives, indicating a hierarchy of nominalization; that is, no. 1 omitted first, no. 2 second, and so on. The following series is illustrative; the nominal form is underlined:

- (Todos) los otros buenos soldados americanos del ejército que vinieron . . .
- (Todos) los otros buenos americanos del ejército que vinieron . . .
- (Todos) los otros buenos del ejército que vinieron . . .
- (Todos) los otros del ejército que vinieron . . .
- (Todos) los del ejército que vinieron . . .
- (Todos) los que vinieron . . .
- Todos . . .

Some of these extended noun phrases need comment. The first two or three examples are not very natural sounding because Spanish does not often include so many modifiers in one phrase. The others are quite authentic. Examples 5 and 6 show that los can be nominalized only when it itself is modified by a phrase or a clause. The unique item that occurs in class 5, todo, is more loosely related to the hierarchy; it may occur with any of the other sentence patterns (examples 1 to 7) or it may be nominalized alone (example 7), as also may the demonstrative and the indefinites (determiners uno, alguno, ninguno and some limiting adjectives: otro, mucho, tanto, cien, and so on. Todos, however, cannot occur with (i.e., modified by) a clause or a phrase, as *todos del ejército, *todos que vinieron. When nominalized, todos cannot be modified. In example 5, it might be possible to analyze the phrase as being the nominalized element, with an accompanying modifying article, in the following pattern:

el libro mío → el mío
 el libro de usted → el de usted

We prefer to analyze the second example as a nominalization of el modified by the phrase de usted:

el libro de usted → el de usted

The reference is to a specific item, which is replaced by el, since the attributive phrase cannot carry the number and gender signals. Moreover, this agrees with the traditional description of el with phrases and clauses as a demonstrative:

ese del otro día → el del otro día
 esa que tiene usted → la que tiene usted

It is possible, of course, to have more than one adjective from an order class in the instance of descriptive and limiting adjectives. If two descriptive adjectives from the postposed order class occur together, the first is normally nominalized, as shown by the following examples:

técnicos especialistas specialized technicians
 especialistas técnicos technical specialists

This reflects the normal placement of descriptive adjectives after the item they modify. If two limiting adjectives appear together in a pattern of nominalization (not a common occurrence), the order of the nominalized form is the reverse: the nominalized form comes last, reflecting the normal placement of limiting adjectives before the item they modify:

muchos otros } many others
 otros muchos }
 las dos últimas the two last ones
 las últimas dos the last two

Some limiting adjectives may occur postposed, in which instance they become descriptive adjectives. Note the meaning change with this shift of function:

el mismo hombre the same man
 el hombre mismo the man himself
 el tercer pío the third pious one
 Pío tercero Pius the third

The hierarchy above does not explain the entire process of nominalization. The indefinites (or at least those with shortened forms) participate in two patterns: one where they accompany a nominalized form, and one where they themselves are nominalized and are modified by a descriptive adjective:

un nuevo a new one
uno nuevo one that is new
 algún rico some rich person
alguno rico someone who is rich
 ningún venezolano no Venezuelan
ninguno venezolano no one who is Venezuelan

There is another pair of constructions that resembles the two possible constructions of the indefinite adjectives; these are formed with the indefinite adverbs algo and nada. These may modify an adjective or be themselves modified by an adjective. The contrast shows up only when there is a conflict of gender assignment:

La situación no es nada buena. The situation is not at all good.
 La situación no es nada bueno. There's nothing good about the situation.
 Su clase es algo fantástica. His class is rather fantastic.
 Su clase es algo fantástico. His class is something fantastic.
 Esta iglesia es algo vieja. This church is somewhat old.
 Esta iglesia es algo viejo. This church is something old.
 La carta no es nada típica. The letter is not at all typical.
 La carta no es nada típico. The letter is nothing typical.

The underlined forms are nominalized. The same items in the contrasting examples are merely adverbial, modifying the adjectives that follow.

NEUTER

In connection with nominalization, something should be said about the restricted category of neuter in Spanish. The consequences of a neuter category in a language all of whose nouns are assigned to an inherent gender class membership of masculine or feminine are very interesting. It will be noted from the charts presented earlier that there is a determiner lo and a subject pronoun ello, and that the corresponding with-verb form of the pronoun is lo, identical with the masculine singular form. This coalescence of masculine singular and neuter is typical of the adjective class: adjectives in agreement with neuter forms are usually identical with masculine singular forms.

If all Spanish nouns are either masculine or feminine, when is there any need

for neuter pronouns, determiners, and adjectives? We previously cited a rule for the cross-classification of nouns:

$N \rightarrow N_o, N_a, N_{neut}$

Actually, the class of neuter nouns is a fiction, but a very convenient one. The class itself is "empty," but the consequences are analogous to masculine and feminine. This is noted most readily in nominalization, where modifiers grammatically replace nouns which are deleted from a construction. Note the following examples:

el otro muchacho → el otro
la otra muchacha → la otra
el hombre americano → el americano
la mujer americana → la americana

Otro, otra, americano, and americana function as nouns when the noun drops. They have specific referents, are modified by determiners, and function as nouns in sentence constructions.

Note the following constructions, however:

lo otro.
lo americano.

These nominalizations do not appear to derive from a specific noun. Instead of referring to a specific person, thing, or quality, the reference is to an aggregate of circumstances or qualities. It is convenient to explain the appearance of neuter nominalized adjectives in the same terms as masculine or feminine nominalizations:

lo otro N_{neut} → lo otro
lo N_{neut} americano → lo americano
Lo N_{neut} bueno es que él no sabe. → Lo bueno es que él no sabe.
Lo N_{neut} mismo me pasó a mf. → Lo mismo me pasó a mf.
Aprendí de memoria lo N_{neut} de Sócrates. → Aprendí de memoria lo de Sócrates.
Lo N_{neut} de hablar mejor o peor es algo muy relativo. → Lo de hablar mejor o peor es algo muy relativo.
Sea lo N_{neut} que sea. → Sea lo que sea.
Haga como lo N_{neut} que yo. → Haga como lo que yo.

All the sequences on the left are converted into Spanish sentences by the deletion of the class N_{neut} , which has served its function as a building block in the structure, somewhat in the same way the forms can be removed from a concrete wall once the material is put in its proper place and allowed to set.

The neuter ello in any sentence function is extremely rare, as indeed are él and ella in subject position when the referent is not N_{pers} . When things are alluded to in

sentence constructions that place them in subject position, the normal pattern is to use a noun to refer to them or to omit the subject. As objects of the verb, all the with-verb pronouns occur readily, including the neuter, as in:

No lo entiendo

when the reference is to an aggregate of circumstances.

COMPARISON

All the above examples show the past and present vigor of the process of nominalization as a source of constructions, usage, and even lexical items in Spanish. How does the Spanish process compare with the similar one in English?

It should be noted, first of all, that although the process of nominalization exists in English, it is neither as active nor as extensive as in Spanish. Reference has already been made to the nominalization of English demonstratives, which requires the dummy carrier one with singular forms—these, those; but this one, that one—unless the reference is to an unidentified item or to an abstract conceptualization, as in That's funny or I don't know about this.

In general, indefinites nominalize in English by adding the carrier one (or body, restricted in reference to persons). Examples are someone, anybody, the other one, the same one, the first one. There are, however, exceptions to this general statement. The ordinal numbers used to refer to dates, for example, never use the carrier: the first, the twenty-third.

Descriptive adjectives also usually nominalize by adding the carrier one—the poor one, the new one, the beautiful one—except when reference is to the abstract class of poor people (normally limited to human referents) or to the disembodied concept of the quality (the good, the beautiful). Spanish uses gender-marked nominalizations for classes of people and neuter for concepts. Note the following equivalents:

the poor one (guy, fellow)	el pobre
the rich one (girl)	la rica
the poor	los pobres
the rich	los ricos
the faithful	los fieles
the true	lo verdadero
the beautiful	lo hermoso

The one Spanish example that has no possible equivalent in English is a nominalization of the definite determiner. The use of the carrier one is obligatory in the English equivalents of the following examples:

la del sombrero rojo	the one with a red hat
el que vino ayer	the one who came yesterday
los que tengo	the ones that I have

The most likely mistake an English-speaking student will make is to insert

uno where the English pattern uses the carrier one. Errors like the following are common:

*este uno
*el otro uno
*el uno que
*el rico uno

Also, English-speaking students will tend to avoid (because of negative transfer) such typically common expressions as lo importante, eso es lo bueno, substituting the also possible but less likely la cosa importante, ese es la parte buena.

In possessives, where the Spanish pattern of nominalization cannot be applied to the English possessives (since they are pronominal in form), the likely error will be an improper nominalization of the Spanish forms. Nominalization of Spanish possessives requires the use of the definite determiner: el mío, la nuestra. Typical errors are:

*¿Dónde está mío?
*Mi casa queda cerca (de) suya.
*En mi país hablan inglés; en suyo, español.

English nominalizes verbs either with to or with -ing. Spanish nominalizes verbs only with -r added to the stem plus theme vowel (the infinitive). An error can readily be generated by the false analogy of English -ing to Spanish -ndo forms, to give:

*Viendo es creyendo.
*Después de saliendo, se retiró.

