

POSITION OF ADJECTIVES

- a. Descriptive adjectives normally follow the nouns they describe.

una película cómica *a funny film* el carro rojo *the red car*

- b. Descriptive adjectives may stand before the noun to emphasize the quality of the adjective or its inherent characteristic.

Vi los pájaros, con sus coloridas plumas. *I saw the birds, with their colorful feathers.*

El verano me trae bonitos recuerdos. *Summer brings me beautiful memories.*

NOTE:

1. Some adjectives have different meanings, depending on their position.

Lincoln fue un gran hombre.

Lincoln was a great man.

BUT

Mi padre es un hombre grande.

My father is a big man.

2. The following adjectives may change their meaning according to their position:

AGREEMENT OF ADJECTIVES

- a. Adjectives agree in gender and number with the nouns they describe.

Elena es tímida.

Elena is shy (timid).

Los dueños son ricos.

The owners are rich.

- b. An adjective modifying two or more nouns of different gender is masculine plural.

La rosa y el clavel son bonitos.

The rose and the carnation are pretty.

SHORTENED FORMS OF ADJECTIVES

a. The following adjectives drop the final *-o* when used before a masculine singular noun:

uno	<i>one, a, an</i>	→	un pastel	<i>one (a) cake</i>
bueno	<i>good</i>	→	un buen jugador	<i>a good player</i>
malo	<i>bad</i>	→	un mal rato	<i>a bad time</i>
primero	<i>first</i>	→	el primer mes	<i>the first month</i>
tercero	<i>third</i>	→	el tercer día	<i>the third day</i>
alguno	<i>some</i>	→	algún año	<i>some year</i>
ninguno	<i>no, not any</i>	→	ningún pensamiento	<i>no thought</i>

NOTE:

1. The adjectives *alguno* and *ninguno* require an accent mark when the *-o* is dropped: *algún, ningún*
2. If a preposition comes between the adjective and the noun, the full form of the adjective is used.

el primero del mes	<i>the first of the month</i>
ninguno de los amigos	<i>none of the friends</i>

b. *Santo* becomes *San* before the masculine name of a saint, except with names beginning with *To-* or *Do-*.

San Felipe	<i>Saint Philip</i>	San Antonio	<i>Saint Anthony</i>
BUT			
Santo Tomás	<i>Saint Thomas</i>	Santo Domingo	<i>Saint Dominic</i>

c. *Grande* becomes *gran* when used before a singular noun of either gender.

un gran pintor	}	<i>a great painter</i>
una gran pintora		

BUT

un río grande	<i>a large river</i>
una montaña grande	<i>a large mountain</i>

d. *Ciento* becomes *cien* before a noun of either gender and before the numbers *mil* and *millones*. This short form is not used with multiples of *ciento* (like *doscientos* and *trescientos*) or in combination with any other number.

cien hombres (mujeres)	<i>one (a) hundred men (women)</i>
cien mil dólares	<i>one (a) hundred thousand dollars</i>
cien millones de habitantes	<i>one (a) hundred million inhabitants</i>

BUT

seiscientos ganadores	<i>six hundred winners</i>
doscientas habitaciones	<i>two hundred rooms</i>
ciento treinta y dos comidas	<i>one (a) hundred thirty-two meals</i>