

***Artículo Indeterminado/Indefinite Article***

**A.** English "a" or "an" is expressed **in Spanish** by "un"/"una" (un cuaderno - una pluma)

- The plural, **unos/unas**, is used for symmetrical objects, meaning "a set of" or "a pair of":

Necesito <b>unas</b> tijeras.	I need a pair of scissors.
Bajas por <b>unas</b> escaleras.	You go down a stairway.

- **Spanish does not use** the indefinite article **before words denoting** occupations, religions, political affiliation or nationality; they are treated as adjectives:

Es inglés.	He is English, an Englishman.
Mi hermano es demócrata.	My brother is a Democrat.
No soy budista.	I am not a Buddhist.
¿Eres estudiante?	Are you a student?
Tu vecino es abogado.	Your neighbor is a lawyer.

- **But** when such words are qualified by an adjective, the article is used:

Es <b>un</b> inglés muy tradicional.	He is a very traditional Englishman.
No soy <b>una</b> norteamericana típica.	I am not a typical American woman.

**B.** Spanish uses the indefinite article less frequently than English. Since 'un'/'una' also means one, the article is redundant for things normally encountered one at a time:

Tengo fiebre.	I have a fever.
¿Tienes familia?	Do you have a family?
¿Se necesita visa?	Is a visa needed?
La mujer llevaba sombrero.	The woman was wearing a hat.
Habla con acento extranjero.	He speaks with a foreign accent.
No puedes manejar sin licencia.	You cannot drive without a license.
Use esto como guía.	Use this as a guide.

- C. Please note that the **indefinite article** is used to emphasize the individuality of a noun modified by an adjective (also in the case of **professions** and **nationalities**):

**Example:** Tiene una fiebre terrible.

**Never use** - 'un'/'una' - before the word – **otro** or **otra**:

**otro** ejemplo

**otra** situación

**otra** vez

another example

another situation

another time, one more time

- D. Other **common expressions** not requiring the indefinite article in Spanish:

**¡Qué día!**

What a day!

**¡Qué año tan largo!**

What a long year!

**Medio kilo de patatas.**

Half a kilogram of potatoes.

**Media vida.**

Half a lifetime.

**Es para cierta persona.**

It is for a certain person.

**Cierto encanto.**

A certain charm.