

GRAMMAR LESSON I.

1.—THE INDEFINITE ARTICLES **a** and **an** are :

uno, unos for masculine, singular and plural; **una, unas** for feminine, singular and plural.

Names in Spanish are always masculine or feminine.

- (a) The masculine article **uno** is however contracted into **un** when immediately preceding 1st a noun, and its adjective, 3rd any word taken as a noun.

Examples: un padre, a father; un buen hombre, a good man; un decir, a saying.

- (b) The feminine article **una** is used before feminine names, but for the sake of euphony the masculine contracted form **un** must be used before feminine names beginning with *a* or *ha* when the chief accent falls upon this syllable.

Examples: una hija, a daughter, una mujer, a woman, una abuela, a grandmother; but un ave, a bird; un haya, a beech tree, though ave and haya are feminine because these words begin with a and ha and the chief accent falls upon the first syllable.

2.—THE DEFINITE ARTICLE **the** is expressed for masculine by **el** in singular and **los** in plural; for feminine by **la** in singular and **las** in plural.

To form the plural in Spanish add *s* to nouns ending with *a, e, é, i, o, u* and *es* to nouns ending with *d, t, or a consonant*.

Examples: of masculine names: el abuelo, the grandfather; los abuelos, the grandfathers; el jabalí, the boar; los jabalíes, the boars; el bajá, the pacha; los bajás, the pachas. Of feminine names: la hija the daughter, las hijas, the daughters, la mujer, the woman, las mujeres, the women, la abuela, the grandmother, las abuelas, the grandmothers.

Again for the sake of euphony the masculine article **el** must be used before feminine nouns beginning with *a* or *ha* when the chief accent falls upon this syllable. Note.—*h* is always mute.

Examples: el ave, the bird, el alma, the soul, el haya the beech-tree, though ave, alma and haya are feminine names and their plural is las, aves, las almas, las hajas.

3.—THE DEFINITE ARTICLES **el, los, la, las**, combined with **de** of are expressed in Spanish by **del, de los, de la, de las**.

Examples: El padre del muchacho, the father of the boy; la madre de la muchacha, the mother of the girl; los padres de los niños, the parents of the children; las tías de las señoritas, the aunts of the young ladies; del alma, of the soul; de las almas, of the souls

4.—THE VERB **Ser, to be, Present Tense.**

	Singular.		Plural.
1st Pers.	Yo soy, <i>I am.</i>		Nosotros somos, <i>We</i>
2nd "	Tu eres, <i>Thou art</i>		Vosotros sois <i>You</i>
3rd "	El } <i>He</i> {		Ellos } <i>They</i> {
	Ella } <i>is.</i>		Ellas } <i>son</i>

THE VERB **tener, to have, Present Tense.**

1st Pers.	Yo tengo <i>I have</i>		Nosotros tenemos <i>We</i>
2nd "	Tu tienes <i>Thou hast</i>		Vosotros tenéis <i>You</i>
3rd "	El } <i>He</i> {		Ellos } <i>They</i> {
	Ella } <i>has</i>		Ellas } <i>tienen</i>

Exercise: Write or speak in English :

- (a) Yo soy el hijo. Nosotros somos los muchachos. Yo tengo un padre. El padre tiene un hijo y una hija. Nosotros tenemos un padre y una madre. Ellos son los padres. El hijo tiene una pelota.