Masculine and Feminine Nouns

In Spanish, all nouns (noun=person, place or thing, remember?) are either a masculine noun or a feminine noun. Masculine is a term for “boy” and feminine is a term for “girl.”

However, a noun IS NOT masculine or feminine noun because it is a “boy thing” or a “girl thing,” nor is it determined by who uses it. For example, the Spanish word for “purse” is not a feminine word because girls use purses, nor is the Spanish word for “suit” a masculine word because men wear suits. After all, the Spanish word for “dress” is actually a masculine word and the Spanish word for “necktie” is a feminine word. And what about words like “air,” “light,” and “tree”?

Here’s how you can tell the difference when you see a word. These are the “rules”:

**Masculine words:**
1) **ALWAYS** begin with *el, los, un, or unos*
2) Usually end in the letter “O”…but can end in any letter.

**Feminine words:**
1) **ALWAYS** begin with *la, las, una, or unas*
2) Usually end in the letter “A”…but can end in any letter.

A quick reminder:
- *el, la, los, and las* all mean “the” in English
- *un and una* mean “a” or “an” in English
- *unos and unas* mean “some” or “a couple” in English

On the back of this sheet, try out the exercises to practice Masculine and Feminine nouns. Use the rules above as your guides.
For numbers 1-9, put an "M" in the blank if the word is masculine and an "F" in the blank if it is feminine:

1. ______ el cordero 
2. ______ el conejo 
3. ______ el león 
4. ______ la hormiga 
5. ______ el tigre 
6. ______ el caballo 
7. ______ la serpiente 
8. ______ la koala 
9. ______ el perro 

For numbers 10-18, put an “el” in the blank if the word is masculine and an “la” in the blank if it is feminine:

10. ______ hipopótamo
11. ______ tortuga
12. ______ mariposa
13. ______ vaca
14. ______ tarjeta
15. ______ libro
16. ______ carpeta
17. ______ bandera
18. ______ cuaderno

For numbers 19-27, put an “un” in the blank if the word is masculine and an “una” in the blank if it is feminine:

19. _____ globo
20. _____ payaso
21. _____ montaña
22. _____ casa
23. _____ escuela
24. _____ niño
25. _____ niña
26. _____ palabra
27. _____ maestro

For numbers 28-36, put “los” in the blank if the word is masculine and “las” in the blank if it is feminine:

28. _____ banderas
29. _____ cajas
30. _____ osos
31. _____ mesas
32. _____ tacos
33. _____ sillas
34. _____ muchachos
35. _____ pegamentos
36. _____ puertas

For numbers 37-45, put “unos” in the blank if the word is masculine and “unas” in the blank if it is feminine:

37. ______ cebollas
38. ______ papas
39. ______ refrescos
40. ______ camisas
41. ______ gafas
42. ______ cortos
43. ______ corbatas
44. ______ zapatos
45. ______ sombreros