BIEN VS BUENO/A VS SUPER VS BUEN

When we learn a language, recognizing the grammatical categories that make it up becomes an excellent strategy for understanding and producing messages correctly. Grammatical categories give us information about words' meaning, form, and function. The categories are:

- Verbs
- Nouns
- Adjectives
- Pronouns
- Determiners
- Adverbs
- Prepositions
- Conjunctions

Each of these is used differently and performs different functions in a sentence. The information provided by the categories is useful for many reasons: First, to know if the word makes sense in that sentence. Second, to determine which form works better in that structure. And, finally, we will be able to determine its function and, thus, where to place it.

Then, what is the difference between *bien, bueno, and súper?* They belong to different categories and therefore, they are used in different structures.

Meanings, Categories, and Uses

About *bien*

This word means "correctly", and "properly".

"*Bien*" is an **Adverb**. Adverbs are invariable words; they do not have plural or singular, nor feminine or masculine forms. Its function is to modify a verb or an adjective. When it modifies a verb, it fulfills the function of *mode complement*; it refers to HOW the action of the verb is carried out. For example, in the sentence *"Me siento muy bien hoy"* (=I feel very well today), the word *"bien"* modifies the verb *"me siento"*; you can figure this out by asking a question with the word *"how"*: "HOW do you feel?".

Moreover, adverbs can also modify an adjective, intensifying its meaning: *"Ese chico es **bien** inteligente"*, or *"Esta película está **bien buena**"*. To be sure we are using it correctly, we can try replacing it with the word *"muy"*: *"Ese chico es muy inteligente"* or *"Esta película está muy buena"*.

Some popular collocations and fixed phrases with *"bien"* are:

- ***estar bien*** (=to be ok; to be correct)

  Ex. *¿Cómo estás? Estoy **bien**, ¿y tú?*

  *Los ejercicios del examen están **bien**, tienes un 10.*

- ***sentirse bien*** (=to feel well)

  Ex. A: *¿Cómo te sientes?*

  *B: Me siento **bien**, gracias.*

- ***hacer bien*** (=to be beneficial)

  Ex. *Caminar al menos 10 minutos por día hace **bien** a la salud.*

- ***¡Qué bien!*** (=good, hurray)

  Ex. *A: Aprobé el examen de español.*

  B: ***¡Qué bien!***

- ***¡Bien*** hecho! (=well done)

  Ex. *A: Conseguí mi licencia de conducir.*

  B: *¡**Bien** hecho! ¡Te felicito!*

- ***caer bien*** (=to like someone in a friendly way)

  Ex. *La nueva vecina me cae muy **bien**, es muy simpática y amable.*

- ***ir bien*** (=to go well)

  Ex. *A: ¿Cómo va tu nuevo trabajo?*

*B: ¡Va **bien**! Me encanta.*

 bien por ti (=good for you)

Ex. *A: ¡Conseguí un nuevo trabajo!*

*B: ¡**Bien** por ti!*

About *bueno (and buen)*

When we talk about people, this word means: "of mild and kind character". It can also mean: "beneficial", and "of quality, that meets all the conditions required to fulfil its function well". This last meaning could be applied to both people and things.

"Bueno" is an **Adjective**. Adjectives are variable words, and we use them to modify nouns; therefore, adjectives have to match in gender and number with the nouns they modify. This means that, if we talk about a singular feminine noun, we will say *"una profesora **buena**" o "una **buena** película"*.

This adjective can be placed before or after nouns (although the meaning can change a bit). In case you place it before the noun, the masculine singular changes into ***buen***, for example: *"un **buen** libro" o "un **buen** momento"*

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
FEMININE	buena	buenas
MASCULINE	bueno (*buen)	buenos

Some popular collocations and fixed phrases with *"bueno"* are:

 ser bueno para/con (=to be good; to be of good quality; to be beneficial; to have skills in a certain subject)

Ex. *Tomar 2 litros de agua por día es bueno para la salud.*

*Matías es **bueno** con los deportes.*

 estar bueno (=to be interesting or enjoyable; when referring to a person, the meaning is to be attractive)

Ex. *La última película de Marvel está muy **buena**.*

*Tu amigo está muy **bueno**, ¿cómo se llama?*

 ¡Qué bueno! (=Good! Nice!)

Ex. *A: Me encantó el paseo.*

*B: ¡Qué **bueno**!*

 Bueno... (=well, hesitation mark)

Ex. *Y, **bueno**... No sé qué más decir...*

About *súper*

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It has a superlative meaning; “superior or magnificent”.

“Súper” is an **Adjective** (and occasionally an Adverb). Unlike other adjectives, *“súper”* is invariable, which means that we can use this word with masculine or feminine, singular

and plural nouns; the form does not change. For example, we can say: "una **súper** fiesta", *"un **súper** festival" o "unos **súper** amigos." "Súper"* is more common in the spoken language, since its use is more informal.

Occasionally, *"súper"* can work as an Adverb meaning "magnificently." If that is the case, it will serve as a modifier for verbs or adjectives, as in this example:
*"Lo pasamos **súper** en la fiesta."*

Bien vs Bueno vs Super – Quiz/Worksheet

> Choose one of the following words to complete the sentences. Which one fits better?
*In some sentences, it could be more than one option.

¿bien, bueno, buen, buenos, buena, buenas o súper?

1. Los doctores dicen que caminar al menos 10 minutos por día es _____ para la circulación.

2. Me enteré que te ganaste un premio, ¡qué ____! ____ por ti.

3. A pesar de que estaba frío, pasamos unos días _____ divertidos en Buenos Aires

4. Quisiera que me recomendaras un ____ libro para estas vacaciones, ¿se te ocurre alguno? El último que me recomendaste estaba ____ bueno, me encantó.

5. La profesora de español es muy _____ con sus estudiantes, siempre explica todo muy _____ para que no haya dudas.

Answers:

1. bueno – 2. bueno/bien – bien – 3. súper/bien – 4. buen – súper/bien – 5. buena – bien