1A.1/1A.2 Nouns and Articles –*i nomi e gli articoli*   (pp.10-13)

A noun is a word that identifies a person, animal, place, thing, or idea. As in English, nouns are singular or plural. All Italian nouns also have gender, even those that refer to objects. **This means that in Italian, there are masculine and feminine nouns.** Nouns that refer to males are usually masculine, and that refer to females are usually feminine. ***Exception: *persona*, which is feminine, but can refer to a man or a woman.

Masculine	Feminine
Amico	amica
Attore	attrice
Studente	studentessa

Usually, nouns that end in –o are masculine and nouns that end in –a are feminine.

Masculine	Feminine
Libro	casa
Tavolo	domanda
Ufficio	idea

Nouns that end in – e may be either masculine or feminine, so you must memorize.

Masculine	Feminine
Esame	automobile
Ristorante	notte

Nouns ending in a consonant or -*ore*, are masculine, and nouns ending in –*ione* are feminine.

Masculine	Feminine
Autobus	lezione
Computer	stazione
Dottore	television

To form the plural of most Italian nouns, you need to change the final vowel. The masculine ending **-o** becomes **-i** and the feminine ending **-a** becomes **-e**. Regardless of gender, singular nouns that end in **-e** change the vowel to **-i** in the plural. **Some nouns don't have plural endings.**

o →i   (ragazzo→ragazzi)   a → e (donna→donne)   e → i (notte→notti)

<u>*There are NO s's to make plural words in Italian.</u>

When referring to a mixed group of males and females, use the masculine plural form.
gli amici   gli student   gli ragazzi

For more practice, do **PROVALO** on p.10 (*Maschile o femminile?) and others on p. 11.*

<u>Definite and Indefinite articles with nouns</u>

Indefinite articles (*l'articolo indeterminativo*) means "a/an" or the number 1 and indicates an unspecified person or thing. In Italian the form of the indefinite article changes according to the gender (masc/fem) of the noun that follows it. They are used with singular nouns.

<u>Gender</u>	<u>singular</u>
(masculine)	un
(m. before a vowel)	un
(feminine)	una
(f. before a vowel)	un'
(masc. before s+cons.	uno
x, y, z, gn, ps, pn)	

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate indefinite article.

1. _____ giorno

2. _____ giornata

3. _____ donna

4. _____ ragazzo

5. _____ ragazza

6. _____ zaino

7. _____studente

8. _____ studentessa

9. _____ uomo

10. _____ amica

11. _____ città

12. _____ radio

13. _____ università

14. _____ zoo

Definite article (*l'articolo determinativo*) means "the" in many cases and indicates a specific person or thing. In Italian the form of the definite article changes according to the gender (masc/fem) and number (singular/plural) of the noun that follows it. If the singular noun begins with a vowel, **l'** is used. For masculine/plural nouns that begin with a vowel, **gli** is used. For all feminine plural nouns use **le**. For masculine nouns that begin with s + consonant, z, x, y, gn, ps, pn - **lo** is used in the singular, and **gli** is used in the plural.

<u>Gender</u>	<u>singular</u>		<u>plural</u>
(masculine)	il	→	i
(m. before a vowel)	l'	→	gli
(feminine)	la	→	le
(f. before a vowel)	l'	→	le
(m. before s+cons.,	lo	→	gli
z, x, y, gn, ps, pn)			

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate singular definite article, then make the noun plural and change the singular article to plural. *(Attention, some words do not change in the plural!)*

1. _____ giorno -> _____
2. _____ giornata -> _____
3. _____ donna -> _____
4. _____ ragazzo -> _____
5. _____ ragazza -> _____
6. _____ zaino -> _____
7. _____ studente -> _____
8. _____ studentessa -> _____
9. _____ uomo -> _____
10. _____ amica -> _____
11. _____ città -> _____
12. _____ radio -> _____
13. _____ università -> _____
14. _____ zoo -> _____

Plural forms of words ending in –co/-ca/-go/-ga ADD an "h" in order to keep the hard *c* or *g* sound. *(See top of p. 11, second bullet point.)*

(m) un parco ---->   _____

(f) una banca ---->   _____

(f) amica ---->   _____

(m) un banco ---->   _____
(*desk, seat, bench*)

(m) un gioco ---->   _____

*exception un amico ->   _____

Some nouns do not have a plural ending: foto, caffè, autobus, città, università, radio, zoo.

Remember plural rules:

o→i
e→i
a→e
exception: masc. nouns ending in -ma-
add 'h' after co/ca/go/ca *(but not always)* & some words don't change

Non-binary endings

As we have learned, Italian is a language that relies very much on gendering words. This includes gendering people and adjectives that describe people. In Italy, Vera Gheno and others have been researching, using, and presenting on the use of the schwa "ə" called lo schwa or upside-down e (una *e capovolta*). Based on what we know so far, we can use it to describe people who don't identify specifically as either masculine or feminine. How is this pronounced? Think about the "a" in the word "about" – that is a good model.

Some examples:

> amichə
> personə
> studentə
> ragazzə

As we learn adjectives, the schwa (la e capovolta) can also be used. For example, if I say "I am happy" in Italian, I will say "sono content**a**" because I am a woman and a male would say "sono content**o**." Someone who identifies with neither gender could say "sono contentə."

There is also a plural version of this ending: ɜ. In theory, if you wanted to refer to a number of friends/people who don't identify as either female or male, or you just don't like that Italian falls back on the masculine to describe a group of males and females, you could say, <u>but this so far, is less common</u>.

> amichɜ
> personɜ
> studentɜ
> ragazzɜ

Common use: to reference "everyone" *tutti* in an inclusive way: **tuttə**
Lo schwa: ə
Il simbolo plurale: ɜ