

Articoli Indeterminativi

Indeterminate Articles ('a' - 'an')

Italian uses different indeterminate articles based on if the noun is masculine or feminine, and whether or not it starts with a vowel, or with certain consonants.

MASCULINE NOUNS

Use:	When the noun starts with:	Examples:
UN	a vowel	amico - orologio
UNO	two consonants, like 'st, ps, gn, sc' and the letter 'z'	psicologo - studente - zio - gnomo - scrittore
UN	all other consonants	bambino - fiore - computer - cuore

FEMININE NOUNS

Use:	When the noun starts with:	Examples:
UN'	a vowel	amica - idea
UNA	a consonant	donna - famiglia - studentessa

Articoli Determinativi

Determinate Articles ('the')

Just like for the indeterminate article, Italian uses the gender of nouns, which letter they start with, and the quantity (singular or plural) to decide which determinate article to use.

MASCULINE NOUNS

SINGULAR

Use:	When the noun starts with:	Examples:
L'	a vowel	amico - orologio
LO	two consonants, like 'st, ps, gn, sc' and the letter 'z'	psicologo - studente - zio - gnomo - scrittore
IL	all other consonants	bambino - fiore - computer - cuore

PLURAL

GLI	a vowel, a 'z', or two consonants	amici - orologi - psicologi - studenti - zii - gnomi - scrittori
I	all other consonants	bambini - fiori - computer - cuori

FEMININE NOUNS

SINGULAR

Use:	When the noun starts with:	Examples:
L'	a vowel	amica - idea
LA	a consonant	casa - donna - famiglia - studentessa

PLURAL

LE	all feminine nouns	amiche - case - donne - studentesse
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EXCEPTIONS:

La mano - feminine singular

L'uovo - masculine singular

Il ginocchio - masculine singular

La madre - feminine singular

Le uova - feminine plural

Le ginocchia - feminine plural

La stazione / nazione / creazione - all words ending in 'zione' are feminine