



# ADVENTURES IN LANGUAGE

## ITALIAN ACTIVITY

*Gender of nouns*

# ITALIAN ACTIVITY

Gender of nouns



An **ANSWER KEY** for the following activities is available on page 11-12.

- \* easy
- \*\* more difficult

Use **TABLE #1** and **#2** provided on pages 6-8 to help you with activities 1-3.

## 1\* Feminine or Masculine?

Put the following nouns (-o/-a/-e) in the appropriate group:

un padre, un albero, un cane, una signora, un letto, una cliente, una famiglia, una foglia,  
un signore, una cantante, un nome, un'attività

**Masculine**

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**Feminine**

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# ITALIAN ACTIVITY

Gender of nouns



## 2\*\* Feminine or Masculine?

Put the following nouns in the appropriate group:

monarca, mano, situazione, Papa, auto, enfasi, yogurt, hotel, moto, programma, stazione, poeta, città, eco, sport, virtù, cinema, radio, autobus, tema, università, bar, film, problema, specie, foto

### Masculine

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# ITALIAN ACTIVITY

Gender of nouns



**3\*** Form the feminine out of the following masculine nouns for professions:

## Masculine

giornalista (journalist)

cantautore (folk singer)

scultore (sculptor)

batterista (drummer)

attore (actor)

regista (film director)

direttore (director)

artista (artist)

farmacista (pharmacist)

calciatore (footballer)

## Feminine

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# ITALIAN ACTIVITY

Gender of nouns



**4\*\*** Match each Italian noun with its corresponding meaning.

Use **TABLE #3** provided on pages 9-10 to help you with activity 4.

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. la fine   | a. the pasta       |
| 2. il pasto  | b. the tin         |
| 3. il fine   | c. the end         |
| 4. il mostro | d. the place       |
| 5. la posta  | e. the milk        |
| 6. la pasta  | f. the exhibition  |
| 7. il latte  | g. the monster     |
| 8. la mostra | h. the meal        |
| 9. il posto  | i. the post office |
| 10. la latta | j. the goal        |

## TABLE #1

List of nouns that end in -a but are masculine OR end in -o but are feminine.

### Masculine

| <u>Italian</u>       | <u>English</u> |
|----------------------|----------------|
| <b>il poeta</b>      | the poet       |
| <b>il monarca</b>    | the monarch    |
| <b>il cinema</b>     | the cinema     |
| <b>il Papa</b>       | the Pope       |
| <b>il papà</b>       | the father     |
| <b>il pigiama</b>    | the pajama     |
| <b>il tema*</b>      | the theme      |
| <b>il programma*</b> | the program    |
| <b>il problema*</b>  | the problem    |

### Feminine

| <u>Italian</u>    | <u>English</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>la mano</b>    | the hand       |
| <b>la eco</b>     | the eco        |
| <b>la foto**</b>  | the photo      |
| <b>l'auto**</b>   | the car        |
| <b>la moto**</b>  | the motorbike  |
| <b>la radio**</b> | the radio      |

\* and other nouns in -ma of Greek origin, like *il teorema* (the theorem), *il sistema* (the system), *il fantasma* (the ghost), *il clima* (the climate)

\*\* ending in "-o" due to a shortening of the word.

*la foto* = *la fotografia* (the photo), *l'auto* = *l'automobile* (the car), *la moto* = *la motocicletta* (the motorbike), *la radio* = *la radiotrasmettitrice* (the radio)

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# ITALIAN ACTIVITY

Gender of nouns



## TABLE #1

### List of Nouns ending in -ione, in -ie and -i

#### Feminine

| <u>Italian</u>       | <u>English</u>   |
|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>la situazione</b> | the situation    |
| <b>la stazione</b>   | the station      |
| <b>la colazione</b>  | the breakfast    |
| <b>l'opinione</b>    | the opinion      |
| <b>la specie</b>     | the species/type |
| <b>l'enfasi</b>      | the emphasis     |
| <b>la crisi</b>      | the crisis       |
| <b>la sintesi</b>    | the synthesis    |

#### EXCEPTIONS

- \* il brindisi (the toast)
- \* il samurai (the samurai)
- \* lo sci (the ski)

### Nouns ending in -tà and -tù

#### Feminine

| <u>Italian</u>      | <u>English</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>la città</b>     | the city       |
| <b>la povertà</b>   | the poverty    |
| <b>l'università</b> | the university |
| <b>la felicità</b>  | the happiness  |
| <b>la gioventù</b>  | the youth      |
| <b>la virtù</b>     | the virtue     |

### Nouns of foreign origin ending in a consonant

#### Masculine

| <u>Italian</u>   | <u>English</u> |
|------------------|----------------|
| <b>il toast</b>  | the toast      |
| <b>l'autobus</b> | the bus        |
| <b>lo yogurt</b> | the yogurt     |
| <b>il bar</b>    | the café       |
| <b>l'hotel</b>   | the hotel      |
| <b>lo sport</b>  | the sport      |
| <b>il film</b>   | the film       |

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# ITALIAN ACTIVITY

Gender of nouns



## TABLE #2

### Nouns for professions in -tore → -trice

| <b>Masculine</b>     |   | <b>Feminine</b>       |  | <i>English</i> |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| <i>Italian</i>       |   | <i>Italian</i>        |  |                |
| <b>l'attore</b>      | — | <b>l'attrice</b>      |  | the actress    |
| <b>il cantautore</b> | — | <b>la cantautrice</b> |  | the folksinger |
| <b>il direttore</b>  | — | <b>la direttrice</b>  |  | the director   |
| <b>lo scultore</b>   | — | <b>la scultrice</b>   |  | the sculptor   |
| <b>il calciatore</b> | — | <b>la calciatrice</b> |  | the footballer |

### Invariable nouns for professions in -ista

| <b>Masculine</b>      |   | <b>Feminine</b>       |  | <i>English</i> |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| <i>Italian</i>        |   | <i>Italian</i>        |  |                |
| <b>il farmacista</b>  | — | <b>la farmacista</b>  |  | the pharmacist |
| <b>il regista</b>     | — | <b>la regista</b>     |  | the director   |
| <b>l'artista</b>      | — | <b>l'artista</b>      |  | the artist     |
| <b>lo stagista</b>    | — | <b>la stagista</b>    |  | the intern     |
| <b>il giornalista</b> | — | <b>la giornalista</b> |  | the journalist |
| <b>il batterista</b>  | — | <b>la batterista</b>  |  | the drummer    |

#### EXCEPTIONS

- \* **dottore** → **dottoressa** (doctor [medical or graduate])
- \* **rare examples change to -tora:**  
impostore → **impostora** (impostor)  
pastore → **pastora** (shepherd)

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## TABLE #3

### List of nouns that change meaning

#### Masculine

Italian

English

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>il banco</b>    | the desk            |
| <b>il bilancio</b> | the budget          |
| <b>il boa</b>      | the boa constrictor |
| <b>il capitale</b> | the principal       |
| <b>il caso</b>     | the case            |
| <b>il cero</b>     | the candle →        |
| <b>il collo</b>    | the neck            |
| <b>il colpo</b>    | the shot →          |
| <b>il fine</b>     | the goal            |
| <b>il foglio</b>   | the sheet           |
| <b>il gambo</b>    | the stalk           |
| <b>il masso</b>    | the rock            |
| <b>il mento</b>    | the chin            |
| <b>il metro</b>    | the meter           |
| <b>il modo</b>     | the way             |

#### Feminine

Italian

English

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>la banca</b>    | the bank        |
| <b>la bilancia</b> | the scale       |
| <b>la boa</b>      | the buoy        |
| <b>la capitale</b> | the capital     |
| <b>la casa</b>     | the house       |
| <b>la cera</b>     | the wax         |
| <b>la colla</b>    | the glue        |
| <b>la colpa</b>    | the fault       |
| <b>la fine</b>     | the end         |
| <b>la foglia</b>   | the leaf        |
| <b>la gamba</b>    | the leg         |
| <b>la massa</b>    | the mass        |
| <b>la menta</b>    | the mint        |
| <b>la metro</b>    | the underground |
| <b>la moda</b>     | the fashion     |

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## TABLE #3

### List of nouns that change meaning

#### Masculine

| <u>Italian</u>     | <u>English</u>  |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>il palo</b>     | the pole        |
| <b>il panno</b>    | the cloth       |
| <b>il pasto</b>    | the meal        |
| <b>il pianto</b>   | the cry         |
| <b>il posto</b>    | the place       |
| <b>il punto</b>    | the point/dot → |
| <b>il radio</b>    | the radio       |
| <b>il razzo</b>    | the rocket →    |
| <b>il rosa</b>     | the pink color  |
| <b>il soffitto</b> | the ceiling     |
| <b>il suolo</b>    | the soil        |
| <b>il torto</b>    | the wrong/fault |
| <b>il velo</b>     | the veil        |
| <b>il mostro</b>   | the monster     |
| <b>il latte</b>    | the milk        |

#### Feminine

| <u>Italian</u>     | <u>English</u>   |
|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>la pala</b>     | the shovel       |
| <b>la panna</b>    | the cream        |
| <b>la pasta</b>    | the pasta/pastry |
| <b>la pianta</b>   | the plant        |
| <b>la posta</b>    | the post office  |
| <b>la punta</b>    | the tip          |
| <b>la radio</b>    | the radio        |
| <b>la razza</b>    | the race/breed   |
| <b>la rosa</b>     | the rose         |
| <b>la soffitta</b> | the attic        |
| <b>la suola</b>    | the sole         |
| <b>la torta</b>    | the cake         |
| <b>la vela</b>     | the sail         |
| <b>la mostra</b>   | the exhibition   |
| <b>la latta</b>    | the tin          |

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# ITALIAN ACTIVITY

Gender of nouns



## 1\*

### Feminine or Masculine?

Put the following nouns (-o/-a/-e) in the appropriate group:  
un padre, un albero, un cane, una signora, un letto, una cliente, una famiglia, una foglia, un signore, una cantante, un nome, un'attività

#### Masculine

un padre  
un albero  
un cane  
un letto  
un signore  
un nome

#### Feminine

una signora  
una cliente  
una famiglia  
una foglia  
una cantante  
un'attività

## 2\*\*

### Feminine or Masculine?

Put the following nouns (exceptions) in the appropriate group:  
monarca, mano, situazione, Papa, auto, enfasi, yogurt, hotel, moto, programma, stazione, poeta, città, eco, sport, virtù, cinema, radio, autobus, tema, università, bar, film, problema, specie, foto

#### Masculine

monarca  
Papa  
yogurt  
hotel  
programma  
poeta  
sport  
cinema  
autobus  
tema  
bar  
film  
problema

#### Feminine

mano  
situazione  
auto  
enfasi  
moto  
stazione  
specie  
città  
eco  
virtù  
radio  
università  
foto

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# ITALIAN ACTIVITY

Gender of nouns



## 3\*

Form the feminine out of the following masculine nouns for professions:

### Masculine

giornalista (journalist)  
cantautore (folk singer)  
scultore (sculptor)  
batterista (drummer)  
attore (actor)  
regista (film director)  
direttore (director)  
artista (artist)  
farmacista (pharmacist)  
calciatore (footballer)

### Feminine

giornalista  
cantautrice  
scultrice  
batterista  
attrice  
regista  
direttrice  
artista  
farmacista  
calciatrice

## 4\*\*

Match each Italian noun with its corresponding meaning.

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. la fine   | c. the end         |
| 2. il pasto  | h. the meal        |
| 3. il fine   | j. the goal        |
| 4. il mostro | g. the monster     |
| 5. la posta  | i. the post office |
| 6. la pasta  | a. the pasta       |
| 7. il latte  | e. the milk        |
| 8. la mostra | f. the exhibition  |
| 9. il posto  | d. the place       |
| 10. la latta | b. the tin         |

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