

Hello everyone.

My name is Maurizio and I am your teacher.

Welcome to this section, which you will find in each of the two parts forming the two units of this course.

In these sections I will lead you through a long journey which will focus on the main grammar structures of the Italian language, so that at the end of the course you will be able to understand and express yourselves.

Let's start!

In this first part in Unit 1 you have learnt how to introduce yourselves, that is how to ask for and say:

- your name
- Where you're from
- Your age
- Your profession

In order to introduce ourselves in a conversation we need the verbs 'chiamarsi' ('call oneself' = my/your name is, this form is reflexive in Italian).

my name is
your name is

The verb 'essere' (to be), in the first and second person singular:

I am
you are

The verb 'avere' (to have) in the first and second person singular:

I have
you have

The verb 'to do', in the first and second person singular:

I am doing
you are doing

You will have noticed in the initial video that 'I' and 'you' are usually not used. We don't necessarily ask 'you what's your name?', but just 'what's your name?'

The answer can be 'I my name is Valentina', as well as 'my name is Valentina'.

Shortly we will see how to use expressions to indicate nationality.

These words are divided into two groups.

Let's consider the word 'Italian'.

This word has 4 different forms:

One form for the singular masculine: 'o' Italian

Marco is Italian

One form for the plural masculine: 'i' Italian

Marco and Federico are Italian

One form for the feminine singular: 'a' Italian

Valentina is Italian

One form for the feminine plural: 'e' Italian

Valentina and Camilla are Italian

Let's consider for example the word 'French':

This form only has 2 forms:

One form for the masculine and feminine singular: 'e' French

Paul is French

Sophie is French

One form for the masculine and feminine plural: 'i' French

Paul and Claud are French

Sophie and Marie are French

Thus, in this group of words there is no difference between masculine and feminine.

In grammar, words belonging to this group are called 'adjectives'.

Adjectives are words which describe the quality of a person, a thing, a place, an animal etc.

Almost all Italian adjectives belong to the first or the second group.

Example:

'small', from the first group, has four different forms, like 'Italian'

'big' from the second group, has two different forms, like 'French'