

GRAMMAR

1A

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 **(Mi chiamo)**

your name is **(Ti chiami)**

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

I am **(Io sono)**

you are **(Tu sei)**

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

I have **(io ho)**

you have **(tu hai)**

The verb 'to do' (**fare**),

in the first and second person singular:

I am doing **(io faccio)**

you are doing **(tu fai)**

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**', **Italiano**

Marco is Italian (**Marco è italiano**)

One form for the plural masculine: '**I**', **Italiani**

Marco and Federico are Italian (**Marco e Federico sono italiani**)

One form for the feminine singular: '**a**', **Italiana**

Valentina is Italian (**Valentina è italiana**)

One form for the feminine plural: '**e**', **Italiane**

Valentina and Camilla are Italian (**Valentina e Camilla sono italiane**)

Let's consider for example the word 'French'(**francese**):

This form only has 2 forms:

One form for the masculine and feminine singular: 'e' French
(**francese**)

Paul is French (**Paul è francese**)

Sophie is French (**Sophie è Francese**)

One form for the masculine and feminine plural: 'i' French
(**Francesi**)

Paul and Claud are French (**Paul e Claud sono Francesi**)

Sophie and Marie are French (**Sophie e Marie sono francesi**)

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'(**piccolo**), from the first group, has four different forms, like 'Italian'

'big' (**grande**) from the second group, has two different forms, like 'French'