



## VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Che bella macchina!

La tua macchina è veloce?

Ho incontrato un vecchio amico!

Quella casa è veramente vecchia.

Quegli alberi sono molto antichi.

Bella, veloce, vecchio, antichi, these are all adjectives, words that provide additional information on other words, such as nouns. Adjectives are extremely important: they give colour and strength to your speech! Managing adjectives in English is pretty simple, they precede the noun they refer to and they never change. Red car, that car is red, an old friend, this house is very old. Easy! In Italian though, we need to keep in mind a few rules in order to express ourselves with all the communicative power of adjectives, so keep watching! But before we go on, I want to ask you to subscribe to our channel to show us your support and help us create more videos! It really means a lot to us! Let's go!

The basic concepts that you should keep in mind when studying Italian adjectives are:

1. **GENDER** and

2. **POSITION.**

Gender: like nouns, adjectives have a gender, for example we can say:

UNA MACCHINA ROSSA, feminine.

UN CIELO AZZURRO, masculine.

Position: Adjectives usually follow the noun they refer to:

UNA CAMICIA GIALLA

But sometimes they can be placed before the noun:

UN VECCHIO AMICO

When this happens, the meaning of the sentence can be different. Vediamo insieme!

## **GENDER**

The first rule that we have to remember is that adjectives agree in gender and number with the noun they refer to.

If the noun is masculine singular, the adjective must be masculine singular:

UN TEATRO FAMOSO

If the noun is feminine singular, the adjective must be feminine singular:

UNA CITTÀ MODERNA

And so on.

Therefore, adjectives change their form accordingly: this is the basic idea. Now, let's have a look at the endings of adjectives:

As we saw for nouns, the vast majority of masculine adjectives ends in -O:

UN BAGNO CALDO

UN TRENO LENTO

And feminine adjectives usually end in -A:

UNA MONTAGNA INNEVATA

UNA MONETA RARA

Adjectives ending in -E have the same form for masculine and feminine:

UNA FESTA INTERESSANTE

UN ROMANZO INTERESSANTE

Remember: when an adjective is listed in a dictionary or a grammar book, it's given in its masculine singular form. To make the feminine singular form you just have to change the -O ending into -A:

UN RAGAZZO SIMPATICO

UNA RAGAZZA SIMPATICA

And again, if the adjective ends in -E, it doesn't change:

UNA FORESTA VERDEGGIANTE

UN BOSCO VERDEGGIANTE

What about the plural form? It basically follows the same rule of nouns:

Adjectives ending in -O form the plural with -I:

I TEATRI FAMOSI

Adjectives ending in -A form the plural with -E:

LE CASE NUOVE

Adjectives ending in -E always form the plural with -I:

LE RAGAZZE SORRIDENTI

I RAGAZZI SORRIDENTI

Facile!

A number of adjectives end in -ISTA: egoista, femminista, capitalista

These adjectives have the same singular form for both masculine and feminine:

UNA DONNA EGOISTA

UN UOMO EGOISTA

But they change in the plural form:

DONNE EGOISTE

UOMINI EGOISTI

So, the feminine plural ending is -E, and the masculine plural is -I:

I PAESI CAPITALISTI

LE RAGAZZE FEMMINISTE.

As with nouns, adjectives ending in -CA add an -H in the plural to retain the hard sound of C:

CHIESA ANTICA → CHIESE ANTICHE

TRATTORIA TIPICA → TRATTORIE TIPICHE

Adjectives ending in -CO form the plural with -CHI if the accent is on the second-to-last syllable, and with -CI if the accent is on the third-to-last syllable:

PALAZZO ANTICO → PALAZZI ANTICHI

RISTORANTE TIPICO → RISTORANTI TIPICI

Finally, there is a group of invariable adjectives, mainly colours, that never change:

UN MURO ROSA - UNA BICICLETTA ROSA

UN PRATO VERDE - UNA CASA VERDE

Rosa, fucsia, lilla, blu are all invariable adjectives. But remember that this doesn't apply to all colours! Rosso and giallo, for example, change according to the noun they modify: Le rose rosse.

## **BELLO & QUELLO**

Now I want to spend a few words on two very common adjectives: BELLO (beautiful) and QUELLO (that)

These adjectives change according to the letter that follows, and it's the same spelling rule of determinative articles.

When a noun begins with a consonant, bello and quello are shortened in bel and quel:

UN BEL LIBRO, UN BEL DISCORSO

QUEL LIBRO, QUEL DISCORSO

If the noun begins with s+consonant / z / ps / gn then we use the full form:

UN BELLO SCONTO - QUELLO ZIO - UN BELLO GNOMO.

When a noun begins with a vowel, bello and quello are apostrophised:

UN BELL'ALBERGO QUELL'ALBERGO

The plural of bel is bei, while the plural of quel is quei; the plural of bell' is begli and the plural of quell' is quegli:

DUE BEI LIBRI

DUE BEGLI UOMINI

Finally, when these adjectives are predicative, which is just a fancy word to say that they come after the verb to be, ESSERE, then we use the full form:

I LIBRI SONO BELLI

I LIBRI SONO QUELLI

		<b>SINGULAR</b>	<b>PLURAL</b>
<b>Bel/Quel</b>	masculine noun + consonant	bel libro quel libro	bei libri quei libri
<b>Bello/ Quello</b>	masculine noun + z/s+cons/ps/gn	bello stadio quello stadio	begli stadi quegli stadi
<b>Bell'/Quell'</b>	masculine noun with vowel	bell'uomo quell'uomo	begli uomini quegli uomini

Other adjectives also undergo a few spelling changes, such as BUONO and GRANDE:  
download the worksheet to know more about them and do some exercises!

### **UNA CARA INSEGNANTE O UN'INSEGNANTE CARA?**

Now it's time to talk about the second factor that we have to keep in mind, the POSITION of the adjective in the sentence.

Unlike English, Italian adjectives generally come after the noun:

UNA MUSICA RILASSANTE

Remember: adjectives of colour, shape and nationality always go after the noun.

I RISTORANTI FRANCESI

UNA MELA VERDE

## LA TAVOLA ROTONDA

Some adjectives, though, are usually placed before the noun, such as possessive adjectives, demonstrative adjectives, and ordinal numbers. What does this mean? Let's see:

LA MIA CASA (possessive adjective: mia - my)

QUELLA FOTOGRAFIA (demonstrative adjective: quella - that)

IL PRIMO PREMIO (ordinal number: primo - first)

Some common adjectives change their meaning based on their position:

UN CARO BAMBINO - A dear child

UNA MACCHINA CARA - An expensive car

As a general rule, we can say that when adjectives follow the noun, they have a more literal meaning, and when they are placed before the noun, the meaning is figurative or emphatic.

Let's compare some common adjectives placed before and after the noun:

### **ALTO**

Un alto dirigente means an important manager, while un dirigente alto means a tall manager.

### **GROSSO**

Un grosso avvocato, here grosso is a synonym of important, an important lawyer, where un avvocato grosso may refer to his weight or size.

### **VECCHIO**

Un vecchio amico is an old friend, someone we have known for a long time; un amico vecchio is an elderly friend.

### **GRANDE**

Un grande dipinto is a great painting, un dipinto grande is a big painting, we refer to its size.

### **DIVERSO**

Ho diverse idee means that I have several ideas, ho idee diverse means that my ideas differ from yours.

### **BUONO**

Un buon insegnante means he's a good teacher, he's professional, while un insegnante buono means a good-hearted teacher.

### **POVERO**

Un pover'uomo (the o here is dropped before a vowel) is a miserable man, while un uomo povero means a poor man.

### **Let's summarise:**

Adjectives agree in gender and number with the noun they refer to: La casa azzurra, le porte bianche

In general, adjectives follow the noun they refer to:

IL RUSSO È UNA LINGUA DIFFICILE

MICHELE È UNA PERSONA AFFIDABILE

Certain common adjectives, however, generally come before the noun, and have a more figurative meaning:

LILLO È UN BRAVO CANE

DANIELA È UNA CARA RAGAZZA

È UN BRUTTA FACCENDA

MAURO È UN VECCHIO AMICO

Finally, possessive adjectives, demonstrative adjectives, and ordinal numbers are always placed before the noun: IL MIO GATTO, QUELLA NAVE, LA PRIMA VOLTA.