

The essentials of the grammar

NOUNS

Un melodia, un animal, un patre, un matre, le libro, le errores = A melody, an animal, a father, a mother, the book, the errors.

Articles (indefinite **un**, definite **le**) are the same for singular and plural and there are no genders.

Le melodia – le melodias; un generation – duo generationes; un artichoc – duo artichoches = The melody – the melodies; a generation – two generations; an artichoke – two artichokes.

Nouns end in plural with **-s**, but after consonants with **-es**. (When the word ends in **-c** this is changed in plural to **-ches** for better pronunciation).

Io da le libro del patre al matre = I give the book of the father to the mother.

Genitive is formed with **de** before the noun, dative with **a**. **De le** is contracted to **del**, **a le** to **al**. ■

ADJECTIVES

Le brave soldato – le brave soldatos; le brave matre – le brave matres = The brave soldier – the brave soldiers; the brave mother – the brave mothers.

Adjectives are not inflected with gender or from singular to plural.

Brave – plus brave – le plus brave = brave – braver – bravest.

Inflectional comparison of adjectives:

plus (=more) to higher degree and **le plus** (=most) to the highest degree.

Bon – melior – optime = good – better – best.

Mal – pejor – pessime = poor – poorer – poorest.

Grande – major – maxime = great – greater – greatest.

Parve – minor – minime = small – smaller – smallest.

Some adjectives thus have an irregular inflection. But they may also be used with regular inflection.

(Example: **Grande – plus grande – le plus grande**.)

Le brave soldato, un libro interessante = The brave soldier, an interesting book.

The adjectives may stand before or after the noun. ■

ADVERBS

From adjective to adverb:

Natural – naturalmente; clar – clarmente = Natural (adj) – naturally (adv); clear – clearly.

Extrememente interessante = Extremely interesting.

Certe – certo = Sure – surely.

Photographic – photographicamente = Photographic – photographically.

Adverbs are formed by adding **-mente**, or they end in **-o**.

Adjectives that end in **-c** get **-amente** when they are formed into adverbs.

Bon – ben; melior – melio; mal – mal; pejor – pejo = Good; well; poor (adj) – poorly (adv); worse.

Some adverbs have irregular forms in relation to the adjective. ■

PRONOUNS

Io, tu, ille, illa, illo = I, you, he, she, it.

Nos, vos, (illes, illas, illos) = We, you, (they/ them/those).

Vos is also used as polite form for you both



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in singular and in plural.

In objective form all these forms are treated in accusative.

A me, a te, a ille, a illa, a illo = To me, to you, to him, to her, to it/that.

A nos, a vos, a illes (a illas, a illos) = To us, to you, to them.

After comparative the accusative form is used except in the third person (**ille** etc.)

Me, te, se, nos, vos, se = Me, you, himself/herself/itself, us, you, themselves.

The reflexive pronouns NB! **se** in the third person singular and plural.

Mi, tu, su = My, your, his/her/its/

Nostru, vostre, lor = Our, yours, their.

The possessive pronouns when they stand before the noun are:

Le mie, le tue, le sue = mine, yours, his/her.

Le nostre, le vostre, le lore = Ours, yours, theirs.

The possessive pronouns when they stand alone. In plural they get **-s (le mies** etc.).

Il: third person singular neutral, used as (subjective) personal pronoun, **il niva** = it snows (it is snowing), **il face frigido** = it is cold. **Il + haber** corresponds to *there is/there are* in English. **Il ha plure nove studentes in le schola iste anno**. There are many new students in the school this year.

On: indefinite (subjective) personal pronoun (**on crede** = one believes, **on spera** = one ho-

pes). ■

NUMBERS

Un, duo, tres, quatro, cinque, sex, septe, octo, novem, dece = One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

Dece-un, dece-duo, dece-tres,....dece-novem = Eleven, twelve, thirteen,....nineteen.

Vinti, trenta, quaranta, cinquanta, sexanta, septanta, octanta, novanta = Twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty, ninety.

Cento, mille, million, milliardo = Hundred, thousand, million, billion.

Prime, secunde, tertie, quarte, quinte, sexte, septime, octante, novante, decime = First, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth.

Vintesime, trentesime... = Twentieth, thirtieth... ■

VERBS

Esser - es - esseva - ha essite = To be – am/are/is/ – was/were – has/have been.

Haber - ha - habeva - ha habite = To have – have/has – had – have had/has had.

Essera - esserea = will (in the future) be – would (in the future) be.

Habera - haberea = Will (in the future) have – would (in the future) have.

Essente = Being.

Habente = Having.

Auxiliary verbs are used to form combined tenses of the verbs.

Amar - ama - amava - ha amate = To love – love/ loves – loved – has/have loved.

Scriber - scribe - scribeva - ha scribite = To write – write/writes – wrote – has/have written.

Dormir - dormi - dormiva - ha dormite = To sleep – sleep/sleeps –slept – has/have slept.

Amara - amarea = Will love – would love.

Scribera - scribera = Will write – would write.

Dormira - dormirea = Will sleep – would sleep.

Amante = loving (in the process of loving).

Scribente = writing.

Dormiente = sleeping.

Ama! = Love!

Scribe! = Write!

Dormi! = Sleep!

The common verbs follow one and the same pattern, whether they end in **-ar, -er** or **-ir**.

Verbs with **-er** have the form **-ite**, and with **-ir** the form **-iente**.

Note the stress: **-ra** and **-rea**.

Illa es amate = she is (being) loved.

Illa ha essite amate = she has been loved/ she has been in the process of being loved.

Passive is formed with **esser**. ■

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PRONUNCIATION

- c** is pronounced as **ts** (or as **s**) before **e, i** and **y**, in all other cases as **k**.
- ch** is pronounced as **k** (in some cases as **sh** as in English **shine**).
- g** is pronounced hard (in some cases as **j** in French **jornal**).
- j** is pronounced as voiced **sj**.
- ph** is pronounced as **f**.
- qu** is pronounced as **kw** (in some cases as **k**).
- r** is pronounced rolling like in Scotland.
- y** is pronounced as **i** (in **India**).
- z** is pronounced buzzing as in **bzz** (as a bee buzzing). ■

The structuring of the words follows the international rules. To verbs on **-ar** correspond words on **-ation, -ator, -ative, -abile** etc.

To **-ir** corresponds **-ition, -itor, -itive, -ibile** etc.

To **-er** corresponds **-ion, -or, -ive, -ibile** etc. These words on **-er** often utilise the supine form in some of the words (for example **-ag- / -act-**). ■

THE STRESS

The stress follows the international words from which the language is derived. Normally the stress is on the vowel before the last consonant. (The plural **-s** is neglected here.)

When a word ends in a vowel + **-le, -ne** and **-re**, the stress is on the third from the last syllable. Some irregularities exist where hand-books mark this with accents, underlining etc. ■

WORD STRUCTURE

Decorar, decoration, decorator, decorative, decorabile.

Audir, audition, auditor, auditive, audibile.
Ager, action, actor, active, agibile.