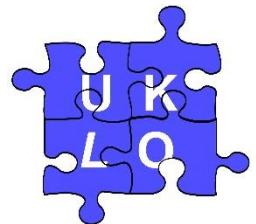


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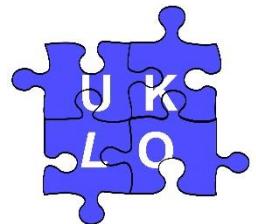
Problem 1. My Italian family (5 marks)

How do Italian families work? How does Italian work? Use these examples to find out, then fill in the blank cells.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| my house | <i>la mia casa</i> |
| the houses | <i>le case</i> |
| your bicycles | <i>le tue biciclette</i> |
| our tickets | <i>i nostri biglietti</i> |
| my job | <i>il mio lavoro</i> |
| my sister | <i>mia sorella</i> |
| our brother | <i>nostro fratello</i> |
| your cousin | <i>tuo cugino</i> |
| my sisters | <i>le mie sorelle</i> |
| our Italian grandmother | <i>la nostra nonna italiana</i> |
| my cousins | <i>i miei cugini</i> |
| our Italian cousin | <i>il nostro cugino italiano</i> |
| our house | |
| the ticket | |
| my bicycle | |
| your brother | |
| your Italian sister | |
| our sister | |
| our cousins | |
| our jobs | |
| our grandmothers | |
| | <i>mio nonno</i> |

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Solution and marking

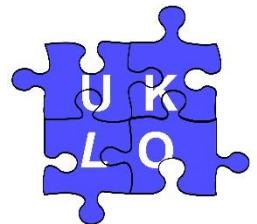
Scoring:

- 1 point for each correct word (max 27)
- Score positively – 1 for each target word, ignore extra non-target words
- Score generously – if different scores are possible, choose the highest.
- But give no credit for partially right words, e.g. right root but wrong suffix.

| | | points |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| my house | <i>la mia casa</i> | |
| the houses | <i>le case</i> | |
| your bicycles | <i>le tue biciclette</i> | |
| our tickets | <i>i nostri biglietti</i> | |
| my job | <i>il mio lavoro</i> | |
| my sister | <i>mia sorella</i> | |
| our brother | <i>nostro fratello</i> | |
| your cousin | <i>tuo cugino</i> | |
| my sisters | <i>le mie sorelle</i> | |
| our Italian grandmother | <i>la nostra nonna italiana</i> | |
| my cousins | <i>i miei cugini</i> | |
| our Italian cousin | <i>il nostro cugino italiano</i> | |
| our house | <i>la nostra casa</i> | 3 |
| the ticket | <i>il biglietto</i> | 2 |
| my bicycle | <i>la mia bicicletta</i> | 3 |
| your brother | <i>tuo fratello</i> | 2 |
| your Italian sister | <i>la tua sorella italiana</i> | 4 |
| our sister | <i>nostra sorella</i> | 2 |
| our cousins | <i>i nostri cugini</i> | 3 |
| our jobs | <i>i nostri lavori</i> | 3 |
| our grandmothers | <i>le nostre nonne</i> | 3 |
| my grandfather | <i>mio nonno</i> | 2 |

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Commentary

The point of this problem is to analyse a small area of Italian grammar that deals with endings, agreement and the use of 'the'.

- Gender and number are shown very regularly – at least in these examples, though not throughout the entire language – by the endings:
 - -o for masculine singular
 - -a for feminine singular
 - -i for masculine plural
 - -e for feminine plural.
- The gender and number are fixed by the noun, but they extend to attached words:
 - possessive pronouns
 - *mio/mia/miei/mie* for 'my'
 - *tuo/tua/tui/tue* for 'your'
 - *nostro/nostra/nostri/nostre* for 'our'
 - 'the': *il/la/i/le*
 - adjectives: *italiano/italiana/italiani/italiane*
- In general, and unlike English, a possessive pronoun combines with 'the' (e.g. *la mia casa*)
 - but 'the' is omitted with family members (e.g. *mia sorella*)
 - **unless** the noun is in some sense 'modified', i.e. if it is:
 - plural or
 - combined with an adjective