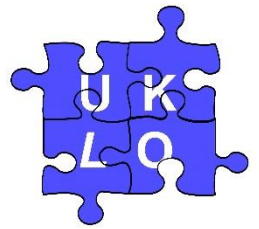


Your name:

# The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2017



## 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.

my house	<i>la mia casa</i>	points
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