

11 In some cases a definite article is used in Italian where an indefinite article (or a possessive adjective – see Unit 3) is used in English. Here are some instances:

**Antonio ha *il* naso lungo.**

Antonio has a long nose.

**Hai *la* patente?**

Have you got a driving licence?

**Avete *l'*ombrello?**

Have you got an umbrella?

**Ho *il* raffreddore.**

I have got a cold.

**Dove passi *le* vacanze di solito?**

Where do you normally spend your holidays?

**Di pomeriggio faccio *il* compito.**

In the afternoon I do my homework.

**Hai *il* biglietto?**

Have you got a/your ticket?

There are also cases when there is no article in Italian but the definite or indefinite article is used in English:

**Andiamo in montagna.**

We're going to the mountains.

**Stasera andiamo a teatro.**

We're going to the theatre this evening.

**Accompagno Anna in aeroporto.**

I'm taking Anna to the airport.

**Andiamo in macchina.**

We're going in the/a car.

**Carlo è medico.**

Carlo is a doctor.

**Sono studente.**

I'm a student.

**Non ha marito.**

She hasn't got a husband.

## Definite and indefinite article before an adjective

12 As we shall see (Unit 3), a noun can sometimes be preceded by an adjective, so that the adjective comes between the article and the noun (e.g. **una bella donna**, a beautiful woman). In such cases, the form of the article depends on the spelling of the *adjective*, not the noun:

**la casa**                      the house

**una casa**                    a house

**l'auto**                        the car

**un'auto**                     a car

**l'ultima casa**              the last house

**un'ottima casa**            an excellent house

**la prima auto**              the first car

**una bella auto**             a beautiful car