

<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
P'insegnante [m]	the (male) teacher	gli insegnanti [m]	the teachers [male, <i>or</i> male and female mixed]
P'insegnante [f]	the (female) teacher	le insegnanti [f]	the (female) teachers
il collega [m]	the (male) colleague	i colleghi [m]	the colleagues [male, <i>or</i> male and female mixed]
la collega [f]	the (female) colleague	le colleghe [f]	the (female) colleagues
P'atleta [m]	the (male) athlete	gli atleti [m]	the athletes [male, <i>or</i> male and female mixed]
P'atleta [f]	the (female) athlete	le atlete [f]	the (female) athletes

Remember that, as we saw in Unit 1, paragraph 19, the masculine plural form can also denote a class of people in general, as well as a group of males or a mixed group of males and females: e.g. **i cantanti** [m] can denote *either* a group of male singers, *or* a mixed group of male and female singers, *or* singers in general.

Indefinite article

5 Like the definite article, the indefinite article (English 'a/an') has different forms, depending on the gender of the word it refers to and the letter (or sound) with which the following word begins. There is no plural for the indefinite article. Here are the forms:

<i>Feminine</i>	un'	} a/an
	una	
<i>Masculine</i>	un	
	uno	

6 The feminine forms **un'** and **una** are used before feminine words:

un' is used before words beginning with a vowel or **h**;
una is used before words beginning with a consonant:

un'auto	a car
un'esperienza	an experience
un'hostess	a stewardess