2.1 L'aggettivo

1. An adjective (aggettivo) must agree in gender and number with the noun it modifies. When an adjective ends in -o, it has four endings: -o (m. sing.), -i (m. pl.), -a (f. sing.), and -e (f. pl.).

	Singular	Plural
Masculine	il bambino biond o	i bambini biond i
Feminine	la bambina biond a	le bambine biond e

Luigi è alto e biondo.

Maria è bassa e bruna.

Luigi is tall and blond.

Maria is short and brunette.

Luigi e Carlo sono generosi.*

Luigi and Carlo are generous.

Maria e Laura sono belle.

Maria and Laura are beautiful.

When an adjective ends in **-e**, it has two endings: **-e** (m. & f. sing.) and **-i** (m. & f. pl.).

	Singular	Plural
Masculine	il ragazzo intelligent e	i ragazzi intelligent i
Feminine	la ragazza intelligent e	le ragazze intelligenti

Luigi è felice. Luigi is happy.

Maria è felice. Maria is happy.

Maria e Luigi sono felici. Maria and Luigi are happy.

Maria e Laura sono felici. Maria and Laura are happy.

An adjective usually follows the noun it modifies. However, the following common adjectives usually precede the noun:

bello	beautiful, handsome, fine
brutto	ugly
buono	good
bravo	good, talented
cattivo	bad, mean, naughty
giọvane	young
vecchio	old
grande	big, large; great
piccolo	small, short
stesso	same
nuovo	пеш
altro	other
caro**	dear
vero	true
primo	first
ultimo	last

^{*}If an adjective modifies two nouns of different gender, the masculine plural ending is used: Lisa e Paolo sono simpatici. Lisa and Paolo are nice.

^{**}Caro, after the noun, means expensive: un'automobile cara, an expensive car.

l'altro giorno the other day un caro amico a dear friend una grande casa a big house un grande artista a great artist gli stessi ragazzi the same boys

When an adjective precedes the noun, the form of the article depends on the first letter of the adjective.

gli studenti BUT i bravi studenti

NOTE: All adjectives follow the noun when they are modified by the adverb **molto** (*very*), **poco** (*little*, *not very*), **abbastanza** (*enough*, *rather*), **un po'** (*a little*).

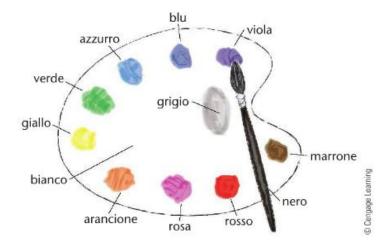
un amico **molto caro** a very dear friend una casa **abbastanza** grande a rather big house

3. Adjectives denoting nationality or color always follow the noun:

africano	African*	inglese	English
americano	American	irlandese	Irish
canadese	Canadian	italiano	Italian
cinese	Chinese	messicano	Mexican
europeo	European	russo	Russian
francese	French	spagnolo	Spanish
giapponese	Japanese	svizzero	Świss
greco	Greek	tedesco	German

una signora **inglese** la lingua **cinese** una macchina **tedesca** due belle donne **americane** an English lady the Chinese language a German car two beautiful American women

I colori



un fiore **giallo** due fogli **bianchi** due biciclette **verdi**

a yellow flower two white pieces of paper two green bicycles

^{*}In Italian, adjectives denoting nationality are not capitalized, while nouns often are: gli Italiani, gli Americani, etc. Also, these adjectives are not used to describe ethnic origin. In that case, Italian uses the expression essere di origine... followed by the nationality adjective: un ragazzo di origine messicana, a boy of Mexican heritage.

NOTE

a. Like nouns ending in -ca and -ga, adjectives ending in -ca and -ga change in the plural to -che and -ghe.

due strade lunghe two long streets

b. The adjectives rosa, blu, viola, and marrone are invariable.

due biciclette **blu** two blue bicycles due fogli **rosa** two pink papers