**Essere - to be**

Essere (to be) is an irregular verb in Italian. The present tense conjugations are:

io **sono** noi **siamo**

tu **sei** voi **siete**

lui/lei/Lei **è** loro **sono**

Essere is used much in the same way in Italian as it is in English.

ex. Marisa è italiana. (Marisa is Italian.)

We will be beginning to use essere with adjectives to describe people and things.

**Adjectives - Gli aggettivi**

Adjectives in Italian are used in a slightly different way than adjectives in English.

Adjectives in Italian:

-usually FOLLOW the noun they describe...

ex. la casa bianca (the white house)

- must AGREE in gender and number with the noun they describe

ex. Marisa è alta (Marisa is tall) - Marisa is FEMININE, SINGULAR

vs. Roberto è alto (Roberto is tall) - Roberto is MASCULINE, SINGULAR

There are three different types of adjectives we'll be learning about. Adjectives that end in...

**-o -e -ista**

Each type has its own set of rules for agreement and they are:

-o

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Gender/number** | **Ends in** | **Example** |
| Masculine, singular | o | Roberto è alto |
| Feminine, singular | a | Marisa è alta |
| Masculine, plural | i | Gli studenti sono alti |
| Feminine, plural | e | Le ragazze sono alte |

-e

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Gender/number** | **Ends in** | **Example** |
| Masculine, singular | e | Roberto è intelligente |
| Feminine, singular | e | Marisa è intelligente |
| Masculine, plural | i | Gli studenti sono intelligenti |
| Feminine, plural | i | Le ragazze sono intelligenti |

-ista

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Gender/number** | **Ends in** | **Example** |
| Masculine, singular | ista | Roberto è ottimista |
| Feminine, singular | ista | Marisa è ottimista |
| Masculine, plural | isti | Gli studenti sono ottimisti |
| Feminine, plural | iste | Le ragazze sono ottimiste |

Common adjectives

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| cheerful | allegro |
| disagreeable | antipatico |
| elderly | anziano |
| athletic | atletico |
| stingy | avaro |
| beautiful | bello |
| blond | biondo |
| good, trustworthy | bravo |
| dark-haired, brunette | bruno |
| ugly | brutto |
| funny | buffo |
| good | buono |
| calm | calmo |
| bald | calvo |
| cute, nice | carino |
| dear, expensive | caro |
| chestnut, brown | castano |
| bad | cattivo |
| light (color) | chiaro |
| understanding | comprensivo |
| short | corto (in length) basso (in height) |
| dynamic, energetic | dinamico |
| selfish | egoista |
| elegant | elegante |
| friendly, outgoing | espansivo |
| extroverted | estroverso |
| happy | felice |
| generous | generoso |
| nice, kind | gentile |
| young | giovane |
| fat | grasso |
| intelligent | intelligente |
| straight (hair) | liscio |
| long | lungo |
| thin, slender | magro |
| materialistic | materialista |
| muscular | muscoloso |
| nervous, tense | nervoso |
| optimistic | ottimista |
| patient | paziente |
| pessimistic | pessimista |
| lazy | pigro |
| curly | riccio |
| dark | scuro |
| sensitive | sensitivo |
| serious | serio |
| nice | simpatico |
| active | sportivo |
| tired | stanco |
| shy | timido |
| sad | triste |
| true, real, sincere | vero |