**L'alfabeto italiano e la pronuncia**

The Italian alphabet has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ letters. The English alphabet has 26. The letters "missing" from the Italian alphabet are:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you see the above letters in Italian text, it usually means those words were taken from another language. For example, Italians use the word "weekend" from the English, but also may say "il fine settimana".

**I vocali (the vowels)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Italian vowels** | **English equivalent** | **Symbol** |
| c*a*sa (house) | f*a*ther | ah |
| b*e*n*e* (well) | b*e*t | eh |
| r*i*so (rice) | f*ee*t | ee |
| v*o*l*o* (flight) | ph*o*ne | oh |
| sc*u*si (excuse me) | r*u*le | oo |

A. Practice saying these Italian words aloud and write what you think they may mean:

1. intelligente

2. nuovo

3. interessante

4. elegante

5. timido

**I consonanti (the consonants)**

Most consonants in Italian are pronounced similarly to how they are pronounced in English. There are some letters, and combinations of letters, though, that may cause some problems. Some of these are below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Italian letter combinations** | **Sounds like in English** |
| CI or CE (cinema, cena) | "ch" (church) |
| CHI or CHE (chiave, perché) | "k" (key) |
| GI or GE (pagina, gentile) | "j" (journal) |
| GHI or GHE (ghiaccio, lunghe) | "g" (good) |
| GLI (meglio) | million |
| GN (gnocchi) | canyon |
| SCI or SCE (sciare, pesce) | "sh" shelf |
| SCHI or SCHE (tedeschi, pesche) | "sk" (skate) |

B. Circle the words whose underlined letters represent the sound given.

1. ch as in church

bicicletta carta Cristina cinema chiaro perché Vincenzo

2. k as in key

ciao chiaro chiave baci mancia come parco

3. j as in journal

giallo gatto Giada giacca laghi Gino giovane

4. g as in good

gloria valige lago aglio ghiaccio Giorgio gomma

5. sk as in skate

schiena uscita scala sci scherzo lasciare scena

**Indefinite and definite articles, pluralizing**

Indefinite articles

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **m** | **f** |
| un | una |
| uno | un' |

Definite articles

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | s | p |
| m | illo l’ | igli |
| f | lal’ | le |

General rules for pluralizing:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| o | i |
| a | e |
| e | I |
| consonant | no change |
| accented vowel | no change |

\*\*More rules for pluralizing:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ico | ici |
| ica | iche |
| co | chi |
| ca | che |
| go | ghi |
| ga | ghe |
| cia | ce |
| io | i |

C. Fill in the chart below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Noun** | **Indefinite article** | **Sing. def. art.** | **Plural def. art.** | **Plural noun** |
| *libro* | *un* | *il* | *i* | *libri* |
| matita |  |  |  |  |
| film |  |  |  |  |
| computer |  |  |  |  |
| schermo |  |  |  |  |
| pagina |  |  |  |  |
| città |  |  |  |  |
| madre |  |  |  |  |
| aula |  |  |  |  |
| zaino |  |  |  |  |
| mese |  |  |  |  |
| \*ufficio |  |  |  |  |
| \*amica |  |  |  |  |
| \*arancia |  |  |  |  |
| \*foglio |  |  |  |  |
| \*lago |  |  |  |  |