

IRREGULAR NOUN GENDER FORMATION

masculine or feminine noun formations must be memorized

Some *feminine* nouns end in -o

Examples:

- la Radio (the radio)
- la Mano (the hand)
- la Moto (the motorcycle)
- l'Auto (the car)
- la Metro (the subway)

Some *masculine* singular nouns end in -a

Examples:

- il Problema (the problem)
- il Programma (the program)
- il Sistema (the system)
- il Poeta (the poet)
- il teorema (the theory)
- il diagramma (the diagram)

Some *feminine* nouns end in -i

- la crisi (the crisis)
- la tesi (the thesis)
- l'analisi (the analysis)
- l'ipotesi (the hypothesis)

Some nouns change completely from masculine to feminine:

maschio → ***femmina***

uomo → ***donna***

padre → ***made***

fratello → *sorella*

marito → *moglie*

toro → *mucca*

montone → *pecora*

Some nouns, particularly those ending in -nte and -ista, remain the same in the masculine and feminine singular:

nipote → *nipote*

cantante → *cantante*

giornalista → *giornalista*

In some cases the feminine has a completely different ending:

conte → *contessa*

leone → *leonessa*

This group also includes masculine nouns ending in -tore, which changes the ending to -trice

attore → *attrice*

pittore → *pittrice*

some **masculine nouns** ending in -re, which have a feminine ending in -ra

signore → *signora*

infermiere → *infermiera*

some **masculine nouns** ending in -re, which have a feminine ending in -ssa

dottore → *dottoressa*

professore → *professoressa*

Borrowed Nouns

Some nouns have been borrowed from other languages, primarily English. They are all treated as masculine nouns.

Examples:

- lo sport
- il tram
- il computer
- il tennis
- l'autobus