

checkpoint 2

- 1 What's the Italian for **a** *nil*, **b** three noughts?
- 2 Is **centosettantanove** greater or smaller than **centonovantasette**?
- 3 Write down the Italian for 8, 18, 28 and 88.
- 4 Now write **due milioni quattrocentomila** in numbers, punctuating it the Italian way.
- 5 What do these mean?
a **sono le cinque** b **alle sette di sera**
c **dopo mezzanotte** d **alle sette ieri sera**
e **alle tre e mezzo** f **prima delle undici di mattina**
g **è l'una e un quarto** h **l'una di pomeriggio**
i **sabato alle sette in punto** j **lunedì alle diciotto**
- 6 And how do you say these times in Italian?
a *It's 11 o'clock* b *at nine am*
c *at 12 noon* d *after 18.00*
e *at exactly 09.00* f *at ten o'clock tomorrow*
g *at ten yesterday* h *on Sunday at 16.00*
i *at seven o'clock every day* j *before three o'clock in the afternoon*
- 7 What's the missing word? **Settembre ha** **giorni**.
- 8 How do you say *about 40* in Italian?
- 9 In Italian, write the dates of New Year's Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve.
- 10 What does **per l'ennesima volta** mean?
- 11 What time is **il treno delle sedici e quarantatré** expected?
- 12 What comes between **sedicesimo** and **diciottesimo**?
- 13 In Italian, which century is **milleottocentocinquantasei** in?
- 14 Is **primavera**, **estate**, **autunno** or **inverno** the Italian for *spring*?
- 15 How do you say 75% in Italian?



Nouns

Nouns are the words for

- living beings: man, sister, doctor, lion, Antonio
- things: table, water, night, lesson, sport
- places: country, town, Italy, Rome
- concepts: beauty, freedom, time, democracy

Every single Italian noun – not just the words for people – is either masculine (m) or feminine (f). This is its **gender**, and you need to know a noun's gender because words used with it, such as articles and adjectives, have corresponding masculine and feminine forms.

The majority of Italian nouns end in **o** or **a**, which is a guide to their gender because nearly all the ones ending in **o** are masculine while the majority of those ending in **a** are feminine. Some nouns end in **e**, and there are ways of recognising the gender of many of these too.

When you're talking about more than one of something, you don't add **s** as in English – you change the final vowel instead.

In an English-Italian dictionary, abbreviations to look out for include *n* noun, *m* masculine, *f* feminine, *sing* singular, *pl* plural.

If you look up *car* and *horse*, this is what you might find:

car *n* auto *f*, macchina *f*: *by* ~ in macchina; ~park *n* parcheggio *m*, parking *m*

horse *n* cavallo *m*, [gym] cavallina *f*: ~ racing corsa *f* di cavalli; ~ riding equitazione *f*; Trojan ~ cavallo di Troia. *Don't look a gift ~ in the mouth* A caval(lo) donato non si guarda in bocca.