



Unit Objective: To remember and recall from memory 10 common animals in Italian with the correct article/determiner.

By the end of this unit we will be able to:

- Name and recognise up to 10 animals in Italian.
- Attempt to spell some of these nouns with their correct indefinite article/determiner.
- Pretend that we are a particular animal using the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular form of the verb **essere** (to be), **sono** (I am).



It will help if we already know:

- The letter sounds (phonics & phonemes) from phonics and pronunciation lesson 1 and vocabulary from the '**Imparo l'italiano**' unit.
- What a noun and article/determiner is in English.
- What a verb is and that 'I am' comes from the verb 'to be' in English.

Skills we will develop:

We will work on improving our memory skills so that we remember the animals in Italian after the lesson. Remembering to look out for cognates such as **leone** (lion) using pictures to help. Learning how to build a short simple sentence in Italian using 1<sup>st</sup> person conjugated verb **sono** (I am), an indefinite article/determiner (**un, una** or **un'**) and a noun (in this unit an animal). Learning that the pronoun **io** (I) is often omitted in Italian. You can tell who is doing the action by the verb in Italian.

Activities we will complete:

There will be many speaking, reading, listening and written tasks to help us learn and retain the new vocabulary including word puzzles, word searches, crosswords and gap fills. Building up to a final task of producing a short simple phrase with '**sono...**' plus an animal from memory.

Grammar we will learn & revisit:

**Nouns, gender, article/determiners and verbs.** To learn that nouns in Italian can have different articles/determiners based on their gender (masculine and feminine nouns). Looking more closely at three indefinite articles/determiners: **un** (for masculine nouns) and **una** and **un'** (for feminine nouns). Learning how to categorise nouns by gender (**un, una** or **un'**). Introduction of 1<sup>st</sup> person singular conjugation of the high frequency irregular verb **essere** (to be) in Italian.

Phonics & pronunciation we will see:

Recommended phonics focus: **GLI**

- **GLI** sound in **coniglio**. It is like the '-illi' sound made in the English word 'million'.
- **R sound.** The 'r' in Italian is always a rolled r. This is difficult but can be done with practice! It is the tip of the tongue moving very quickly against the roof of the mouth, just behind the teeth like in the words **pecora** and **anatra**.
- **Double letters.** Double consonants are very common and have different pronunciation than single consonants and can change the meaning of the word. They are pronounced much more forcefully than single consonants as seen in as seen in **muc-ca**. Stronger, not longer!



Vocabulary we will learn & revisit:

10 common animals. The animal nouns in Italian plus their appropriate indefinite article/determiner. 1<sup>st</sup> person conjugation of the verb **essere** (to be), **sono** (I am). All listed on Vocabulary Sheet. Also understanding better that the subject pronoun '**io**' (I) is often omitted in Italian. Just the verb is used. In Italian, the way the verbs are conjugated often make the subject pronoun unnecessary. You will see this happen often!