



ADVENTURES IN LANGUAGE



ITALIAN ACTIVITY

Adjectives that change meaning

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MATCHING for meaning-change adjectives.

In the following activity you will find a list of adjectives that change meaning depending on their position. Choose the appropriate translation for each example. Use TABLE #1 on page 4 to help you if necessary.

- 1) Povero (poor, miserable)
Le persone povere
La povera gente
a. The poor people
b. The miserable people

- 2) Grande (big, great)
Un uomo grande
Un grande uomo
a. A great man
b. A big man

- 3) Bravo (good at [something], good)
I bravi ragazzi
I ragazzi bravi
a. The boys who are good at (something)
b. The good boys

- 4) Vecchio (old, elderly)
Le vecchie amiche
Le amiche vecchie
a. The old friends
b. The elderly friends

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- | | |
|---|---|
| 5) Certo (some, solid)
Una certa notizia
Una notizia certa | a. Some piece of news
b. A solid piece of news |
| 6) Nuovo ((an)other, brand new)
Nuovi libri
Libri nuovi | a. Other books
b. Brand new books |
| 7) Caro (dear, expensive)
Una cara bambola
Una bambola cara | a. A dear doll
b. An expensive doll |
| 8) Buono (kind, good)
Un buono studente
Uno studente buono | a. A kind student
b. A good student |

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TABLE #1

Adjectives that change meaning depending on whether they are placed before or after the noun.

ADJECTIVE	BEFORE THE NOUN	AFTER THE NOUN
bravo	Un bravo bambino [a good child]	Un bambino bravo in matematica [a child who is good at math]
buono	Una buona insegnante [a good teacher]	Un'insegnante buona [a kind teacher]
caro	Una cara signora [a dear lady]	Una vacanza cara [an expensive holiday]
certo	Una certa informazione [some information]	Un'informazione certa [solid information]
grande	Una grande giocatrice [a great player]	Una giocatrice grande [a big player]
nuovo	Una nuova moto [another motorbike]	Una moto nuova [a brand new motorbike]
povero	Un povero studente [a miserable student]	Uno studente povero [a poor student]
vecchio	Una vecchia conoscente [an old acquaintance]	Una conoscente vecchia [an elderly acquaintance]

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- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Le persone povere - The poor people
La povera gente - The miserable people | 6) Nuovi libri - Other books
Libri nuovi - Brand-new books |
| 2) Un uomo grande - A big man
Un grande uomo - A great man | 7) Una cara bambola - A dear doll
Una bambola cara - An expensive doll |
| 3) I bravi ragazzi - The good boys
I ragazzi bravi - The boys who are good at (something) | 8) Un buono studente - A good student
Uno studente buono - A kind student |
| 4) Le vecchie amiche - The old friends
Le amiche vecchie - The elderly friends | |
| 5) Una certa notizia - Some piece of news
Una notizia certa - A solid piece of news | |

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