GENERAL

analisi grammaticale altra

Published: September 19, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction: Unlocking the Nuances of “Altra” through Analisi Grammaticale

When diving into the rich tapestry of the Italian language, one quickly realizes that every word carries a world of grammatical intricacies. Among the many words that illustrate this depth, **“altra”**—the feminine singular form of “altro”—offers a fascinating case study. Whether you are a language learner, a teacher, or simply a curious reader, understanding the *analisi grammaticale*(grammatical analysis) of “altra” can illuminate broader patterns of Italian adjective usage, gender agreement, and syntactic flexibility.

This article will guide you through a comprehensive exploration of “altra.” We will examine its morphological features, syntactic behavior, common pitfalls, and practical applications. By the end, you will not only know how to use “altra” correctly but also appreciate its role within the larger framework of Italian grammar.

What Is Analisi Grammaticale?

“Analisi grammaticale” is the Italian term for grammatical analysis. It involves dissecting a word or phrase to identify its part of speech, morphological attributes, syntactic function, and semantic nuance. In the context of Italian, this process helps learners and linguists alike to grasp how words interact within sentences, how agreement rules are applied, and how meaning is constructed.

When applied to a single word like “altra,” *analisi grammaticale* reveals:

- Its lexical category (adjective)
- Its gender, number, and case (feminine singular)
- Its agreement patterns with nouns and other modifiers
- Its position within various syntactic constructions

The Word “Altra”: Definition and Context

“Altra” is the feminine singular form of the Italian adjective **altro**, which means “other.” It is used to refer to a different or additional item, person, or concept, specifically in a feminine context. For instance:

1. La altra casa è più grande. – “The other house is bigger.”
2. Ho visto l''altra ragazza al cinema. – “I saw the other girl at the cinema.”

In these examples, “altra” modifies a feminine noun and indicates an alternative or additional entity. Its usage is governed by the same agreement rules that apply to all Italian adjectives.

Morphological Analysis: Part of Speech, Gender, and Number

Part of Speech: Adjective

Unlike English, where “other” can function as both an adjective and a pronoun, Italian’s “altro” and its variations are strictly adjectives. They describe nouns and must agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify.

Gender Agreement

Italian adjectives must match the gender of the noun they describe:

- Masculine singular: altro
- Feminine singular: altra
- Masculine plural: altri
- Feminine plural: altre

When “altra” appears before a feminine noun, it seamlessly aligns with the noun’s gender.

Number Agreement

Number agreement follows the same pattern:

- Singular nouns: altra (feminine), altro (masculine)
- Plural nouns: altre (feminine), altri (masculine)

Thus, “altra” is strictly feminine singular.

Case and Declension

Unlike languages such as Latin or German, Italian does not have a case system that affects adjectives. The form of “altra” remains unchanged regardless of its syntactic position. However, its placement relative to the noun can influence emphasis or stylistic nuance.

Syntactic Behavior: Where Does “Altra” Sit in a Sentence?

Prepositive Position (Before the Noun)

In standard Italian, adjectives typically follow the noun. However, certain adjectives, including “altra,” are commonly placed before the noun for stylistic or emphatic reasons:

La altra casa – “The other house.”

This prepositive placement often signals a contrast or distinction that the speaker wishes to highlight.

Postpositive Position (After the Noun)

While less common, “altra” can appear after the noun, especially in literary or formal contexts:

La casa altra – “The other house.”

In this arrangement, the adjective can carry a more descriptive or nuanced tone.

Use with Articles and Demonstratives

Italian allows the combination of adjectives with definite articles, demonstratives, or possessives:

- La altra casa – “The other house.”
- Questa altra casa – “This other house.”
- La mia altra casa – “My other house.”

Notice that the adjective still remains feminine singular, matching the noun, while the article or demonstrative modifies the noun’s definiteness or possession.

Pronoun Replacement

In some contexts, “altra” can replace a noun entirely, functioning as a pronoun-like adjective:

Ho trovato un libro, ma ho preferito l''altra. – “I found a book, but I preferred the other (one).”

Here, “l’altra” refers back to a previously mentioned feminine noun.

Comparison with “Altro”: Understanding the Full Family

The adjective **altro** and its derivatives form a small family that illustrates Italian gender and number agreement:

Form	Gender	Number	Example
altro	masc.	sg.	Il altro ragazzo – “The other boy.”
altra	fem.	sg.	La altra ragazza – “The other girl.”
altri	masc.	pl.	Gli altri ragazzi – “The other boys.”
altre	fem.	pl.	Le altre ragazze – “The other girls.”

By mastering these variations, learners can navigate gender and number agreement with confidence.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Misplacing “Altra” in the Sentence

Because Italian allows adjectives both before and after nouns, learners sometimes misplace “altra,” leading to awkward phrasing. The safest rule is to use the prepositive position when you want to emphasize contrast or distinction.

Forgetting Agreement with the Noun

It is easy to overlook gender or number agreement, especially when the noun is long or complex. A quick check—does the adjective end with an **e** (feminine) or **i** (masculine plural)?—can prevent errors.

Using “Altra” with Masculine Nouns

Applying “altra” to a masculine noun is a classic mistake. Remember that the adjective must match the noun’s gender; for masculine nouns, use “altro” or “altri” as appropriate.

Overusing “Altra” in Formal Writing

In formal Italian, prepositive adjectives can sometimes feel too colloquial. When writing academic or official documents, consider placing the adjective after the noun unless you specifically want to highlight contrast.

Practical Exercises to Master “Altra”

Exercise 1: Fill in the Blank

Choose the correct form of **altro** to complete the sentences.

1. Ho incontrato _____ amica al parco. (feminine singular)
2. Ci sono _____ libri sulla scrivania. (masculine plural)
3. La _____ domanda è stata risposta. (feminine singular)
4. Gli studenti hanno presentato _____ progetti. (masculine plural)

Answers: 1. *altra*, 2. *altri*, 3. *altra*, 4. *altri*.

Exercise 2: Rephrase Sentences

Rewrite the following sentences using “altra” in a prepositive position to emphasize contrast.

1. Ho comprato un vestito nuovo, ma la mia vecchia è ancora bella.
2. Ci sono due gatti: uno è bianco, l’altro è nero.
3. La pizza che ho mangiato ieri era buona, ma la pizza di oggi è ancora migliore.

Example answer for sentence 1: **Ho comprato un vestito nuovo, ma la altra vecchia è ancora bella.**

Exercise 3: Identify Agreement Errors

Spot the agreement errors in the following sentences and correct them.

1. Le altri ragazze sono state invitati.
2. Ho trovato un altra libro.
3. Il altro ragazzi sono arrivati.

Corrections: 1. *Altre* ragazze, 2. *altri* libri, 3. *altro* ragazzo.

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