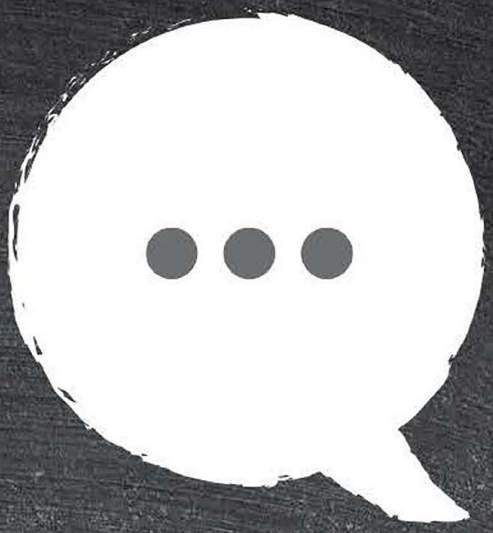
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LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #26
Have You Read Montale's Poems?

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2 Italian
2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar
6 Cultural Insight

#26

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Hai letto le poesie di Eugenio Montale?
2. John: Ho preso la raccolta di poesie, ma io preferisco leggere la narrativa.
3. Laura: Allora ti consiglio di leggere i romanzi di Italo Calvino.
4. John: È vero che è nato a Cuba?
5. Laura: Sì.

ENGLISH

1. Laura: Have you read Eugenio Montale's poems?
2. John: I bought the collection of poems, but I prefer reading prose.
3. Laura: Then I suggest you read Italo Calvino's novels.
4. John: Is it true he was born in Cuba?
5. Laura: Yes, it is.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
poesia	poem	noun	
vero	true	expression	

romanzo	novel	noun	masculine
consigliare	to suggest, to advise	verb	
allora	so, then	conjunction	
narrativa	prose	noun	
preferire	to prefer	verb	
ma	but	conjunction	
prendere	to take, get (figuratively, to buy)	verb	
nascere	to be born	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Scrivo una poesia. "I write a poem."	**È vero che hai vinto il torneo?** "Is it true you won the tournament?"
Vero o falso? "True or false?"	**Ho scritto il mio primo romanzo.** "I wrote my first novel."
Che vino mi consigli con questo dolce? "What kind of wine do you recommend with this dessert?"	**Non ti consiglio di prendere quella strada.** "I wouldn't advise you take that road."
Ti consiglio di guardare quel film. "I suggest you watch that movie."	**Allora è deciso.** "Then, it's settled."
Allora? Che cosa ha detto? "So? What did he say?"	**Non mi piace la narrativa.** "I don't like prose."

Io preferisco il verde. "I prefer green."	**Preferisco bere acqua.** "I prefer drinking water."
Preferisci il vino o la birra? "Do you prefer wine or beer?"	**Io preferisco viaggiare che lavorare.** "I prefer traveling to working."
Ti ho salutato, ma non mi hai visto. "I greeted you, but you didn't see me."	**Strano, ma vero.** "It's strange, but true."
Andiamo a prendere Luca. "Let's go get Luca."	**Prendere due piccioni con una fava.** "Kill two birds with one stone."
Hai preso il pane? "Did you buy the bread?"	**Anthony prende un gelato.** "Anthony gets an ice cream."
Prendi le chiavi per favore. "Get the keys, please."	**Sono nato sotto una buona stella.** "I was born under a lucky star."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Forming the *Passato Prossimo* Tense of Second Conjugation Verbs.

È vero che è nato a Cuba?

"Is it true he was born in Cuba?"

We form the *passato prossimo* tense of second conjugation verbs the same way as their first conjugation counterparts. The following are the schemes delineating their two possible inflexions, according to the auxiliary verb the main verb requires.

Passato Prossimo

***nascere* ("to be born")**

auxiliary: *essere*

Italian	**"English"**
Io sono nato	"I was born"
Tu sei nato	"You were born"
Lui è nato	"He was born"
Lei è nata	"She was born"
Noi siamo nati	"We were born"
Voi siete nati	"You were born"
Loro sono nati	"They were born"

Passato Prossimo
***leggere* ("to read")**

auxiliary: *avere*

Italian	**"English"**
Io ho letto	"I have read"/"I read"
Tu hai letto	"You have read"/"You read"
Lui/Lei ha letto	"He/She/It has read"/" He/She/It read"
Noi abbiamo letto	"We have read"/"We read"
Voi avete letto	"You have read"/"You read"
Loro hanno letto	"They have read"/"They read"

We can use the verb *prendere* (literally "to take") in colloquial, informal Italian as "to buy" or "to purchase."

Finally, note that the Italian equivalent to the phrasal verb "to be born," *nascere*, is preceded by the verb "to be" only in compound tenses.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Escape into an Alternate Reality with a Great Italian Author

Probably the most worldwide appreciated work of Calvino, *Le Città Invisibili* ("The Invisible Cities") is a unique collection of short stories in which the author resorts to the combinatory-writing technique.

The protagonist is Marco Polo who, during his stay at the court of Kubla Khan, provides the Emperor with detailed descriptions of the cities he visited during his travels. This fiction describes, in fact, invisible aspects of our cities, concentrating mainly on the relation that the post-modern individuals built with urban life. Through short, concise narrations, the author leads us through the infinite combinations of dreams and reality within impossible urban settings whose fantastic images are a metaphor of human desires and fears.

In this collection of short stories, Calvino informs us about the men who shaped these remote cities, thus creating invisible relations between the inhabitants and the architectonic forms surrounding them. These cities exist only in the mind of the Venetian traveler: Marco Polo describes every single detail with utmost care and precision, always looking at what others do not see. The cities Marco Polo describes are insular, independent places: the invisible cities do not relate to each other in any way. Rather, they speak to us about our life experiences.

For those of you who wish to delve into the Italian culture and start reading Italian novels, we suggest starting with this great book. Internet retailers (such as Amazon, for instance) sell many bilingual editions at low prices.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #27
Have You Heard What Happened in Italian?

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2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar
5 Cultural Insight

#27

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Ho sentito che Steve è partito.
2. John: È vero, è andato a Roma.
3. Laura: Davvero?
4. John: Sì, torna martedì.

ENGLISH

1. Laura: I heard that Steve left.
2. John: It's true; he went to Rome.
3. Laura: Really?
4. John: Yes, he'll come back on Tuesday.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
sentire	to hear, listen to	verb	
partire	to leave, to start, to take off	verb	
andare	to go	verb (irregular)	
martedì	Tuesday	noun	masculine

davvero	really, truly, indeed	adverb
tornare	to go back, to come back, to get back	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Parlo a voce bassa, mi senti. "I speak softly; can you hear me?"	**Non lo sento da due giorni.** "I haven't heard from him in two days."
Hai sentito cosa è successo? "Have you heard what happened?"	**Domani partirò per Milano.** "I'll leave for Milan tomorrow."
Sono partito alle sei del mattino. "I left at six o'clock a.m."	**Domani parto per Roma.** "Tomorrow, I am leaving for Rome."
I miei amici vanno in vacanza in Sardegna. "My friends go on holiday to Sardinia."	**Siamo andati a Venezia.** "We went to Venice."
Siamo andati in vacanza. "We went on vacation."	**Vai a casa?** "Are you going home?"
Vorrei andare a ballare. "I would like to go dancing."	**Andiamo al cinema?** "Shall we go to the cinema?"
Ci vediamo martedì. "I will see you on Tuesday."	**Sei davvero vegetariano?** "Are you really vegetarian?"
Devo davvero andare. "I really have to go."	**Davvero?** "Really?"

Luca torna da scuola verso l'una. "Luke comes back from school about one p.m."	**Ieri sono tornato a casa tardi.** "Yesterday I got back home late."

Vorrei tornare a S. Gimignano.

"I would like to go back to S. Gimignano."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the *Passato Prossimo* of Third Conjugation Verbs.
Ho sentito che Steve è partito.
"I heard that Steve left."

The *passato prossimo* tense of the third conjugation verbs adheres to all the rules regarding the first and second conjugations detailed in previous lessons. The schemes presented below delineate the two possible inflexions of the third conjugation *passato prossimo*, according to the auxiliary verb required by the main verb.

Passato Prossimo
***partire* ("to leave")**

auxiliary: *essere*

Italian	**"English"**
Io sono partito	"I have left"/"I left"
Tu sei partito	"You have left"/"You left"
Lui è partito	"He has left"/"He left"
Lei è partita	"She has left"/"She left"
Noi siamo partiti	"We have left"/"We left"

Voi siete partiti	"You have left"/"You left"
Loro sono partiti	"They have left"/"They left"

Passato Prossimo
***sentire* ("to hear")**

auxiliary: *avere*

Italian	**"English"**
Io ho sentito	"I have heard"/"I heard"
Tu hai sentito	"You have heard"/"You heard"
Lui/Lei ha sentito	"He/She/It has heard"/"He/She/It heard"
Noi abbiamo sentito	"We have heard"/"We heard"
Voi avete sentito	"You have heard"/"You heard"
Loro hanno sentito	"They have heard"/"They heard"

We also sometimes use the verb *sentire* in Italian as "to listen to." For example, we can either translate the expression "I am listening to pop music" in Italian as *Ascolto musica pop* (the verb *ascoltare* is the proper equivalent of "to listen to") or *Sento musica pop*. The latter is slightly less formal, although it doesn't fully belong to the informal linguistic style.

Finally, we often associate the verb *sentire* with emotions and feelings. For instance, we would translate the sentence "I feel well" in Italian as *Mi sento bene*. In this case, *sentire* becomes a reflexive verb (infinitive: *sentirsi*), and we have to decline it accordingly. We will provide a thorough analysis of the reflexive verbs in future lessons.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Secularization of Nativity Sculptures in Italy

The Italian tradition of the *presepio* ("crib" in British English) began in the age of St. Francis of Assisi (or *Francisco d'Assisi*), who created the first living representation of the *Natività* ("Nativity") in 1223. Although images and theatrical performances regarding the birth of Christ previously existed, these were just *sacre rappresentazioni* ("holy representations") of several liturgies celebrated in the medieval period. Italian sculptor Arnolfo di Cambio carved the first *presepio* between 1290 and 1292. The statues representing the members of the Holy Family are preserved at the *Liberiano* Museum, a section of *Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica* in Rome. In the fifteenth century, the habit of making these nativity scenes gradually spread throughout Italy, though ecclesiastics mainly commissioned them to professional sculptors, and churches started permanently hosting great statues.

Since the beginning of the seventeenth century, the *presepio* began to spread also into the private residences of nobles and aristocrats as either ornamental art or proper devotional chapels. The Pope officially upheld this diffusion during the Council of Trento, since he deemed this particular artistic form to be an efficient method to spread the Catholic creed. He also admired its ability to communicate a kind of faith that was rather simple to understand and quite close to people's feelings.

The first contest on making a *presepio* was held in Naples in the eighteenth century. Bourgeois and aristocratic families competed against each other in order to show the extent of their faith through the perfection and beauty of their *presepio*: they furnished entire rooms of their palaces, covering the statues with valuable Turkish silk, shining jewels, and precious clothing.

In the same century, Bologna established the *Fiera di Santa Lucia* ("Fair of Saint Lucia"), where local artisans sold their *statuine* (small, hand-sized statues) representing the Holy Family. This fair was so successful that it became an important city tradition still preserved to this day.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #28 Have You Done Your Italian Homework?

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2 Italian
2 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
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#28

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ITALIAN

1. Mother: Hai fatto i compiti?

2. Child: Sì, li ho fatti.

3. Mother: Davvero?

4. Child: Sì guarda!

5. ---

6. Male tourist: I romani hanno costruito molte strade.

7. Female tourist: Sì le più famose sono la Via Appia, la Via Aurelia, la Via Emilia, la Via Postumia e molte altre.

8. Male tourist: Hanno anche costruito molti acquedotti.

9. Female tourist: Sì sono usati ancora oggi.

10. ---

11. Laura: Ieri sera sono tornata a casa alle cinque.

12. John: Ieri sera? Vuoi dire stamattina!

13. Laura: Sì! Come sono stanca!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Mother: Have you done your homework?

2. Child: Yes, I have.

3. Mother: Really?

4. Child: Yes, look!

5. ---

6. Male tourist: The Romans built many roads.

7. Female tourist: Yes. The most famous ones are Via Appia, Via Aurelia, Via Emilia, Via Postumia, and many more.

8. Male tourist: They also built many aqueducts.

9. Female tourist: Yes, they are still used today.

10. ---

11. Laura: Yesterday evening, I came home at five.

12. John: Yesterday evening? You mean this morning!

13. Laura: Yes! I am so tired!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
compiti	homework	noun	masculine

costruire	to build	verb	
strada	road, street	noun	
acquedotto	aqueduct	noun	
ieri	yesterday	noun	masculine
stamattina	this morning	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

L'insegnante mi ha dato tantissimi compiti. "The teacher gave me a lot of homework."	**Non voglio fare i compiti.** "I don't want to do my homework."
La Fiat ha costruito buone macchine. "Fiat built good cars."	**La strada dove abiti è sempre molto trafficata.** "The road where you live is always very busy."
La strada non è illuminata. "The road is unlit."	**Il nuovo acquedotto funziona bene.** "The new aqueduct works well."
Ieri sera sono uscito con Marta. "Yesterday evening, I went out with Marta."	**Ieri sono rimasto a casa.** "Yesterday, I stayed at home."
Ieri siamo andati al pub. "Yesterday, we went to the pub."	**Mi hai chiamato ieri?** "Did you call me yesterday?"
Stamattina non ho fatto colazione. "I didn't have breakfast this morning."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Distinction Between the Spoken and Written Usage of the *Passato Prossimo* Tense.

Hai fatto i compiti?

"Have you done your homework?"

In order to understand how to use the *passato prossimo* tense, we have to make a distinction between the spoken and written language.

As far as written language is concerned, we use the *passato prossimo* tense in the following circumstances:

1) to express a past action that the writer feels is completed (whether it actually is or not) at the present time. Please note that in this case, the *passato prossimo* is equivalent to the present perfect in English.

For Example:

1. *Hai fatto i compiti?*
   "Have you done your homework?"

2. *Sì, li ho fatti.*
   "Yes, I have."

3. *Ho sempre cercato di aiutare le altre persone.*
   "I have always tried to help other persons."

Note: As you have seen in the last example, this category includes also actions referring to our life experiences.

Learning tip: in this case, the *passato prossimo* tense is often, although not always, associated with adverbs or phrases that express temporal indications referring to the present time, such as *in questo momento* ("at this moment"), *adesso* ("now"), and the like.

For Example:

1. *Sono arrivato solo adesso.*
   "I have arrived just now."

2) to express a past action whose effects continue to the present time. Even if the action took place in the past, the completeness idea refers to the time when the statement is formulated. We would normally convey this meaning in English using the simple past tense.

For Example:

1. *Ho imparato molto dai miei maestri delle scuole elementari.*
   "I learned a lot from my primary school teachers."

2. *Napoleone è stato il più grande stratega di sempre.*
   "Napoleon was the greatest strategist ever."

3. *I romani hanno costruito questo ponte.*
   "The Romans built this bridge."

Note: if we were talking about a bridge that doesn't exist anymore, we should have employed the *passato remoto* tense instead.

3) to express actions whose effects do not persist at the present time but that the writer feels are recent. Please note that this feeling is just a psychological attitude; it does not refer by any means to an objective evaluation of time. It is rather a subjective predisposition that allows us to employ the *passato prossimo* tense whenever we deem an action not to be part of the distant past. Note that in this case we would use the simple past tense in English.

For Example:

1. *Dieci anni fa sono stato in Sardegna.*
   "I went to Sardinia ten years ago."

As regards spoken language, the employment of past tenses depends on the area of Italy we live in. In Northern Italy, people employ exclusively *the passato prossimo* tense to express any past action.

In Southern and Central Italy, Italians mostly employ only the *passato remoto* (which we will see in future lessons) to convey past occurrences, regardless of the circumstances they took place in.

However, Italians from those areas fully understand the *passato prossimo*, even though they do not employ it; therefore, we can use employ the *passato prossimo* tense in any part of Italy.

Passato Prossimo's reference boards

essere ("to be")

Italian	**"English"**
Io sono stato	"I have been"/"I was"
Tu sei stato	"You have been"/"You were"
Lui è stato	"He has been"/"He was"
Lei è stata	"She has been"/"She was"
Noi siamo stati	"We have been"/"We were"
Voi siete stati	"You have been"/"You were"
Loro sono stati	"They have been"/"They were"

avere ("to have")

Italian	**"English"**
Io ho avuto	"I have had"/"I had"
Tu hai avuto	"You have had"/"You had"
Lui/Lei ha avuto	"He/She/It has had"/"He/She/It had"
Noi abbiamo avuto	"We have had"/"We had"
Voi avete avuto	"You have had"/"You had"
Loro hanno avuto	"They have had"/"You had"

First Conjugation*en*
***trare* ("to enter"; "to come in")**
auxiliary: *essere*

Italian	"English"
Io sono entrato	"I have come in"/"I came in"
Tu sei entrato	"You have come in"/"You came in"
Lui è entrato	"He has come in"/"He came in"
Lei è entrata	"She has come in"/"She came in"
Noi siamo entrati	"We have come in"/"We came in"
Voi siete entrati	"You have come in"/"You came in"
Loro sono entrati	"They have come in"/"They came in"

baciare **("to kiss")**
auxiliary: *avere*

Italian	"English"
Io ho baciato	"I have kissed"/"I kissed"
Tu hai baciato	"You have kissed"/"You kissed"
Lui/Lei ha baciato	"He/She/It has kissed"/"He/She/It kissed"
Noi abbiamo baciato	"We have kissed"/"We kissed"
Voi avete baciato	"You have kissed"/"You kissed"
Loro hanno baciato	"They have kissed"/"They kissed"

Second Conjugation

***scendere* ("to go down")**
auxiliary: *essere*

Italian	"English"
Io sono sceso	"I have gone"/"I went down"
Tu sei sceso	"You have gone"/"You went down"
Lui è sceso	"He has gone"/"He went down"
Lei è scesa	"She has gone"/"She went down"
Noi siamo scesi	"We have gone"/"We went down"
Voi siete scesi	"You have gone"/"You went down"
Loro sono scesi	"They have gone"/"They went down"

Second Conjugation
***prendere* ("to take/pick up")**
auxiliary: *avere*

Italian	"English"
Io ho preso	"I have taken"/"I took"
Tu hai preso	"You have taken"/"You took"
Lui/Lei ha preso	"He/She/It has taken"/"He/She/It took"
Noi abbiamo preso	"We have taken"/"We took"
Voi avete preso	"You have taken"/"You took"
Loro hanno preso	"They have taken"/"They took"

Third Conjugation

***salire* ("to go up")**
auxiliary: *essere*

Italian	"English"
Io sono salito	"I have gone"/"I went up"
Tu sei salito	"You have gone"/"You went up"
Lui è salito	"He has gone"/"He went up"
Lei è salita	"She has gone"/"She went up"
Noi siamo saliti	"We have gone"/"We went up"
Voi siete saliti	"You have gone"/"You went up"
Loro sono saliti	"They have gone"/"They went up"

Third Conjugation
***pulire* ("to clean")**
auxiliary: *avere*

Italian	"English"
Io ho pulito	"I have cleaned"/"I cleaned"
Tu hai pulito	"You have cleaned"/"You cleaned"
Lui/Lei ha pulito	"He/She/It has cleaned"/"He/She/It cleaned"
Noi abbiamo pulito	"We have cleaned"/"We cleaned"
Voi avete pulito	"You have cleaned"/"You cleaned"
Loro hanno pulito	"They have cleaned"/"They cleaned"

Note that we have to conjugate the past participle of verbs requiring the auxiliary *essere*

according to the gender and number of the subject it refers to, as we presented in the eighth lesson.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Rich Historical and Cultural Traditions of Milan

Although not internationally as renowned as other Italian cities, Milan is an important and interesting city. Founded by the Celts around 600 B.C. and later renamed by the Romans as *Mediolanum* (a Latin word coined from Milan's original Celtic name *Medhelan*, meaning "holy place"), the city has always been part of the Italian historical development.

In 313 A.C., it became the capital of the Western Roman Empire. Many different nations and populations, all of which left their unique traditions, social habits, and customs, subsequently conquered it. Without delving into Italian history too much, it suffices to say that the contemporary Milanese society happily welcomes foreigners and proudly shows the artistic signs of its past.

The *Teatro della Scala* ("Scala Theater"), known by inhabitants of Milan simply as *La Scala*, is one of most famous theaters in the world. It is deemed to be the "temple of opera" and many great singers and conductors have performed there. The theater itself used to be an appreciated meeting point for the ruling class of Milan. The aristocrats and noblemen used it as a sort of "second home," spending much of their time there, even when there weren't any concerts, operas, or plays. Servants and attendants prepared their meals in small kitchens located behind the theater's boxes, while their lords spent their time chatting and attending their private business.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #29 You've Got to Try Counting in Italian!

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ITALIAN

1. Greengrocer: Buongiorno!
2. Laura: Buongiorno. Vorrei due mele, una pesca, tre banane e… due pere.
3. Greengrocer: Subito signora.
4. Greengrocer: Altro?
5. Laura: Basta così, grazie.
6. Greengrocer: Sono 3 euro.
7. Laura: Ecco.
8. Greengrocer: Grazie e buona giornata!

ENGLISH

1. Greengrocer: Good morning!
2. Laura: Good morning. I'd like two apples, a peach, three bananas, and… two pears.
3. Greengrocer: Right away, madam.
4. Greengrocer: Anything else?
5. Laura: That's enough, thank you.

CONT'D OVER

6. Greengrocer: It's three euros.

7. Laura: Here you are.

8. Greengrocer: Thank you and have a good day!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
ecco	here, here it is, here you are	adverb	
basta così	that’s enough	expression	
due	two	numeral	masculine
mela	apple	noun	feminine
pesca	peach	noun	feminine
pera	pear	noun	
subito	right away, now	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Una Coca Cola, prego. Ecco. "A Coke, please. Here you are."	**Ecco il treno!** "Here's the train!" or "There's the train"
Vuoi ancora un po' di vino? Basta così, grazie. "Would you like some more wine? That's enough, thank you."	**Sì, ci sono stato due volte.** Yes, I've been twice.

Ho due fratelli. "I have two brothers."	**Ho visto due amici.** "I saw two friends."
Hai due possibilità. "You have two possibilities."	**Ho mangiato una mela verde.** "I ate a green apple."
La mela verde. "The green apple."	**Abbiamo comprato tre pesche.** "We bought three peaches."
Ti piacciono le pere cotte? "Do you like stewed pears?"	**Ti ho detto di partire subito!** "I told you to leave right away!"
Potrei avere un caffè? Subito! "Could I have a coffee? Right Away!"	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Italian Cardinal Numbers.
Buongiorno. Vorrei due mele, una pesca, tre banane e...due pere.
"Good morning. I'd like two apples, a peach, three bananas, and...two pears."

As in English, cardinal numbers in Italian fall into the adjective category. As adjectives, they add additional information (the quantity, in this case) to the nouns they refer to. We usually position them before the noun.

Please note that contrary to other Italian adjectives, they never change their ending vowels in Italian. The first nineteen numbers do not follow any special rule.

We form Italian compound numbers above twenty (i.e., adjectives made of more than one number) by simply adding each element in successive order without inserting any space between them. For example, we write the number 111 as *centoundici* (i.e., *cento + undici*).

Note that when two identical vowels are next to each other, we need to drop one of them. This exception concerns exclusively the numbers *otto*, *ottanta*, *ottocento*, and so on.

For example, we write the number 184 as *centottantaquattro* (i.e., *cento + ottanta + quattro*), while we write 1,800 as *milleottocento* (i.e., *mille + ottocento*).

Finally, note that whenever a compound number ends with the number *tre* ("three"), we have to use the acute accent on the ending *-é*. The cardinal number "three" does not need any accent on its ending vowel.

For Example:

Italian Cardinal Number	**"English Cardinal Number"**
uno	"one"
due	"two"
tre	"three"
quattro	"four"
cinque	"five"
sei	"six"
sette	"seven"
otto	"eight"
nove	"nine"
dieci	"ten"
undici	"eleven"
dodici	"twelve"
tredici	"thirteen"
quattordici	"fourteen"

quindici	"fifteen'
sedici	"sixteen"
diciassette	"seventeen"
diciotto	"eighteen"
diciannove	"nineteen"
venti	"twenty"
ventuno	"twenty-one"
ventidue	"twenty-two"
ventitre	"twenty-three"
ventiquattro	"twenty-four"
venticinque	"twenty-five"
ventisei	"twenty-six"
ventisette	"twenty-seven"
ventotto	"twenty-eight"
ventinove	"twenty-nine"
trenta	"thirty"
quaranta	"forty"
cinquanta	"fifty"
sessanta	"sixty"
settanta	"seventy"
ottanta	"eighty"

novanta	"ninety"
cento	"one hundred"
duecento	"two hundred"
trecento	"three hundred"
quattrocento	"four hundred"
cinquecento	"five hundred"
seicento	"six hundred"
settecento	"seven hundred"
ottocento	"eight hundred"
novecento	"nine hundred"
mille	"one thousand"

Finally, note that in expressions such as *Ho visto una ragazza comprare un nuovo paio di scarpe* ("I saw a girl buying a new pair of shoes"), *uno/una* is not properly a number, but rather a simple indefinite article that has to change its ending vowel according to the (singular) noun it refers to.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Sardinian Culture: Stuck in the Past?

While the historical habits of some Italian regions have slowly, but gradually faded away, the *cultura sarda* ("Sardinian culture") has kept many of its ancient traditions. These folk customs are even nowadays deeply rooted into Sardinians' everyday life.

It's a common belief that Sardinia is among the most conservative European areas. Although this belief doesn't give justice to the many festivals of contemporary art and music the island regularly hosts, it is at least true as regards traditional festivals, which usually take place between May and September.

The *cavalcata sarda* ("Sardinian ride"), run in Sassari (Sardinia's largest city), is among the most popular. It commemorates the parade organized on April 20, 1899 in honor of Umberto the First, a former ruler of the kingdom of Sardinia. Thousands of people dressed in traditional frocks file through the city's streets for a whole day, either riding their bearded *cavalli sardi* ("Sardinian horses," a particular horse breed bred exclusively in Sardinia) or driving *traccas* (traditional coaches pulled by Sardinian horses, often decked with flowers and tools used in the Sardinians' everyday lives). During the afternoon, local and international spectators can attend races and pairs, where expert riders challenge each other.

This festival represents an important opportunity for Sardinians to remember their historical identity.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #30
Are You Good at Meeting New People Who Aren't Italian?

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2 Italian
2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
3 Grammar
8 Cultural Insight

#30

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Ieri ho conosciuto uno spagnolo.
2. John: Io ho molti amici spagnoli.
3. Laura: Vorrei andare in Spagna.
4. John: E in Portogallo?
5. Laura: Hmm, si anche in Portogallo.
6. John: Ho un amico portoghese a Lisbona.
7. Laura: Io non ho mai conosciuto persone portoghesi.

ENGLISH

1. Laura: Yesterday I met a Spanish person.
2. John: I have many Spanish friends.
3. Laura: I'd like to go to Spain.
4. John: What about Portugal?
5. Laura: Hmm, yes also to Portugal.
6. John: I have a Portuguese friend in Lisbon.
7. Laura: I have never met Portuguese people.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
ieri	yesterday	noun	masculine
molti	many	adjective	
spagnolo	Spanish	adjective	
Spagna	Spain	proper noun	feminine
Portogallo	Portugal	proper noun	masculine
portoghese	Portuguese	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ieri sera sono uscito con Marta. "Yesterday evening, I went out with Marta."	**Ieri sono rimasto a casa.** "Yesterday, I stayed at home."
Ieri siamo andati al pub. "Yesterday, we went to the pub."	**Mi hai chiamato ieri?** "Did you call me yesterday?"
Ci sono molte persone. "There are many people."	**Mia madre è spagnola.** "My mother is Spanish."
Sono spagnolo. "I am Spanish."	**Lara è spagnola.** "Lara is Spanish."
La Spagna è un paese splendido. "Spain is an amazing country."	**Il Portogallo confina con la Spagna.** "Portugal borders Spain."
Mi piace la cucina portoghese. "I like Portuguese cuisine."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is National Origins.

Io ho molti amici spagnoli.

"I have many Spanish friends."

Italian terms referring to national origins or belongings fall in the adjective category, obeying the standard rules explained in the fourth Newbie lesson, What Nationality Are You? Contrary to English, we always write these adjectives in lowercase letters.

Since they are always attached to nouns (which in turn can be stated or implied), they agree in number and gender with the noun they refer to, thus changing their final vowel accordingly. However, the aforementioned agreement does not mean that they simply end with the same vowel as the noun they refer to.

We can divide the Italian national adjectives in two categories. Very few exceptions follow their own inflexions. The first comprises adjectives whose ending vowels are identical to the nouns they refer to.

For Example:

1. *La ragazza americana è molto affascinante.*
   "The American girl is very fascinating."

2. *I ragazzi greci sono molto intelligenti.*
   "Greek guys are really clever."

3. *Il cibo indiano è di solito molto speziato.*
   "Indian food is normally very spicy."

We indicate this category of adjectives in the list we provide below through the ending vowel -*o* (i.e., singular masculine).

The second category exclusively includes adjectives that change their ending vowel according only to the number of the noun they refer to. This means they have only two possible forms (singular or plural). When the noun is not explicitly provided, we can infer its gender exclusively from the attached article, if present.

For Example:

1. *Le donne francesi amano viaggiare.*
   "French women love traveling."

2. *Ho vissuto un anno con una coppia portoghese.*
   "I lived with a Portuguese couple for one year."

3. *I giapponesi sono estremamente cortesi.*
   "Japanese (people) are extremely polite."

Please keep in mind that we may use Italian adjectives instead of nouns when they have been previously mentioned or the context makes the implied noun clear.

This category is indicated through its singular ending vowel *-e*.

For Example:

Nazione	**"Country"**	***Aggettivo***	**"Adjective"**
Albania	"Albania"	*albanese*	"Albanian"
Algeria	"Algeria"	*algerino*	"Algerian"
Argentina	"Argentina"	*argentino*	"Argentinian"
Australia	"Australia"	*australiano*	"Australian"
Austria	"Austria"	*austriaco*	"Austrian"
Belgio	"Belgium"	*belga*	"Belgian"
Brasile	"Brazil"	*brasiliano*	"Brazilian"
Bulgaria	"Bulgaria"	*bulgaro*	"Bulgarian"
Canada	"Canada"	*canadese*	"Canadian"
Cile	"Chile"	*cileno*	"Chilean"
Cina	"China"	*cinese*	"Chinese"

Egitto	"Egypt"	*egiziano*	"Egyptian"
Inghilterra	"England"	*inglese*	"British"
Francia	"France"	*francese*	"French"
Germania	"Germany"	*tedesco*	"German"
Ungheria	"Hungary"	*ungherese*	"Hungarian"
Irlanda	"Ireland"	*irlandese*	"Irish"
Italia	"Italy"	*italiano*	"Italian"
Giappone	"Japan"	*giapponese*	"Japanese"
Corea	"Korea"	*coreano*	"Korean"
Messico	"Mexico"	*messicano*	"Mexican"
Marocco	"Morocco"	*marocchino*	"Moroccan"
Olanda	"Netherlands"	*olandese*	"Dutch"
Peru	"Peru"	*peruviano*	"Peruvian"
Polonia	"Poland"	*polacco*	"Polish"
Portogallo	"Portugal"	*portoghese*	"Portuguese"
Romania	"Romania"	*rumeno*	"Romanian"
Russia	"Russia"	*russo*	"Russian"
Spagna	"Spain"	*spagnolo*	"Spanish"
Svizzera	"Switzerland"	*svizzero*	"Swiss"
Turchia	"Turkey"	*turco*	"Turkish"
Stati Uniti	"United States"	*americano*	"American"

Vietnam	"Vietnam"	*vietnamita*	"Vietnamese"

* We use the ending *-a* for both masculine and feminine nouns. The plural form changes its ending to *-i* with masculine nouns and to *-he* with feminine nouns (thus keeping the [k] sound only with feminine plural nouns).

For Example:

1. *Il ristorante* (singular masculine noun) *belga è molto apprezzato*.
   "The Belgian restaurant is very popular."

2. *Gli studenti* (plural masculine noun) *belgi sono arrivati ieri.*
   "Belgian students arrived yesterday."

3. *Le macchine* (plural feminine noun) *belghe funzionano bene.*
   "Belgian cars work well."

** *Vietnamita* is an exception to the gender agreement standard rule. Its singular ending *-a* applies to both masculine and feminine nouns. The plural form follows the standard rule, ending with *-i* with plural masculine nouns and with *-e* with feminine plural nouns.

For Example:

1. *Il veterinario* (singular masculine noun) *vetnamita ha visitato il mio gatto.*
   "The Vietnamese veterinarian visited my cat."

2. *Le isole* (feminine plural noun) *vietnamite sono fantastiche.*
   "Vietnamese islands are fantastic."

Proper nouns of nations follow the standard rules, except that we always capitalize their first letter. Moreover, do not forget that when Italian nouns are the first word of a sentence, they are preceded by the article. Since this category contains only singular nouns, they are always preceded by the definite article.

For Example:

1. *La Francia produce vino eccellente.*
   "France produces excellent wine."

2. *La Spagna è un paese molto interessante.*
"Spain is a very interesting country."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Unique Heritage of Italian-Americans

At the beginning of the twentieth century, millions of Italians emigrated from various Italian regions to the American continent. Northern Italians moved mainly to Brazil and Argentina, establishing prosperous farming communities in those countries. Due to the linguistic and cultural similarities between northern Italians (who spoke a romance dialect relatively similar to Spanish and Portuguese), the social integration was rather smooth.

The majority of southern Italians moved to the United States, both to the east and west coasts. The first impact was particularly difficult: US industries were rapidly expanding and needed fresh manpower, but the country lacked the infrastructures to properly receive such a great number of immigrants. Totally uneducated and unable to learn the new language, Italians gathered together in small communities at first, often grouping with people who spoke the same dialect, since ninety-five percent of them did not speak Italian at all. Italians worked chiefly in the restoration and building trade, contributing to the economic and cultural development of the United States.

From a linguistic standpoint, many expressions originating from local dialects were adopted in specific areas of the United States, either literally translated in English or simply adapted to English phonetics.

The moral values and cultural heritage of Italian-American communities represent an important and interesting token of the Italian culture of the past. Local customs, cuisine, folk songs, and religious habits are preserved almost unchanged from their past forms, thus presenting us with an Italian identity connected to the countryside communities that would have otherwise been lost.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #31
You Really Missed out on an Italian Adventure!

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2 Italian
2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
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5 Cultural Insight

#31

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Dov’eri ieri? Ti ho chiamato a casa.
2. John: Ero al mare.
3. Laura: Peccato, avevo due biglietti gratis per il cinema.
4. John: Ah si? Per che film erano?
5. Laura: Erano per il nuovo film di Batman.
6. John: Ahh, mi dispiace.

ENGLISH

1. Laura: Where were you yesterday? I called you at home.
2. John: I was at the beach.
3. Laura: Too bad, I had two free tickets for the movies.
4. John: Really? For what movie were they?
5. Laura: They were for Batman's new movie.
6. John: Ahh, I am sorry.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class

ti	you	indirect object
essere	to be	
dove	where	interrogative word
nuovo	new	adjective
peccato	what a pity	exclamation
gratis	free	adjective
dispiacersi	to be sorry	reflexive verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ti ho spedito una lettera. "I sent you a letter."	**Era una bella giornata.** "It was a beautiful day."
Questa estate è troppo calda. "This summer is too hot."	**Siamo italiani.** "We are Italians."
Dove sono Luigi e Laura? "Where are Luigi and Laura?"	**Dove andiamo?** Where are we going?
Dove sei stato? Where have you been?	**Dove sei?** Where are you?
Dove abiti? Where do you live?	**Ho perso il mio nuovo cellulare.** "I lost my new mobile."
Ho un appartamento nuovo al quinto piano. "I have a new apartment on the fifth floor."	**Hai visto la nuova puntata di "Friends"?** "Have you watched the new episode of 'Friends?'"

Ho perso il treno, peccato. "I missed the train, what a pity."	**Se compri due birre, la terza è gratis.** "If you buy two beers, the third is free."

Mi dispiace moltissimo.

"I'm terribly sorry."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Conjugating the Verb *Essere* in the Imperfect Tense.
Erano per il nuovo film di Batman.
"They were for Batman's new movie."

The *imperfetto* tense is one of the Italian tenses we use most frequently, with no significant differences between the spoken and written language.

It refers to both distant and recent past occurrences, describing the traits, characteristics, frequency, and repetition of situations or beings, whereas we express actions using the *passato prossimo* or *passato remoto* tenses.

In today's lesson, we have seen the *imperfetto* with the following value:

1) to express the traits of environment, situations, or beings (both animate and inanimate) in a narration. In this regard, it provides the information related to the narration's frame.

The *imperfetto* tense is one the most stable Italian tenses. This means that even irregular verbs follow the standard inflection of the verb category they belong to.
For example, the irregular verb *andare* ("to go") follows the first conjugation inflection. We form the *imperfetto* tense by dropping the stem for the infinitive and adding the appropriate endings, according to the person we wish to use.
The only exceptions to the rules presented above are the verbs *essere* ("to be"), *fare* ("to do," "to make"), *bere* ("to drink"), and *dire* ("to say," "to tell"), which kept for the greater part their Latin inflections, simply dropping their ending consonants and changing their ending vowels.
In this lesson, we shall see the inflection of the verb *essere*; we will analyze the remaining

three in the appropriate lessons.

Imperfetto

***essere* ("to be")**

Italian	"English"
Io er-o	"I was"
Tu er-i	"You were"
Lui/lei er-a	"He/she/it was"
Noi er-avamo	"We were"
Voi er-avate	"You were"
Loro er-ano	"They were"

***avere* ("to have")**

Italian	"English"
Io av-evo	"I had"
Tu av-evi	"You had"
Lui/lei av-eva	"He/she/it had"
Noi av-evamo	"We had"
Voi av-evate	"You had"
Loro av-evano	"They had"

Finally, note that the verb *avere*, though is presented in this lesson, fully agrees with endings of the second conjugation verbs.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

From Italian Woodworker to Saint: St. Joseph

St. Joseph has always been the most-loved saint that Italian people worship. This devotion may be ascribed to both his biblical fame of "just man" and his profession of highly skilled joiner. The Italian joiners' guilds, especially the Roman ones, elected him to be their patron. The names *Giuseppe* (masculine) and *Giuseppina* (feminine) became, and still are, very common in Italy.

The *Festa di San Giuseppe* ("St. Joseph's Feast") takes place on the first of May in Rome. Although it is a religious feast, at least in theory, it took over a more secular aspect, gradually becoming a folk holiday (named *Sagra di San Giuseppe*) while keeping its religious significance. Romans celebrate this feast/holiday preparing traditional *bignè alla crema* ("cream puffs") and *frittelle* ("pancakes"), fried in huge frying pans. The Roman joiners' guild, which was founded in 1583 as *Universitas fabrorum lignariorum* (lit., "University of woodsmiths"), was the folk organization in charge of organizing the proper celebrations. They used to invite religious brotherhoods and other professionals, such as the smiths and potter's guilds, extending it to almost any category of laborers. This feast became the unofficial Arts and Crafts Day, establishing the Labor Day holiday centuries before the Italian socialist party made it official, following the example of their American counterpart.

As often happens in Italian history, the sacred and secular joined together, creating the continuity between past and present that is the distinguishing feature of Italian history.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #32
I Used to Do This in Italy

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2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
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5 Cultural Insight

#32

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ITALIAN

1. Martina: Quando ero piccola mia nonna cucinava le lasagne ogni domenica.
2. Laura: Buone le lasagne della nonna!
3. Martina: Si, facevo sempre il bis!
4. Laura: Andavi dalla nonna apposta per mangiare!
5. Martina: Certo! Tu non lo facevi?
6. Laura: Sì, sì, anche io.

ENGLISH

1. Martina: When I was little, my grandmother used to cook lasagna every Sunday.
2. Laura: Grandmother's lasagna is so good!
3. Martina: Yes, I always used to take a second serving.
4. Laura: You went to your grandmother's on purpose to eat!
5. Martina: Sure! Didn't you use to?
6. Laura: Yes, yes, me too.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
piccolo	small, young, little	adjective
buono	good, tasty	adjective
fare il bis	to have a second serving	idiomatic expression
apposta per	expressly for, on purpose to	expression
fare	to do, to make, to build	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Da piccolo mangiavo molto. "When I was little, I used to eat a lot."	**Il risotto è molto buono.** "Risotto is very good."
Buoni questi spaghetti, facciamo il bis? "This spaghetti is very good; shall we have a second serving?"	**Sono venuta apposta per il concerto.** "I came expressly for the concert."
Cosa facevi quando eri in Italia? "What did you do when you were in Italy?"	**Vorrei fare un viaggio in Tailandia.** "I would like to make a trip to Thailand."
Faccio una telefonata. "I'm making a phone call."	**Che lavoro fai?** "What do you do?" / "What job do you do?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Imperfect Tense of First Conjugation Verbs.

Quando ero piccola mia nonna cucinava le lasagne ogni domenica.

"When I was little, my grandmother used to cook lasagna every Sunday."

In today's lesson, we have seen the *imperfetto* with the following value:
2) to describe a repetition, a recurrence of an action, or a past habit.
We normally express these semantic values in English with the auxiliary verb "used to (do something)."

We form the *imperfetto* tense of first conjugation verbs by dropping the stem for the infinitive and adding the following endings to the verb's root. Since there are no exceptions to this procedure, irregular verbs, such as *andare* ("to go"), do not have any independent inflection.

Imperfetto
cucinare ("to cook")

Italian	**"English"**
Io cucin-avo	"I cooked"
Tu cucin-avi	"You cooked"
Lui/lei cucin-ava	"He/she/it cooked"
Noi cucin-avamo	"We cooked"
Voi cucin-avate	"You cooked"
Loro cucin-avano	"They cooked"

andare **("to go")**

Italian	**"English"**
Io and-avo	"I went"
Tu and-avi	"You went"
Lui/lei and-ava	"He/she/it went"
Noi and-avamo	"We went"
Voi and-avate	"You went"

Loro and-avano	"They went"

Learning tip: the only real difference between the *imperfetto* inflections of the three conjugations' verbs relates to the vowel that directly follows the verb's root.
First conjugation verbs' roots are followed by the vowel *a* (for example, *and* + -*a* + endings).

As mentioned in our previous lesson, the only irregular verb that does not follow the inflection above is *fare* ("to do," "to make"). The root *fac-* comes from the Latin infinitive form of the verb *facĕre*.

Italian	**"English"**
Io fac-evo	"I did"/"I made"
Tu fac-evi	"You did"/"You made"
Lui/lei fac-eva	"He/she/it did"/"He/she/it made"
Noi fac-evamo	"We did"/"We made"
Voi fac-evate	"You did"/"You made"
Loro fac-evano	"They did"/"They made"

Please note that in this case, the verb's root is followed by the vowel -*e* instead of -*a*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Historic Italian Feast of the Sun

Canzio is a small Italian town located near Como. It is also the only place in Italy where one of the most ancient Italian feasts survives nowadays. Known as either *Festa del Sole* ("Feast of the Sun"), *Festa di Òman* ("Feast of Òman"), or *Festa di Ferragosto* ("Midsummer Feast"), it traces its origins back to the Celtic domination of northern Italy. Its former Celtic name was *Lughnasadh*, which means "Feast of Lugh," who was the Celtic god of the sun later renamed

by the Roman culture as *Sol Invictus* ("Invincible Sun").

It initially overlapped with and subsequently absorbed the Feast of Òman. This feast was for the greater part an animistic ritual, officiated in order to celebrate masculinity as the symbol of strength and prosperity, traits customarily associated also with the sun. The town patriarch, the Alps mountains, and the sun itself are deemed to be three different parts of the same being: the order of life as a cyclic relation between man and nature. The inhabitants of *Canzio* pay homage to the god of the sun by attaching red ribbons to their hair and performing symbolic rituals, whose meaning, though lost in the mists of time, is still keenly felt by the heirs of those who first settled in this beautiful, little, ancient town.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #33
Do You Know the Italian Athlete Fausto Coppi?

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2 Vocabulary
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5 Cultural Insight

#33

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Conosci Fausto Coppi?
2. John: No, chi è?
3. Laura: Era il più grande ciclista italiano, correva molto veloce!
4. John: Davvero?
5. Laura: Si e non beveva mai prima delle gare.

ENGLISH

1. Laura: Do you know Fausto Coppi?
2. John: No, who is he?
3. Laura: He was the greatest Italian cyclist; he ran very fast!
4. John: Really?
5. Laura: Yes, and he never drank before races.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
conoscere	to know	verb
ciclista	cyclist	noun
correre	to run	verb

veloce	fast	adjective
bere	to drink	verb
prima	before, earlier	adverb
gara	competition, contest, race	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Conosci qualche cantante italiano? "Do you know any Italian singers?"	**Ieri sera ho conosciuto un attore molto importante.** "Yesterday evening, I met a very important actor."
Conosci il mio amico Mario? "Do you know my friend Mario?"	**Il ciclista si è rotto una gamba.** "The cyclist broke his leg."
Ho corso per due ore. "I ran for two hours."	**La nuova Ferrari corre molto veloce.** "The new Ferrari runs very fast."
Mia madre non beve alcolici. "My mother doesn't drink alcohol."	**Bevo sempre un caffè dopo pranzo.** "I always drink coffee after lunch."
Beviamo un tè? "Shall we drink tea?"	**Bevo un po' di vino.** "I drink some wine."
Faccio sempre colazione prima di andare al lavoro. "I always have breakfast before going to work."	**Hai vinto la gara?** "Did you win the race?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the Imperfect Tense of Second Conjugation Verbs.
Era il più grande ciclista italiano, correva molto veloce!
"He was the greatest Italian cyclist; he ran very fast!"

In today's lesson, we see the *imperfetto* with the following value:
3) to describe the personality or character of a person in the past.

As is the case with first conjugation verbs, we form the *imperfetto* tense of second conjugation verbs by dropping the stem for the infinitive and adding the following endings to the verb's root. Irregular verbs, such as *correre* ("to run"), follow the standard inflection.

Imperfetto

***spegnere* ("to switch off")**

Italian	**"English"**
Io spegn-evo	"I switched off"
Tu spegn-evi	"You switched off"
Lui/lei spegn-eva	"He/she/it switched off"
Noi spegn-evamo	"We switched off"
Voi spegn-evate	"You switched off"
Loro spegn-evano	"They switched off"

***correre* ("to run")**

Italian	**"English"**
Io corr-evo	"I ran"
Tu corr-evi	"You ran"
Lui/lei corr-eva	"He/she/it ran"

Noi corr-evamo	"We ran"
Voi corr-evate	"You ran"
Loro corr-evano	"They ran"

The verb *bere* changes its root from *b-* to *bev-* in order to distinguish its *imperfetto* inflection from the present.

***bere* ("to drink")**

Italian	**"English"**
Io bev-evo	"I drank"
Tu bev-evi	"You drank"
Lui/lei bev-eva	"He/she/it drank"
Noi bev-evamo	"We drank"
Voi bev-evate	"You drank"
Loro bev-evano	"They drank"

Second conjugation verbs' roots are followed by the vowel *-e* (for example, *corr* + *-e* + endings).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How to Get Your Hands Dirty in Italy

Agriturismo ("Agritourism," a form of tourism in which tourists board at farms or in rural villages and experience farming up close) started in Italy as a spontaneous form of reception free of charge. Italian farmers used to host travelers and people coming from Italian and foreign

cities, asking them to tell stories about the places they visited and introducing their hosts to the rural lifestyle. The contemporary *agriturismo* originates from similar structures created in France and Germany shortly after the Second World War.

Recent surveys say that there are over fourteen thousand *agriturismo* farms in Italy, and their number is constantly increasing. Many Italian and foreign tourists decide to spend their holidays at these farms, thus enjoying a relaxed atmosphere and a healthy, rural Italian cuisine that people have a hard time finding anywhere else. We can ascribe the popularity of these farms to the fact that many people who live in cities feel the need to take a break from the urban hustle and bustle.

The *agriturismo* provide customer service very different from those of hotels and inns. They introduce their hosts to the traditional and contemporary farming techniques and tools, thus making them an active part of the rural lifestyle.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #34
Tell Me in Italian What Kept You Awake Last Night

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#34

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Ieri sera sentivo uno strano rumore in cucina.
2. John: Ah si? Cosa era?
3. Laura: Non lo so. Ogni volta che aprivo la porta della cucina, smetteva.
4. John: Forse era un topo.
5. Laura: Spero di no!

ENGLISH

1. Laura: Yesterday evening, I kept hearing a strange noise in the kitchen.
2. John: Oh really? What was it?
3. Laura: I don't know. Every time I opened the kitchen door, it stopped.
4. John: Maybe it was a mouse.
5. Laura: I hope not!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
strano	strange	adjective	
sperare	to hope	verb	

sapere	to know	verb	
volta	time	noun	feminine
aprire	to open	verb	
rumore	noise	noun	
topo	mouse	noun	masculine
forse	maybe	adverb	
smettere	to quit, stop, end	verb	
sentire	to hear, listen to	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Non ti ricordi di me? Strano. "Don't you remember me? Strange."	**Spero di ricevere un bel regalo per il mio compleanno.** "I hope to receive a nice present for my birthday."
Speriamo che la crisi economica finisca presto. "Let's hope that the economic crisis finishes soon."	**Spero che domani non piova.** "I hope it won't rain tomorrow."
Spero che Luisa arrivi in tempo. "I hope that Luisa will arrive on time."	**Lo so, lo so, so di essere in ritardo...** "I know, I know, I know I'm late..."
Non lo so. "I don't know."	**Sai che ore sono?** "Do you know what time it is?"

Sai come prenotare un biglietto per il treno? "Do you know how to book a train ticket?"	**Sai dove andare?** "Do you know where to go?"
Non so niente. "I don't know anything."	**Fai pagare me questa volta.** "Let me pay this time."
Matteo va in piscina tre volte alla settimana. "Matthew goes to swimming pool three times a week."	**Questa volta paghi tu!** "This time you pay!"
Questa è l'ultima volta che ti aspetto! "This is the last time I wait for you!"	**E' Natale, apriamo i regali!"** "It's Christmas: let's open the presents!"
Fa troppo caldo, apri la finestra? "It's too hot; can you open the window?"	**Devo aprire il negozio alle otto del mattino.** "I have to open the store at 8:00 o'clock a.m."
Quando studio odio sentire rumori. "I hate hearing noises when I study."	**Ti piacciono i topi bianchi?** "Do you like white mice?"
Il gatto mangia il topo. "The cat eats the mouse."	**Forse finisco i compiti domani.** "Maybe I'll finish doing my homework tomorrow."
Forse domani vado al mare. "Maybe tomorrow I will go to the beach."	**Smetti di fumare!** "Stop smoking!"

Potresti smettere di lamentarti? "Could you stop complaining?"	**Smetti di ridere!** "Stop laughing!"
Sento gente urlare. "I (can) hear people screaming."	**Parlo a voce bassa, mi senti.** "I speak softly; can you hear me?"
Non lo sento da due giorni. "I haven't heard from him in two days."	**Hai sentito cosa è successo?** "Have you heard what happened?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Imperfect Tense.
Ieri sera sentivo uno strano rumore in cucina.
"Yesterday evening, I kept hearing a strange noise in the kitchen."

In today's lesson, we see the *imperfetto* with the following value:
4) to express an ongoing action in the past before it was interrupted.

We form the *imperfetto* tense of third conjugation verbs by dropping the stem for the infinitive and adding the following endings to the verb's root. Irregular verbs, such as *aprire* ("to open"), follow the standard inflection.

Imperfetto
***sentire* ("to hear"; "to listen to")**

Italian	**"English"**
Io sent-ivo	"I heard"
Tu sent-ivi	"You heard"
Lui/lei sent-iva	"He/she/it heard"

Noi sent-ivamo	"We heard"
Voi sent-ivate	"You heard"
Loro sent-ivano	"They heard"

***aprire* ("to open")**

Italian	**"English"**
Io apr-ivo	"I opened"
Tu apr-ivi	"You opened"
Lui/lei apr-iva	"He/she/it opened"
Noi apr-ivamo	"We opened"
Voi apr-ivate	"You opened"
Loro apr-ivano	"They opened"

Third conjugation verbs' roots are followed by the vowel *-i.*

For Example:

1. *apr* + *-i* + endings

The verb *dire* changes its root from *d-* to *dic-*, thus maintaining its Latin infinitive form *dicĕre*.

***dire* ("to say"; "to tell")**

Italian	**"English"**
Io dic-evo	"I said"/"I told"
Tu dic-evi	"You said"/" You told"

Lui/lei dic-eva	"He/she/it said"/"He/she/it told"
Noi dic-evamo	"We said"/"We told"
Voi dic-evate	"You said"/"You told"
Loro dic-evano	"They said"/"They told"

Contrary to all other third conjugation verbs, *dire*'s *imperfetto* root is followed by the vowel *-e* instead of *-i*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Welcoming Italian Doorway to Northern Italy, Central Europe, and the World

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Little is known about the origins of *Genova* ("Genoa"). Its name seems to originate from the Celtic *genua* (which literally means "entrance" or "access"), since the coastal city Genoa was deemed to be the threshold to Northern Italy and Central Europe.

During the Middle Ages, the Republic of Genoa was a prosperous and florid state that played a crucial role in the European historical development. Like the rival Republic of Venice (against which it fought many commercial and military wars), Genoa colonized many areas of the Mediterranean Sea and African territory, reaching lands as far as the Black Sea shores. It became one of the wealthiest European cities, gradually moving its economic focus from sea trade to money-lending activities. There is a common stereotype in Italy about the *tirchieria* ("stinginess") of the city's inhabitants, which is nothing more than a funny myth regarding its history. After Columbus' discoveries, many Genoese traders and bankers moved to the American continent, establishing profitable activities.

Even today, Genoa's harbor remains an important international trading center. The presence of people coming from different parts of the world resulted in Genoa's warm and welcoming attitude toward different cultures. People coming from almost every corner of the world reside permanently in the city, which offers its artistic beauty to everybody who wishes to live in a warm, multicultural environment.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #35
Tell Me in Italian about How You Spent Your Summer

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2 Vocabulary
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#35

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Quando eri in America, cosa facevi d'estate?
2. John: Andavo al mare, poi la sera mangiavo e bevevo con gli amici.
3. Laura: Avevi delle vacanze molto lunghe?
4. John: No, solo un mese.

ENGLISH

1. Laura: When you were in America, what did you do in the summer?
2. John: I used to go to the beach, then in the evening I ate and drank with friends.
3. Laura: Did you have long vacations?
4. John: No, only one month.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
America	United States, America	noun	
estate	summer	noun	feminine
poi	then	adverb	
mangiare	to eat	verb	
vacanza	vacation, holiday	noun	feminine

mese	month	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Sei mai stato in America? "Have you ever been to the U.S.?"	**In estate Roberto trascorre le vacanze dai nonni.** "In summer Roberto spends his holidays at the grandparents'."
L'estate in Italia è molto calda. "Summer in Italy is very hot."	**Ho guardato la tv e poi sono uscito.** "I watched TV and then I went out."
Ho aspettato per un'ora, poi sono andata via. "I waited for an hour, then I left."	**Dovremmo mangiare almeno tre volte al giorno.** "We are supposed to eat at least three times a day."
Hai mangiato bene? "Did you eat well?"	**È meglio non mangiare troppo.** "It's better not to eat too much."
Mangio molto. "I eat a lot."	**Per queste vacanze invernali vado a sciare con mio fratello.** "This winter vacation I am going skiing with my brother."
Le vacanze estive sembrano sempre troppo brevi. "Summer vacation always feels too short."	**Ci sono dodici mesi in un anno.** "There are twelve months in a year."
Tra un mese parto. "I am leaving in a month."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Reviewing the Imperfect Tense.
Andavo al mare, poi la sera mangiavo e bevevo con gli amici.
"I used to go to the beach, then in the evening I ate and drank with friends."

The *imperfetto* tense is one of the most frequently used Italian tenses, with no significant differences between the spoken and written language.

It refers to both distant and recent past occurrences, describing the traits, characteristics, frequency, and repetition of situations or beings; whereas we express actions using the *passato prossimo* or *passato remoto* tenses.

Since a thorough and detailed explanation concerning the usage of *imperfetto* tense in connection with *passato prossimo* requires an independent discourse, we shall study it in upcoming lessons.

As we have seen, we use the *imperfetto* tense in the following contexts:
1) to express the traits of environment, situations or beings (both animate and inanimate) in a narration. In this regard, it provides the information related to the narration's frame.

For Example:

1. *C'era il sole e i bambini giocavano allegramente*.
   "It was sunny and the kids were playing cheerfully."

2. *La collina era tranquilla mentre scendeva lenta la pioggia*.
   "The hill was quiet, while the rain was slowly falling."

3. *Mio nonno aveva sessantacinque anni quando è andato in pensione*.
   "My grandfather was sixty-five when he retired."

2) to describe a repetition, a recurrence of an action, or a past habit. We normally express these semantic values in English with the auxiliary verb "used to (do something)."

For Example:

1. *Quando ero giovane, mi svegliavo piuttosto tardi*.
   "When I was young, I used to wake up quite late."

Note that "being young" is a trait of the subject, whereas the habit of waking up late is a recurrent action.

For Example:

1. *Mia nonna preparava la torta di mele ogni domenica mattina*.
   "My grandmother used to make an apple pie every Sunday morning."

2. *Prima di andare al lavoro, facevo colazione con mia moglie*.
   "Before going to work, I used to have breakfast with my wife."

3) to describe the personality or character of a person in the past.

For Example:

1. *Napoleone era tanto intelligente quanto cauto*.
   "Napoleon was as intelligent as he was cautious."

2. *Cesare era il più abile stratega e diplomatico romano*.
   "Caesar was the most skilled Roman strategist and diplomat."

3. *Quando era giovane, Luisa aveva uno strano carattere*.
   "When she was young, Luisa had a strange character."

4) to express an ongoing action in the past before it was interrupted.

For Example:

1. *Stavo passeggiando quando ti ho visto arrivare*.
   "I was walking when I saw you coming."

Note that the interrupting action is expressed in *passato prossimo* tense.

For Example:

1. *Guardavo la TV quando ha squillato il telefono*.
   "I was watching the TV when the telephone rang."

2. *Non mi è piaciuto quando mi interrompevi ogni volta che parlavo*.
   "I didn't like it when you interrupted me whenever I was speaking."

The following schemes summarize the inflections of the *imperfetto* tense of the three conjugations, along with *essere* ("to be"), *avere* ("to have"), *fare* ("to do," "to make"), *bere* ("to

drink"), and *dire* ("to say," "to tell").

The correct stress to employ is indicated with the symbol of the accent ', which we write on the tonic vowel. Please note that we cannot mistake the tonic accent for the phonic accent, which indicates the pronunciation of Italian vowels.

Imperfetto **Reference Boards**

essere ("to be")

Italian	**"English"**
Io èro	"I was"
Tu èri	"You were"
Lui/lei èra	"He/she/it was"
Noi eravàmo	"We were"
Voi eravàte	"You were"
Loro èrano	"They were"

avere ("to have")

Italian	"English"
Io avèvo	"I had"
Tu avèvi	"You had"
Lui/lei avèva	"He/she/it had"
Noi avevàmo	"We had"
Voi avevàte	"You had"
Loro avèvano	"They had"

mangiare **("to eat")**
First Conjugation

Italian	"English"
Io mangiàvo	"I ate"

Tu mangiàvi	"You ate"
Lui/lei mangiàva	"He/she/it ate"
Noi mangiàvamo	"We ate"
Voi mangiàvate	"You ate"
Loro mangiàvano	"They ate"

scrivere **("to write")**
Second Conjugation

Italian	**"English"**
Io scrivèvo	"I wrote"
Tu scrivèvi	"You wrote"
Lui/lei scrivèva	"He/she/it wrote"

Noi scrivèvamo	"We wrote"
Voi scrivèvate	"You wrote"
Loro scrivèvano	"They wrote"

***bollire* ("to boil")**
Third Conjugation

Italian	**"English"**
Io bollìvo	"I boiled"
Tu bollìvi	"You boiled"
Lui/lei bollìva	"He/she/it boiled"
Noi bollìvamo	"We boiled"
Voi bollìvate	"You boiled"

Loro bollìvano	"They boiled"

***fare* ("to do," "to make")**
Independent Inflection

Italian	**"English"**
Io facèvo	"I did"/"I made"
Tu facèvi	"You did"/"You made"
Lui/lei facèva	"He/she/it did"/"He/she/it made"
Noi facevàmo	"We did"/"We made"
Voi facevàte	"You did"/"You made"
Loro facèvano	"They did"/"They made"

***bere* ("to drink")**
Independent Inflection

Italian	"English"
Io bevèvo	"I drank"
Tu bevèvi	"You drank"
Lui/lei bevèva	"He/she/it drank"
Noi bevevàmo	"We drank"
Voi bevevàte	"You drank"
Loro bevèvano	"They drank"

dire **("to say," "to tell")**
Independent Inflection

Italian	"English"
Io dicèvo	"I said/told"

Tu dicèvi	"You said/told"
Lui/lei dicèva	"He/she/it said/told"
Noi dicevàmo	"We said/told"
Voi dicevàte	"You said/told"
Loro dicèvano	"They said/told"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How Italians Celebrated During the Roman Carnival

Although the Roman carnival ceased to be celebrated nearly a century ago, it was one of the most important Roman festivities. In the Renaissance, it used to be the most popular manifestation of its kind in Italy, outdoing even the Venetian Carnival.

The Roman Carnival was a colossal public festival, during which the entire city totally stopped working for eight days. The laws regulating Roman public life, though officially valid, were in fact suspended. Romans were free to gamble, play public games, and don masks that hid their features. The populace took sometimes advantage of this chaotic situation to take a measure of revenge on the ruling class (clergy and nobles), playing terrible jokes on them.

Due to the actual suspension of social classes' hierarchy, the popes were particularly attentive, fearing riots and full-scale rebellions.

The Roman carnival represented also an important chance for both gentlemen and ladies to meet at sumptuous *balli popolari* ("folk balls"). Contrary to what some persons may assume about the overly traditional medieval and modern European societies, it was rather common for couples to have more intimate encounters after the balls, relying on their hidden identity in order to not compromise the ladies' *castità* ("chastity"). The *Corsa dei Moccoletti* ("Moccoletti's Race"), a crazy race where people run around St. Peter's Abbey with lit candles, while trying to put out their adversaries' candles, used to close the carnival.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #36 What Floor Should I Visit in This Italian Building?

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2 Italian
2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
3 Grammar
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#36

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ITALIAN

1. John: Mi scusi, a che piano è lo studio del Dottor Invernizzi?
2. Receptionist: È al dodicesimo piano.
3. John: Al tredicesimo piano?
4. Receptionist: No al dodicesimo.
5. John: Grazie.
6. Receptionist: Prego.

ENGLISH

1. John: Excuse me, on what floor is the practice of Doctor Invernizzi?
2. Receptionist: It's on the twelfth floor.
3. John: The thirteenth floor?
4. Receptionist: No, the twelfth.
5. John: Thank you.
6. Receptionist: You are welcome.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender

piano	floor	noun	masculine
studio	practice	noun	
dodicesimo	twelfth	adjective	
tredicesimo	thirteenth	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Vivo al terzo piano. "I live on the third floor."	**Lo studio del dottore è al primo piano.** "The practice is on the first floor."
Ho prenotato un posto in dodicesima fila. "I booked a seat in the twelfth row."	**Hai visto il film intitolato Il tredicesimo piano?** "Have you seen the movie titled 'The Thirteenth Floor?'"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Learning Ordinal Numbers.
È al dodicesimo piano.
"It's on the twelfth floor."

Italian ordinal numbers fall into the adjective category. However, contrary to cardinal numbers, they obey all the rules of standard Italian adjectives, including changing their ending vowel in accordance with the gender and number (singular or plural) of the nouns they refer to. As in English, we use them to indicate a specific position in a given series.

Except the first ten Italian ordinal numbers, whose form is not derived from the cardinal equivalent, ordinal numbers originate from the corresponding cardinal numbers.

In order to figure out the related ordinal, we need to drop the ending vowel from the corresponding cardinal number and add the ending *-esimo*.

For Example:

Number	*Italian Cardinal Number*	*Italian Ordinal Number*
21	*ventuno*	*ventunesimo* (*ventun-* + *-esimo*)
54	*cinquantaquattro*	*cinquantaquattresimo* (*cinquantaquattr-* + *-esimo*)
100	*cento*	*centesimo* (*cent-* + *-esimo*)

We usually position Italian ordinal numbers before the noun, unless we wish to stress the position over the noun. Keep in mind to change the ending vowel as we explained in the first paragraph.

For Example:

1. *Questa è la centesima volta* (singular feminine noun) *che ti vedo*.
   "This is the hundredth time I've seen you."

2. *Il "Decameron" di Boccaccio è stato il terzo libro* (singular masculine noun) *italiano che John ha letto*.
   "Boccaccio's 'Decameron' was the third Italian book John read."

3. *Teresa mi ha risposto solamente dopo la terza lettera* (singular feminine noun) *che le ho spedito*.
   "Teresa replied to me only after the third letter I sent her."

4. *Durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale, gli scienziati americani sono stati i secondi sviluppatori (*plural masculine noun) *della tecnologia nucleare*.
   "During the Second World War, American scientists were the second developers of nuclear technology."

The list provided below summarizes Italian ordinal numbers from one up to one thousand. The ending vowels are provided in the singular masculine form.

Italian Ordinal Number	*Abbreviated Italian Numeral*	"Abbreviated English Numeral"	"English Ordinal Number"
primo	*1°*	"1st"	"first"
secondo	*2°*	"2nd"	"second"
terzo	*3°*	"3rd"	"third"
quarto	*4°*	"4th"	"fourth"
quinto	*5°*	"5th"	"fifth"
sesto	*6°*	"6th"	"sixth"
settimo	*7°*	"7th"	"seventh"
ottavo	*8°*	"8th"	"eighth"
nono	*9°*	"9th"	"ninth"
decimo	*10°*	"10th"	"tenth"
undicesimo	*11°*	"11th"	"eleventh"
dodicesimo	*12°*	"12th"	"twelfth"
tredicesimo	*13°*	"13th"	"thirteenth"
quattordicesimo	*14°*	"14th"	"fourteenth"
quindicesimo	*15°*	"15th"	"fifteenth"
sedicesimo	*16°*	"16th"	"sixteenth"
diciassettesimo	*17°*	"17th"	"seventeenth"
diciottesimo	*18°*	"18th"	"eighteenth"
diciannovesimo	*19°*	"19th"	"nineteenth"

ventesimo	*20°*	"20th"	"twentieth"
ventunesimo	*21°*	"21st"	"twenty-first"
ventiduesimo	*22°*	"22nd"	"twenty-second"
ventitreesimo	*23°*	"23rd"	"twenty-third"
ventiquattresimo	*24°*	"24th"	"twenty-fourth"
venticinquesimo	*25°*	"25th"	"twenty-fifth"
ventiseiesimo	*26°*	"26th"	"twenty-sixth"
ventisettesimo	*27°*	"27th"	"twenty-seventh"
ventottesimo	*28°*	"28th"	"twenty-eighth"
ventinovesimo	*29°*	"29th"	"twenty-ninth"
trentesimo	*30°*	"30th"	"thirtieth"
quarantesimo	*40°*	"40th"	"fortieth"
cinquantesimo	*50°*	"50th"	"fiftieth"
sessantesimo	*60°*	"60th"	"sixtieth"
settantesimo	*70°*	"70th"	"seventieth"
ottantesimo	*80°*	"80th"	"eightieth"
novantesimo	*90°*	"90th"	"ninetieth"
centesimo	*100°*	"100th"	"one-hundredth"
duecentesimo	*200°*	"200th"	"two-hundredth"
trecentesimo	*300°*	"300th"	"three-hundredth"
quattrocentesimo	*400°*	"400th"	"four-hundredth"

cinquecentesimo	*500°*	"500th"	"five-hundredth"
seicentesimo	*600°*	"600th"	"six-hundredth"
settecentesimo	*700°*	"700th"	"seven-hundredth"
ottocentesimo	*800°*	"800th"	"eight-hundredth"
novecentesimo	*900°*	"900th"	"nine-hundredth"
millesimo	*1000°*	"1000th"	"one-thousandth"

Just like we can use any other Italian adjective, we can use ordinal numbers instead of the nouns they refer to. In these circumstances, they lose their adjective status and take over the grammatical role of the noun, keeping its gender and number.

For Example:

1. *Quando è arrivato il quarto ospite?*
   "When did the fourth guest arrive?"

2. *Il quarto è arrivato poco dopo mezzogiorno.*
   "The fourth (guest) arrived shortly after noon."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Must-See Destination in Sicily

Considered one of the most amazing archeological sites in Italy, the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento hosts the largest concentration of ancient Greek temples that survive in Italy nowadays. Agrigento was founded by Greek colonizers in 583 B.C., and the period between its foundation and the Roman conquest (210 B.C.) represents the peak of its civilization. Due to its distinctive nature, in 1998 UNESCO declared the Valley Patrimony of Humanity. The Valley hosts the following temples: the Temple of Juno (dedicated to the Greek Goddess

Juno, patron of weddings), the Temple of Concord (named after an inscription found at its bottom, it celebrates formal agreement between peoples and countries), the Temple of Hercules (the legendary Greek hero who was believed to have founded many cities in the Italian peninsula), the Temple of Zeus (built in 480 B.C. to commemorate the victory over Carthago), the Temple of Dioscuri (built to pay honor to the twin sons of Zeus, Castore and Polluce, whose strength was meant to be the symbol of Agrigento), the Temple of Vulcan (the smith God; this temple was probably built as an homage to the neighboring volcano Enna), and the Temple of Aesculapius (built far from the city walls, it was dedicated to the God of medicine). Many other remarkable archaeological finds, such as twenty-foot statues and the pyramid of Teron, are spread throughout the Valley. Many intellectuals, writers, and philosophers of the past have described the unique beauty of this marvelous valley. If you plan to visit Sicily, this is a place you cannot miss.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #37
Who Knows Whether We Will Be in Italy in Ten Years' Time

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2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
3 Grammar
5 Cultural Insight

37

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ITALIAN

1. John: Chissà dove saremo fra dieci anni.
2. Laura: Io sarò ancora qui a Bologna e tu sarai a New York.
3. John: Sì, sarò a New York e avrò una casa piccola piccola.
4. John: Tu invece avrai una casa in campagna.
5. Laura: E avrò un grande mutuo da pagare!

ENGLISH

1. John: Who knows where we will be in ten years' time.
2. Laura: I will still be here in Bologna, and you will be in New York.
3. John: Yes, I will be in New York and will have a tiny, tiny house.
4. John: Instead, you will have a house in the countryside.
5. Laura: And I will have a big mortgage to pay!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
chissà	who knows	adverb
fra	in (period) time	preposition
ancora	still, yet, again	adverb

invece	instead	adverb
campagna	countryside	noun
mutuo	mortgage	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Chissà quando parte Luca. "Who knows when Luca will leave."	**Ci vediamo fra mezzora.** "I'll see you in half an hour."
Ho ancora sonno! "I am still sleepy!"	**Vorrei fare una passeggiata invece devo lavorare.** "I'd like to take a walk, but I have to work instead."
Ho fame. Io invece ho sete. "I'm hungry. Instead, I'm thirsty."	**Invece di perdere tempo, lavora!** "Work instead of wasting time!"
Mi piace passeggiare in campagna. "I love walking in the countryside."	**Devono ancora finire di pagare il mutuo.** "They still have to extinguish the mortgage."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the *Futuro Semplice* ("Simple Future") Tense of *Essere* ("to Be") and *Avere* ("to Have").
Io sarò ancora qui a Bologna e tu sarai a New York.
"I will still be here in Bologna, and you will be in New York."

Although we will provide a thorough explanation regarding the *futuro semplice* tense in future

Newbie lessons, we can anticipate that this tense works nearly as the English simple future in its independent employments. Conditional sentences (the so-called "if clauses") work slightly differently from their English equivalent, requiring a diverse tense agreement between the main and independent clause, which we will explain in the upcoming lessons.

We use the *futuro semplice* of the verbs *essere* ("to be") and *avere* ("to have") when we wish to convey occurrences meant to take place in the future, whether they will actually take place or not.

For Example:

1. *Voi sarete i benvenuti a casa mia*.
   "You will be welcome at my house."

2. *Sarò lì fra cinque minuti*.
   "I will be there in five minutes."

3. *Gli studenti saranno alla manifestazione domani mattina*.
   "The students will be at the demonstration tomorrow morning."

4. *Avrai tempo di aiutarmi*?
   "Will you have time to help me out?"

5. *Giorgio avrà ciò che desidera*.
   "Giorgio will have what he wishes."

6. *Quando avremo parchi decenti*?
   "When will we have decent parks?"

The verb stress of the six persons follows the standard rule (i.e., the tonic accent falls on second-to-last syllable), except for the first and third singular persons, whose tonic accent falls on the last syllable.

Futuro Semplice
essere ("to be")

Italian	**"English"**
Io sar-ò	"I will be"

Tu sar-ai	"You will be"
Lui/lei sar-à	"He/she/it will be"
Noi sar-emo	"We will be"
Voi sar-ete	"You will be"
Loro sar-anno	"They will be"

avere ("to have")

Italian	**"English"**
Io avr-ò	"I will have"
Tu avr-ai	"You will have"
Lui/lei avr-à	"He/she/it will have"
Noi avr-emo	"We will have"
Voi avr-ete	"You will have"
Loro avr-anno	"They will have"

Finally, note that the first plural person ending is written with only one *-m* in order to distinguish it from the corresponding person of present conditional (which is written with a double *-m*). This rule is valid for all three conjugations' verbs, both regular and irregular.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Adapting Past Italian Traditions to Modern Times

In the previous cultural insights, we have seen antique Italian traditions and feasts, which are

normally connected to religious or folk festivities, and sometimes to both. However, not every Italian feast comes from times long past. Or, at least, not in the form it survives in today.

The *Festa di Santa Francesca Romana* ("Feast of St. Roman Francesca") is a curious adaptation of the Saint's divine powers to modern needs.

Francesca Romana was a Roman noblewoman who lived and died in the fifteenth century. People believed she was gifted by God with ubiquity, a divine power that allowed her to be present in different places at the same time. This gift was believed to be a good omen for those who traveled by carriage, since the very idea of being at the starting and arrival points at any given time seemed to be a guarantee of safety and success. Therefore, she became the protector of carriages and generally of any vehicle that was pulled by horses. Romans established her feast on the ninth day of March, naming it *Benedizione delle carrozze* ("Benediction of Carriages").

Around 1930, when the number of automobiles in the Italian capital increased quite considerably, Romans thought it was the time to renew the image and social role of the saint. Owners of cars started gathering at San Francesca Romana's church, hoping that her divine favor could be kindly extended to the new invention. They might have figured out that, after all, the power of the engines was measured in horsepower. They spread the voice and the Benediction of Carriages became over time the *Festa delle Automobili* ("Feast of Automobiles"). Somebody might wonder how the Renaissance noblewoman could have felt about this funny evolution of her social role.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #38
Next Year I Will Give Up Italian Cakes and Desserts

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2 English
3 Vocabulary
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6 Cultural Insight

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ITALIAN

1. John: Quali sono i tuoi buoni propositi per il 2009?
2. Laura: L'anno prossimo rinuncerò ai dolci.
3. John: Poi?
4. Laura: Nuoterò tre volte alla settimana.
5. John: Poi?
6. Laura: Pagherò solo in contanti.
7. John: Poi?
8. Laura: Poi darò soldi in beneficenza.
9. John: Poi?
10. Laura: Poi basta!

ENGLISH

1. John: What are your New Year's Resolutions for 2009?
2. Laura: Next year I will give up cakes and desserts.
3. John: And then?
4. Laura: I will swim three times a week.

CONT'D OVER

5. John: And then?

6. Laura: I will pay only in cash.

7. John: And then?

8. Laura: Then I will give money to charity.

9. John: And then?

10. Laura: That's it!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
proposito	resolution	noun	
rinunciare	to give up, renounce	verb	
dolci	cakes and desserts (any sweet kind of food)	noun, uncountable	
nuotare	to swim	verb	
contanti	cash	noun	masculine
beneficienza	charity	noun	
poi	then	adverb	
poi basta	that’s it, that's enough	expression	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Non ho cambiato i miei propositi in merito. "I didn't change my resolutions on the matter."	**Hai rinunciato a trovare casa?** "Have you given up looking for a house?"
Sara non apprezza i dolci. "Sara doesn't like desserts and cakes."	**Ieri ho nuotato per tre ore.** "Yesterday, I swam for three hours."
Anche i cani nuotano. "Also, dogs swim."	**Non ho contanti.** "I don't have cash."
Lei ha organizzato un ballo di beneficenza. "She organized a charity ball."	**Ho guardato la tv e poi sono uscito.** "I watched TV and then I went out."
Ho aspettato per un'ora, poi sono andata via. "I waited for an hour, then I left."	**Hai speso mille euro, e poi? Poi basta!** "You spent a thousand euros, and then? That's it!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Forming the *Futuro Semplice* ("Simple Future") Tense of First Conjugation Verbs.
Nuoterò tre volte alla settimana.
"I will swim three times a week."

We form the *futuro semplice* tense of all three conjugations' verbs by dropping the ending vowel (just the ending vowel, not the whole last syllable as it would normally be the case with verbs' formation) from the infinitive and adding the standard endings.
Note that only the first conjugation verbs change the last syllable vowel from *-a* to *-e*.

The necessary steps to inflect first conjugation verbs are the following:

1. First, take the infinitive of the verb: for example, *guidare* ("to drive").
2. Second, drop the final vowel: *guidar-.*
3. Third, change the last syllable vowel to -*e*, keeping the rest as it is: *guider.*
4. Fourth, add the appropriate endings.

The considerations regarding the word stress we explained in the previous lesson fully apply to first conjugation verbs.

For Example:

Futuro semplice of *nuotare* ("to swim")

Italian	**"English"**
Io nuoter-ò	"I will swim"
Tu nuoter –ai	"You will swim"
Lui/lei nuoter-à	"He/she/it will swim"
Noi nuoter-emo	"We will swim"
Voi nuoter-ete	"You will swim"
Loro nuoter-anno	"They will swim"

Due to the change of the last syllable vowel, for first conjugation verbs whose roots end with the letters -*c* or -*g,* add the letter -*h* between the root and stem in order to keep the [k] sound.

For Example:

pagare ("to pay")

Italian	**"English"**

Io pagher -ò	"I will pay"
Tu pagher -ai	"You will pay"
Lui/lei pagher -à	"He/she/it will pay"
Noi pagher -emo	"We will pay"
Voi pagher -ete	"You will pay"
Loro pagher –anno	"They will pay"

For first conjugation verbs whose roots end with the vowel *-i*, drop it before adding the endings, as shown below.

For Example:

rinunciare ("to renounce"; "to give up")

Italian	**"English"**
Io rinuncer -ò	"I will give up"
Tu rinuncer -ai	"You will give up"
Lui/lei rinuncer -à	"He/she/it will give up"
Noi rinuncer -emo	"We will give up"
Voi rinuncer -ete	"You will give up"
Loro rinuncer -anno	"They will give up"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Emergence of Naples

Defined by Standhal as the only credible European capital along with Paris, the city of *Napoli* ("Naples") lies on the homonymous gulf located between the *Vesuvio* volcano and the *Campi Flegrei* ("Flegrei Fields"). Its large artistic and architectonic patrimony is protected by UNESCO, which declared Naples' downtown Patrimony of Humanity.
Naples' first settlement, located on *Partenope* hill, was founded in the second half of the eighth century B.C. by Greek settlers. Naples was subsequently renamed *Neapolis* in the early fifth century B.C., and it was culturally and geographically considered part of the *Magna Grecia* ("Greater Greece").

After the fall of the Roman Empire, Naples became an independent duchy, under the patronage of the Byzantine Empire. It remained independent until the thirteenth century A.C., when it became the capital of a large state that included the greater part of southern Italy and Sicily. During this period, the city grew in size and cultural importance.

After the so-called Italian reunification, the city, as well as all of southern Italy, started a slow but progressive decline. This situation was caused exclusively by the improper political decisions of the *Regno d'Italia*, which arbitrarily decreed that the city was to become a sort of "farming capital" of the new Italian reign, whereas its economy was diversified and specialized in different fields other than farming. In spite of these inappropriate political decisions, the city kept its international importance, remaining one the most beautiful and lively Italian cities.

There are nowadays over twenty cities spread around the world that bear its name (Naples, Nàpoles, Neapolis, etc.)

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #39
In Italy, Now It Will Be Your Turn

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2 Italian
2 English
3 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
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#39

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Adesso è il tuo turno. Quali sono i tuoi buoni propositi per il 2009?
2. John: Smetterò di fumare.
3. Laura: Poi?
4. John: Farò più sport.
5. Laura: Poi?
6. John: Leggerò di più e guarderò meno la televisione.
7. Laura: Poi?
8. John: Chiamerò più spesso i miei genitori.
9. Laura: Chiamerai più spesso anche me?

ENGLISH

1. Laura: Now it's your turn. What are your New Year's Resolutions for 2009?
2. John: I'll quit smoking.
3. Laura: And then?
4. John: I'll exercise more.
5. Laura: And then?

CONT'D OVER

6. John: I'll read more and watch less TV.

7. Laura: And then?

8. John: I'll call my parents more often.

9. Laura: Will you call me more often as well?

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
turno	turn	
buoni propositi	resolutions	expression
smettere	to quit, stop, end	verb
leggere	to read	verb
meno	less	adverb
spesso	often	adverb
genitori	parents	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Quand'è il mio turno? "When is my turn?"	**Hai dei buoni propositi per il nuovo anno?** "Do you have any New Year's resolutions?"
Smetti di fumare! "Stop smoking!"	**Potresti smettere di lamentarti?** "Could you stop complaining?"

Smetti di ridere! "Stop laughing!"	**Leggo il giornale in biblioteca.** "I read the newspaper in the library."
Leggo la sera prima di dormire. "I read in the evening before going to sleep."	**Leggo il giornale.** "I'm reading the newspaper."
Dovrei pagare meno per questo servizio. "I should pay less for this service."	**Sono meno grasso adesso.** "I am less fat now."
Mangio spesso pistacchi mentre guardo la tv. "I often eat pistachios while I'm watching TV."	**Spesso mi addormento tardi.** "I often fall asleep late."
I miei genitori vanno in vacanza alle Maldive. "My parents go on holiday to the Maldives."	**I tuoi genitori sono giovani.** "Your parents are young."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Forming the *Futuro Semplice* ("Simple Future") Tense of Second Conjugation Verbs.
Chiamerò più spesso i miei genitori.
"I'll call my parents more often."

As we mentioned in the previous class, we form the *futuro semplice* ("simple future") tense by dropping the ending vowel from the infinitive and adding the standard endings presented in the scheme below.

Unlike first conjugation verbs, second conjugation regular verbs do not change their last syllable vowel, which stays -*e*.

The necessary steps to inflect second conjugation verbs are the following:

1. First, take the infinitive of the verb: for example, *accendere* ("to switch on," "to turn on").
2. Second, drop the final vowel: *accender-.*
3. Third, add the appropriate endings.

The considerations regarding the word stress explained in the previous class fully apply to regular second conjugation verbs. We will analyze the three conjugations' irregular verbs in future lessons.

For Example:

accendere ("to switch on," "to turn on")

Italian	**"English"**
Io accender-ò	"I will switch on"
Tu accendera-i	"You will switch on"
Lui/Lei accender-à	"He/She/It will switch on"
Noi accender-emo	"We will switch on"
Voi accender-ete	"You will switch on"
Loro accender-anno	"They will switch on"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

An Italian Political Hero

Alcide Degasperi (Pieve Tesino, April 3, 1881–Val di Sella, August 19, 1954) was the most important and popular Italian politician of the twentieth century, as well as one the founding fathers of the Italian Republic. Moreover, he is also deemed to be one of the three promoters of the European Union, along with the French politician Robert Schuman and the German Catholic thinker Konrad Adenauer.

During the Fascist regime, he was first imprisoned and subsequently persecuted for his political activities. He participated in the resistance movement to free Italy from the Nazi occupation, rapidly becoming an important source of reference for Italian Christians who wanted to establish a democratic government. In the aftermath of the Second World War, he managed to re-establish positive political bonds with the Allied forces, obtaining both economic and diplomatic support.

He firmly believed that the European nations should have formed an independent alliance, trying to solve their internal arguments favoring a broader idea of the European political entity. His internationalism and pacifism have been an example to all democratic political parties long after his departure.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #40
On Sunday Morning in Italy, I Won't Be Able to Sleep!

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2 Italian
2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar
5 Cultural Insight

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Domenica mattina non riuscirò a dormire.
2. John: Perché?
3. Laura: Faranno dei lavori in strada.
4. John: Quali lavori?
5. Laura: Apriranno un nuovo ipermercato e così asfaltano la strada.
6. John: Sono sicuro che dormirai bene.
7. Laura: Speriamo!

ENGLISH

1. Laura: Sunday morning, I won't be able to sleep!
2. John: Why?
3. Laura: They will be doing some road work.
4. John: What road work?
5. Laura: They will open a new superstore and so they are paving the road.
6. John: I am sure you will sleep well.
7. Laura: Let's hope so!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
riuscire	to succeed, manage, be able	verb
lavori	road work	noun
strada	road, street	noun
quale	which, what	adjective
aprire	to open	noun
nuovo	new	adjective
ipermercato	superstore, supermarket	noun
asfaltare	to pave, to asphalt	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Non riesco a concentrarmi. "I am not able to concentrate."	**Faranno dei lavori per aggiustare le tubature dell'acqua.** "There will be some road work to fix the water pipes."
La strada dove abiti è sempre molto trafficata. "The road where you live is always very busy."	**La strada non è illuminata.** "The road is unlit."
Quale vestito hai scelto per la cerimonia? "Which dress did you choose for the ceremony?"	**E' Natale, apriamo i regali!"** "It's Christmas: let's open the presents!"

Fa troppo caldo, apri la finestra? "It's too hot; can you open the window?"	**Devo aprire il negozio alle otto del mattino.** "I have to open the store at 8:00 o'clock a.m."
Ho perso il mio nuovo cellulare. "I lost my new mobile."	**Ho un appartamento nuovo al quinto piano.** "I have a new apartment on the fifth floor."
Hai visto la nuova puntata di "Friends"? "Have you watched the new episode of 'Friends?'"	**All'ipermercato vicino casa mia ci sono degli sconti sul vestiario.** "At the superstore close to my place, there are discounts on clothing."
Hanno appena asfaltato, fai attenzione. "They have just paved; be careful."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the *Future Semplice* ("Simple Future") Tense of Third Conjugation Verbs.
Apriranno un nuovo ipermercato e così asfaltano la strada.
"They will open a new superstore and so they are paving the road."

We form the third conjugation *futuro semplice* ("simple future") tense by dropping the ending vowel from the infinitive and adding the standard endings provided in the table below.

Third conjugation regular verbs do not change their last syllable vowel, which stays *-i*.

The necessary steps to inflect third conjugation verbs are identical to those of the second:

1. First, take the infinitive of the verb: for example, *dormire* ("to sleep").

2. Second, drop the final vowel: *dormir-.*

3. Third, add the appropriate endings.

The considerations regarding the word stress we explained in the previous lessons fully apply to regular third conjugation verbs.

For Example:

Italian	**"English"**
Io dormir-ò	"I will sleep"
Tu dormir-ai	"You will sleep"
Lui/lei dormir-à	"He/She/It will sleep"
Noi dormir-emo	"We will sleep"
Voi dormir-ete	"You will sleep"
Loro dormir-anno	"They will sleep"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

An Italian Artist Who Sparked Controversy

Giovanni Segantini (Arco, January 15, 1858–Pontresina, September 28, 1899) was a nineteenth-century Italian master painter. Born into an indigent family, he was raised in Milan by his sister, Irene. The painter lived a lonely and secluded childhood, spending most of his time wandering the countryside and observing the natural forms through a personal, subjective viewpoint that would later become the distinctive mark of his style.
He started attending the evening courses at the *Accademia delle Belle Arti* of Brera in Milan, developing an interest for the *Verismo Lombardo* ("Lombard Realism"). This peculiar style suited his artistic philosophy, in the sense that it took its subjects from farmers' everyday life

and environment. This choice aimed to demystify the bucolic image given by the so-called "official painters," whose interpretation of rural life was more related to literary works than to reality.

He participated in many exhibitions, including the critical Parisian Universal Exhibition in 1900. During this exhibition, his most important painting, the *Trittico della Natura* ("Nature Triptych") was turned down by the Parisian committee because it didn't quite suit the bucolic, tourist-like style they wanted to assign Italy. The display of the farmers' real life (and misery) was deemed as inappropriate and disturbing.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #41
In a Few Years' Time, I Will Be Able to Speak Italian Well

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4 Grammar
8 Cultural Insight

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ITALIAN

1. John: Tra qualche anno potrò parlare bene in Italiano
2. Laura: Parli già bene.
3. John: Grazie, ma dovrò studiare ancora per vivere bene in Italia.
4. Laura: Allora ti darò una mano.
5. John: Sicuramente grazie a te farò grandi progressi.
6. Laura: Sì, ma solo se vivremo nella stessa città. Altrimenti sarà impossibile vederci.
7. John: Allora rimarrò qua a Bologna.

ENGLISH

1. John: In a few years' time, I will be able to speak well in Italian.
2. Laura: You already speak well.
3. John: Thank you, but I'll have to study more to live well in Italy.
4. Laura: Then I'll give you a hand.
5. John: With your help, I will surely be able to make great progress.
6. Laura: Yes, but only if we'll be living in the same city. Otherwise, it will be impossible for us to see each other.

CONT'D OVER

7. John: Then I will stay here in Bologna.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
qualche	a few, some, any	adjective	
anno	year	noun	masculine
ancora	still, yet, again	adverb	
sicuramente	definitely, surely, certainly	adverb	
progresso	progress, improvement	noun	
stesso	same	adjective	
altrimenti	otherwise	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tra qualche giorno parto per l'America. "In a few days, I will leave for the United States."	**Loro hanno trentadue anni.** "They are thirty-two years old."
Fra un anno sarò sicuramente sposato. "In one year's time, I'll definitely be married."	**L'anno prossimo.** "Next year."

Ho ancora sonno! "I am still sleepy!"	**Uso sicuramente quel cappotto in inverno.** "I definitely use that coat in winter."
Sicuramente verrò alla tua festa. "I will definitely come to your party."	**Sono stati fatti dei progressi, ma non è abbastanza.** "Progress has been made, but it is not enough."
Vedo che hai fatto molti progressi con l'inglese. "I can see you've made lots of improvements in English."	**Ho il tuo stesso libro di inglese.** "I have the same English book as yours."
Mi piace tenermi occupato altrimenti mi annoio. "I like to get busy; otherwise, I get bored."	**Ricordami dell'appuntamento, altrimenti mi dimentico.** "Remind me about the appointment; otherwise, I'll forget."
Devo andare, altrimenti arriverò tardi al lavoro. "I have to go; otherwise, I'll be late for work."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Irregular Verbs in the *Futuro Semplice* ("Simple Future") Tense.
Sì, ma solo se vivremo nella stessa città.
"Yes, but only if we'll be living in the same city."

We can divide the verbs that follow an irregular inflection in the *futuro semplice* tense into

three main categories, according to how the verbs' roots change:

I - Irregular verbs that do not change their last syllable vowel from *-a* to *-e*. When conjugating these verbs, simply drop the last vowel from the infinitive and add the appropriate endings.

For Example:

dare ("to give")

Italian	**"English"**
Io dar-ò	"I will give"
Tu dar-ai	"You will give"
Lui/lei dar-à	"He/she/it will give"
Noi dar-emo	"We will give"
Voi dar-ete	"You will give"
Loro dar-anno	"They will give"

We list the verbs belonging to this category in the table below.

"English Infinitive"	***Italian Infinitive***	***Simple Future: First Person***
"to give"	*dar-e*	*dar-ò*
"to be"; "to stay"	*star-e*	*star-ò*
"to do"; "to make"	*far-e*	*far-ò*
"to lead"	*condurr-e*	*condurr-ò*
"to die"	*morir-e**	*morir-ò*
"to seem"; "to look"	*parer-e*	*parr-ò*
"to lay down"; "to place"	*porr-e*	*porr-ò*

"to pull"; "to draw"	*trarr-e*	*trarr-ò*

* This verb may alternatively be inflected following the procedure for standard regular verbs.

II - Verbs that contract their infinitive form, thus losing the last two vowels. The necessary steps to inflect this category of verbs are the following:

1. First, take the infinitive of the verb: for example, *vivere* ("to live").
2. Second, drop the last two vowels: *vivr-.*
3. Third, add the appropriate endings.

For Example:

sapere ("to know")

Italian	**"English"**
Io sapr-ò	"I will know"
Tu sapr-ai	"You will know"
Lui/lei sapr-à	"He/she/it will know"
Noi sapr-emo	"We will know"
Voi sapr-ete	"You will know"
Loro sapr-anno	"They will know"

We list the verbs belonging to this category in the table below.

"English Infinitive"	***Italian Infinitive***	***Simple Future: First Person***
"to live"	*viver-e*	*vivr-ò*

"to have to"; "must"	*dover-e*	*dovr-ò*
"can"; "to be able to"	*poter-e*	*potr-ò*
"to know"	*saper-e*	*sapr-ò*
"to hear"	*udir-e**	*udr-ò*
"to fall down"	*cader-e*	*cadr-ò*
"to go"	*andar-e*	*andr-ò*
"to see"	*vedere*	*vedr-ò*
"to enjoy"	*goder-e*	*godr-ò*
"to perform"; "to do"	*compier-e*	*compir-ò*

* This verb may alternatively be inflected following the standard regular verbs procedure.

III - Verbs that contract their infinitive form, losing the last two vowels and changing the second-to-last consonant to *-r*. The steps to inflect this category of verbs are the following:

1. First, take the infinitive of the verb: for example, *venire* ("to come").
2. Second, drop the last two vowels: *venr-.*
3. Third, change the second-to-last consonant to *-r*: *verr-.*
4. Fourth, add the appropriate endings.

For Example:

venire ("to come")

Italian	**"English"**
Io verr-ò	"I will come"

Tu verr-ai	"You will come"
Lui/lei verr-à	"He/she/it will come"
Noi verr-emo	"We will come"
Voi verr-ete	"You will come"
Loro verr-anno	"They will come"

We list the verbs belonging to this category in the table below.

English Infinitive	***Italian Infinitive***	***Simple Future: First Person***
"to hold"; "to keep"	*tener-e*	*terr-ò*
"to stay"; "to remain"	*rimaner-e*	*rimarr-ò*
"to want"; "to wish"	*voler-e*	*vorr-ò*
"to come"	*venir-e*	*verr-ò*
"to be worth"	*valer-e*	*varr-ò*
"to drink"	*ber-e***	*berr-ò*

** Please note that the verb *bere* does not change its first consonant: it simply doubles its ending *-r*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What Languages Do Some Northern Italian Speak? Not Italian!

Trentino-Alto Adige is an Italian northern region. Culturally speaking, the region comprises

two different areas: the Alto-Adige on the north and the Trentino on the south. Although the region has almost one million inhabitants, no fewer than three distinct linguistic groups cohabit within its borders. Italian is spoken mainly in the Trentino area, which also hosts German-speaking linguistic minorities. Similarly, German is the main language in the Alto-Adige area, which also includes a large Italian-speaking community. In both areas, bilingualism is officially guaranteed by state-education and it is generally widespread. Ladino is spoken by small communities (roughly thirty thousand people in total) in the Ladinia region. These linguistic areas correspond to specific ethnicities who settled in the region many centuries ago. Since the nation-states constantly tried to assimilate these cultural minorities into the respective dominant culture by forcing them to relinquish their languages (and consequently, their history), these communities are not evenly distributed. Nowadays, the linguistic diversity is sanctioned and preserved by Italian law.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #42
When Can I Get the Hot New Products in Italy?

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4 Cultural Insight

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ITALIAN

1. TV announcer: I primi cellulari basati sul sistema operativo Google Android saranno disponibili entro la fine dell'anno.
2. John: Quindi a Natale saranno in vendita?
3. Laura: Di solito i nuovi prodotti arrivano per Natale.
4. John: Ma l'anno prossimo usciranno i nuovi iPhone!
5. Laura: Usciranno sempre nuovi cellulari.

ENGLISH

1. TV announcer: The first cell phones based on the Google Android operating system will be available by the end of the year.
2. John: So they will be on sale for Christmas.
3. Laura: Usually new products arrive for Christmas.
4. John: But next year new iPhones will come out!
5. Laura: New cell phones will always come out.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
basare	to base, found	verb

sistema operativo	operating system	noun
disponibile	available, free	adjective
fine dell'anno	end of the year	expression
entro	within, by	preposition
in vendita	on sale	expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

La sua teoria si basa su dei punti importanti. "His theory is based on some important points."	**Che sistema operativo usi?** "What operating system do you use?"
Sei disponibile per una partita di calcio venerdi? "Are you available for a soccer match on Friday?"	**La camera è disponibile.** "The room is available."
Devo essere alla riunione entro le sette. "I have to be at the meeting by seven."	**Per la fine dell'anno voglio cambiare macchina.** "By the end of the year, I want to change cars."
Dobbiamo trovare una nuova casa entro domani. "We have to find a new house by tomorrow."	**Devo essere alla riunione entro le sette.** "I have to be at the meeting by seven."
Presto il nuovo iPod sarà in vendita. "Soon, the new iPod will be on sale."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the *Futuro Semplice* ("Simple Future") Tense to Talk about the Future.

I primi cellulari basati sul sistema operativo Google Android saranno disponibili entro la fine dell'anno.

"The first cell phones based on the Google Android operating system will be available by the end of the year."

We use the *futuro semplice* tense in four different circumstances. Today we are going to take a look at the first one.

First, we use the *futuro semplice* to talk about prospective occurrences, especially those meant to take place in the distant future. Please note that the idea of "distance" refers to the speaker's perception.

For Example:

1. *I fondi del governo saranno disponibili dall'inizio del prossimo anno.*
   "The government's funds will be available by the beginning of the next year."

2. *Il campionato italiano finirà la terza settimana di maggio.*
   "The Italian league tournament will end in the third week of May."

3. *Nel futuro i cellulari saranno molto versatili.*
   "In the future, cell phones will be very versatile."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Soldiers for Hire

Between the end of the thirteenth and the beginning of the fourteenth century, the Italian political situation was extremely complex and precarious. Italian commoners and royalty constantly fought each other for supremacy, independence, or simply survival, allying either with the commons leagues or with the German Emperor.

Local militia soon became insufficient to replenish the losses, and the need for armies made of professional soldiers led to the formation of *compagnie di ventura* ("free companies"). These companies, usually led by nobles, consisted of ruthless individuals whose humble origins gave them no political power. Therefore, they were driven exclusively by the desire to gain wealth, either through fighting or looting. The leaders determined the behavior of these companies, and they had to be extremely careful to pay their men on time.

Although every mercenary company required its members to sign a statute agreeing to its rules, the cruelty of their members was a major problem for their leaders, who often had to use rough punishments to keep their men under control.

Many Italian mercenary companies were so successful as to become famous throughout Europe. However, they often switched sides during wars, fighting for whoever offered them the best deal. They soon became a powerful, though unreliable, military resource whose crucial role on battlefields the European rulers learned not to underestimate.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #43
Engaging in Some Italian Gossip

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Guarda c'è Steve.
2. John: Aspetta! C'è una ragazza con lui, sarà la sua nuova...
3. Laura: Fidanzata?
4. John: Sì, fidanzata.
5. Laura: Ma no. Sarà almeno dieci anni più giovane di lui.

ENGLISH

1. Laura: Look, there's Steve.
2. John: Wait! There's a girl with him, it must be his new...
3. Laura: Fiancée?
4. John: Yeah, fiancée.
5. Laura: No way. She must be at least ten years younger than him.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
aspettare	to wait	noun	
ragazza	girlfriend	noun	feminine

fidanzata	fiancée	noun
nuovo	new	adjective
almeno	at least	adverb
giovane	young (singular)	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Aspettami! "Wait for me!"	**Aspetta un attimo!** "Wait a moment!"
Ho aspettato fino all'una, ma non è venuto. "I waited until one, but he didn't show up."	**Sono in ritardo, mi aspetti?** "I'm late; would you wait for me?"
La mia ragazza fa la designer. "My girlfriend is a designer."	**Non ho una fidanzata al momento.** "At the moment, I haven't got a fiancée."
Ho perso il mio nuovo cellulare. "I lost my new mobile."	**Ho un appartamento nuovo al quinto piano.** "I have a new apartment on the fifth floor."
Hai visto la nuova puntata di "Friends"? "Have you watched the new episode of 'Friends?'"	**Non vado al mare, ma almeno non devo lavorare.** "I won't go to the beach, but at least I don't have to work."
Quando ero giovane giocavo a calcio. "I used to play soccer when I was young."	**Sei giovane.** "You are young." (second person singular)

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the *Futuro Semplice* ("Simple Future") Tense to Express Assumptions Related to the Present.

Aspetta! C'è una ragazza con lui, sarà la sua nuova...

"There's a girl with him, it must be his new..."

We use the *futuro semplice* in four different circumstances. Today, we are going to take a look at the second one.

The second use of *futuro semplice* is to express assumptions related to the present time.

For Example:

1. *Non vedo Giovanni, sarà ancora a casa.*
   "I don't see Giovanni, he'll be (i.e., he must be) still at home."

2. *Qualcuno sta suonando, sarà mia sorella.*

"Somebody is ringing, it'll be (i.e., it must be) my sister."

1. *Luca è in ritardo, sarà imbottigliato nel traffico.*

"Luca is late, he'll be (i.e., he must be) bottled up in the traffic."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

An Italian Intrafamily Power Struggle

Lodrisio Visconti (1280–1346) was an Italian mercenary captain. He was born into the famous Visconti family, whose military power and skill was known and feared throughout the Italian peninsula. Lodrisio's attitude toward his family was that of merciless leader, alternating support and betrayal according to his own political agenda.

After having being deprived of the rule over Milan and its territories by his nephew Azzone, he

took shelter in Verona under the protection of its lord, Mastino II della Scala. While in Verona, he formed his personal mercenary company called *Compagnia di San Giorgio* ("St. George's Free Company"), recruiting over sixty-five hundred men divided between knights, crossbowmen, and foot soldiers.

His first attempt to regain control over Milan was countered by another free company led by Ettore da Panigo, who had been hired by Lodrisio's relatives to crush his attack. According to a legend, the *Compagnia di San Giorgio* was eventually defeated in the *Battaglia di Parabiago* ("Battle of Parabiago"), when St. Ambrogio himself appeared on the battlefield riding a warhorse, causing Lodrisio's men to flee. Lodrisio was imprisoned for ten years but was eventually freed by his brother, the archbishop Giovanni Visconti, the new lord of Milan.

Family infighting and scheming for power are typical traits of medieval Italian political history, where brother fought brother in order to achieve popularity and rule over lands. The gross irresponsibility of Italian leaders that led to highly self-destructive situations was criticized by many Italian intellectuals of that period, such as Dante in the *Divina Commedia* ("Divine Comedy").

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #44
Facing the Italian Truth

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ITALIAN

1. John: Cosa pensi della ragazza?
2. Laura: Sarà anche giovane, ma non è molto carina.
3. John: Perché?
4. Laura: Avrà anche delle belle gambe, ma guarda come cammina.
5. John: Non dire così!
6. Laura: Dai, guarda.
7. John: Sei gelosa?
8. Laura: Per niente!

ENGLISH

1. John: What do you think about the girl?
2. Laura: She might be young, but she isn't very pretty.
3. John: Why?
4. Laura: She might have nice legs, but look how she walks.
5. John: Don't say that!
6. Laura: Come on, look.

CONT'D OVER

7. John: Are you jealous?

8. Laura: Not at all!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
pensare	to think, believe	verb
per niente	at all, not at all, nothing at all	adverb
camminare	to walk	verb
geloso	jealous	adjective
gambe	legs	noun
carino	cute, pretty	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Penso che arriverò in ritardo. "I think I'll be late."	**Cosa ne pensi?** "What do you think about it?"
Ti piacciono i film horror? No, per niente. "Do you like horror movies? No, not at all."	**Ho camminato per ore, ma non ho trovato quel bar.** "I walked for hours, but I didn't find that bar."
Essere gelosi non è una buona cosa. "To be jealous is not a good thing."	**Sono geloso di te.** "I am jealous of you."

Oggi ho corso tutto il giorno e ora mi fanno male le gambe. "I have been running all day long and now my legs hurt."	**E' una ragazza molto carina.** "She's a very cute girl."

Ho visto un vestito molto carino, voglio comprarlo!

"I saw a very cute dress. I want to buy it."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the *Futuro Semplice* ("Simple Future") Tense to Acknowledge the Truth of Facts.
Avrà anche delle belle gambe, ma guarda come cammina.
"She might have nice legs, but look how she walks."

We use the *futuro semplice* in four different circumstances. Today we are going to take a look at the third one.

The third way we use the *futuro semplice* is to acknowledge the actual truth of facts that are deemed to be relevant to the conversation.

For Example:

1. *Saranno anche le sei, ma io non ho intenzione di andarmene.*
   "Even though it's six p.m., I've no intention of leaving."

2. *Avrò anche dimenticato il nostro anniversario, ma ciò non vuol dire che non ti amo.*
   "Even though I forgot our anniversary, it doesn't mean I don't love you."

3. *Avranno anche vinto la guerra, ma a quale costo?*
   "They may have won the war, but at what cost?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Sacking of Rome

On May 6, 1527, Rome was sacked by the Landsknechts, a Swiss free company that was at that time working for the German Emperor Charles V. The event is inserted within the larger frame of the conflict between the emperor on one side and France, the Papal States, and a small number of Italian kingdoms on the other.

The general, Charles of Bourbon, constable of France, and the field commander, Georg Von Frundsberg, led the Landsknechts. Taking advantage of the chaotic Italian political situation, the army descended from northern Italy encountering little or no resistance, except from the free company *Giovanni dalle Bande Nere* ("Giovanni of the Black Stripes") led, which conceded defeat after the death of its leader.

The Swiss company was entirely made of Protestants, who deeply hated the Christians for what they had done to them in the previous decades. The highly volatile control the leaders had over their men totally collapsed when the field commander was forced to abandon the campaign due to health issues and the general was assassinated during the siege of Rome. Without their commanders' leadership and due payment, and free of any form of restraint, the thirty-five thousand strong army of Landsknechts overwhelmed the five thousand defenders of Rome and sacked the city with reckless abandon, killing a fifth of the population in the process. Only through the sacrifice of his Swiss guards, who were all killed defending him, was Pope Clemente VII able to take shelter in *Castel Sant'Angelo*, thus avoiding being butchered along with the rest of Rome's inhabitants.

After the sack, Rome was afflicted by a terrible plague that killed most of its populace. By the end of 1527, only a fifth of Rome's inhabitants were still alive.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #45
Please Get to the Bottom of This Italian Situation!

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Vorrei sapere chi è quella ragazza.
2. John: Non ti preoccupare, ti aiuterò io!
3. Laura: Come farai?
4. John: Chiamerò Steve e gli chiederò chi è la ragazza.
5. Laura: Ma no! Non puoi!
6. John: Allora chiederò direttamente alla ragazza!
7. Laura: Stai scherzando?
8. John: Sì.
9. Laura: Cretino!

ENGLISH

1. Laura: I'd like to know who that girl is.
2. John: Don't worry, I shall help you.
3. Laura: How'll you manage to do it?
4. John: I'll call Steve and I'll ask him who the girl is.
5. Laura: No! You can't!

CONT'D OVER

6. John: Then I'll ask the girl directly!

7. Laura: Are you joking?

8. John: Yes.

9. Laura: Stupid!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
preoccuparsi	to worry	verb
aiutare	to help, aid, assist	verb
chiedere	to ask	verb
direttamente	directly, straight	adverb
scherzare	to joke, make fun of	verb
cretino	stupid, idiot	adjective
gatti	cats	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Se ti preoccupi non dormi bene. "If you worry, you won't sleep well."	**Non ti preoccupare, non facciamo tardi.** "Don't worry, we won't be late."
Non ti preoccupare! "Don't worry!"	**Grazie per l'aiuto.** "Thanks for the help."

Puoi aiutarmi, non trovo più il mio gatto. "Can you help me: I can't find my cat anymore."	**Ti posso aiutare?** "Can I help you?"
Chiedi a mamma le chiavi di casa. "Ask mom for the key to the house."	**Chiediamo del pane?** "Shall we ask for some bread?"
Ho chiesto una bambola. "I asked for a doll."	**Posso chiederti una cosa?** "Can I ask you something?"
Hai chiesto? "Did you ask?"	**Ci vediamo direttamente al cinema.** "Let's meet directly at the cinema."
Vai direttamente a casa dopo il film? "Are you going straight home after the movie?"	**Sto solo scherzando, non ti arrabbiare.** "I am just joking. Don't get angry."
Scherzi sempre! "You are always joking!"	**Sto scherzando.** "I am joking."
Ti stai comportando come un cretino! "You are acting like an idiot!"	**Peter ha due gatti.** "Peter has two cats."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the *Futuro Semplice* ("Simple Future") Tense to Issue Orders or Express Desires.

Chiamerò Steve e gli chiederò chi è la ragazza.

"I'll call Steve and I'll ask him who the girl is."

We use the *futuro semplice* tense in four different circumstances. Today we are going to take a look at the fourth and last one.

The fourth way we use the *futuro semplice* is to issue orders or express strong desires. We almost always can translate this employment in English with "shall."

For Example:

1. *Ti aiuterò a trovare casa.*
   "I shall help you to find a house."

2. *Non ti preoccupare, arriverò prima di mercoledì.*
   "Don't worry, I shall come before Wednesday."

3. *Vinceremo le elezioni!*
   "We shall win the elections!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Watch This Italian Director's Movies for Thought-Provoking Social Commentary!

Giovanni Moretti (Brunico, August 19, 1953), normally called *Nanni* (the abbreviated form of Giovanni), is one of the most internationally renowned living Italian directors.

His early works are characterized by an ironic and sarcastic point of view about the social and political dreams of the Italian *Generazione degli anni Sessanta* (the Italian equivalent of the American Beat generation). After a couple of short movies, he shot *Ecce Bombo* (an idiomatic expression that roughly means "Here Comes Bombo"), achieving a solid and enduring popularity. The four protagonists embody the fall of dreams and hopes of the 1968 social unrest. They quote famous leading writers and thinkers of those days, without knowing what to do with their lives and slowly losing themselves in pitiful, individualistic problems. The movie represents an unforgiving critique of those who superficially adhered to the Sixties' revolutionary movements.

The second part of his production is divided into two main branches. The first concerns the

psychological analysis of the modern individual, including his dreams and contradictions. The second is a profound, bitterly satiric analysis on the decadence of Italian politics that started in the last decade of the twentieth century.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #46 Learning the Italian Rules of Engagement

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Ma, ma... Cosa stanno facendo?
2. John: Stanno comprando delle caldarroste.
3. Laura: Sta pagando lui.
4. John: Allora è davvero gentile.
5. Laura: Ora stanno andando via.
6. John: Li vuoi seguire?
7. Laura: Dai andiamo, è divertente.

ENGLISH

1. Laura: But, but... What are they doing?
2. John: They are buying some roast chestnuts.
3. Laura: He is paying.
4. John: Then he is really kind.
5. Laura: Now they are going away.
6. John: Do you want to follow them?
7. Laura: Come on. Let's go, it's fun.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
comprare	to buy, to purchase	verb
caldarrosta	roasted chestnut	noun
pagare	to pay	verb
gentile	kind, nice, polite	adjective
seguire	to follow	verb
divertente	funny, fun, amusing	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Vorrei comprare questo anello per la mia ragazza. "I'd like to buy this ring for my girlfriend."	**Ho comprato della verdura e della carne per la cena di stasera.** "I bought some vegetables and some meat for tonight's dinner."
Tu compri il pane. "You buy the bread."	**Alla sagra della castagna possiamo mangiare dolci e caldarroste.** "At the chestnut festival, we can eat cakes and roast chestnuts."
Questa sera pago io. "This evening, I'll pay."	**Quanto hai pagato quella borsa?** "How much did you pay for that bag?"
I miei colleghi di scuola sono molto gentili con me. "My school colleagues are very kind to me. "	**Grazie! Sei davvero gentile.** "Thank you! You are very kind."
È molto gentile da parte tua. "That's very kind of you."	**Seguiamo le tracce!** "Let's follow the traces."

Quel tipo mi sta seguendo. "That guy is following me."	**Gli spettacoli di Crozza sono sempre divertenti.** "Crozza's shows are always entertaining."
È divertente giocare a calcio. "It's fun to play soccer."	**Il film che abbiamo visto ieri sera è stato davvero divertente.** "The movie we saw last night was really funny."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the *Presente Progressivo* ("Present Progressive") Tense.
Ora stanno andando via.
"Now they are going away."

Similar to the *presente indicativo* ("simple present"), we use the *presente progressivo* ("present progressive") tense in Italian to express ongoing actions, stressing its progressive nature over the temporal aspect.

For Example:

1. *Mario parla con i suoi amici.*
   "Mario's speaking with his friends."

2. *Mario sta parlando con i suoi amici.*
   "Mario's speaking with his friends."

Sentence A simply states a matter of fact, whereas sentence B stresses the ongoing aspect of Mario's action over its temporal placement.

Important note: Unlike its English equivalent, we can never use the Italian *presente progressivo* to talk about planned future occurrences; it always refers to the time at which we

formulate the utterance.

For Example:

1. *Dove vai questo fine settimana?*
   "Where are you going this weekend?"

2. *Vado a Milano.*
   "I'm going to Milan."

3. *Cosa stai facendo?/Cosa fai?*
   "What are you doing?"

4. *Sto preparando la cena.*
   "I'm making dinner."

We form the *presente progressivo* by conjugating the present form of the auxiliary *stare* ("to be") according to the subject it refers to, followed by the *gerundio presente* ("present gerund," equivalent to the English "-ing" form) of the main verb:

Subject + *stare* + main verb (present gerund).

For Example:

***mangiare* ("to eat")**

Italian	**"English"**
Io sto mangiando	"I am eating"
Tu stai mangiando	"You are eating"
Lui/lei sta mangiando	"He/she/it is eating"
Noi stiamo mangiando	"We are eating"
Voi state mangiando	"You are eating"
Loro stanno mangiando	"They are eating"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Rules of the Duel

Achille Marozzo (1484–1553) was the most prominent fencing master of the so-called *Scuola bolognese* ("Bolognese School"). The *Scuola bolognese* was the most important martial school of its time: many great warriors and men-at-arms trained with its highly skilled fencing masters.

Achille Marozzo studied at the school, along with two famous prospective leaders, Giovanni dalle Bande Nere (whom we'll speak of in the next lesson) and Guido Rangoni.
After working for eminent Italian aristocratic families and personally leading vast armies in the troubled first half of the sixteenth century, Marozzo summarized his martial expertise in the treatise *Opera Nova Chiamata Duello, O Vero Fiore dell'Armi de Singulari Abattimenti Offensivi, &Diffensivi* (a very long title that literally means "New Work Entitled Duel, or True Flower of Weapons, Solo Attacking and Defensive Strokes"). This writing is considered the most important dissertation of its time, though it concentrates almost exclusively on duels between two adversaries.

However, probably due to the literary development of the courtly society during the Renaissance, a section of the manual is dedicated to illustrate the formal rules of duels, such as how to properly challenge a nobleman (duels between aristocrats and commoners were not allowed, for example), as well as respecting all the duel's procedures. This ritualized combat answers two needs: to keep violence within a universally accepted border in order to prevent it from becoming blind rage on one side, and to ennoble combat itself through the respect of adversaries. According to the rules provided, duels were to be suspended after the first flesh wound.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #47
What Are These Italians Going to Do Next?

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Stanno entrando in quella gioielleria.
2. Laura: Stanno guardando gli anelli!
3. John: Cercheranno un regalo per un'amica.
4. Laura: Oppure si sposeranno!
5. John: Ne sei sicura?
6. Laura: Guarda lei sta provando le misure!

ENGLISH

1. Laura: They are going into that jewelry store.
2. Laura: They're looking at the rings!
3. John: They must be looking for a gift for a friend.
4. Laura: Or they are getting married!
5. John: Are you sure about it?
6. Laura: Look, she is trying the sizes!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender

entrare	to go in, come in, enter	verb	
gioielleria	jewelry store (jewellery store)	noun	
anello	ring	noun	masculine
cercare	to look for, seek, search	verb	
oppure	or, otherwise	conjunction	
misura	size, measure	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Entriamo a dare un'occhiata? "Shall we go in to take a look?"	**Fa freddo fuori! Entra!** "It's cold outside! Come in!"
Entriamo? "Shall we go in?"	**Questa gioielleria è molto cara.** "This jewelry store is very expensive."
Oggi vado in gioielleria perché devo comprare un regalo a un'amica. "Today I am going to the jewelry store because I have to buy a present for a friend."	**Che bell'anello di fidanzamento!** "What a beautiful engagement ring!"
Sto cercando un vestito per la festa di domani sera. "I am looking for a dress for tomorrow evening's party."	**Stai cercando qualcuno?** "Are you looking for somebody?"

Posso prendere la macchina, oppure possiamo andare in moto. "I can take the car, or we can go by motorbike."	**Non so che misura è questa gonna, ora la provo.** "I don't know what size this skirt is; I am gonna try it on right now."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the *Presente Progressivo* ("Present Progressive") Tense Versus the *Futuro Semplice* ("Simple Future") Tense.
Cercheranno un regalo per un'amica.
"They must be looking for a gift for a friend."

As we saw in the dialogue above, Laura and John use the *presente progressivo* tense to describe Steve and the enigmatic lady's actions, simply reporting what is occurring in front of them.

The utterances *Stanno entrando in quella gioielleria, Stanno guardando gli anelli!* and *Guarda lei sta provando le misure!* all refer to the present time, thus describing the succession of the ongoing events our protagonists are witnessing.

On the contrary, when Laura makes an assumption about the reasons why Steve and the lady might be about to purchase a ring, she suddenly says *Oppure si sposeranno!* ("Or they are getting married!")

She employs the *futuro semplice* tense, assuming that Steve and the lady previously decided to get married. According to her conjecture, this is an intentional planned action meant to take place in the near future. Therefore, we could normally translate it into English using the present progressive tense, whereas in Italian, this is not possible since the *presente progressivo* refers exclusively to ongoing actions.

Finally, the sentence *Cercheranno un regalo per una amica* ("They must be looking for a gift for a friend.") illustrates the use of the *futuro semplice* to express a hypothesis related to the present time.

For further information regarding this peculiar *futuro semplice* employment, please refer to the forty-third Newbie lesson.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Strong Italian Leader Who Painted It Black

Giovanni di Giovanni de' Medici (Forlì, April 6, 1498–Mantua, November 30, 1526), better known as *Giovanni dalle Bande Nere* ("Giovanni of the Black Stripes") was one of the greatest Italian leaders of the Renaissance.

The notorious historian Machiavelli deemed him to be the only leader capable of reuniting the Italian peninsula. After a troubled, restless childhood, he became *Capitano delle armate pontificie* ("Captain of the Papal Army"), soon earning himself fame as a fearless, unforgiving, and invincible leader through his many outstanding victories.
As regards his nickname, upon the death of Pope Lion X, Giovanni ordered his men to repaint the formerly violet stripes of his personal insignia black. He fought against Italian, French, and German armadas, emerging victorious in spite of constantly facing numerically superior forces.

Due to the betrayal of Alfonso I d'Este, who sold medium-range cannons, named *falconetti*, to the German army led by Georg von Frundsberg, Giovanni dalle Bande Nere was mortally wounded on November 25, 1526 and died a few days later.

The Italian director Ermanno Olmi shot a movie about the final days of his life, entitled *Il mestiere delle armi* (available in English as "The Profession of Arms"). This masterpiece can rightly be included in the "must-see" movies for those who are fond of historical films.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #48
You Were Assuming Incorrectly in Italian!

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ITALIAN

1. Laura: Pronto, Martina!
2. Martina: Ciao Laura!
3. Laura: Steve stava guardando degli anelli con una ragazza!
4. Martina: Davvero!
5. Laura: Sì! La ragazza stava provando le misure!
6. Martina: Aspetta. La ragazza aveva gli occhiali?
7. Laura: Sì, come fai a saperlo?
8. Martina: È la sorella di Steve!

ENGLISH

1. Laura: Hello, Martina!
2. Martina: Hi, Laura!
3. Laura: Steve was looking at some rings with a girl!
4. Martina: Really!
5. Laura: Yes! The girl was trying the sizes!
6. Martina: Wait. The girl had glasses?

CONT'D OVER

7. Laura: Yes, how did you know?

8. Martina: She's Steve's sister!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
provare	to try, try on, try out	verb	
guardare	to look, to watch	verb	
aspettare	to wait	noun	
ragazza	girl	noun	
occhiali	glasses	noun	masculine
sorella	sister	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ho provato a fare quello che mi hai detto. "I tried to do what you said to me."	**Proviamo quel nuovo ristorante?** "Shall we try that new restaurant?"
Posso provare questi pantaloni? "Can I try on these pants?"	**La domenica molti italiani guardano il calcio in TV.** "On Sunday a lot of Italian people watch soccer on TV."
Guardiamo un film italiano? "Shall we watch an Italian movie?"	**Guardi la tv?** "Are you watching TV?"

Aspettami! "Wait for me!"	**Aspetta un attimo!** "Wait a moment!"
Ho aspettato fino all'una, ma non è venuto. "I waited until one, but he didn't show up."	**Sono in ritardo, mi aspetti?** "I'm late; would you wait for me?"
Maria è una ragazza spiritosa. "Maria is a funny girl."	**Marina è una ragazza carina.** "Marina is a cute girl."
I tuoi occhiali sono molto belli. "Your glasses are very nice."	**Antonio porta gli occhiali.** "Antonio wears glasses."
Mia sorella si sposa. "My sister is getting married."	**La sorella di Peter è bella.** "Peter's sister is beautiful."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the *Passato Progressivo* ("Past Progressive") Tense.
Steve stava guardando degli anelli con una ragazza!
"Steve was looking at some rings with a girl!"

Similar to the *imperfetto* ("imperfect"), we use the *passato progressivo* ("past progressive") tense in Italian to express past ongoing actions, stressing their progressive nature over the temporal aspect. Note that we may substitute the *passato progressivo* for the *imperfetto* tense.

For Example:

1. *I miei amici stavano giocando a scacchi.*
   "My friends were playing chess."

2. *I miei amici giocavano a scacchi.*
   My friends were playing chess.

Both sentences A and B express the ongoing nature of a past action.

The *passato progressivo* never stands alone; we almost always use it in secondary clauses that describe what was occurring when something else happened. We normally conjugate the main clause verb in the *passato prossimo* or the *passato remoto* tense.

For Example:

1. *Stavo tornando a casa quando ho visto Pino.*
   "I was going back home when I saw Pino."

2. *Stavo ascoltando la radio quando appresi la notizia.*
   "I was listening to the radio when I heard the news."

We also employ the *passato progressivo* in the narrative style. We normally use the *imperfetto* tense to depict the landscape, and generally speaking, the "frame," whereas we should employ the *passato progressivo* mainly for describing characters' actions.

For Example:

1. *Era (imperfetto) una giornata tranquilla. Il sole splendeva (imperfetto) alto nel cielo e gli uccelli cantavano (imperfetto). Stavo camminando (passato progressivo) sulla sponda del fiume quando vidi (passato remoto) Luca avvicinarsi…*

"It was a quiet day. The sun was shining high in the sky and birds were singing. I was walking on the riverside when I saw John coming closer…"

In the short text we present above, we use the *imperfetto* tense to describe the story's frame, whereas the *passato progressivo* and *passato remoto* convey the characters' actions.

We form the *passato progressivo* by conjugating the *imperfetto* form of the auxiliary *stare* ("to be") according to the subject it refers to, followed by the *gerundio presente* ("present gerund," equivalent to the English "-ing" form) of the main verb:

Subject + *stare* + main verb (present gerund).

For Example:

***correre* ("to run")**

Italian	"English"
Io stavo correndo	"I was running"
Tu stavi correndo	"You were running"
Lui/lei stava correndo	"He/she/it was running"
Noi stavamo correndo	"We were running"
Voi stavate correndo	"You were running"
Loro stavano correndo	"They were running"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Diagram of a True Italian Warrior

Fiore dei Liberi was a famous and singular fencing master. Few details are known about his life, except that he was born in Cividale del Friuli, probably around 1350.

He was an appreciated *Magistro di Scrima* ("sword-fencing master") and is considered the first master of the discipline. His fame and skills became soon part of a legend, to the extent that even today Italian athletes dealing with the various types of sword fencing see him as a patron and a model to emulate.

After spending forty years on battlefields and noble courts teaching the techniques of sword, spear, halberd, and many other close-quarter weapons, he wrote his masterpiece: *Flos duellatorum* (*Il Fiore dei duellanti*, "The Flower of Duelists"). In this long and suggestive treatise, Fiore dei Liberi explains in detail the proper techniques regarding all kinds of fighting: bare hand, horse and lance, and sword fighting of any kind (long, bastard,

two-handed, etc.). The most singular and interesting aspect of his fighting philosophy is related to the image of the *Sette Spade* ("Seven Swords").

The picture of a man (i.e., the true warrior) is evenly divided into seven parts, each one symbolized by a specific kind of sword. Each sword corresponds to a unique fighting stance. The picture is surrounded by four animals, each representing one of the cardinal virtues of the warrior:

- *lince* ("lynx," holding a compass), *prudentia* ("prudence"): "No creature sees better than me; I always evaluate (my attacks) with that (skill)."

- *tigre* ("tiger," holding an arrow), *celeritas* ("speed"): "I'm the tiger, as fast to run as to turn around; even the arrow of (i.e., flying through) the sky cannot reach me."

- *leone* ("lion," holding a heart), *audatia* ("audacity," "fearlessness"): "No one has a bolder hearth than me; thus, I challenge everybody to battle."

- *elefante* ("elephant," holding a tower), *fortitudo* ("fortitude," "endurance"): "I'm the elephant and I bear the burden of a castle; I shall never kneel, nor shall I falter."

Every school of medieval sword fencing in Europe and beyond still uses Dei Liberi's treatise today.

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #49
Why Didn't You Wish Your Friends a Happy Italian New Year!

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ITALIAN

1. Cinzia: Marco allora sei pronto per il cenone di Capodanno!

2. Marco: Ah si! E tu? Cosa farai la notte di San Silvestro?

3. Cinzia: Cercherò di mangiare tante lenticchie allo scoccare della mezzanotte!

4. Marco: Davvero? Perchè?

5. Cinzia: Come perchè? Più lenticchie mangi e più soldi arriveranno nel Nuovo Anno.

6. Marco: Allora devo andare a comprarle! Ma intanto auguro a te e a tutti i nostri ascoltatori un felice e prospero Anno Nuovo!

7. Cinzia: Grazie Marco e grazie a tutti voi! Buon 2009!

ENGLISH

1. Cinzia: So, Marco, are you ready for New Year's Eve dinner?

2. Marco: Oh, yes! And you? What are you going to do on San Silvester's night?

3. Cinzia: I will try to eat many lentils when midnight strikes!

4. Marco: Really? Why?

CONT'D OVER

5. Cinzia: Why?!!? The more lentils you eat, the more money that will come in the New Year.

6. Marco: Then I have to go and buy them! But, in the meanwhile I wish you and all our listeners a happy and prosperous new year!

7. Cinzia: Thanks, Marco, and thank you all! Happy 2009!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
cenone di Capodanno	New Year's Eve dinner	expression	
Capodanno	New Year's Eve/Day	noun	
notte di San Silvestro	San Silvester's night (New Year's Eve)	phrase	feminine
lenticchia	lentil	noun	feminine
soldi (plural)	money, funds	noun	masculine
augurare	to wish, bid, hope	verb	
prospero	prosperous, favorable	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Abbiamo prenotato un ristorante per il cenone di Capodanno. "We booked a restaurant for New Year's Eve dinner."	**In Italia si crede che mangiare uva a Capodanno porti fortuna.** "In Italy, it is believed that eating grapes on New Year's Day brings good luck."

Come festeggerai il Capodanno? "How will you celebrate New Year's Eve?"	**Per la notte di San Silvestro ci saranno i fuochi d'artificio dopo la mezzanotte.** "For San Silvester's night, there will be fireworks after midnight."
Il cotechino con le lenticchie è un piatto tipico del Capodanno italiano. "Cotechino with lentils is a typical dish of the Italian New Year's Eve."	**Con questo nuovo lavoro posso guadagnare molti soldi.** "With this new job, I can earn a lot of money."
Ti auguro un buon Natale. "I wish you a merry Christmas."	**Ti auguro un prospero futuro.** "I wish you a prosperous future."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is New Year's Phrases.
Buon anno!
"Happy New Year!"

Today, we are going to relax and learn some very useful phrases to use at this time of the year. Let us start with the easiest one. To use this phrase, just change the year after *buon* to the following year and it works like magic!

1. *Buon 2010!*
   "Happy 2010!"

If you would rather use the same phrase every year, you can use:

1. *Buon anno!/Buon anno nuovo!*
"Happy New Year!"

Next, we will try something a little longer:

1. *Auguri di Buon 2010!*
   "Best wishes for 2010!"

2. *Auguri di buon anno!*
"Best wishes for the New Year!"

If you are at a New Year's party, you can say:

1. *Buon anno a tutti!*
"Happy New Year Everyone!"

And what is the best way to reply if someone says *buon anno?* Simple:

1. *Buon anno anche a te!* (informal)
   "Happy New Year to you too!"

2. *Buon anno anche a Lei!* (formal)
   "Happy New Year to you too!"

Please note that there are many more variants of the above phrases, so don't be scared if you hear something a little different. Just smile: it is a day for having fun!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Celebrating New Year's in Italy

The *veglione di capodanno* ("New Year's celebration") is celebrated between the night of December 31 and the morning of January 1.

According to the Italian tradition, everyone old and young has to wear a red item. Italians consider this a ritual to ward off evil. Apart from this, another typical Italian ritual for *Capodanno* is throwing away all the old stuff someone has at home. This tradition symbolizes forgetting the old and leaving it behind as the New Year is coming.

Lentils are something that will never be missing in the *cenone di capodanno*. As the tradition

states, they have to be eaten at midnight as a good omen. Regarding fireworks, today they simply represent a blast of joy and happiness, but at one time people considered them a means to fight off the evil demons. The mistletoe is another never-missing element at *Capodanno*. It brings prosperity, both real and spiritual. Druids used to use it as a sacred plant in the ceremonies to celebrate the purification of the soul. Today, on the night of *Capodanno*, it brings luck if you kiss someone or someone kisses you under a plant of *vischio* ("mistletoe").

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Intro

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6 You Really Missed out on an Italian Adventure!

7 I Used to Do This in Italy

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