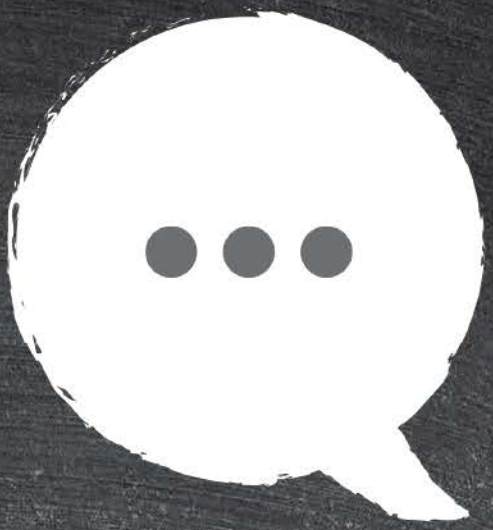
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LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #1
Talking Technology in Italian

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#1

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Jack : Quindi, ci vediamo domani per preparare la presentazione....mmhm...non ho il tuo numero di cellulare.
2. Mieke : Non ho un cellulare. Il mio numero di casa è 045996784. Oh wow! Hai uno smartphone! Ne vorrei anch'io uno.
3. Jack : Ho anche un tablet. È molto utile! E questo è il mio portatile, molto leggero.
4. Mieke : Sei un amante della tecnologia!

ENGLISH

1. Jack : So, let's meet tomorrow to prepare our presentation...mmhm...I don't have your cell phone number.
2. Mieke : I don't have a cell phone. My house number is 045996784. Oh wow, you've got a smartphone! I also would like one.
3. Jack : I also have a tablet. It's very useful! And this is my laptop, very light.
4. Mieke : You are a tech nerd!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
leggero	light	adjective	
numero	number	noun	masculine
portatile	portable, laptop	adjective, noun	
preparare	to prepare, to make, to set, to arrange	verb	
tecnologia	technology	noun	
volere	to want, to wish, to demand	verb	
domani	tomorrow	adverb	
casa	home, house, one's place	noun	feminine
cellulare	cellphone, mobile phone	noun	masculine
utile	useful	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Porta solo bagagli leggeri. "Bring only light luggage."	Questo zaino è molto leggero. "This backpack is very light."
I numeri 11 e 17 sono entrambi numeri primi. The numbers 11 and 17 are both prime numbers.	Il tredici è un numero primo. "Thirteen is a prime number."
Qual è il numero di targa della tua macchina? "What's the number plate of your car?"	Uso il portatile per l'università. "I use my laptop for university."
Vorrei una radio portatile. "I would like a portable radio."	Prepariamo le valigie. "Let's prepare our luggage."
Il corso mira a preparare gli studenti per un'ampio ventaglio di carriere. "The course aims to prepare students for a wide range of careers."	Viviamo nel mondo della tecnologia. "We live in a tech world. "
Odio la tecnologia. "I hate technology."	Volere è potere. "Where there's a will there's a way."
Non voglio che i miei figli spendano tutti i loro soldi in dolci. "I don't want my children to spend all their money on sweets."	Vorrei andare al cinema con te. "I'd like to go to the cinema with you."
Voleva solo salutarti. "She just wanted to say hi."	Volere la botte piena e la moglie ubriaca. "To have your cake and eat it, too."
A domani! See you tomorrow!	Domani è il mio compleanno. Tomorrow is my birthday.
domani alle dieci e dieci. tomorrow at 10:10	Domani è mercoledì, e dopodomani è giovedì. Tomorrow is Wednesday, and the day after tomorrow is Thursday.
Ci sarà il sole domani. It will be sunny tomorrow.	domani pomeriggio tomorrow afternoon
Domani c'è la partita Italia-Germania. "Tomorrow there is the Italy-Germany match."	Ci vediamo domani allora. "I'll see you tomorrow, then."
A domani! "See you tomorrow!"	Vuoi venire a casa mia stasera? "Do you want to come to my home tonight?"

Alla sera mi piace stare a casa. "In the evening I like to stay at home."	All'ipermercato vicino casa mia ci sono degli sconti sul vestiario. "At the superstore close to my place, there are discounts on clothing."
C'è una festa a casa di Mario. "There's a party at Mario's place."	Hai un cellulare nuovo? "Have you got a new cell phone?"
È un cellulare. "It's a mobile phone."	Hai un cellulare? "Do you have a cell phone?"
Non trovo più il mio cellulare! "I can't find my cell phone anymore!"	Hai visto il mio cellulare? "Have you seen my cell phone?"
Questa agendina è molto utile. "This pocket diary is very useful."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

cellulare

In Italian, we can translate the words "cell phone" both as *cellular* and *telefonino*, which means "small telephone" ("telephone" = *telefono*). It is masculine: *il cellulare*.

portatile

Even if the word "laptop" is also popular, *portatile* is the corresponding Italian word. It comes from the verb *portare* ("to take around"). *Portatile* is also an adjective, and it means "that can be taken around."

leggero

The adjective *leggero* has two meanings like in English. It can refer to weight as well as mean "easy to digest"/"not very much."

For Example:

1. *A mezzogiorno faccio un pasto leggero.*
   "At midday, I have a light meal."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Verb *Avere* ("to Have") and *Essere* ("to Be").
Hai uno smartphone!
"You have a smartphone!"

We use the verb *avere* in different situations, and we can translate it as "to have," "to own," "to obtain," or "to hold."

In this lesson, we'll focus on *avere* to express ownership.

It's an irregular verb, and it is transitive (it takes a direct object).

The conjugation of the verb *avere* is as follows:

Italian	**"English"**
io ho	"I have"
tu hai	"you have"
lui/lei ha	"he/she has"
noi abbiamo	"we have"
voi avete	"you have"
loro hanno	"they have"

For Example:

1. *Ho anche un tablet.*
   "I also have a tablet."
2. *Noi abbiamo un cane e due gatti.*
   "We have a dog and two cats."

We also use the verb *avere* to express age. Unlike English, we do not use the verb *essere* to say how old a person is.

For Example:

1. *Sara ha diciotto anni.*
   "Sara is eighteen."
2. *Quanti anni hai?*
   "How old are you?"

Essere **("to Be")**

It's an irregular verb, and it is intransitive (it doesn't take a direct object).

The conjugation of the verb *essere* is:

Italian	"English"
io sono	"I am"
tu sei	"you are"
lui/lei e'	"he/she is"
noi siamo	"we are"
voi siete	"you are"
loro sono	"they are"

For Example:

1. *Questo e' il mio portatile.*
   "This is my laptop."
2. *Il mio numero di casa è 045996784.*
   "My house number is 045996784."
3. *Sei un grande amico.*
   "You are a great friend."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Gli Italiani e la Tecnologia ("The Italian People and Technology")

The Internet is becoming part of the everyday life of more and more people in Italy. In February 2013, more than 30 million users connected to the web from a PC. It is about fifty-three percent of the total population, with an increasing growth of 3.3 percent a year. The average time spent by a person on the web is one hour and forty minutes. Surprisingly, the south of Italy and the islands seem to be more involved with the usage of the Internet.
More and more stores have decided to open on the web, and one of the most famous supermarkets in Italy, *Esselunga*, lets its clients shop online and have groceries delivered at home. Unfortunately this service is still not all that cheap.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #2

What Do You Do in Your Free Time in Italy?

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- Dialogue - Italian
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  - English
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- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#2

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Mieke : Cosa fai di solito dopo la scuola?
2. Jack : Lavoro in un ristorante qui vicino il mercoledì e venerdì sera. Oppure leggo qui al bar o ... dormo a casa. E tu?
3. Mieke : Anch'io lavoro. In una pasticceria, tre volte alla settimana. Il venerdì gioco a tennis e il lunedì studio italiano in una scuola in centro.
4. Jack : Ma tu parli già bene l'italiano!

ENGLISH

1. Mieke : What do you usually do after school?
2. Jack : I work in a restaurant nearby on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Or read here at the bar or...sleep at home. And you?
3. Mieke : I also work. In a patisserie, three times a week. On Fridays, I play tennis, and on Mondays, I study Italian in a school in the center.
4. Jack : But you already speak Italian well!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
centro	center	noun	masculine
mercoledi	Wednesday	noun	
settimana	week	noun	
qui vicino	nearby	adverb	
studiare	to study	verb	
pasticceria	pastry shop	noun	
di solito	usually	adverb	
dormire	to sleep	verb	
leggere	to read	verb	
volta	time	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

La palla blu è in centro. The blue ball is in the center.	Abita in centro città. "He lives in the town center."
Che cosa fai mercoledì sera? "What are you doing on Wednesday evening?"	Ci sono sette giorni in una settimana. There are seven days in a week.
Ci sono sette giorni in una settimana. "There are seven days in a week."	La prossima settimana. "Next week."
I miei nonni abitano qui vicino. "My grandparents live nearby."	Ho deciso di studiare l'italiano come seconda lingua. "I decided to study Italian as my second language."
Studiò il francese e poi viaggiò nell'Africa occidentale. "He studied French, and then traveled to western Africa."	Quanto tempo studi al giorno? "How long do you study in a day?"
È interessante studiare l'italiano. "Studying Italian is interesting."	Peter studia ingegneria. "Peter studies engineering."
Bevo sempre il tè in questa pasticceria. "I always drink tea in this patisserie."	La domenica gli Italiani comprano un vassoio di pasticcini come dolce dopo pranzo. "On Sunday, Italian people buy a tray of assorted pastries as an after-lunch dessert."
di solito in ritardo usually late	Di solito non faccio colazione. I don't usually eat breakfast.
Di solito i miei genitori guardano film di avventura. "My parents usually watch adventure movies."	Di solito torno presto. "I usually come back early."
La domenica mio fratello dorme fino a mezzogiorno. "On Sundays, my brother sleeps until midday."	Il gatto dorme. "The cat is sleeping."
Ieri ho dormito tutto il giorno. "Yesterday, I slept all day long."	Mi piace leggere il giornale. “I like reading the newspaper.”
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."	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!"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

mercoledi

Here are the days of the week: *lunedi*, *martedi*, *mercoledi*, *giovedi*, *venerdi*, *sabato*, and *domenica*. They are all masculine, except *domenica* ("Sunday"). We do not capitalize the days of the week in Italian.

settimana

The word *settimana* is feminine, and it contains the number *sette* ("seven").

centro

This word defines the old part of Italian cities. The center is often made up of the *piazza* ("main square"); the *duomo*, for example ("the church"); the *comune* ("city hall"); and the *corso* ("the main street") with some famous and often expensive stores.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Formation of Regular Verbs for the Present Indicative Simple Present Tense.
Lavoro in un ristorante qui vicino.
"I work in a restaurant nearby."

We divide Italian verbs into four conjugation groups according to the ending of the infinitive:

1. *-are* (e.g., *lavorare* ("to work"));
2. *-ere* (e.g., *leggere* ("to read")),
3. *-ire* (e.g., *dormire* ("to sleep")).

We conjugate Italian verbs in the various persons and numbers by adding the proper ending to the stem. The stem of regular verbs is obtained by dropping the infinitive ending. So, the stem of *lavorare* is *lavor-*; the stem of *leggere* is *legg-*; the stem of *dormire* is *dorm-*.

Here are the endings of the three conjugations:

-are	***-ere***	***-ire***
*lavor**are*** ("to work)	*legg**ere*** ("to read")	*dorm**ire*** ("to sleep")
*io lavor**o***	*io legg**o***	*io dorm**o***
*tu lavor**i***	*tu legg**i***	*tu dorm**i***
*lui/lei lavor**a***	*lui/lei legg**e***	*lui/lei dorm**e***
*noi lavor**iamo*** *voi lavor**ate***	*noi legg**iamo*** *voi legg**ete***	*noi dorm**iamo*** *voi dorm**ite***
*loro lavor**ano***	*loro legg**ono***	*loro dorm**ono***

Although it may seem tedious, if you memorize the endings for each class of verbs, it facilitates conjugation skills. With a bit of exercise and some patience, it becomes more and more natural to conjugate the regular verbs and use them appropriately.

For Example:

1. *Oppure **leggo** qui al bar o...**dormo** a casa.*
   "Or I read here at the bar or...sleep at home."
2. *Il lunedi **studio** italiano in una scuola in centro.*
   "On Mondays, I study Italian in a school in the center."

For verbs whose infinitive ending is preceded by a *-c* or a *-g*, we need to add the letter *-h* between the stem and the ending of the second person singular and first person plural.

For Example:

giocare **("to play")**

*io gioc**o***

*tu gioc**hi***

*lui/lei gioc**a***

*noi gioc**hiamo***

*voi gioc**ate***

*loro gioc**ano***

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Le Abitudini Degli Italiani **("Habits of the Italian People")**

The Italian people are creative and full of imagination? Not really. Or at least according to a recent survey published on *La Repubblica*, it doesn't seem so. Here is an average day in the life of Italian people. In the morning, they have cappuccino and brioche in the usual bar, then they take the usual route to go to the office, usually by car. Most of the people who answered a question about work said that they prefer to have the same job until retirement. After work, most people go home, have dinner, and spend the evening in front of TV. In their free time, most interviewees said that they usually do the same things during the weekend. Forty-one percent of interviewees go out only on Saturday night and always with the same friends. One out of three goes to the cinema. When they go to a restaurant, seventy-three percent of people choose to go to the same one. It seems that most Italians don't like changes or taking risks.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #3
Let's Hang Out This Weekend in Italy!

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- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#3

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Jack : Claudio, cosa fai questo fine settimana?
2. Claudio : Sabato mattina vado a vedere una gara di nuoto. Il pomeriggio gioco a calcio con la mia squadra. La sera invece non ho programmi.
3. Jack : Io vado in pizzeria con Mieke. Perché non vieni con noi?
4. Claudio : Va bene. E domenica cosa fai?
5. Jack : Di solito vado in palestra e faccio karate, ma questa domenica la palestra è chiusa. Vorrei andare alle Terme di Acqui, ma non so...

ENGLISH

1. Jack : Claudio, what are you doing this weekend?
2. Claudio : On Saturday morning, I'll go watch a swimming competition. In the afternoon, I'll play soccer with my team. In the evening, though, I have no plans.
3. Jack : I'm going to a pizzeria with Mieke. Why don't you come with us?
4. Claudio : Sure. And what are you doing on Sunday?
5. Jack : I usually go to the gym and have a karate lesson, but this Sunday, the gym is closed. I'd like to go to Terme di Acqui, but I'm not sure...

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
programma	program, show, plan	noun	
palestra	gym	noun	
vedere	to look, to watch, to see	verb	
sera	evening	noun	feminine
mattina	morning	noun	feminine
calcio	soccer, football	noun	masculine
fine settimana	weekend	noun	
pomeriggio	afternoon	noun	masculine
nuoto	swimming	noun	masculine
squadra	team	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Quale programma stai guardando ora? Il telegiornale? "What program are you watching now? The news?"	Che programmi hai per domani? "What are your plans for tomorrow?"
Abbiamo guardato molte partite di pallacanestro nella palestra della scuola. We watched a lot of basketball games in the school gym.	palestra della scuola school gym
Maria va in palestra tre volte alla settimana. "Mary goes to the gym three times a week."	Oh, vedo mia madre. "Oh, I'm seeing my mother."
Andiamo a vedere una gara di sci. "Let’s go watch a ski competition."	Hai visto quel film? "Have you seen that movie?"
Hai visto il mio cellulare? "Have you seen my cell phone?"	tramonto di sera evening sunset
sera in città evening in the city	ogni sera every evening
Lavoro duramente durante il giorno, così che possa rilassarmi la sera. I work hard during the day, so I relax in the evening.	Il campo da tennis è aperto anche di sera. "The tennis court is open in the evening, too."
La sera guardo la TV. "In the evening I watch TV."	La sera di solito guardo un film. "In the evening I usually watch a movie."
Venerdì sera c'è un concerto in piazza Colombo. "Friday evening there is a concert in Columbus square."	domenica mattina Sunday morning
la mattina in the morning	Faccio jogging la mattina. I jog in the morning.
Si alza alle 8 ogni mattina. He gets up at 8 a.m. every morning.	la mattina presto early in the morning

Le condizioni di traffico in autostrada sono normali questa mattina. Traffic conditions on the highway are normal this morning.	Fanno una passeggiata ogni mattina. "They go for a walk every morning."
In questo periodo dell'anno fa ancora freddo di mattina. "At this time of the year it is still cold in the morning."	I nostri negozi riapriranno domani mattina. "Our stores will open again tomorrow morning."
Il lunedì mattina il medico non visita. "On Monday morning the doctor doesn't examine."	Ogni mattina mi sveglio alle sette e dieci. "Every morning, I wake up at ten past seven."
Io ho giocato a calcio con David Beckham. "I played soccer with David Beckham."	Il calcio è molto popolare in Europa. "Soccer is a very popular game in Europe."
I giocatori della nazionale italiana di calcio sono chiamati Azzurri per via delle maglie azzurre. "The Italian national football team's players are called Azzurri for their blue shirts."	È divertente giocare a calcio. "It's fun to play soccer."
fine settimana senza lavoro weekend off	Come passi i tuoi finesettimana di solito? How do you usually spend your weekends?
Il fine settimana vado al cinema. "I go to the cinema on weekends."	Cosa fai questo fine settimana? "What are you doing this weekend?"
I fine settimana lavoro. "I work on weekends."	Al mio gatto piace dormire di pomeriggio. "My cat likes sleeping in the afternoon."
Ti richiamo questo pomeriggio. "I'll call you back this afternoon."	Questo pomeriggio nevicherà. "It's going to snow this afternoon."
Il pomeriggio Giovanni gioca con i suoi amici. "In the afternoon John plays with his friends."	Buon pomeriggio. "Good afternoon."
Le lezioni sono sempre di pomeriggio. "Classes are always in the afternoon."	gara di nuoto swimming race
ornitorinco che nuota swimming platypus	Mi piace nuotare. I like swimming.

Da bambina il nuoto era lo sport che più odiavo. "When I was a child, swimming was the sport I hated the most."	Perché non vai a lezione di nuoto? "Why don't you go to swimming lessons?"
Il nuoto è uno sport faticoso. "Swimming is a tiring sport."	La sua squadra di calcio preferita è Dallas Cowboys. Her favorite team is the Dallas Cowboys football team.
gioco di squadra team game	sforzo di squadra team effort
La squadra sta discutendo. The team is having a discussion.	Squadra, siete pronti? Mani al centro! Okay team, hands in.
Lascerà la squadra il prossimo anno. "She'll quit the team next year."	Andiamo a vedere la squadra americana di basket! "Let's go and see the American team of basketball!"
Qual è la tua squadra preferita? "What's your favorite team?"	Ci sono undici giocatori in squadra. "There are eleven players in the team."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

fine settimana

This is a literal translation from the English "weekend." *Fine* means "end" and *settimana* means "week." Even if *settimana* is feminine (*la settimana*), the word *fine settimana* is masculine (*il fine settimana*). We also use the English word.

For Example:

1. *Che cosa fai questo weekend?*
   "What are you doing this weekend?"

nuoto

This noun comes from the verb *nuotare*. It is also found in words like *lezioni di nuoto* ("swimming lessons") and *istruttore di nuoto* ("swimming instructor"). The word for swimming pool is *piscina.*

programma

Let's remember that even if the word *programma* ends in *-a*, it is masculine (*il programma*).

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Irregular Verbs *Andare*, *Venire*, and *Fare* ("to Go," "to Come," and "to Do").
Sabato mattina vado a vedere una gara di nuoto.
"On Saturday morning, I go watch a swimming competition."

These are three of the most used verbs and are key to start speaking and understanding basic Italian.

Andare ("to Go")

The conjugation of the verb *andare* is as follows:

io vado

tu vai

lui/lei va

noi andiamo

voi andate

loro vanno

Some expressions with the verb *andare* that can be useful are *andare in bicicletta* ("to cycle"), *andare al cinema* ("to go to the cinema"), *andare al mercato* ("to go to the market"), and *andare in piscina* ("to go to the swimming pool").

Also, *andare* can be followed by the preposition *a* plus a verb in the infinitive mode.

For Example:

1. *andare a vedere una gara*
   "to go watch a competition"
2. *andare a sciare*
   "to go skiing"

Venire ("to Come")

The conjugation of the verb *venire* is as follows:

io vengo

tu vieni

lui/lei viene

noi veniamo

voi venite

loro vengono

For Example:

1. *Perchè non vieni con noi?*
   "Why don't you come with us?"
2. *Anche Sara viene alla festa.*
   "Also, Sara comes to the party."
3. *Stasera non vengono a cena.*
   "Tonight they don't come for dinner."

Fare ("to Do")

The conjugation of the verb *fare* is as follows:

io faccio

tu fai

lui/lei fa

noi facciamo

voi fate

loro fanno

For Example:

1. *E domenica cosa fai?*
   "And on Sunday, what do you do?"
2. *Fai sport?*
   "Do you play any sport?"

We often use the verb *fare* with sports.

For Example:

1. *fare yoga*
   "to do yoga"
2. *fare karate*
   "to do karate"
3. *fare aerobica*
   "to do aerobics"
4. *fare pattinnaggio*
   "to skate"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Acqui Terme

Acqui Terme is a small city of Piedmont in northern Italy, in the province of Alessandria. It is one of the principal winemaking towns of the Italians. It is where the sweet and sparkling red wine called *Brachetto d'Acqui* is produced. The hot sulphur springs have been famous ever since this was the Roman town of Aquae Statiellae. The ancient baths are also referred to by Paulus Diaconus, a writer from the Middle Ages. In 1870, Giovanni Cerutti designed a little pavilion, known as *La Bollente*, for the spot at the center of the town where the waters bubble up at 75°C. *Bollente* means "boiling" or "really hot." In the sixth century, it became part of the Lombard kingdom of northern Italy. Acqui was ruled by its bishop from 978, becoming an independent commune in 1135. In 1278, it was annexed to the Marquisate of Montferrat, to which it belonged until the acquisition by the Duchy of Savoy.
Today it is famous for its waters, which are often also used to cure rheumatism.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #4
Making Plans for the Weekend in Italian

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#4

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Mieke : Domenica ho tutta la giornata libera finalmente!
2. Jack : Allora facciamo qualcosa insieme!
3. Mieke : Vorrei fare un pic nic al parco del Valentino per due o tre ore.
4. Jack : Buona idea. Che tempo fa domenica?
5. Claudio : La mattina è nuvoloso e il pomeriggio piove.
6. Mieke : Peccato... allora, perché non andiamo a una cantina? Un mio amico lavora in una cantina vicino a Torino da due mesi.
7. Claudio : Ok. Partiamo verso mezzogiorno e torniamo la sera.

ENGLISH

1. Mieke : Sunday I have the whole day free finally!
2. Jack : Then let's do something together!
3. Mieke : I'd like to have a picnic at Valentino park for two or three hours.
4. Jack : Good idea. What will the weather be like on Sunday?
5. Claudio : In the morning, it will be cloudy, and in the afternoon it will rain.
6. Mieke : Too bad... Then, why don't we go to a wine bar? A friend of mine has been working in a wine bar near Turin for two months.
7. Claudio : OK. We'll leave around midday and come back in the evening.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
finalmente	finally	adverb	
vicino	near, close	adjective	
libero	free	adjective	
partire	to leave, to start, to take off	verb	
nuvoloso	cloudy	adjective	masculine
tutto	everything, all	adjective	
tempo	weather	noun	masculine
insieme	together	adverb	
piovere	to rain	verb	
tornare	to go back, to come back, to get back	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Finalmente possiamo usare la macchina di papà. "We can finally use dad's car."	Finalmente ho la patente. "I finally have the driving license."
Non è permesso utilizzare fuochi d'artificio vicino agli edifici. "It is not allowed to use fireworks near buildings."	Abitiamo vicino alle poste. "We live near the post office."
Vivo qui vicino. "I live near here."	Giulia, sei libera questa sera? "Julia, are you free this evening?"
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."	Stamattina è nuvoloso, ma nel pomeriggio c'è il sole. "In the morning it's cloudy, but in the afternoon it's sunny."
È nuvoloso. "It's cloudy."	Trascorro le vacanze con tutta la mia famiglia. "I spend the holidays with all of my family."
È tutta colpa tua! "It's all your fault!"	Prendo tutto. "I'll take everything."
Il tempo è bello oggi. "The weather is nice today."	Questo tempo è orribile. "This weather is horrible."

Quali sono le previsioni del tempo? "What's the weather forecast?"	Come è il tempo a Roma? "What's the weather like in Rome?"
Dormono tutti insieme in una stanza. "They sleep all together in one room."	Facciamo una passeggiata insieme? "Shall we take a walk together?"
In Italia piove spesso in primavera e autunno. "In Italy it often rains in spring and in autumn."	Le previsioni dicono che domani pioverà. "The forecast says tomorrow it'll rain."
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."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

libero

The adjective *libero* is "free" in the meaning of both available and vacant. We cannot use *libero* the meaning of "no money." That in Italian is *gratis*.

For Example:

1. *Questa pizza e' gratis.*
   "This pizza is free."

tempo

In Italian, the word *tempo* means both "weather" and "time."

For Example:

1. *Che tempo fa?*
   "What's the weather like?"
2. *Non ho tempo*.
   "I have no time."

piovere

The noun that derives from the verb *piovere* is *la pioggia* ("the rain"). Other weather verbs are *nevicare* ("to snow"), *la neve* ("the snow"), *tempestare* ("to hail"), or *la tempesta* ("the hail").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Days of the Week and Some Common Prepositions to Express Time.

Che tempo fa domenica?

"What will the weather be like on Sunday?"

Learning the days of the week as well as the months and seasons later on, together with some prepositions that we use with these nouns, will help you plan things in Italy as well as talk about the weather.

The Days of the Week

Italian	**"English"**
lunedì	"Monday"
martedì	"Tuesday"
mercoledì	"Wednesday"
giovedì	"Thursday"
venerdì	"Friday"
sabato	"Saturday"
domenica	"Sunday"

We do not capitalize days of the week unless at the beginning of the sentence.

Dì means "day." And another way to say *buongiorno* ("good morning") is *buondì*.

For Example:

1. *Che giorno è oggi? E' giovedì.*
   "What day is it today? It's Thursday."

The names of the days of the week come from Roman deities and so every day in associated to a celestial body in the solar system:

Day	***Deity***	**"Celestial Body"**
lunedì	luna	"moon"
martedì	marte	"Mars"
mercoledì	mercurio	"Mercury"
giovedì	giove	"Jupiter"
venerdì	venere	"Venus"

The origin of *sabato* e *domenica* is different: *sabato* is from the Hebrew word *sabbat* and

domenica comes from *dominus*, which is the day of the lord.

The days of the week are all masculine, and therefore the appropriate article is *il.* The only exception is *domenica*. It is feminine and requires the article *la*.

Days of the week don't require a preposition when referring to the coming day of the week.

For Example:

1. *Che tempo fa domenica?*
   "What's the weather like on Sunday?"

Domenica doesn't require any preposition because in the context of this sentence, the speaker refers to the following Sunday.

To indicate habitual days, we can use a definite article in a singular form:

For Example:

1. *Il lunedì vado al cinema.*
   "I go to the cinema on Mondays."
2. *La domenica incontro la mia famiglia.*
   "I meet my family on Sundays."

For the same purpose, we can add the preposition *di* before the day of the week.

For Example:

1. *Le scuole sono chiuse di domenica.*
   "Schools are closed on Sundays."

Parts of the Day

We add a definite article before a part of the day.

For Example:

1. *La mattina e' nuvoloso e il pomeriggio piove.*
   "In the morning, it is cloudy, and in the afternoon it rains."
2. *La sera vado a dormire verso mezzanotte.*
   "In the evening, I go to bed around midnight."

For the same purpose, we can add the preposition *di* before a part of the day.

For Example:

1. *Di sera vado a dormire verso mezzanotte.*
   "In the evening, I go to bed around midnight."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

La Produzione Di Vino in Italia ("Wine Production In Italy")

Italy is one of the main wine producers in the world, with its 40 million hectoliters. However, recently, the consumption of wine in Italy has decreased. Still, Italians rank fifth on the world wine consumption list by volume, with consumption of forty-two liters per capita. Grapes are grown in almost every region of the country, and there are more than one million vineyards under cultivation. Most of the wine comes from Tuscany, Piedmont, Puglia, Emilia Romagna, Veneto, and Friuli, where the cultivation is intensive. In the past few years, some wine-producing companies have focused more and more in producing more DOC wines. DOC stands for *denominazione di origine controllata* and refers to specific zones of cultivation where only permitted grapes are used. The DOC system began in 1963, trying to establish a method of both recognizing quality products and maintaining the international and national reputation of certain products. Some of the most renowned and DOC wines are Brunello, Barbera, Malvasia, Bonarda, Tocai, Lambrusco.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #5
Which Italian Wine Should You Buy?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#5

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Claudio : Vorrei una bottiglia per la mia famiglia. Mia madre ama il vino rosso del Piemonte. Jack, cosa consigli?
2. Jack : Questo e' un buon vino, a base di Nebbiolo. Ma... ah sta arrivando il sommelier.
3. Claudio : Scusi, vorrei comprare una bottiglia per mia madre. Lei ama il vino fruttato. Che cosa mi consiglia?
4. Sommelier : Desidera un vino a buon prezzo?
5. Claudio : Beh.. sì..
6. Sommelier : Allora, va bene il Vigne Combe Valsusa. E' un affare.
7. Claudio : La ringrazio.

ENGLISH

1. Claudio : I'd like a bottle for my family. My mother loves red wine from Piedmont. Jack, what do you recommend?
2. Jack : This is a good wine, based on Nebbiolo. But...the sommelier is coming...
3. Claudio : Excuse me, I'd like to buy a bottle for my mother. She loves fruity wine. What do you recommend?
4. Sommelier : Would you like a wine at a good price?
5. Claudio : Well...yes.
6. Sommelier : Then, the Vigne Combe Valsusa is good. It's a bargain.
7. Claudio : Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
madre	mother	noun	feminine
prezzo	price, cost, rate, tariff	noun	
famiglia	family	noun	feminine
affare	bargain	noun	
fruttato	fruity	adjective	
bottiglia	bottle	noun	feminine
comprare	to buy, to purchase	verb	
consigliare	to suggest, to advise	verb	
desiderare	to wish, to want, to long for, to desire	verb	
ringraziare	to thank	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mia madre e mio padre sono stati sposati cinquant'anni. My mother and father were married fifty (50) years.	I bambini stanno baciando la loro mamma. The children are kissing their mother.
Mia madre è spagnola. "My mother is Spanish."	Tua madre cucina molto bene. "Your mother cooks very well."
Tutte queste camicie sono a buon prezzo. "All these shirts are at good price."	Il prezzo è un po' alto. "The price is a little high."
La mia famiglia è originaria del Meridione. "My family comes from southern Italy."	Luca ha una famiglia numerosa. "Luca has a large family."
Guardi questa Golf! E' un affare! "Look at this Golf! It's a bargain!"	Ti consiglio un vino fruttato per questa torta. "I recommend a fruity wine for this cake."
Questo vino della Puglia ha un sapore fruttato. "This wine from Puglia has a fruity taste."	Hanno finito cinquanta bottiglie di birra in una sera. "They finished fifty bottles of beer in one night."
Questa è una bottiglia di vino speciale! "This is a first-class bottle of wine!"	Una bottiglia di vino. "A bottle of wine."
Comprerà una casa di fianco al fiume per il suo cane. "He will buy a house next to the river for his dog."	Compro sempre troppo cibo, quando ho fame. "I always buy too many groceries when I am hungry."

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."	Ti consiglio di guardare quel film. "I suggest you watch that movie."
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."	Desidera una macchina veloce o comoda? "Would you like a fast or comfortable car?"
Cosa desideri per Natale? "What do you wish for Christmas?"	Desidera altro? "Would you like something else?"
Vi ringraziamo per il vostro aiuto. "We thank you for your help."	Ti ringrazio del tuo aiuto. Di nulla. "Thanks for you help. No problem."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***fruttato* ("fruity")**

This adjective comes from the noun *frutta. Frutta* is an uncountable noun, and it is feminine: *la frutta.*

***desiderare* ("to wish")**

We translate this as "to wish." But we can also use it in stores to place our orders, similar to "would like."

***prezzo* ("price")**

When asking about price, the most natural question is *Quanto costa?*, but it is OK to say also *Qual è il prezzo di....?*

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Expressing Levels of Formality.
Desidera un vino a buon prezzo?
"Would you like a wine at a good price?"

To express formality in Italian, we use the third-person singular. This applies to verbs as well as adjectives and pronouns. *Lei* is the subject pronoun that we use.

For Example:

1. *Lei è il signor Rossi?*
   "Are you Mr. Rossi?"

To distinguish it from *lei,* the feminine subject pronoun meaning "she," we always capitalize *Lei*.

For Example:

1. *Buongiorno a Lei!*
   "Good morning to you!"

The verb is always in the third-person singular. Notice the difference in the usage of the second (informal) and third (formal) person in the conversation of this lesson.

When Claudio talks to Jack, a friend, he says *Che cosa mi consigl**i**?* ("What do you recommend?")

But when Claudio talks to the sommelier, someone he does not know, he says *Che cosa mi consigli**a**? (*"What do you recommend?")

In Italian, it is very important to use the third person in formal situations and to be polite. Italians consider it very rude to address to a person using the second-person singular in a formal situation. The third-person singular is appropriate when you address a person you don't know well or if you talk to this person for the first time. We also use it to address elderly people and in general people older than you. It is common to use the third-person singular when talking to doctors, teachers, and professors at school and universities, the mayor, the police, and in shops.

Together with the third-person singular, it is important to use greetings and titles appropriately.

For Example:

1. *Ciao dottore, come sta?*
   "Hi, doctor, how are you?"

This sentence is incorrect because it uses *ciao*, a very informal greeting, and *come sta,* formal speech. Here is the correct sentence.

For Example:

1. *Buongiorno (or Salve) dottore, come sta?*
   "Good morning, doctor, how are you?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Enoteca Regionale Emilia Romagna

In Emilia-Romagna, a region with a strong wine vocation, near Bologna in a hilly village called Dozza, there is a big *enoteca*, a "wine house," that since 1978 has promoted and tried to improve the regional production of wine in Italy and in the world. The *Enoteca Regionale Emilia Romagna* has a picturesque location, just inside a medieval castle, the Sforza Castle of Dozza. Dozza itself is a very striking place, with its houses' walls all painted by various famous artists. The *Enoteca* is open to everyone, and it is the best place to find, taste, and buy good wines and vinegars from the region. One of the most famous Emilia-Romagna's wine is Lambrusco, a red and fruity sparkling wine that was also beloved by the opera singer Pavarotti and today is among the most exported wines in Italy. Closely related to Lambrusco, there is the traditional balsamic vinegar of Modena, a special vinegar that needs years of fermentation before becoming a thick and rare seasoning, defined by a sweet and strong taste.

Cantina Canelli

In an area with a strong wine vocation, between the *Langhe* and *Monferrato* ("Piedmont"), the *cantina Sociale di Canelli* ("Canelli cooperative Wine Growers' Association") has been producing the classic wines of Piedmont since 1933, working with absolute respect for the tradition. Today, the *Cantina sociale di Canelli* produces more than 200 wines. The wide assortment of products includes the most prestigious wines of the Asti area: reds obtained from the grapes of old vines; light, fresh and fruity whites; and sweet and dry *Spumanti*. *Spumante* is the Italian equivalent of French champagne, and it is common to drink *spumante* to celebrate special occasions like New Year's Eve or Christmas and birthdays (together with a piece of cake!). The buildings of the *Cantina* stretch over more than 2,000 square meters, and it is here that the various production phases take place until the final product is obtained.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #6

What's Your Favorite Italian Cooking Show?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#6

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Claudio : Jack, vorrei guardare il programma di cucina della Parodi. È sul canale 7.
2. Jack : Guardi anche tu i programmi di cucina?
3. Claudio : Sono utili. Imparo sempre ricette nuove.
4. Jack : Sono d'accordo. E preferisco un programma di cucina a un varietà! i varietà sono noiosi.
5. Claudio : Hai ragione. Quale programma culinario preferisci?
6. Jack : Preferisco guardare il programma della Clerici, è molto divertente.

ENGLISH

1. Claudio : Jack, I'd like to watch Parodi's cooking program. It's on channel seven.
2. Jack : You watch cooking programs too?
3. Claudio : They are useful. I always learn new recipes.
4. Jack : I agree. And I prefer cooking programs to variety shows. They are boring!
5. Claudio : You're right. And what cooking programs do you prefer?
6. Jack : I prefer watching Clerici's program; it's very entertaining.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
cucina	kitchen, cooking, food, cuisine	noun	feminine
varietà	variety show	noun	feminine
programma	program, show, plan	noun	
noioso	boring, tiresome, dull	adjective	
ricetta	recipe, prescription	noun	feminine
guardare	to look, to watch, to look at	verb	
imparare	to learn	verb	
canale	channel	noun	
essere d'accordo	to agree	verb	
divertente	funny, fun, amusing	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

La cucina è la mia stanza preferita. "The kitchen is my favourite room."	Ti piace la cucina italiana? "Do you like Italian cooking?"
Cosa ti piace della cucina italiana? "What do you like about Italian cuisine?"	Mi piace la cucina tailandese. "I like Thai food."
Talvolta guardo programmi di varietà per rilassarmi. "I sometimes watch variety shows to relax."	Quale programma stai guardando ora? Il telegiornale? "What program are you watching now? The news?"
Che programmi hai per domani? "What are your plans for tomorrow?"	Questo talk show è troppo noioso! "This talk show is too boring!"
Questo programma televisivo è noioso. "This TV program is boring."	Nella mia cucina ho tanti libri di ricette. "In my kitchen I have a lot of recipe books."
Ho provato questa nuova ricetta. "I tried this new recipe."	Guardami mentre parlo. "Look at me when I'm talking to you."
Di solito non guardo nessuno sport, ma ieri ho fatto un'eccezione. "Usually, I don't watch any sports but I made an exception yesterday."	La domenica molti italiani guardano il calcio in TV. "On Sunday a lot of Italian people watch soccer on TV."
Guardi la tv? "Are you watching TV?"	Guardiamo un film italiano? "Shall we watch an Italian movie?"
Giorno per giorno, Samuele impara cose nuove. "Day by day Sam learns new things."	Cosa hai imparato oggi? "What did you learn today?"
cambiare canale change the channel	Sta cambiando canale con un telecomando. She is changing the channel with the remote control.
Puoi cambiare canale? Non mi piace questo film dell'orrore. "Can you change channel? I don't like this horror film."	Lo sport fa sempre bene alla salute.Sei d'accordo? "Sport is always good for one's health. Do you agree?"
Non sono d'accordo con te. "I do not agree with you."	Penso che il film fosse veramente divertente. "I think that the movie was really fun."

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

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

programma

This noun ends in *-a* but it is a masculine noun: *il programma.* It both means "a plan" or "a program" (e.g., a TV program or program for the theater).

cucina

Cucina is a noun that translates to both the "kitchen" in a house and the word "cuisine" or "cooking."

essere d'accordo

This is a popular expression used to show agreement. The verb *essere* follows its conjugation, while *d'accordo* is invariable.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Verb *Preferire.*
Quale programma culinario preferisci?
"Which cooking program do you prefer?"

We often use the verb *preferire* to express likes and dislikes as well as preferences. It is a verb belonging to the *-ire* group, but its conjugation is different from the majority of the verbs ending in *-ire*.

Here is the conjugation of *preferire*:

Io preferisco

Tu preferisci

Lui/lei preferisce

Noi preferiamo

Voi preferite

Loro preferiscono

The verb *preferire* adds the suffix *-isc* between the root and the declination to the first-, second-, and third-person singular and to the third-person plural.

There are other verbs belonging to the *-ire* group that have a similar conjugation to *preferire*.

For Example:

Italian	**"English"**
finire	"to finish"
capire	"to understand"
pulire	"to clean"

When you see a new verb in *-ire*, it is necessary to check the dictionary in order to know whether its conjugation is similar to the verb *dormire* or the verb *preferire.*

Let's see the conjugation of these verbs one more time using the verb *capire.*

Io capisco

Tu capisci

Lui/lei capisce

Noi capiamo

Voi capite

Loro capiscono

For Example:

1. *Capisci cosa dico?*
   "Do you understand what I say?"
2. *Giovanni pulisce la macchina.*
   "Giovanni cleans the car."
3. *Sara e Simona finiscono il lavoro alle 7:00.*
   "Sara and Simona finish work at seven o'clock."

Preferire can be followed by a verb in the infinitive form. No preposition is needed between *preferire* and the verb.

For Example:

1. *Preferisco guardare il programma della Clerici.*
   "I prefer watching Clerici's program."

Preferire can be followed by a noun, and we can use it to compare two things. In this case, we need to use the preposition *a*.

For Example:

1. *E preferisco un programma di cucina a un varietà!*
   "I prefer a cooking program to a variety show."
2. *Preferisce la cucina giapponese alla cucina messicana.*
   "He prefers Japanese cuisine to Mexican cuisine."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

La Prova del Cuoco

La Prova del Cuoco is a famous cooking show on Italian TV. On numerous Italian TV channels, there are often cooking programs in which more or less famous chefs show and explain how to prepare their favorite dishes. However, one of the most successful programs is broadcast at midday (what timing!), and it is hosted by Ms. Antonella Clerici, a famous friendly host on Italian TV. She first prepares a dish for her guests, and then there is a cooking competition between two chefs. They have to prepare a dish in about fifteen minutes. A special jury chooses the winner. This competition is also often a good occasion to present regional dishes and ingredients from different parts of Italy.
Another cooking show on TV is hosted by Benedetta Parodi, who is also famous for her cookbook, *Cotto e mangiato* (literally, "cooked and eaten"): a book containing everyday recipes that are easy to prepare.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #7

Which Food Do You Miss the Most in Italy?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

7

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Mieke : Che sorpresa! Oggi non mangi in mensa? Allora mangi un panino con me?
2. Jack : Volentieri! Non vedo l'ora di mangiare. Oggi ho un pasto speciale: corn beef hash. Mi piace tantissimo.
3. Mieke : Che cos'è?
4. Jack : Un misto di patate e carne di manzo in scatola. È da parte di mia mamma. A volte ho nostalgia di questo cibo! Vuoi assaggiare?
5. Mieke : Hai nostalgia di questo cibo? Davvero?! No grazie.. non mi piace il cibo in scatola...

ENGLISH

1. Mieke : What a surprise! Today you don't eat at the canteen? Would you like a sandwich with me?
2. Jack : I can't wait to eat. Today I have a special meal...corn beef hash. I really like it.
3. Mieke : What is it?
4. Jack : A mixture of potato and beef in a can. It's from my mom. I sometimes miss this food. Do you want to try it?
5. Mieke : You miss this food? Really? No thank you...I don't like canned food...

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
non vedere l'ora di	cannot wait to	verbal phrase	
cibo	food	noun	
mensa	canteen, refectory, lunchroom	noun	feminine
assaggiare	to taste, to sample, to nibble	verb	
lattina	can	noun	feminine
sorpresa	surprise	noun	
speciale	special	noun	masculine
pasto	meal	noun	masculine
a volte	sometimes	frequency adverb	
davvero	really, truly, indeed	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mio figlio non vede l’ora di incontrare Sonia. "My son can’t wait to meeting Sonia."	Amo il cibo biologico. "I love organic food."
Mangio spesso cibo cinese. "I often eat Chinese food."	Da oggi c’è una nuova cuoca in mensa. "From today there is a new cook at the canteen."
Quando lavoro mangio sempre alla mensa. "When I work, I always eat at the canteen."	Assaggia la pasta. E’cotta? "Try the pasta. Is it cooked?"
Assaggia quello che ho cucinato per te! "Taste what I've cooked for you!"	Colleziono lattine degli anni 70. "I collect cans from the 70s'."
Mi puoi comprare una Coca Cola in lattina? "Can you buy me a Coca Cola in a can?"	C’è una piacevole sorpresa per te. "There is a pleasant surprise for you."
Non mi piacciono le sorprese. "I don't like surprises."	Ho fatto una sorpresa alla mia ragazza. "I surprised my girlfriend."
C'è uno speciale sulla scuola. "There's a special about school."	Oggi e’ un giorno speciale per tutti noi. "Today it is a special day for all of us."
È un'offerta speciale. "It's a special offer."	pasto di cinque portate five course meal
pasto caldo hot meal	pasto cucinato in casa home cooked meal
Lo chef sta preparando un pasto. The chef is making a meal.	La colazione è il pasto più importante della giornata. "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day."
Di solito alla sera faccio un pasto leggero. "In the evening I usually have a light meal."	Consumare il pasto. "to eat a meal"
A volte mangio la pizza per cena. "I sometimes eat pizza for dinner."	A volte non ti capisco Marco. "Sometimes I don't understand you, Marco."
Sei davvero vegetariano? "Are you really vegetarian?"	Devo davvero andare. "I really have to go."
Davvero? "Really?"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

pasto

Pasto means "meal." To say "to have a meal" is *fare un pasto*. However, to say "to have lunch or dinner," it is preferable to use the verbs *pranzare* and *cenare.*

a volte

A volte means "sometimes." Other expressions are *qualche volta, certe volte,* and *talvolta.* The position of this adverb in the sentence is not fixed, but it is often at the beginning of the sentence or near the verb.

davvero

Davvero is a very common expression to show surprise. It comes from the adjective *vero* ("true"). A similar expression is *Per davvero*?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Verb *Piacere.*
Mi piace tantissimo.
"I really like it."

We use the verb *piacere* to express that you like something. In the negative form, it expresses a dislike.

For Example:

1. *Mi piace la torta al cioccolato*
   "I like chocolate cake."
2. *Non mi piace il cibo in scatola.*
   "I don't like can food."

The verb *piacere* works a little bit differently from other verbs in Italian. Look at the chart below:

mi piace ("i like")

ti piace ("you like")

gli piace ("he likes")

le piace ("she likes")

ci piace ("we like")

vi piace ("you like")

gli piace ("they like")

As you can see, we do not conjugate *piacere* in six forms. This is because the subject of the verb *piacere* is not the person who likes something (like in English) but the subject the object being liked. An example will make the explanation clear.

For Example:

1. *Mi piace la pasta.*
   "I like pasta."

The subject of the sentence is "pasta," not "I." *Mi* is an indirect pronoun, and it means "to me." So, a literal translation of *Mi piace la pasta* would be "Pasta likes to me." In order to express who likes something, we use indirect pronouns.

The indirect pronouns are as follows:

Subject Pronouns	Indirect Pronouns
io	*mi*
tu	*ti*
lui	*gli*
lei	*le*
noi	*ci*
voi	*vi*
loro	*gli*

You will learn more about indirect pronouns later on. For now, it is best to memorize them and remember that we place them before the verb *piacere.*

For Example:

1. *Gli piace il calcio.*
   "He likes football."

If the sentence is negative, we place the indirect pronoun between *non* and the verb *piacere.*

For Example:

1. *Non le piace la neve.*
   "She doesn't like rain."

It is also possible to substitute the indirect pronoun with the preposition *a* + the name of the person who likes something.

For Example:

1. *A Luisa piace il calcio.*
   "Luisa likes football."

In order to express how much a person likes or dislikes something, we can add an adverb of quantity.

For Example:

1. *Mi piace tantissimo Roma.*
   "I really like Rome."

2. *Mi piace abbastanza il cinema italiano*.
   "I quite like Italian movies."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cibo e Persone ("Food and People")

Food is an important part of Italian culture. It is not only a stereotype that Italian people love food. It could be said that Italian people find in food a part of their cultural identity. That is also because of Italian history, which is not only long but also varied. After the Roman Age, every region in Italy went through different experiences because they were dominated by various foreign countries. This also affected the cooking tradition of every region. For example in the South of Italy, especially in Sicily, where the Arabs ruled for a while during the Middle Ages, you can find many traces still today: cous-cous, a traditional Berber dish of semolina, or many dishes with sesame. Both cous-cous and sesame are almost unknown ingredients in the traditional cooking tradition of Northern Italy, where for example we can find the Austrian influence in the *canederli* recipe, bread dumplings with soup. This multiplicity is often celebrated in fairs or events dedicated to food.
In the Italian language, there are a few expressions that we use to describe people's character and look that require a similitude with food. It might be because Italians love their food or because they are always thinking about food. Here are some of the most common expressions.
For Example:

1. *buono come il pane*
   "good like bread"
2. *buono come il vino*
   "good like wine"

The two expressions above describe people who are good-hearted, generous, and kind.
For Example:

1. *dolce come il miele*
   "sweet like honey"
2. *pieno come un uovo*
   "full like an egg" (This does not refer only to a full stomach. It can also describe people who have lots of things.)

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #8
Will Italy Win This Volleyball Game?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#8

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Silvia : Questa partita è deludente!
2. Mieke : La squadra italiana di pallavolo femminile di solito è la numero uno, ma oggi non è in forma.
3. Silvia : Che peccato! Di solito siamo più forti.
4. Mieke : Invece oggi l'Italia sta perdendo anche il secondo set.
5. Silvia : Che tristezza! Speriamo di recuperare quattro punti altrimenti non andiamo in finale.
6. Mieke : Temo che l'Italia oggi non vincerà.

ENGLISH

1. Silvia : This match is disappointing!
2. Mieke : The Italian women's volleyball team is usually number one, but today it's not in shape.
3. Silvia : What a pity! Usually we are stronger.
4. Mieke : While today, Italy is even losing the second set.
5. Silvia : How sad! I hope we make up at four points, otherwise we can't go to the final.
6. Mieke : I fear that Italy won't win today.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
squadra	team	noun	feminine
perdere	to lose, to waste, to miss	verb	
deludente	disappointing	adjective	
che tristezza!	How sad!	exclamation	
che peccato!	What a pity!	exclamation (idiomatic expression)	
partita	match, game	noun	
in forma	in shape	adverb	
pallavolo	volleyball	noun	feminine
forte	strong, powerful, loud, tough, heavy, severe	adjective	
sperare	to hope	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

La sua squadra di calcio preferita è Dallas Cowboys. Her favorite team is the Dallas Cowboys football team.	gioco di squadra team game
sforzo di squadra team effort	La squadra sta discutendo. The team is having a discussion.
Squadra, siete pronti? Mani al centro! Okay team, hands in.	Lascerà la squadra il prossimo anno. "She'll quit the team next year."
Andiamo a vedere la squadra americana di basket! "Let’s go and see the American team of basketball!"	Qual è la tua squadra preferita? "What’s your favorite team?"
Ci sono undici giocatori in squadra. "There are eleven players in the team."	Forza ragazzi! Stiamo perdendo la partita. "Come on, boys! We are losing the match."
Ho perso il portafogli. "I lost my wallet."	Abbiamo perso la partita. "We lost the match."
Questo film è davvero deludente! "This film is really disappointing!"	Che tristezza! Non c’è nessuno alla festa. "How sad! There’s nobody at the party."

Che peccato! Susy è ammalata. "What a pity! Susy is ill."	Ieri ho perso il treno. Che peccato! "Yesterday I missed the train. What a pity!"
Che peccato! "What a pity!"	Quasi nessuno ha potuto guardare la partita a causa dell'interruzione di corrente. "Hardly anyone could watch the game due to a power cut."
Italia-Germania è una partita emozionante. "Italy-Germany is an exciting match."	Facciamo una partita? "Shall we play a match?"
Oggi mi sento proprio in forma per la gara di nuoto. "Today I really feel in shape for the swimming race."	giocare a pallavolo play volleyball
Le squadre stanno giocando a pallavolo. The teams are playing volleyball.	Giochiamo a pallavolo in spiaggia. Let's play volleyball at the beach.
Lucia e Maria giocano a pallavolo due volte la settimana. "Lucy and Mary play volleyball twice a week."	Di solito si gioca a pallavolo durante educazione fisica a scuola. "Volleyball is usually played at school during physical education class."
Le ragazze giocano sempre a pallavolo. "The girls always play volleyball."	Jack è un uomo forte e gioca in una squadra di rugby. "Jack is a strong man and he plays in a rugby team."
Tuo padre è molto forte. "Your father is very strong."	Spero di ricevere un bel regalo per il mio compleanno. "I hope to receive a nice present for my birthday."
Spero che Luisa arrivi in tempo. "I hope that Luisa will arrive on time."	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."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

deludente

Deludente is the adjective from the verb *deludere* ("to disappoint"). To express disappointment, it is also possible to use the noun *delusion* ("disappointment") in the expression *essere una delusione.*

che peccato!

This expression is very common and very much used to show disappointment.

perdere

We use *perdere* ("to lose") when talking about a match (opposite of "to win"), "to lose [something]" (opposite of *trovare* ("to find")), and also "to miss," such as in *perdere il treno* ("to miss the train").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Cardinal and Ordinal Numbers.
La squadra italiana di pallavolo femminile di solito è la numero uno.
"The Italian team of women volleyball is usually number one."

Cardinal numbers are useful to express time, record dates, interpret recipe amounts, and, of course, count. In Italian, we write cardinal numbers as one word.

Here is the basic table of numbers.

Number	*Italian*
1	*uno*
2	*due*
3	*tre*
4	*quattro*
5	*cinque*
6	*sei*
7	*sette*
8	*otto*
9	*nove*
10	*dieci*
11	*undici*
12	*dodici*
13	*tredici*
14	*quattordici*
15	*quindici*
16	*sedici*
17	*diciassette*
18	*diciotto*
19	*diciannove*
20	*venti*
21	*ventuno*
22	*ventidue*
23	*ventitré*
24	*ventiquattro*
25	*venticinque*
26	*ventisei*
27	*ventisette*
28	*ventotto*
29	*ventinove*
30	*trenta*
31	*trentuno*
32	*trentadue*
33	*trentatré*
40	*quaranta*

50	*cinquanta*
60	*sessanta*
70	*settanta*
80	*ottanta*
90	*novanta*
100	*cento*

When -*tre* is the last digit of a larger number, it takes an accent: *ventitré*, *trentatré*, *quarantatré*, and so on.

The numbers *venti*, *trenta*, and so on drop the final vowel before adding -*uno* or -*otto*: *ventuno*, *ventotto*.

Beyond 100

There is no Italian equivalent for the English "eleven hundred," "twelve hundred," etc. One says *millecento*, *milleduecento*, etc.

The function of periods and commas is reversed from that in English. Therefore, the number 1.000 = "one thousand" (or *mille* in Italian) and 1,5 = "one point five" or "one and five tenths" or, in Italian, *uno virgola cinque.*

We do not use the indefinite article before *cento* and *mille*, but we do use it before *million.*

For Example:

1. *cento anni*
   "a hundred years"
2. *mille favole*
   "a thousand fables"
3. *un millione di lire*
   "a million lire"

Here is a table of cardinal numbers after 100.

Number	*Italian*
100	*cento*
101	*centouno*
150	*centocinquanta*
200	*duecento*
300	*trecento*
400	*quattrocento*
500	*cinquecento*
600	*seicento*
700	*settecento*
800	*ottocento*
900	*novecento*
1,000	*mille*
1,001	*milleuno*
1,200	*milleduecento*
2,000	*duemila*
10,000	*diecimila*
15,000	*quindicimila*
100,000	*centomila*
1,000,000	*un milione*
2,000,000	*due milioni*
1,000,000,000	*un miliardo*
2,000,000,000	*due miliardi*

Cardinal numbers do not agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify.

For Example:

1. *Compro due sedie e tre tavoli.*
   "I buy two chairs and three tables."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

La Nazionale di Pallavolo Femminile ("Italian Women's Volleyball Team")

The Italian women's volleyball team is a European volleyball team with the best Italian players. The first volleyball team played against France on April 7, 1951. Unfortunately, the team lost its first match. For the next two decades, the team was anonymous, but in the seventies, the Italian team made it to the European Cup and in 1978 to the World Cup, even if it got the fourth-to-last position.

The Italian team got stronger after the year 2000, and 2007 was the best year for the national team: bronze at the World Grand Prix and twenty-six victories in various cups. These results were possible thanks to a united team led by Italians Eleonora Lo Bianco and Simona Gioli and by the Italian-Cuban Taismary Aguero.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #9
Who is That Pretty Italian Girl?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar

#9

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Mieke : Stasera viene anche Silvia.
2. Jack : Chi?
3. Mieke : Non conosci Silvia? Lavora con me in pasticceria. A volte prende l'aperitivo con me al bar.
4. Jack : Mhmm...com'è?
5. Mieke : E' abbastanza alta, con i capelli corti, neri e ricci. Ha gli occhi azzurri.
6. Jack : Ah...allora è carina!

ENGLISH

1. Mieke : Silvia is also coming tonight.
2. Jack : Who?
3. Mieke : You don't know Silvia? She works with me at the patisserie. She sometimes has aperitivo at the bar with me.
4. Jack : Mhmm...how is she?
5. Mieke : She is quite tall, with short black curly hair. She has blue eyes.
6. Jack : Ah...she is pretty!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
abbastanza	quite	phrase	
occhio	eye	noun	masculine
chi	who	pronoun	
azzurro	blue	adjective	
corto	short	adjective	
stasera	tonight	noun	
capello	hair	noun	masculine
alto	tall	adjective	masculine
nero	black	adjective	
carino	cute	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Il vino è abbastanza caro in questo ristorante. "The wine is quite expensive in this restaurant."	Sì, ho abbastanza fame. "Yes, I'm quite hungry."
Mia moglie ha gli occhi blu. My wife has blue eyes.	Mia moglie ha gli occhi azzurri. My wife has blue eyes.
I miei occhi sono iniettati di sangue. My eyes are bloodshot.	occhio marrone brown eye
Adoro gli occhi verdi. "I love green eyes."	I tuoi occhi sono marroni, i miei occhi neri. "Your eyes are brown, my eyes black."
Mi è entrato qualcosa in un occhio. "I have something in my eye."	Chi viene a cena domani sera? Who is coming to dinner tomorrow night?
con chi with who	Chi è lui? "Who is he?"
Di chi è questo? "Whose is this?"	Chi vuole un gelato? "Who wants an icecream?"
Chi ha mangiato la mia torta? "Who ate my cake?"	Chi semina vento raccoglie tempesta. "Making your bed and having to sleep in it."
Chi è Marta? "Who is Marta?"	Oggi l'acqua è limpida e azzurra: facciamo il bagno! "Today the water is limpid and blue: let's go swimming!"
Il padre è alto, ma il figlio è basso The father is tall, but the son is short.	basso e alto short and tall
Mia sorella indossa gonne molto corte. "My sister wears very short skirts."	Quella gonna è corta. "That skirt is short."
Ci vediamo stasera per cena! "See you tonight for dinner!"	Stasera usciamo? "Shall we go out tonight?"
Possiamo uscire insieme stasera? "Can we go out together tonight?"	Stasera usciamo? "Shall we go out tonight?"

Non mi piacciono i capelli lunghi. "I don’t like long hair."	Mio fratello è molto alto. "My brother is really tall."
Ci sono molte persone alte in quell'ufficio. "There are many tall people in that office."	Hai solo otto anni? Sei molto alta. "Are you only eight years old? You’re very tall."
Quanto sei alto? "How tall are you?"	corvo nero black crow
pipistrello nero black bat	Il colore nero non emette o riflette la luce. The color black doesn't emit or reflect light.
bianco e nero black and white	Il colore nero non emette né riflette la luce. The color black doesn't emit or reflect light.
Il nero è il colore del lutto. "Black is the color of mourning."	Io non ho vestiti neri. "I don't have black clothes."
Voglio comprare un paio di scarpe nere. "I want to buy a pair of black shoes."	I gatti neri non portano sfortuna. "Black cats don't bring bad luck."
Paola, hai una cugina molto carina! "Paola, you have a very pretty cousin!"	Ho visto un vestito molto carino, voglio comprarlo! "I saw a very cute dress, I want to buy it."
Il tuo gatto è così carino! "Your cat is so cute!"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

stasera

This is the short form of *questa sera* ("this evening"). All the other expressions for different parts of the day cannot be shortened to one word.

abbastanza

This adverb of quantity can mean both "quite" and "enough" when we use it in negative sentences.

carino

This adjective is very common, and we can use it for people as well as animals or objects. It can be an alternative to the adjective *bello* ("beautiful," "good-looking," or

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of Descriptive Adjectives.
E' abbastanza alta, con i capelli corti, neri e ricci.
"She is quite tall, with short black curly hair."

We usually place Italian descriptive adjectives after the noun they modify, while in English, we always place them before the noun.

For Example:

1. *Sara ha gli occhi azzurri.*
   "Sara has blue eyes."

Adjectives are divided into two groups: those ending in *-o* and those ending in *-e*.

For Example:

Ending in *-o*

Italian	**"English"**
piccolo	"small"
carino	"pretty," "cute"
nero	"black"
buono	"good," "tasty"

Ending in *-e*

Italian	**"English"**
grande	"big"
divertente	"funny"
socievole	"outgoing"

They always agree in gender and number. In this lesson, we will focus on adjectives that refer to singular nouns.

The adjectives can refer to masculine and feminine nouns. Here is a table showing how to make adjectives ending in *-o* agree with singular nouns.

Masculine Singular	*Feminine Singular*
-o	*-a*

For Example:

1. *Ho un gatto bianc**o**.*
   "I have a white cat."
2. *Ho una casa bianc**a**.*
   "I have a white house."

Gatto is a masculine singular noun; therefore, the adjective will end in *-o*.

Casa is a feminine singular noun; therefore, the adjective will end in *-a*.

Here is a table showing how to make adjectives ending in *-e* agree with singular nouns.

Masculine Singular	*Feminine Singular*
-e	*-e*

For Example:

1. *Sara ha un cuore grand**e**.*
   "Sara has a big heart."
2. *Shinjuku è una grand**e** stazione di Tokyo*.
   "Shinjuku is a big station in Tokyo."

Cuore is a masculine singular noun; therefore, the adjective *grande* will end in *-e*.

Stazione is a feminine singular noun; therefore, the adjective *grande* will end in *-e*.

Be aware that the ending of the nouns does not always match. They can match only when the noun and the adjective belong to the same group: both ending in *-o* or both ending in *-e*.

In the examples above, *gatto* is an *-o* ending noun, and *bianco* is an *-o* ending adjective.

Look at the following sentences.

For Example:

1. *Cremona ha una piccol**a** stazion**e**.*
   "Cremona has a small station."

Piccolo is an *-o* ending adjective, while *stazione* is a feminine noun with an *-e* ending.

For Example:

1. *Maria è una ragazz**a** socievol**e**.*
   "Mary is an outgoing girl."

Socievole is an *-e* ending adjective, while *ragazza* is a feminine noun ending in *-o.*

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #10
Describing People in Italian

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#10

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Jack : E che carattere ha Silvia?
2. Mieke : È molto simpatica. Al lavoro è molto gentile e paziente con me. Quando sono in difficoltà mi aiuta sempre. Ha anche una sorella gemella, Serena. Hanno un carattere molto simile-sono molto socievoli ed espansive. I loro fratelli invece sono molto timidi.
3. Jack : Sì, mi ricordo.
4. Mieke : Veramente? li hai visti solo una volta, più di due anni fa. Hai una memoria da elefante!

ENGLISH

1. Jack : And what personality does she have?
2. Mieke : She is very nice. At work, she is very kind and patient with me. When I'm in trouble, she always helps me. She also has a twin sister, Serena. They have similar personalities...they are very friendly and outgoing. Their brothers, on the other hand, are very shy.
3. Jack : Yes, I remember!
4. Mieke : Really? You met them only once, more than two years ago. You have a memory like an elephant!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
gentile	kind, nice, polite	adjective	
espansivo	outgoing	adjective	
simpatico	nice, funny, likable	adjective	
fratello	brother	noun	masculine
simile	similar, alike	adjective	
carattere	personality	noun	masculine
gemello	twin	adverb	
paziente	patient	adjective	
socievole	sociable, social, genial	adjective	
timido	shy	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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."	Sara e Marco sono espansivi e parlano con tutti. "Sara and Marco are outgoing and talk to everyone."
Ho una zia molto simpatica e spesso racconta barzellette. "I have a nice aunt and she often tells jokes."	Tuo padre è molto simpatico. "Your father is very nice."
Ora i miei fratelli abitano tutti all'estero. "Now all my brothers live abroad."	Tuo fratello è giovane. "Your brother is young."
Paolo e Andrea sono sempre insieme: hanno un carattere molto simile. "Paolo and Andrea are always together: they have a similar personality."	Le grandi menti pensano in modo simile. "Great minds think alike."
E Giulia? Ha un carattere forte o debole? "And Julia? Does she have a strong or weak personality?"	Tua sorella gemella è molto diversa da te. "Your twin sister is very different to you."
I nonni sono sempre pazienti con i nipoti. "Grandparents are always patient with their grandchildren."	Mi piacciono le persone socievoli. "I like friendly people."
Il mio collega di lavoro non è molto socievole. "My co-worker is not so sociable."	Carlo è troppo timido: non parla quasi mai. "Charles is too shy: he hardly ever talks."
A scuola mio figlio è timido, ma a casa è vivacissimo! "At school my child is shy, but at home he is rowdy!"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

carattere

While we use this noun to translate the English words "character" or "personality," be aware that the word *personalita* is a false friend, and it means a "famous person" or "VIP."

paziente

Another way that we can use to describe a patient person is by using the noun *pazienza*, as in *avere pazienza* ("to have patience").

fratello

Here are more family-related words: *sorella* ("sister"), *cugino/a* ("cousin"), or *zio/a* ("uncle"/"aunt").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Agreement of Adjectives With Plural Nouns.
I loro fratelli invece sono molto timidi.
"Their brothers on the other hand are very shy."

As we have seen in the previous lesson, adjectives always agree in gender and number. In this lesson, we will focus on adjectives that refer to plural nouns.

The adjectives can refer to masculine and feminine nouns. Here is a table showing how to make adjectives ending in *-o* agree with singular nouns.

Masculine Plural	***Feminine Plural***
-i	*-e*

For Example:

1. *Sara ha gli occhi azzurr**i**.*
   "Sara has blue eyes."
2. *Luisa e Carla hanno due giacche azzurr**e**.*
   "Luisa and Carla have two blue jackets."

Occhi is a masculine plural noun; therefore, the adjective will end in *-i*.

Giacche is a feminine plural noun; therefore, the adjective will end in *-e*.

Here is a table showing how to make adjectives ending in -e agree with plural nouns.

Masculine Singular	***Feminine Singular***
-i	*-i*

For Example:

1. *Giovanni ha tre cani felic**i**.*
   "Giovanni has three happy dogs."
2. *Queste case sono grandi.*
   "These houses are big."

Cani is a masculine plural noun (*cane* is singular); therefore, the adjective *felice* will end in *-i.*

Case is a feminine plural noun (*casa* is singular); therefore, the adjective *grande* will end in *-i.*

As we said in lesson 9, noun endings do not always match. Like in the example above, they can match only when the noun and the adjective belong to the same group: both end in *-o* or both end in *-e*. If the adjective and the noun belong to different groups, then the ending will not match.

For Example:

1. *Giovanna e Daria sono due ragazz**e** felic**i**.*
   "Giovanna and Daria are two happy girls."
2. *Ci sono alcune statu**e** grand**i** nella nuova piazza.*
   "There are some big statues in the new square."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Gli animali e le persone sono proprio simili!
"Animals and people are quite alike!"

Even as long ago as Aesop's fables, people have used animals to describe traits of people's personality. Here is a list of expressions:

1. *avere una memoria da elefante*
   "to have a memory like an elephant"
2. *furbo come la volpe*
   "cunning like a fox"
3. *testardo come un mulo*
   "stubborn as a mule"
4. *mite come il bue*
   "good-natured like an ox"
5. *lento come una lumaca*
   "slow like a snail"
6. *muto come un pesce*
   "mute like a fish"
7. *forte come un leone*
   "strong like a lion"
8. *previdente come una formica*
   "provident like an ant"

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #11

How Do You Like the Weather in Italy?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#11

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Mieke : Che brutto tempo!
2. Silvia : In settembre di solito le giornate sono belle.
3. Mieke : Vorrei andare in bicicletta e godere della città. In estate è troppo caldo e umido.
4. Silvia : Hai ragione! Secondo le previsioni da giovedì il tempo migliora.
5. Mieke : Vorrei abitare alle Hawaii- bel tempo tutto l'anno.
6. Silvia : È vero. Però io amo sciare quindi in inverno mi piace la neve!

ENGLISH

1. Mieke : What horrible weather!
2. Silvia : In September, the days are usually beautiful.
3. Mieke : I'd like to cycle and enjoy the city. In the summer, it is too humid.
4. Silvia : You're right! According to the weather forecast, the weather will get better from Thursday.
5. Mieke : I'd like to live in Hawaii—beautiful weather all year round.
6. Silvia : It's true. But I love skiing, so in the winter, I like the snow.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
estate	summer	noun	
migliorare	to get better	verb	
godere	enjoy	verb	
abitare	to live	verb	
secondo	according to	preposition	
andare in bicicletta	to cycle	verb	
umido	humid	adjective	masculine
troppo	too much	adverb and adjective	
previsione del tempo	weather forecast	nominal expression	
sciare	to ski	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Questa estate è troppo calda. This summer is too hot.	L'estate è il periodo delle vacanze di famiglia e del tempo caldo. Summer is the time of family vacations and warm weather.
caldo giorno estivo hot summer day	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."	Mia nonna è ancora ammalata, ma sta migliorando. "My grandma is still ill, but she is getting better."
Dopo la scuola, goditi le vacanze! "After school, enjoy your holidays!"	La famiglia si sta godendo un pasto in un giorno festivo. "The family is enjoying a holiday meal."
È bello abitare in campagna. "It's pleasant to live in the country."	Abito con i miei genitori. "I live with my parents."
Francesca abita fuori città. "Francesca lives out of the city."	Leggo il Vangelo secondo Marco. "I always read the Gospel according to Mark."
Mi piace andare in bicicletta soprattutto in primavera. "I like to cycle especially in spring."	Questo appartamento è ben arredato, ma un po' umido. "This apartment is well furnished, but a bit humid."
È umido. "It's humid."	Vorrei una birra ma non troppo fredda. "I'd like a beer but not too cold."
Non dovresti bere troppo vino. "You shouldn't drink too much wine."	Ho bevuto troppo. "I drank too much."
Ogni giorno papà segue le previsioni del tempo. "Every day daddy follows the weather forecast."	Di solito andiamo a sciare durante le vacanze di Natale. "We usually go skiing during Christmas holidays"
Vado sempre a sciare in inverno. "I always go skiing in winter."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

estate

The four seasons are *inverno* ("winter"), *primavera* ("spring"), *estate* ("summer"), and *autunno* ("fall").

secondo

Secondo me (literally, "according to me") is a very common way to express you own thoughts. It is not too imposing.

abitare

When introducing yourself, you can use both *abitare* and *vivere*. For example, *Abito/Vivo a Brescia* ("I live in Brescia").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Some of the Most Common Prepositions of Time.
In estate è troppo umido.
"In the summer it is too humid."

Months of the Year

Months have Roman origins. ***Gennaio*** ("January") comes from Janus, the beginning of all events; ***Febbraio*** ("February") comes from the goddess Febris; and ***Marzo*** ("March") was dedicated to the God of War, Marte, as most wars began in March, with the coming of spring. ***Aprile*** ("April") comes from the verb *aperire ("*to open"), obviously referring to "the opening of flowers." ***Maggio*** ("May") was dedicated to the goddess of earth, Maia, while ***giugno*** ("June") derives from Giunone. ***Luglio*** ("July") is the month Julius Caesar was born (thirteenth of July) while ***agosto*** ("August") pays homage to the emperor Augustus. ***Settembre*** ("September") and ***ottobre*** ("October") come from the Latin numbers seven and eight. Similarly, ***novembre*** ("November") and ***dicembre*** ("December") are from the Latin numbers nine and ten.

Months never begin with a capital letter, unless they are at the beginning of a sentence.

In and *a* are the prepositions that we use before a month.

For Example:

1. *In marzo vado a Londra.*
   "In March, I go to London."
2. *A dicembre festeggiamo Natale.*
   "In December, we celebrate Christmas."
3. *In settembre di solito le giornate sono belle.*
   "In September, days are usually nice."

Seasons

The four seasons (***stagioni***) are ***primavera*** ("spring"), from the Latin *primo vere*, "first green"; ***estate*** ("summer"); ***autunno*** ("fall"); ***inverno*** ("winter").

The preposition for seasons is *in*.

For Example:

1. *In inverno amo sciare.*
   In winter, I love skiing.
2. *In estate è troppo umido.*
   "In the summer, it is too humid."

Other Prepositions of Time

The preposition *da* translates as the English word "from."

For Example:

1. *Secondo le previsioni da giovedì il tempo migliora.*
   "According to the weather forecast, the weather will get better from Thursday."

In Italian *da... a...* translates the English "from... to..."

For Example:

1. *Da giovedì a lunedì le scuole sono chiuse per le vacanze di Pasqua.*
   "From Thursday to Monday, schools will be closed for the Easter holidays."

Da ... a can also be prepositions of space.

For Example:

1. *Da Torino a Milano ci sono 150 Km.*
   "From Turin to Milan there are 150 km."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Vacations

Where do Italians go on vacation? The majority prefer to go to the sea, which is quite obvious since Italy is a peninsula. The favorite destinations are the long beaches of Romagna and Tuscany, but some of the most attractive coasts are in Calabria, Sicily, and, of course, Sardinia. About thirty percent of Italians spend their holiday in the mountains. Particularly popular are the heights of Valle d'Aosta, on the border with France; Trentino, which is close to Austria; and, of course, Dolomiti with their breathtaking landscapes are at the top of the list.
Recently, more people also like foreign destinations like the beaches of Greece, Spain, and Egypt or the European capitals like Paris, London, and Berlin. A few are for those of you who opt for exotic destinations. The most "affordable" are Cuba, Seychelles, and Mauritius.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #12
Are Italians Environmentally Conscious?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#12

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Silvia : Vai spesso in bicicletta?
2. Mieke : Sì, quando il tempo è bello. In Belgio è normale.
3. Silvia : In Italia amiamo andare in macchina. Non siamo affatto ecologisti.
4. Mieke : Non sono d’accordo. Tante persone a Torino usano i mezzi pubblici per andare al lavoro.
5. Silvia : Ah ok... Il tram però non è per niente puntuale.
6. Mieke : Mah... non direi. Ma... tu come vieni in pasticceria?
7. Silvia : ...in macchina.

ENGLISH

1. Silvia : Do you cycle often?
2. Mieke : Yes, when the weather is good. In Belgium, it is normal.
3. Silvia : In Italy, we love driving. We are not eco-friendly at all.
4. Mieke : I don't agree. Many people in Turin use public transportation to go to work.
5. Silvia : Ah ok... The tram, however, is not punctual at all.
6. Mieke : Mhm...I wouldn't say so. But...how do you come to the patisserie?
7. Silvia : ...by car.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
in	by	preposition	
amare	to love	verb	
lavoro	work, job	noun	masculine
normale	normal, regular, ordinary	adjective	
puntuale	on time, punctual	adjective	
tanto	much	adjective	
Belgio	Belgium	noun	
ecologico	eco-friendly	adjective	
andare in macchina	to drive	verb	
mezzo publico	public transportation	nominal expression	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Stiamo partendo da Torino per Venezia in treno. "We are leaving from Turin to Venice by train."	I Giapponesi amano passare il tempo libero nei parchi. "Japanese people love spending free time in the parks."
Ami il tuo ragazzo? "Do you love your boyfriend?"	Amo viaggiare. "I love traveling."
Qual è il tuo lavoro? "What's your job?"	Vai al lavoro in macchina, in treno o in pullman? "Do you go to work by car, by train or by bus?"
Sto cercando un nuovo lavoro. "I'm looking for a new job."	Che lavoro fa Luigi? "What does Luigi do?" / "What job does Luigi do?"
In Inghilterra i bambini giocano sotto l'acqua: è normale. "In England children play under the rain: it's normal."	È normale? "Is it normal?"
In Giappone treni e bus sono sempre puntuali. "In Japan trains and buses are always very punctual."	Non sei mai puntuale! "You are never on time!"
Domani sera ci incontriamo con tanti amici. "Tomorrow evening we meet with many friends."	In Belgio molta gente usa ogni giorno la bicicletta. "In Belgium many people use a bicycle every day."

Viviamo in un mondo poco ecologico. "We live in a world that is not very eco-friendly."	Gli Italiani vanno spesso in macchina, meno a piedi. "Italian people often drive, less on foot."
Usi i mezzi pubblici per andare a scuola? "Do you use public transportation to go to school?"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

belgio

Notice that the nationality for people living in Belgium is *belga*, and it is unchangeable for men and women. The adjective is also *belga* and never changes regardless of whether it refers to a masculine or feminine noun.

lavoro

We can translate *lavoro* both as "job" or "work." It is also the first person of the verb *lavorare* ("to work"): *io lavoro* ("I work").

in

We use the preposition *in* with means of transportation. For example, *andare in macchina, in treno, in aereo* means "to go by car, by train, by airplane." The only exception is *andare a piedi* ("to go on foot").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Adverbs of Negation.
Non siamo affatto ecologici.
"We are not eco-friendly at all."

We construct the negative sentence in Italian as follows:

the adverb *non* + verb

For Example:

1. *Vado a scuola alle 8:30.*
   Non vado a scuola alle 8:30.
   "I go to school at eight-thirty."
   "I don't go to school at eight-thirty."

Negation in Italian has two functions:

1. To state that something is false or wrong

2. To prohibit something

For Example:

1. *Non piove.*
   "It doesn't rain."
2. *Non mangiare la cioccolata.*
   "Don't eat chocolate."

In the prohibitive function, *non* is often followed by a verb in the infinitive form: *-are*, *-ere*, and *-ire*.

We often use other adverbs like *per niente* or *affatto* ("at all") in negative sentences to emphasize the negation. They are synonymous.

For Example:

1. *Non sono affatto d'accordo.*
   Non sono per niente d'accordo.
   "I don't agree at all."
2. *Il tram però non è per niente puntuale.*
   "The tram, however, is not punctual at all."

The position of per *niente* and *affatto* can change. We can place them either after the verb or after the complements, according to which word needs to be stressed. The position of *non* is fixed, and it is always before the verb.

For Example:

1. *Non mi piace per niente questa casa.*
   Non mi piace questa casa per niente.
   "I don't like this house at all."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

In Bicicletta ("By Bicycle")

The bicycle as a means of transportation has almost disappeared in most parts of Italy and especially in the south. Cycling is nowadays a sport, a way to exercise, or a hobby for most of the people who go cycling in the countryside, especially in the first warm sunny days of the spring weekends. According to recent statistics, fifty percent of people use their bicycle only in their free time, and out of this group, twenty percent only during the weekend, and thirty percent only during vacations. However, in some cities in the northeast of Italy like Cremona, Modena, and Parma, it is possible to see more people cycling in the city center because it is part of the urban tradition of these cities. They are also very small cities, and for tourists, the best way to visit them is by bicycle. Ferrara also hosts one of the museums dedicated to the bicycle in Italy: *i musei del ciclismo*. The most important museum of the bicycle is in Veneto in a small town called Cesiomaggiore, where the street are named after famous Italian cyclists. This museum has not only videos and pictures of many years of *giro d'Italia* but also the best collections of bicycles in Italy, with the oldest one dating back in 1791.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #13
Talking About the Latest Italian Fashions

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#13

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Laura : Mi piacciono molto le magliette della collezione primaverile di quest'anno!
2. Mieke : Ma non sono un po' troppo colorate? Io preferisco tinte neutre.
3. Laura : A me, invece, piacciono i colori forti come il rosso, il fucsia e l'arancione.
4. Mieke : Ah, guarda, che ne dici di questi pantaloni?
5. Laura : No, non mi piacciono- sono troppo scuri. Perché non bianchi?
6. Mieke : Sì, hai ragione. Bianchi sono carini!

ENGLISH

1. Laura : I like the t-shirts of this year's spring collection very much!
2. Mieke : But are they not a bit too colorful? I prefer neutral colors.
3. Laura : Instead, I like bright colors like red, hot pink, and orange.
4. Mieke : Ah, look, what do you think of these slacks?
5. Laura : No, I don't like them...they are too dark. Why not white?
6. Mieke : Yes, you are right. White is nice!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
colorato	colorful	adjective	
arancione	orange	adjective	
collezione	collection	noun	feminine
carino	cute	adjective	
rosso	red	adjective	
maglietta	t-shirt	noun	
forte	bright	adjective	
neutro	neutral	adjective	
fucsia	hot pink, fuchsia	noun, adjective	
tinta	color	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

In inverno preferisco mettere maglioni colorati. "In winter I prefer to wear colorful sweaters."	Il suo colore preferito è l'arancione. His favorite color is orange.
zucca arancione orange pumpkin	carota arancione orange carrot
L'arancione è un colore molto allegro. "Orange is a very happy color."	Il suo colore preferito è l'arancione. "His favorite color is orange."
La collezione primavera-estate di quest'anno è molto interessante. "This year's spring and summer collection is very interesting."	Paola, hai una cugina molto carina! "Paola, you have a very pretty cousin!"
Ho visto un vestito molto carino, voglio comprarlo! "I saw a very cute dress, I want to buy it."	Il tuo gatto è così carino! "Your cat is so cute!"
L'uomo è di fronte al muro rosso. The man is facing the red wall.	Semaforo rosso significa stop. Red on the traffic light means stop.
rosa rossa dal gambo lungo long stem red rose	L'uomo sta di fronte al muro rosso. The man is facing the red wall.
Rosa rossa a stelo lungo long stem red rose	Il rosso nel semaforo significa alt. Red on the traffic light means stop.
pomodoro rosso maturo ripe red tomato	mela rossa red apple
Rosso è il colore dell'amore. "Red is the color of love."	In caso di emergenza premere il pulsante rosso. "In case of emergency, press the red button."
Il vino rosso accompagna bene la carne. "Red wine goes well with meat."	maglietta di cotone cotton T-shirt
Di questi tempi le magliette firmate possono costare più di cento dollari. These days designer T-shirts can cost over one hundred dollars.	La maglietta blu è fatta di cotone. The blue T-shirt is made from cotton.
maglietta blu blue T-shirt	Quella maglietta ti sta bene. "That t-shirt suits you."

Compro una maglietta nuova. "I buy a new t-shirt."	Anche a mia nonna piacciono i colori forti nonostante l'età. "Also my grandma likes bright colors despite her age."
Mia sorella mette sempre gonne dai colori neutri. "My sister always wears neutral colored skirts."	La camera da letto di mia figlia è dipinta di fucsia. "My daughter's bedroom is painted in hot pink."
Perché ti piacciono le tinte scure? Io le odio. "Why do you like dark colors? I hate them."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

maglietta

This noun derives from *maglia*, which is a "long-sleeved shirt." *Maglietta* is a "short-sleeved shirt" and usually has no collar.

fucsia

The name of this color derives from the one of the plant Fuchsia, a plant that has hot pink flowers. We also write it as *fuxia*. It is a masculine noun, *il fucsia*, even though it ends in *-a*. As an adjective, it is unchangeable.

pantaloni

We use this word for both male or female "slacks" or "trousers." In Italian, it is possible to use the word *i pantaloni* as a plural noun or *il pantalone* as a singular noun.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Verb *Piacere* Followed by Plural Nouns.
Mi piacciono i colori forti.
"I like bright colors."

As we have studied in lesson 7, we use the verb *piacere* to express that we like something and in the negative form that we dislike something. We have also learned that the verb *piacere* works a little differently from most other Italian verbs.

The subject of the verb *piacere* is not the person who likes something (like in English) but the subject is the object being liked. So the conjugation is different:

mi piace ("I like")

ti piace ("you like")

gli piace ("he likes")

le piace ("she likes")

ci piace ("we like")

vi piace ("you like")

gli piace ("they like")

For Example:

1. *Mi piace la pasta al pomodoro.*
   "I like tomato sauce pasta."
2. *Vi piace questa casa?*
   "Do you like this house?"

In the examples above, the verb *piacere* is followed by a singular noun, namely *pasta* and *casa*. We used the verb *piacere* in its third-person singular: *piace*.

The verb *piacere* can also be followed by a plural noun. Look at the following examples.

For Example:

1. *Mi piacciono molto le magliette della collezione primavera di quest'anno!*
   "I like the t-shirts of this year's spring collection very much."
2. *Non mi piacciono questi pantaloni.*
   "I don't like these slacks."

When *piacere* is followed by a plural noun, then it is used in its third-person plural: *piacciono*.

For Example:

1. *Vorrei un gelato, ma questi gusti non mi piacciono.*
   "I'd like an ice cream, but I don't like these flavors."

The verb *piacere* can be followed also by a verb in the infinitive mode. In this case, we use the verb *piacere* in its third-person singular.

For Example:

1. *Vi piace andare in montagna?*
   "Do you like going to the mountains?"
2. *Non mi piace fare shopping il sabato pomeriggio.*
   "I don't like to go shopping on Saturday afternoon."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Moda, Il Made in Italy ("Fashion, Made in Italy")

Italian fashion is, as everyone knows, famous worldwide, and it is an essential part of Italian culture. The most important centers of fashion in Italy are Milan, Florence, and Rome, although the production centers of the fashion traditions are scattered everywhere across the country. In Milan, the fashion week is held twice a year, like in other famous cities in the world such as New York or London.

The *quadrilatero della moda*, or the "fashion rectangular," is the area where the most famous boutiques and fashion centers are located. It covers via Monte Napoleone, via Manzoni, via della Spiga, and corso Venezia. Other important areas are Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, the Duomo square, via Dante, and Corso Buenos Aires; all are within a walking distance from each other.
If the prices of the products of these boutiques are a bit out of reach, it is possible to immerse yourself in the culture of Italian fashion by visiting the recently opened *il museo della moda* ("the museum of fashion"). It is in the beautiful rococo style Palazzo Morando right in the *quadrilatero della moda*. And the entrance fee is free.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #14
Is Italian Grammar Difficult?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#14

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Claudio : Sembri confuso...
2. Jack : Sto studiando grammatica italiana, ma questo capitolo non è facile.
3. Claudio : Questa pagina parla dei sostantivi femminili e maschili e delle eccezioni... In bocca al lupo! Per le eccezioni, devi imparare a memoria le parole.
4. Jack : Oddio! Ripetiamo-...pigiama è femminile mentre pilota è maschile, giusto?
5. Claudio : No, pigiama è maschile come pilota.
6. Jack : Uff... e il mio esame è dopodomani.

ENGLISH

1. Claudio : You look confused...
2. Jack : I'm studying Italian grammar, but this chapter is not easy.
3. Claudio : This page talks about feminine and masculine nouns and the exceptions... Good luck! You have to learn the words by heart with the exceptions.
4. Jack : Gosh! Let's repeat them..."pajama" is feminine while "pilot" is masculine, right?
5. Claudio : No, "pajama" is masculine like "pilot."
6. Jack : Oh...and my exam is the day after tomorrow.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
parlare	to talk, to speak	verb	
giusto?	Right?	tag question	sentence
capitolo	chapter	noun	masculine
dopodomani	the day after tomorrow	adverb	
oddio	my goodness, good grief, good Heavens, my God	interjection	
confuso	confused	adjective	
a memoria	by heart	adverbial phrase	
In bocca al lupo	good luck!	exclamation	
ripetere	to repeat, to restate, to iterate	verb	
sostantivo	noun	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Parliamone! "Let's talk about it!"	Ha parlato del suo nuovo progetto. "He talked about his new project."
Tu parli troppo, Marco. "You speak too much, Marco."	Non mi parli più? "You're not speaking to me anymore?"
Lo conosci, giusto? "You know him, right?"	Tu sei nato nel 1985. Giusto? "You were born in 1985. Right?"
Oggi cerco di studiare tre capitoli di storia. "Today I'm trying to study three chapters of history."	Aveva grandi piani per dopodomani. "He had big plans for the day after tomorrow. "
Ci vediamo dopodomani. "See you the day after tomorrow."	Oddio! Cosa ti è successo? "My God! What happened to you?"
Non capisco bene queste regole: sono molto confuso. "I don't understand these rules: I'm very confused."	Cerca di imparare a memoria questa poesia. "Try to learn this poem by heart."
Ci vediamo, in bocca al lupo per tutto. "See you, good luck with everything."	Domani fai il tuo primo concerto, vero? In bocca al lupo! "Tomorrow you're doing your first concert, right? Good luck!"
Domani ripetiamo l'esperimento. "Tomorrow we're repeating the experiment."	Il tema della lezione di oggi sono i sostantivi. "Today's lesson's theme is noun(s)."
Quanti sostantivi ci sono in questa frase? "How many nouns are there in this clause?"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

parlare di

The verb *parlare* ("to talk") is followed by the preposition *di* ("of") and a noun to show the content of the conversation. It means "to talk of" or "about." We also use it to say what a book or movie is about.

in bocca al lupo

It means "good luck." Literally, it means "in the mouth of the wolf." The common answer to this expression is *crepi!* (meaning "May it die!") and not *grazie* ("thank you") since this answer is thought to bring bad luck instead.

giusto

This adjective means "right." For example, *E' giusto dividere i lavori domestici* ("It is right to share housework.") But, like in English, we can use "right" at the end of a sentence to confirm the content. For example, *Sei francese, giusto?* ("You are French, right?") We use the adjective *vero* in the same way.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Recognize Masculine and Feminine Nouns in Italian.
Pigiama è maschile.
"Pajama is a masculine noun."

In Italian, it is possible to recognize whether a noun is feminine or masculine from the last letter of the word. In Italian, nouns are divided into two groups:

1. *-o* ending masculine nouns and *-a* ending feminine nouns
2. *-e* ending masculine and feminine nouns

It is possible to recognize only the nouns from the first group, while it is necessary to check the dictionary for the ones in the second group.

For example, *tavolo* ends in *-o*, so it's a masculine noun. The determinative article before *tavolo* is *il*: *il tavolo. Casa* ends in *-a*, so it's a feminine noun. The determinative article before *casa* is *la*: *la casa.*

A noun like *fiore* is masculine (*il fiore*), while a noun like *stazione* is feminine (*la stazione*).

For Example:

1. *Ho anche un tablet.*
   "I also have a tablet."
2. *Noi abbiamo un cane e due gatti.*
   "We have a dog and two cats."

We also use the verb *avere* to express age. Unlike English, we do not use the verb *essere* to say how old a person is.

For Example:

1. *Sara ha diciotto anni.*
   "Sara is eighteen."

There are also a few exceptions to this rule, and most of the exceptions concern the nouns belonging to the first group. The best way to memorize these nouns is to learn them with their article. Here is a list of some of the most common exceptions.

-a ending nouns that are masculine

Italian	"English"
il pigiama	"pajama"
il pilota	"pilot"
il gorgonzola	"gorgonzola" (a type of blue cheese)
il problema	"problem," "issue"
il fantasma	"ghost"
il panorama	"the landscape," "view"

For Example:

1. *Questo problema non ha soluzione.*
   "This problem has no solution."
2. *Da questa terrazza il panorama è bellissimo.*
   "From this terrace, the view is beautiful."

-*o* ending nouns that are feminine

Italian	"English"
la metro	"underground"
l'auto (this is a short form of *automobile)*	"car"
la mano	"hand"
la pallacanestro	"basketball"
la radio	"radio"
la moto (this is a short form of *motocicletta*)	"motorbike"

For Example:

1. *L'auto di Maria è proprio vecchia.*
   "Maria's car is really old."
2. *La nuova metro di Brescia è molto efficiente.*
   "The new underground of Brescia is very efficient."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

L'italiano fuori dall'Italia e alter lingue in Italia
"Italian outside Italy and other languages in Italy"

Italian is the official language of Italy and the Republic of San Marino. But it is not just spoken here. In the Vatican City, there is no official language established, but Italian is primarily spoken. In Switzerland, it is one of the official languages, and it is studied and learned in all the confederation schools and spoken as the mother language in the Swiss cantons of Ticino and Grigioni . It is co-official in Slovenian Istria and in Istria County in Croatia. It is widely known in some of the former colonies of Italy, like Somalia, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. Countries like Argentina, Australia, and Brazil have big communities of Italian immigrants who keep Italian as their community language, speaking it at home and transmitting it from generation to generation.

The Italian language was born in the thirteenth century, when Dante's *Divina Commedia* was written, making the dialect of Florence the model for its future developments.

At the same time, there are a number of languages that are spoken in Italy besides Italian. In Valle d'Aosta on the border with France, French is spoken, and in Trentino Alto Adige, near Austria, German is widely spoken. There are also pockets of ancient languages that have survived through the centuries: for example, *Griko*. Greeks colonized Calabria and, even today, there are people in that area who speak a Greek language called *Griko*, an echo of those ancient times. This unique dialect is one that may not be understood by other Italians, even today! Or *Sardo* is spoken in Sardinia, a co-official regional language. It is a Roman language and one of the most conservative ones.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #15

Which Italian Job Would You Like to Have?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#15

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Claudio : Non ci sono annunci interessanti questa settimana.
2. Mieke : Tu hai già un lavoro. Perchè cerchi un altro impiego?
3. Claudio : Il mio lavoro come impiegato in banca è stressante e non è più stimolante. Vorrei un lavoro più fantasioso...
4. Mieke : Il pasticcere o il cuoco? O magari il pittore!
5. Claudio : Ah!... tu fai la pasticcera. Immagina di cambiare lavoro- cosa vorresti fare?
6. Mieke : La ballerina o la cantante di opera lirica!

ENGLISH

1. Claudio : There are no interesting advertisements this week.
2. Mieke : You already have a job. Why are you looking for another one?
3. Claudio : My job as an employee at the bank is stressful and not exciting any more. I would like a more creative job...
4. Mieke : A pastry chef or a chef? Or maybe a painter?
5. Claudio : Ah ah. You are a pâtissier. Imagine changing jobs...what would you like to do?
6. Mieke : I'd like to be a ballerina or an opera singer!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
ballerina	ballerina	noun
impiego	job	noun
immaginare	to imagine, suppose, think	verb
cercare	to look for, seek, search	verb
pasticcere	pastry chef	noun
annuncio	advertisement	noun
fantasioso	creative	adjective
stimolante	interesting	adjective
pittore	painter	noun
stressante	stressful	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mia figlia vorrebbe fare la ballerina. "My daughter would like to be a ballerina."	Mio fratello ha un buon impiego come direttore di banca. "My brother has a good job as a bank manager."
Non puoi neanche immaginare quanto tu sia importante per me. "You can't even imagine how important you are to me."	Io cerco il latte e tu il pane e poi ci incontriamo alla cassa. "I will look for the milk and you for the bread and then let's meet at the cash register."
Mary cercherà te al meeting. "Mary will look for you at the meeting."	Sto cercando una sciarpa carina. "I am looking for a nice scarf."
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?"
Il mio amico sta cercando un pasticcere. "My friend is looking for a pastry chef."	C'è un interessante annuncio di lavoro per te su questo giornale. "There is an interesting job advertisement for you in this newspaper."
Perché non fai il cuoco? E' un lavoro fantasioso. "Why don't you become a chef? It's a creative job."	Questo argomento è stimolante. "This topic is interesting."
Ti piacerebbe fare il pittore? "Would you like to be a painter?"	Insegnare ai bambini è talvolta stressante. "Teaching children is sometimes stressful."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

annuncio
This noun, which means both "advertisement" and "announcement, " comes from the verb *annunciare* ("to announce"). It is a masculine noun.

stressante

This adjective means "stressful." It comes from the word "stress," which in Italian is a masculine word as a foreign word: *lo stress.* The verb is *stressare*, which means "to give stress to somebody."

ballerina
In Italian, the words *ballerina* and *ballerino* do not only refer to the classical dancers but also to any type of dance. So we can better translate this term with the word "dancer."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Change Masculine Nouns That Relate to Jobs Into Feminine Nouns.
Il pasticcere o il cuoco? O magari il pittore!
Ah!... tu fai la pasticcera.
"A pastry chef or a chef? Or maybe a painter?"
"Ah. You are a pâtissier."

We can group the nouns that describe jobs together according to their ending.

- Nouns that end in ***-aio***
- The feminine nouns end in ***-aia***

For Example:

Masculine	***Feminine***	**"English"**
*oper**aio***	*oper**aia***	"worker"
*gelat**aio***	*gelat**aia***	"ice cream vendor"
*giornal**aio***	*giornal**aia***	"newsagent"
*benzin**aio***	*benzin**aia***	"gas station attendant"
*forn**aio***	*forn**aia***	"baker"
*libr**aio***	*libr**aia***	"bookseller"
*macell**aio***	*macell**aia***	"butcher"

The meaning of most of these words is quite clear: the *gelataio* ("ice cream vendor") sells *gelato* ("ice cream"), the *libraio* ("bookseller") sells *libri* ("books"), the *giornalaio* ("newsagent") sells *giornali* ("newspapers")...

- Nouns that end in ***-iere.***
- The feminine nouns end in ***-iera***

For Example:

Masculine	***Feminine***	**"English"**
*camer**iere***	*camer**iera***	"waiter"
*infermi**ere***	*infermi**era***	"nurse"
*parrucchi**ere***	*parrucchi**era***	"hairdresser"
*cass**iere***	*cass**iera***	"cashier"

- Nouns that end in -***ista***
  These are both feminine and masculine nouns.

In order to understand whether the occupation refers to a man or a woman, it is necessary to check the article before the noun, as in ***il*** *giornalista* and ***la*** *giornalista.*

Here are some additional examples.

For Example:

Italian	**"English"**
tassista	"taxi driver"
barista	"bar attendant"
farmacista	"chemist"
camionista	"truck driver"
musicista	"musician"
dentista	"dentist"

For Example:

1. *Sara è una dentista mentre Marco è un musicista.*
   "Sara is a dentist, while Marco is a musician."

- Nouns that end in **-*tore***
- The feminine nouns end in **-*trice***

For Example:

Masculine	***Feminine***	**"English"**
*att**ore***	*att**rice***	"actor"
*scritt**ore***	*scritt**rice***	"writer"
*presentat**ore***	*presentat**rice***	"moderator"
*dirett**ore***	*dirett**rice***	"director"
*senat**ore***	*senat**rice***	"Senate representative"
*pitt**ore***	*pitt**rice***	"painter"

Some nouns like *muratore* ("construction worker") don't have any feminine counterpart.

For Example:

1. *Mi piace l'attore di questo film, ma non mi piace l'attrice bionda.*
   "I like the actor of this movie, but I don't like the blonde actress."

- Nouns that end in ***-o***
- The feminine nouns end in ***-a***

For Example:

Masculine	***Feminine***	**"English"**
*cuoc**o***	*cuoc**a***	"chef"
*modell**o***	*modell**a***	"model"
*postin**o***	*postin**a***	"postman"
*ballerin**o***	*ballerin**a***	"dancer"
*fotograf**o***	*fotograf**a***	"photographer"
*psicolog**o***	*psicolog**a***	"psychologist"

Some jobs form the feminine by adding the suffix ***-essa.***

For Example:

Masculine	***Feminine***	**"English"**
*student**e***	*student**essa***	"student"
*professor**e***	*professor**essa***	"teacher," "professor"
*dottor**e***	*dottor**essa***	"doctor"

For Example:

1. *La nuova professoressa è molto simpatica.*
   "The new teacher is very friendly."

For some jobs there is no feminine form, so it is possible to add the word *donna* ("woman") to the job.

For Example:

Masculine	***Feminine***	**"English"**
il medico	*il medico* ***donna***	"doctor"
il soldato	*il soldato* ***donna***	"soldier"
il poliziotto	*il poliziotto* ***donna*** *(*recently also *poliziotta)*	"policeman"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Faccio il casalingo **("I'm a househusband")**

The word for "housewife" in Italian is *casalinga*. Although the Italian word has more to do with *casa* ("house") than with woman or wife as it does in English, the *casalinga* has always been a woman, and the noun has always only been feminine, until recently.
Il casalingo is a word that is easy to find on the Internet, even if it is still rare to meet a *casalingo* in the flesh. In 2005, at the national children singing competition Zecchino d'oro, a little girl sang a song titled *Il casalingo*, describing what her dad would do if he were working at home. Maybe the answer is somewhere on the website of the AsUC (*Associazione Uomini Casalinghi*, or "Association of Househusbands"), which gathers the *uomini casalinghi*. On their website, there is information and advice on how to do the grocery shopping properly and how to save on electricity bills. There is also a manual, *Casalingo e contento* ("Househusband and Happy"), which can help a new *casalingo* to survive the housework. There are about 6,000 members in this association, but in Italy, the actual number of men who enjoy putting the apron on, fluttering their duster, and ironing shirts is around 22,000.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #16

Have You Been to this Famous Italian Cafe?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#16

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Jack : Davvero è la tua prima volta in questo caffè? Quest'anno festeggia il duecentocinquantesimo anno dalla fondazione.
2. Claudio : Beh, non sono di Torino e poi non ho mai molto tempo libero... Però mi piace qui.
3. Jack : Che ne dici di un secondo giro di birre?
4. Claudio : No Jack, non reggo molto l'alcool. Mi prendo un caffè della casa.
5. Jack : Il famoso Bicerin- è una bomba calorica di cioccolata e panna!

ENGLISH

1. Jack : Is it really your first time in this café? This year it celebrates its two hundred and fiftieth year since its foundation.
2. Claudio : Well, I'm not from Turin and I never have much free time. But I like it here.
3. Jack : How about a second round of beers?
4. Claudio : No Jack, I don't hold my booze well. I'll have the house coffee.
5. Jack : The famous Bicerin! It's a calorific bomb of chocolate and cream!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
tempo libero	free time, spare time	phrase	
cioccolata	chocolate	noun	feminine
festeggiare	to celebrate	verb	
panna	whipped cream, sour cream	noun	
famoso	famous	adjective	
davvero	really, truly, indeed	adverb	
caffè della casa	house coffee	noun	
reggere l'alcool	to hold booze	verbal expression	
bomba	bomb	noun	
giro	circle, round	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Non ho tempo libero. "I don't have any free time."	Fa freddo: prendo una cioccolata calda. "It’s cold. I’ll have a hot chocolate."
Quando festeggiamo le vostre nozze? "When do we celebrate your wedding?"	Domani sera festeggiamo il compleanno di Lucia. "Tomorrow evening we are celebrating Lucia's birthday."
Hai comprato la panna per il dolce? "Did you buy the whipped cream for the dessert?"	Cannes ospita il festival del cinema più famoso del mondo ogni anno. Cannes hosts the world's most famous film festival every year.
attore famoso famous actor	Beckett è un famoso drammaturgo irlandese. "Beckett is a famous Irish playwright."
Quel tizio è famoso. "That guy is famous."	Sei davvero vegetariano? "Are you really vegetarian?"
Devo davvero andare. "I really have to go."	Davvero? "Really?"
Ecco il caffè della casa. E’ una specialità! "Here is the house coffee. It’s a speciality!"	Dammi un altro goccio di vino: reggo abbastanza bene l’alcool. "Give me another sip of wine: I hold my booze well enough."
Questa lasagna è una bomba! Complimenti! "This lasagna is a bomb! Congratulations!"	Facciamo un giro? "Shall we take a walk?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

tempo libero

It refers to the time a person is not working and can relax or do a hobby. The possessive adjective is not necessary in Italian.

For Example:

1. *Nel tempo libero mi piace giocare a calcio*.
   "In my free time, I like playing soccer."

...della casa

It often refers to something produced by the specific café or restaurant one is in. It can be *il caffè della casa* or *il vino della casa* or *il liquore della casa.*

bomba

This noun means "bomb," and like in English, it has a literal meaning as well as a figurative meaning. As for the latter, we can use it to describe something "delicious" or something/someone "beautiful."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Ordinal Numbers.
Che ne dici di un secondo giro di birre?
"How about a second round of beers?"

Ordinal numbers in Italian correspond to the English first, second, third... Unlike the numbers in English, in Italian, ordinal numbers have a distinct form for the numbers one through ten.

Number	*Dutch*
1°	*primo*
2°	*secondo*
3°	*terzo*
4°	*quarto*
5°	*quinto*
6°	*sesto*
7°	*settimo*
8°	*ottavo*
9°	*nono*
10°	*decimo*

For Example:

1. *Davvero è la tua prima volta in questo caffè?*
   "Is it really your first time in this café?"
2. *Abito al nono piano di quest'edificio.*
   "I live on the ninth floor of this building."

After *decimo*, we form ordinals by dropping the final vowel of the cardinal number and adding the suffix *-esimo*.

For Example:

1. *unidici* = *unidicesimo*
   trentaquattro = *trentaquattresimo*
2. *Quest'anno festeggia il duecentocinquantesimo anno dalla fondazione.*
   "This year it celebrates its two hundred and fiftieth year from its foundation."

Numbers ending in *-trè* and *-sei* retain the final vowel.

For Example:

1. *quarantatrè = quarantatreesimo*
2. *settantasei = settantaseiesimo*

Unlike cardinal numbers, ordinal numbers agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify. Ordinal numbers normally precede the noun.

For Example:

1. *Vado a Napoli per la terza volta quest'anno.*
   "I go to Naples for the third time this year."

Volta is feminine; therefore, the ordinal number adjective, *terzo* for three, ends in -*a*.

For Example:

1. *Non gli piace abitare al ventesimo piano.*
   "He doesn't like living on the twentieth floor."

Piano is masculine; therefore, the ordinal number adjective *ventesimo* for twenty ends in -*o*.

We write abbreviations with a small ° (masculine) or ª (feminine).

For Example:

1. *il 25° anno*
   "the twenty-fifth year"
2. *la 4ª pagina*
   "the fourth page"

We often use Roman numbers when referring to popes, royals, and centuries.

For Example:

1. *Il nuovo Papa si chiama Francesco I.*
   "The new Pope's name is Francis the 1st.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Caffè al Bicerin

Caffè al Bicerin is a small historical café that opened in Turin in 1763. It is located in an old square in the center of the city, Piazza della Consolata, and offers a warm and elegant atmosphere that brings its visitors back to the nineteenth century. Of course, the menu includes some delicious and unique drinks. It is famous for the drink Il Bicerin, a house specialty made with espresso coffee, chocolate, fresh cream, and a secret recipe that mixes these ingredients together into an exquisite hot drink. The flavor of the Bicerin has been fascinating clients for more than 200 years, and the café is named after its famous beverage. Bicerin is a word in the Piedmont dialect and means *bicchierino* ("small glass"), the glass in which the café's famous drink is served. In this café, it is also possible to try other local specialties like the house hot chocolate, chestnuts covered in chocolate, and the *zabaione*, a beverage made with egg yolk, sugar, and sweet wine like Marsala or Moscato d'Asti.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #17
Postcards From Italy

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#17

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Jack : Mhm... che scrivo?Allora... Carissimo Marco, sono a Torino da alcuni mesi. La città è splendida- ci sono piazze antiche e musei importanti come quello egizio. Il tirocinio è interessante e c'è una ragazza molto simpatica...
2. Mieke : Jack? Jack? Che fai? Come sei pensieroso!
3. Jack : Scusa. Sono intento a scrivere una cartolina a un amico di Napoli. Vuoi pranzare insieme?

ENGLISH

1. Jack : Mhm...what shall I write? Well, Dearest Marco, I've been in Turin for a few months. The city is splendid...there are old squares and important museums, like the Egyptian one. The internship is interesting, and there is a very friendly girl...
2. Mieke : Jack? Jack? What are you doing? You look deep in thought!
3. Jack : Sorry. I'm concentrating on writing a postcard to a friend from Naples. Do you want to have lunch together?

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
splendido	splendid	adjective
insieme	together	adverb
alcuni-e	a few	indefinite adjective
cartolina	postcard	noun
pensieroso	pensive, wistful, thoughtful, pondering	adjective
carissimo	dearest	adjective
tirocinio	internship	noun
importante	important	adjective
intento	concentrated	adjective
antico	ancient, old	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Questo splendido palazzo risale al secolo scorso. "This splendid palace dates back to the past century."	Dormono tutti insieme in una stanza. "They sleep all together in one room."

Facciamo una passeggiata insieme? "Shall we take a walk together?"	Oggi visitiamo solo alcune chiese di Firenze. "Today we only visited a few churches in Florence."
Da dove viene questa cartolina? "Where is this postcard from?"	Quando arriverai in Italia inviami una cartolina. "When you'll be in Italy send me a postcard!"
Oggi sembri molto pensieroso. "Today, you look very thoughtful."	Carissimo Andrea, sono in vacanza in Sicilia. "Dearest Andrew, I'm on holiday in Sicily."
Sto facendo questo tirocinio con tre studenti stranieri. "I'm doing this internship with three foreign students."	informazione importante important information
cosa più importante most important thing	La colazione è il pasto più importante della giornata. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.
Per me tu sei importante. "You're important to me."	Agata è intenta a chiacchierare con le sue amiche. "Agata is concentrated on chatting with her friends."
Questa biblioteca è molto antica. "This library is very old."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

alcuni-e

We use this adjective only in the plural masculine and feminine form. It means "some." The singular forms also exist, but the usage is different. This adjective only comes before the noun, and it declines according to the noun that follows.

antico

It means "ancient," "old," and "antique." When this adjective refers to a plural masculine noun, it becomes *antichi*, while if the noun is feminine plural, it becomes *antiche*. We add the *-h* to keep the same [-k] sound as in the singular forms.

cartolina

The Italian word for "postcard" comes from *carta* ("paper"). The word for "card" is actually very different: *il biglietto*.

For Example:

1. *I miei amici non spediscono più cartoline quando vanno in vacanza.*
   "My friends don't send postcards anymore when they go on vacation."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of *C'è* and *Ci Sono*.
Ci sono piazze antiche.
"There are old squares."

C'è and *ci sono* correspond to the English "there is" and "there are." They state the existence or presence of something or somebody.

C'è is made up of two parts: *ci* (pronoun of space, "there") and *è* (third-person singular of the verb *essere*, meaning "to be"). Because *ci* ends in a vowel and *è* is also a vowel, we drop the *-i*.

C'è is always followed by a singular noun.

For Example:

1. *C'è una ragazza molto simpatica.*
   "There is a very friendly girl."
2. *Sul tavolo c'è un vaso di fiori.*
   "On the table there is a vase of flowers."

C'è can also be followed by uncountable nouns.

For Example:

1. *Non correre. C'è tempo.*
   "Don't run. There is time."

Ci sono is made up of two parts: *ci* (pronoun of space, "there") and *sono* (third-person plural of the verb *essere*, meaning "to be").

Ci sono is followed by a plural noun.

For Example:

1. *A Bergamo ci sono 100 chiese.*
   "In Bergamo, there are one hundred churches."
2. *Ci sono tante persone alla tua festa di compleanno.*
   "There are many people at your birthday party."

Ci sono can also be followed by a list of singular nouns.

For Example:

1. *In questa casa ci sono una cucina, un salotto, un bagno e due camere.*
   "In this house there is a kitchen, a living room, a bathroom, and two bedrooms."

In colloquial Italian, we often use *c'è* before a list of singular nouns, but it is not grammatically correct.

C'è and *ci sono* also mean "*being here" or "being there*."

For Example:

1. *Scusi, c'è Antonio?*
   "Excuse me, is Antonio there?"

It would be unnatural to say *Scusi, Antonio è lì?*

As in the example above, we often use *c'è* to ask for a person on the phone.

For Example:

1. *Signora Rossi: Pronto?*
   Davide: Buongiorno. C'è Marco?
   Signora Rossi: No, non c'è. Torna alle 5.
2. "Mrs. Rossi: Hello?"
   "Davide: Good morning. Is Marco there?"
   "Mrs. Rossi: No, he isn't. He comes back at five."

In the negative form, we place the adverb *non* before *ci.*

For Example:

1. *Non c'è fretta. Sono solo le 2.*
   "There is no rush. It's only two."
2. *Non ci sono edifici moderni in centro a Roma.*
   "There are no modern buildings in the center of Rome."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cosa Vedere a Torino e Dintorni
"Things to See in Turin and the Surroundings"

Torino, or in English "Turin," is the capital of Piedmont in Italian Piemonte, and it's one of the most famous cities in Italy, especially after the Winter Olympic Games in 2006. It's located in between the West Alps and the Pianura Padana, and it is crossed by the biggest river in Italy, the Po River. Torino was the city of the royal family i Savoia for centuries and also became the first capital of Italy from 1861 to 1865. The most famous monuments in Turin tell a lot about its glorious past, like Palazzo Reale in the heart of the city in the Piazza Castello, the former residence of the Savoia family, or Palazzo Madama, the first Senate of the Italian kingdom. Torino is also famous for two of its major museums: *il Museo nazionale del Cinema* ("the National Museum of Cinema") and *il Museo egizio* ("the Egyptian Museum").
In the surroundings of the city there are some renowned villas like *la Palazzina di caccia of Stupinigi* ("the Hunting Residence of Stupinigi") and *la Reggia di Venaria* ("the Royal palace of Venaria"), a huge site built from 1658 to 1679 by Carlo Emanuele II, who wanted to create a small Versailles near Turin. The Reggia is now open to the public after its long period of renovation.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #18
Don't Be the Third Wheel in Italy!

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
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  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#18

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Mieke : Che fai domani sera? Esci con me e Jack? Andiamo alla Mole Antonelliana a visitare il museo del cinema.

2. Laura : Mi dispiace, vorrei fare lo straordinario al lavoro. Sono al verde questo mese. E poi mi voglio esercitare con qualche ricetta nuova. E soprattutto non voglio uscire con voi due a reggere la candela!

3. Mieke : Siamo solo amici! E poi saliamo con l'ascensore fino a 85 metri di altezza- immagina che bella vista!

ENGLISH

1. Mieke : What are you doing tomorrow evening? Are you coming out with me and Jack? We are going to the Mole Antonelliana to visit the cinema museum.

2. Laura : I'm sorry, I'd like to work overtime. I'm broke this month. Also, I want to practice some new recipes. And above all, I don't want to go out with you two and be the third wheel.

3. Mieke : We are only friends! And we will also go eighty-five meters up in the elevator...imagine what a beautiful view there is!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
essere al verde	to be broke	verbal expression	
ascensore	elevator	noun	
straordinario	extra work	noun	
vista	sight, view, panorama	noun	feminine
reggere la candela	to be the third wheel	verbal expression	
visitare	to visit	verb	
soprattutto	especially, above all	adverb	n/a
ricetta	recipe, prescription	noun	feminine
salire	to get on, to get in, to go up	verb	
esercitare	to practice	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Papà mi presti dei soldi? Sono al verde. "Dad, can you lend me some money? I'm broke."	Mi puoi prestare 200 €? Sono proprio al verde. "Can you lend me 200 €? I'm really broke."
ascensore affollato crowded elevator	Un ascensore sta salendo e un ascensore sta scendendo. One elevator is going up, and one elevator is going down.
Prendiamo le scale. L'ascensore è fuori servizio. "Let's take the stairs. The elevator is out of order."	Ieri ho fatto tre ore di straordinario. "Yesterday I worked three hours of extra work."
Com'è la vista dalla tua camera? "How is the view from your room?"	Che ci sto a fare io qui con voi due? A reggere la candela? "What should I do here with you two? Am I the third wheel?"
Ci piace visitare i paesini del centro Italia. "We love visiting the small towns in Central Italy."	Se andate in Sicilia, dovete assolutamente visitare l'Etna, il famoso vulcano. "If you go to Sicily, you must absolutely visit Etna, the famous volcano."
Vorrei visitare tanti posti in Italia. "I would like to visit many places in Italy."	Sì, amo soprattutto la lasagna. "Yes, I especially love lasagna."
Nella mia cucina ho tanti libri di ricette. "In my kitchen I have a lot of recipe books."	Ho provato questa nuova ricetta. "I tried this new recipe."
Salgo al primo piano. "I go up to the first floor."	Non sono mai salito su un aeroplano. "I've never been on an airplane."
Devi esercitarti sempre di più a suonare il pianoforte. "You have to practice more and more to play the piano."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

visitare

Be aware that we use this word only for visiting places and not people. If you want to translate the English "to visit friends or family," it is best to use the verbal expression *andare a trovare.*

essere al verde

We use this common expression to say that someone "has no money." It is also possible to say *essere in rosso* (literally, "to be in the red") or *avere le tasche vuote* ("to have empty pockets").

reggere la candela

This expression literally means "to hold the candle," which means "to be the third wheel." It probably comes from the common idea that we use a candle during romantic dates, and in this idiom, the third person is holding it!

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Verb *Uscire* ("to Go Out") and *Salire* ("to Go Up").
Esci con me e Jack?
"Are you coming out with me and Jack?"

Uscire means "to go" or "to come out," "to leave," or "to exit." It is an irregular verb. Here is its conjugation:

Italian	**"English"**
io esco	"I go out"
tu esci	"you go out"
lui/lei esce	"he/she goes out"
noi usciamo	"we go out"
voi uscite	"you go out (plural)"
loro escono	"they go out"

The verb *uscire* is intransitive; therefore, it does not take a direct object.

For Example:

1. *Stasera Luisa esce con Maria e Sandra.*
   "Tonight Luisa goes out with Maria and Sandra."
2. *Quando esci di casa, chiudi la porta a chiave.*
   "When you leave the house, lock the door."

Notice that the preposition that we use after *uscire* in the meaning of "to leave" or "to exit" is *di* if the noun is *casa* or *da* for other nouns.

For Example:

1. *Giorgio esce dall'ufficio alle 17.*
   "Giorgio leaves the office at five p.m."

Another irregular verb that has the same conjugation as *uscire* is *riuscire* ("to manage to" or "can").

For Example:

1. *Non riesco a concentrarmi con questo rumore.*
   "I can't concentrate with this noise."

Salire

Salire means "to go up," "to climb," or "to rise." It is an irregular verb. Here is its conjugation:

Italian	"English"
io salgo	"I go up"
tu sali	"you go up"
lui/lei sale	"he/she goes up"
noi saliamo	"we go up"
voi salite	"you go up (plural)"
loro salgono	"they go up"

Salire can be both transitive and intransitive.

For Example:

1. *Salgo le scale fino al quinto piano.*
   "I walk up the stairs to the fifth floor."
2. *Salgo fino al quinto piano con l'ascensore.*
   "I go up the fifth floor in the elevator."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Il Museo Nazionale Del Cinema

The National Museum of Cinema in Turin is housed in the tower of the *Mole Antonelliana*, a major landmark building of the city. Built in 1889, the Mole is 167 meters in height and therefore the Museum is the tallest museum in Europe.
The museum covers the history of cinema starting with the first moving pictures and ending with modern days. The exhibition is on five floors, covers 3,200 square meters, and houses everything related to cinema and movie making. There is a huge collection of posters and advertising material, costumes, props, sketches, and a library that contains 80,000 documents and photos. The museum is very interactive with a lot to see and to touch; it is possible to use your iPad to guide your visit.
Not only has the museum has been rated one of the best in Europe, but the interior design of the building and the view are also terrific. There is a panoramic elevator with transparent glass walls that goes up seventy-five meters in fifty-nine seconds. It goes through a single open space without middle floors and arrives at the very top of the *Mole Antonelliana*, where you can admire a 360-degree view of the city.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #19

Can You Smoke in this Italian Hotel Room?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#19

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Receptionist : Hotel Gran Duca. Buona sera.
2. Claudio : Buona sera. Chiamo dalla camera 21. Posso avere una coperta e un altro cuscino? E posso avere anche un portacenere?
3. Receptionist : Le porto subito il cuscino e la coperta, ma la Sua camera è non-fumatori. Non può fumare, mi dispiace. Vuole cambiare camera?
4. Claudio : No, pazienza. La ringrazio.

ENGLISH

1. Receptionist : Hotel Gran Duca. Good evening.
2. Claudio : Good evening. I'm calling from room twenty-one. May I have another blanket and pillow? And may I have an ashtray?
3. Receptionist : I'll bring the pillow and the blanket right away, but your room is non-smoking. You cannot smoke, I'm sorry. Would you like to change your room?
4. Claudio : No, never mind. Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
pazienza	never mind	exclamation	
coperta	blanket, cover	verb	
cambiare	to change, to shift, to exchange	verb	
camera	room	noun	feminine
non fumatore	non-smoking	noun	
chiamare	to call	verb	
portare	to bring, take	verb	
portacenere	ashtray	noun	
fumare	to smoke	verb	
cuscino	pillow	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Non arrivaremo mai in tempo. Pazienza! "We will never arrive in time. Never mind!"	Luca dorme sempre con un piede fuori dalle coperte. "Luca always sleeps with a foot outside of the blankets."
Per la fine dell'anno voglio cambiare macchina. "By the end of the year, I want to change my car."	Un portiere ha portato i nostri bagagli in camera. A porter carried our bags to our room.
camera del dormitorio dormitory room	camera d'albergo hotel room
Andate nella camera numero nove. "Go to room number nine."	Posso avere un posto in uno scompartimento per non fumatori? "Can I have a seat in a no-smoking compartment?"
Assicurati di avere il codice pronto quando chiami l'ufficio postale. "Make sure to have the tracking number ready, when you are calling the post office. "	Ti chiamo più tardi, dopo che avrò finito i compiti "I will call you later, after I'm done with my homework."
Hai chiamato tuo fratello? "Did you call your brother?"	Chiamami più tardi. "Call me later."
Puoi portare il vino? "Can you bring the wine?"	Mi porti il conto, per favore. "Bring me the check, please."
Portami al mare domani! "Take me to the beach tomorrow!"	portacenere sporco dirty ashtray
portacenere con mozziconi di sigaretta ashtray with cigarette butts	Hai un portacenere? Do you have an ashtray?
In questa camera da letto non c'è un portacenere. "In this bedroom there is no ashtray."	Mio padre non fuma. "My father does not smoke."
cuscino sul sedile pillow on the seat	Ti porteranno un cuscino se lo richiedi. They will bring you a pillow if you ask for one.
Voglio cambiare questo cuscino. E' troppo duro. "I want to change this pillow. It's too hard."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

chiamare

This verb means "to call," and we use it also in the meaning of "to telephone." It requires a direct object with no preposition.

For Example:

1. *Puoi chiamare Sara?*
   "Can you call Sara?"

camera

The word *camera* means "bedroom." The plural form is *camere*.

For Example:

1. *Questa casa ha tre camere.*
   "This house has three bedrooms."

In a hotel it can be *camera singola* ("single room") or *camera matrimoniale* ("double room").

portacenere

This is a compound noun made by *porta*, a shortened form of *portare* ("to bring," "to take," or "to hold") and *cenere* ("ash"). Even if *cenere* is a feminine noun (*la cenere*), the noun *portacenere* is a masculine noun (*il portacenere*).

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Verb *Potere.*
Posso avere un portacenere?
"May I have an ashtray?"

The verb *potere* means "to be able to," "can," or "may." It is a modal verb and has an irregular conjugation:

io posso

tu puoi

lui/lei può

noi possiamo

voi potete

loro possono

It is always followed by an infinitive verb (*-are*, *-ere*, *-ire*) and/or by a direct object.

For Example:

1. *Puoi fare la spesa per stasera?*
   "Can you do the shopping for tonight?"

We use *potere* to make a request in polite and or formal situations.

For Example:

1. At a reception desk at a hotel:
   Posso avere un'altra coperta?
   "May I have another blanket?"
2. Talking to a stranger:
   Può fare una fotografia a noi due?
   "Can you take a picture of the two of us?"

We use *potere* to ask for and grant permission.

For Example:

1. *Possiamo mangiare questa torta di mele?*
   "Can we eat this apple cake?"
2. *Mamma, possiamo tornare a casa un'ora più tardi?*
   "Mom, can we come back home an hour later?"
3. *Puoi tornare per le 16.*
   "You can come back around four p.m."

In the negative form, we place the adverb *non* before the verb *potere*. We use the negative form of *potere* to deny permission and to express that something is not allowed.

For Example:

1. *Non può fumare in camera.*
   "You cannot smoke in the room."
2. *Non puoi assaggiare il tiramisù. E' per cena.*
   "You cannot try the tiramisu. It is for dinner."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Un Hotel Inusuale ("An Unusual Hotel")

If you are traveling in Italy and fancy having an unconventional hotel experience, here are some ideas of places where you could have a unique experience.
In Gubbio, a medieval city in the heart of Umbria, central Italy, there is a medieval castle called *castello di Petroia* that is now a beautiful hotel. It's located in a slightly remote area, surrounded by forests; needless to say, it has an enchanting atmosphere. You can even sleep in the room located in the tower built in the fourteenth century. It takes a lot of steps to climb it, but it's worth the view at the top.
In Treviso, in Veneto in the northeast of Italy, the Locanda Rosa Rosae is a hotel created inside an old windmill from 1750. You are taken back in the eighteenth century with all the comforts of a modern hotel, plus a mill stream running past your bedroom.
In the city of Gondola, Venezia, you can find a hotel that is just like a little yacht. The hotel name is Sarah. As you may imagine, rooms may be a little smaller than a usual hotel, but a night there is a great way to spend a night in Venice, the city of canals.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #20
A Day at the Italian Races

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#20

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Jack : Vieni spesso all'ippodromo?
2. Claudio : Abbastanza spesso. Amo i cavalli e so cavalcare abbastanza bene. E poi mi piacciono le corse e le scommesse! So riconoscere il cavallo vincente!
3. Jack : Ah sì? Sei così bravo? Allora vinci spesso...
4. Claudio : No, per niente! E posso scommettere solo piccole somme di denaro. Non voglio rischiare. Ma se oggi vinco, ti offro il pranzo!

ENGLISH

1. Jack : Do you often come to the racecourse?
2. Claudio : Quite often. I love horses, and I can ride a horse quite well. And I like races and betting! I can predict the winning horse!
3. Jack : Ah yes? Are you that good? So you often win...
4. Claudio : Ah, ah... not at all. And I can only bet small amounts of money. I don't want to take risks. But if I win today, lunch is on me!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
cavallo	horse	noun	masculine
rischiare	to risk, to gamble, to dare	verb	
amare	to love	verb	
offrire	to offer, to pay	verb	
bravo	good, clever, smart, skilled	adjective	
ippodromo	racecourse	noun	
scommessa	bet	noun	
corsa	race	noun	
somma	amount	noun	
cavalcare	to ride a horse	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

cavalcare un cavallo ride a horse	I cavalli sono animali belli. Horses are beautiful animals.
Il cavallo sta correndo nel campo. The horse is running in the field.	cavallo nel campo horse in a field
I cavalli selvaggi sono bellissimi. "Wild horses are gorgeous."	Vado a cavallo una volta al mese. "I go horseback-riding once a month."
Non rischiare troppo. "Don't risk too much."	I Giapponesi amano passare il tempo libero nei parchi. "Japanese people love spending free time in the parks."
Ami il tuo ragazzo? "Do you love your boyfriend?"	Amo viaggiare. "I love traveling."
Offro la cena a tutti! "I offer the dinner to everybody!"	Sei molto brava a disegnare. "You are very good at drawing."
L'ippodromo di San Siro a Milano è famoso. "The San Siro racecourse in Milan is famous."	Ho perso una scommessa con mia sorella. "I lost a bet with my sister."
Gli atleti hanno iniziato la corsa. "The athletes started the race."	Per il matrimonio abbiamo bisogno di una bella somma di denaro. "For the wedding we need a great amount of money."
Sai cavalcare? Io no. Ho paura di cadere. "Can you ride a horse? I can't. I'm afraid to fall."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

cavallo

The noun *cavallo* means "horse," and the verb is *cavalcare* ("to ride a horse"). Be aware that the adjective is a bit different: it's *equino*.

For Example:

1. *Questa è una macelleria equina.*
   "This is a horsemeat butchery."

bravo

It means to "be good at," and we often use it to compliment or to encourage people, especially kids when they do well.

For Example:

1. *Brava, Maria!*
   "Good job, Maria!"

offrire

This verb means "to offer" or "to offer to pay for something."

For Example:

1. *Ti offro un drink.*
   "I offer you a drink."

We also use it to translate the expression "something is on me" since there is no similar expression in Italian.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Verbs *Sapere, Potere,* and *Conoscere.*
So cavalcare abbastanza bene.
"I can horse ride quite well."

The verb *sapere* is an irregular verb. Here is its conjugation:

Italian	**"English"**
io so	"I know"
tu sai	"you know"
lui/lei sa	"he/she knows"
noi sappiamo	"we know"
voi sapete	"you know" (plural)
loro sanno	"they know"

It is a transitive verb and can be followed by a noun or by a verb in the infinitive mood.

Sapere means "to be able to" or "to know how," and we often translate it into English as "can" or "to be able to."

For Example:

1. *Quante lingue straniere sai parlare?*
   "How many foreign languages can you speak?"

2. *Loro sanno cantare molto bene.*
   "They can sing very well."

Be aware that when expressing an ability, we use the verb *sapere*, not the verb *potere*. As we studied in lesson 19, we use the verb *potere* for making polite requests or for asking and granting permission.

For Example:

1. *Posso scommettere solo piccole somme di denaro.*
   "I can only bet small amounts of money."
2. *Papà, posso usare la tua macchina?*
   "Dad, can I use your car?"

The verb *sapere* also translates as "to know." It is also important to know the difference between the verb *sapere* and *conoscere*, both meaning "to know." Let's look at the examples below.

For Example:

1. *So suonare il piano*.
   "I can play the piano."/"I know how to play the piano."
2. *So la strada per arrivare da Luca.*
   "I know the way to get to Luca's."

Conoscere means "to know" or "to be acquainted with."

For Example:

1. *Noi conosciamo Giorgio, l'amico di Sara.*
   "We know Giorgio, Sara's friend."
2. *Non conosco la città.*
   "I don't know the city."

In some cases, the usage of *sapere* and *conoscere* can overlap and therefore be confusing. It can help to remember that *sapere* can be followed by a noun as a direct object or by a verb, while *conoscere* can only be followed by a noun as a direct object.

For Example:

1. *So suonare il violino.*
   "I can play the violin."
2. *So dove andare.*
   "I know where to go."
3. *Conosco Giulia*.
   "I know Giulia."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Ippodromi e Corse Dei Cavalli in Italia **("Racecourses and Horse Races in Italy")**

In today's Italy, there are about forty-three racecourses that are state financed. The tradition of racecourses dates back from the ancient times, and they are an important presence throughout the Middle Ages and Renaissance. There are two historical racecourses that are still possible to visit: the Capannelle in Rome, inaugurated in 1881, and the Caprilli in Livorno, which was built 1894.
Besides the horse races that take place at the various racecourses scattered throughout Italy, the most famous horse race actually takes place not in a racecourse but in the piazza del Campo of Siena, a city in Tuscany. The *Palio di Siena*, also called simply *il Palio,* is held twice a year in July and August. About ten horses and riders, bareback and dressed in the colors of the *contrade* (streets) of Siena, circle three times the *Piazza* on which a thick layer of earth or sand is laid for the occasion. Before the race, the *Corteo Storico*, a wonderful pageant, takes place. The *Palio* di Siena is a great event that you don't want to miss during a summer in Italy.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #21

Are You Too Busy for Italian Aperitivo?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#21

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Jack : Vieni a prendere l'aperitivo al bar nel tardo pomeriggio?
2. Claudio : No, mi dispiace, devo lavorare fino a tardi. Devo stare in ufficio fino alle 5, andare a casa di corsa, fare una doccia e incontrare un cliente per cena. Oh no, il mio collega deve ancora prenotare il ristorante. Esco con te domani sera, ok?
3. Jack : Certo, non c'è problema!

ENGLISH

1. Jack : Will you come and have an aperitif at the bar in the late afternoon?
2. Claudio : No, I'm sorry, I have to work until late. I have to be in the office until five p.m., and then run home, take a shower, and meet a client for dinner. Oh no, my colleague still has to book the restaurant. I'll go out with you tomorrow night, OK?
3. Jack : Sure, no problem!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
fino a	to, till, until, as far as	preposition, phrase	
prenotare	to reserve	verb	
tardo	late, slow	adjective	
uscire	to go out	verb	
cliente	customer, client, guest	noun	
aperitivo	aperitif	noun	masculine
incontrare	to meet	verb	
fare la doccia	shower	phrase	
collega	coworker	noun	masculine
andare di corsa	to run	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Niente dolce per te fino a che non finisci la cena.	Andiamo fino a casa di Mario.
"No dessert for you until you finish your dinner."	"Let's go to Mario's home."

Dobbiamo prenotare due mesi prima, se vogliamo lo sconto. "We have to reserve two months earlier, if we want the discount."	Se possibile, prenota sempre in anticipo. "If possible, always reserve in advance."
Giacomo torna a casa da scuola in tarda mattinata. "Giacomo comes back home from school late in the morning."	Posso uscire? “May I go out?”
Sei uscito all'alba. "You went out at dawn."	Usciamo domenica sera verso le otto. "We will go out Sunday night around eight."
Domani sera esco con gli amici. "Tomorrow night I am going out with friends."	Il cliente ha sempre ragione. "The customer is always right."
L'aperitivo più famoso è il Campari. "The most famous aperitif is Campari."	Questo aperitivo è molto buono. "This aperitif is very good."
Lo incontrerò alle 10 di sera davanti alla stazione. "I will meet him at 10 PM in front of the station."	Dopo incontro Rossella. "I'll meet with Rossella later."
Ieri ho incontrato Luisa. "Yesterday I met Luisa."	Ho incontrato un vecchio amico. "I met an old friend."
fare la doccia alla mattina shower in the morning	L'uomo sta facendo la doccia la mattina. The man is showering in the morning.
Faccio la doccia alla mattina, e mio marito fa la doccia di notte. I shower in the morning, and my husband showers at night.	L'uomo si sta facendo la doccia. The man is taking a shower.
L'uomo ha fatto la doccia la mattina. The man showered in the morning.	L'uomo fa la doccia la mattina. The man showers in the morning.
fare la doccia nella doccia shower in a shower	L'uomo ha fatto la doccia nella doccia. The man showered in the shower.
L'uomo fa la doccia nella doccia. The man showers in the shower.	L'uomo sta facendo la doccia nella doccia. The man is showering in the shower.
L'uomo si sta facendo una doccia. "The man is showering."	amico e collega friend and coworker

Vado a mangiare fuori con il mio collega ogni giovedì. I go out to eat with my coworker every Thursday.	I colleghi stanno facendo una riunione. The coworkers are having a meeting.
Dopo il lavoro vado a bere con i miei colleghi. "After work, I go to have a drink with my coworkers."	Sono d'accordo con il mio collega. "I agree with my co-worker."
È arrivato il nuovo collega. "The new coworker is here."	Devo andare di corsa all'incontro con le maestre. "I have to run to a meeting with the teachers."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

aperitivo
L'aperitivo is a drink people have before dinner. It can be alcoholic, like a glass of *prosecco*, or a soft drink. It is often served with food to nibble on. Recently, it has become popular to meet up after work with friends or co-workers and *prendere l'aperitivo* or *fare l'aperitivo* before dinner.

tardo

This word can be an adjective or an adverb. As an adjective, it declines like the *-o* ending adjectives.

For Example:

1. *tardo pomeriggio*
   "late afternoon"
2. *tarda serata*
   "late evening"

The adverb is *tardi* and it is unchangeable.

For Example:

1. *Arrivi sempre tardi.*
   "You always arrive late."

fare una doccia
Be aware that in Italian it is NOT possible to say *avere una doccia* or *prendere una doccia*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Verb *Dovere* ("to Have to," "Must," or "to Owe").
Devo lavorare fino a tardi.
"I have to work until late."

The verb *dovere* means "to have to," "must," or "to owe." It is a modal verb and has an irregular conjugation.

Italian	"English"
io devo	"I must"
tu devi	"you must"
lui/lei deve	"he/she must"
noi dobbiamo	"we must"
voi dovete	"you must" (plural)
loro devono	"they must"

It is always followed by an infinitive verb (-*are*, -*ere*,- *ire*) and/ or by a direct object.

For Example:

1. *Devo incontrare un cliente per cena*.
   "I have to meet a client for dinner."
2. *Dovete già tornare a casa?*
   "Do you already have to go back home?"

- The verb *dovere* expresses an order from somebody else.

For Example:

1. *Luisa deve finire questo progetto prima di domani.*
   "Luisa has to finish this project before tomorrow."

- The verb *dovere* expresses a self-imposed duty.

For Example:

1. *Devo risparmiare tanto per comprare una casa.*
   "I must save a lot in order to buy a house."

- The verb *dovere* expresses a rule or regulation.

For Example:

1. *Qui devi guidare a 30 chilometri all'ora.*
   "Here you must drive at thirty kilometers per hour."

When the verb *dovere* is followed by a noun as a direct object, it means "to owe."

For Example:

1. *Devo due dollari a Giovanna.*
   "I owe two dollars to Giovanna."

In the negative form, the adverb *non* precedes the modal verb *dovere*. It means "to not need."

For Example:

1. *Non dobbiamo andare a scuola domani. E' festa.*
   "We don't need to go to school tomorrow. It's a holiday."
2. *Non devi cucinare stasera. Ho preso la pizza*.
   "You don't need to cook tonight. I got a pizza."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Aperitivo ("Aperitif")

An *aperitivo* is a pre-dinner drink, meant to "open" the palate. It also gives you a chance to relax and nibble as dinnertime approaches.
A good rule of thumb for evening *aperitivo* is to drink it between six p.m. to eight p.m. People in some regions drink it as late as nine p.m., however. Free food is offered with your drink, and every bar prepares something unique to accompany the drink. A few olives and potato chips are usually offered at your table or at the bar. Some places also prepare more snacks and even plates with focaccia or pizza, fruit salads, roasts, hot pasta, and cold cuts like prosciutto or *salame*. Some of the most popular drinks include Negroni (Campari, Martini Rosso vermouth, and gin), the Americano (Campari, Martini Rosso vermouth, and soda), or a spritz (Aperol or Campari and *prosecco*). In small bars, drink prices can be just the same as on the regular menu but the most famous ones are raised to include the price of the "free" food and are from around four euros up to fifteen euros per drink at some of Milan's more stellar hotels. The same flat rate charge can also be applied to beer, wine, and cocktails.
The *aperitivo* time is probably a great occasion to meet people and socialize when in Italy. People don't usually just sit at a table as it would be at a dinner party, but they often stand at the bar and walk around greeting people they know. It can also be a time to make new friends.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #22
Where Can I Find an ATM in Italy?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#22

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Mieke : Scusi, c’è un bancomat qui vicino?
2. Passante : C’è una banca alla fine di questa via. Oppure vede quest’edificio rosso? Dentro, al primo piano forse c’è un bancomat. Non ricordo bene.
3. Mieke : Provo ad andare in quest’edificio . Grazie per le informazioni.
4. Passante : Non c’è di che.

ENGLISH

1. Mieke : Excuse me, is there an ATM nearby?
2. Passer-by : There is a bank at the end of this street. Or, do you see that red building? Inside, on the first floor there might be an ATM. I don’t remember well.
3. Mieke : I'll try to go to this building. Thank you for the information.
4. Passer-by : You're welcome.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
banca	bank	noun	feminine
bancomat	ATM	noun	masculine
edificio	building	noun	masculine
non c’è di che	you’re welcome	exclamatory expression	
ricordare	to remember, to not forget, to recall	verb	
via	street, road	noun	
piano	floor	noun	masculine
dentro	in, inside, within, by	preposition	
informazione	information	noun	
fine	end	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

La banca è chiusa.	vecchia banca
The bank is closed.	old bank

La banca non è aperta al pubblico di domenica. The bank is not open for business on Sundays.	La banca non è aperta di domenica. The bank is not open for business on Sundays.
Sto cercando una banca. "I'm looking for a bank."	Ieri dei ladri sono entrati in una banca. "Yesterday, some thieves entered a bank."
Domani ritirerò soldi al bancomat. "I'll withdraw money at the ATM tomorrow."	Il fiorista è in un edificio vecchio. The flower store is in an old building.
edificio nuovo new building	edificio medico medical building
Dall'alto di quest'edificio puoi vedere tutta la città. "From the top of this building you can see the whole city."	Non c'è di che! E' il mio lavoro. "You're welcome! It's my job."
Hai pensato che non mi sarei ricordata del tuo compleanno. "You thought I wouldn't remember your birthday."	Non mi ricordo cosa ho mangiato ieri. "I don't remember what I ate yesterday."
Ricordati di fare i compiti. "Don't forget to do your homework."	Prendi la prima via a sinistra e troverai il museo. "Take the first street on the left and you'll find the museum."
Abito al primo piano del mio condiminio. I live on the first floor of my apartment building.	secondo piano second floor
Vivi al quinto piano, no? "You live on the fifth floor, don't you?"	Vivo al terzo piano. "I live on the third floor."
Andiamo dentro la chiesa. "Let's go inside the church."	Mi può dare alcune informazioni sulla stagione concertistica? "Can you give me some information about the concert season?"
Alla fine abbiamo optato per il modello più nuovo. "In the end we chose the newest model."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

piano

Piano means "floor." Please be aware that in Italian, we use ordinal numbers with the word *piano*. The preposition required is *a.*

For Example:

1. *al secondo piano*
   "on the second floor"

Also remember that in Italy the first floor is the *piano terra* (as in B.E. ground floor), and the second floor is the *primo piano*.

ricordare

Ricordare both means "to remember" and "to remind."

For Example:

1. *Non ricordo il tuo nome.*
   "I don't remember your name."
2. *Questa casa mi ricorda la mia infanzia.*
   "This house reminds me of my childhood."

informazione

In Italian, the word *informazione* can be singular and plural. Here is an example of how to use it as a plural noun.

For Example:

1. *Non ci sono molte informazioni riguardo la guerra in Siria.*
   "There is not much information about the war in Syria."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Demonstrative Adjectives *Questo.*
C'è una banca alla fine di questa via.
"There is a bank at the end of this street."

The demonstrative adjective *questo* translates as the English word "this." It refers to something or someone close to the speaker.

We always place it before the noun, and it agrees in gender and number with the noun to which it refers.

Look at the following chart:

	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	*questo, quest'*	*questa, quest'*
Plural	*questi*	*queste*

If it refers to a masculine singular number: *questo*

For Example:

1. *Quest**o** giardin**o** è molto bello.*
   "This garden is very beautiful."

If it refers to a feminine singular noun: *questa*

For Example:

1. *Quest**a** cas**a** è troppo piccola.*
   "This house is too small."

If it refers to a masculine plural noun: *questi*

For Example:

1. *Non mi piacciono quest**i** pantalon**i**.*
   "I don't like these pants."

If it refers to a feminine plural noun: *queste*

For Example:

1. *Hai cucinato queste tre torte?*
   "Did you cook these three cakes?"

When *questo/a* is followed by a noun beginning with a vowel, it makes an elision. It drops the last *-o/-a*, whose place is taken by an apostrophe.

For Example:

1. *Quest'uomo si chiama Giovanni Rossi.*
   "This man's name is Giovanni Rossi."
2. *Quest'auto è vecchia.*
   "This car is old."

Questi and *queste* in front of a noun beginning with a vowel do not have any phonetic changes.

For Example:

1. *Questi orecchini sono un regalo di Luca.*
   "These earrings are a present from Luca."
2. *Mi piacciono molto queste orchidee bianche.*
   "I like these white orchids very much."

Be aware that we sometimes shorten *questo* and *questa* to *sto* and *sta*, and we can find them in expressions like *stamattina* ("this morning"), *stasera* ("this evening"), and *stanotte* ("tonight"), while *sto pomeriggio* is rare and only colloquial.

For Example:

1. *Che cosa fai stamattina?*
   "What are you doing this morning?"
2. *Stasera vado a un concerto.*
   "This evening I'm going to a concert."

3. *Stanotte devo lavorare.*
   "Tonight I have to work."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Come Usare il Bancomat in Italia ("Using an ATM in Italy")

We call an ATM Bancomat in Italian, and we usually find it outside banks or in airports and train stations. The airport ATM might be empty at times and get refilled only on working days. The Italian banking association has an efficient ATM locator on its website. These ATMs are in Italian only but are fairly easy to use. The sign for Bancomat is usually blue and has the word *bancomat* and a big blue B on it. The process for withdrawing money is very similar to any other country. Once you insert your card, you will be prompted to choose your language. English will be one of the choices. Then you'll enter your four-digit pin number, and then you'll be presented with a number of choices for withdrawal, with usually a maximum of 250 euros for foreign cards. Choose the one that suits you. Otherwise, if you have trouble with your card, you can visit the bank, but please keep in mind that bank opening hours are mornings and only a few hours in the afternoon. It's also important to be aware that banks exchange money only for their customers.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #23
Furnishing Your Italian Home

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#23

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Mieke : Adoro i negozi di arredamento. Vorrei trovare un soprammobile per il mio salottino. Magari una lampada italiana da portare in Belgio al mio rientro.
2. Laura : Che ne dici di quella lampada? E' di Cassina, un classico del design italiano .
3. Mieke : Mi sembra troppo grande per la mia stanza.Oh, hai visto quel vaso in vetro rosso?Sembra vetro di Murano .E' favoloso, ma probabilmente un po' caro. E quello specchio?
4. Laura : Eh, compri tutto il negozio?

ENGLISH

1. Mieke : I love furniture shops. I'd like to find some paraphernalia for my little living room. Maybe an Italian lamp I can take back to Belgium when I return.
2. Laura : How about that lamp? It's by Cassina, a classic of Italian interior design.
3. Mieke : It's too big for the room. Oh, did you see that red glass vase? It looks like a vase from Murano. It's fabulous, but probably a bit expensive. And that mirror?
4. Laura : Ah ah, will you buy the entire store?

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
salottino	little living room	noun	
probabilmente	probably, perhaps	adverb	
lampada	lamp	noun	
specchio	mirror	noun	masculine
stanza	room	noun	feminine
arredamento	furniture	noun	
troppo	too much	adverb and adjective	
classico	classic	verb	
vetro	glass	noun	
portare	to bring, take	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

E’ molto carino ed intimo questo tuo salottino! "This little living room of yours is very nice and cosy!"	Probabilmente arrivo in ritardo. "I'll probably arrive late."
Probabilmente andrò a studiare in Cina l'anno prossimo. "Next year, I'll probably go to study in China."	Accendi la lampada quando inizia a fare buio nella stanza. Turn on the lamp when it starts to get dark in the room.
accendere la lampada turn on the lamp	lampada rossa con paralume arancione red lamp with an orange lamp shade
Dove posso comperare una lampada per la notte? "Where can I buy a lamp for the night?"	Lo specchio è appeso alla parete. The mirror is hanging on the wall.
specchio rotondo round mirror	L'uomo sta strofinando lo specchio con uno straccio. The man is wiping the mirror with a rag.
guardarsi allo specchio look at oneself in the mirror	Lo specchio è appeso alla parete. "The mirror is hanging on the wall."
Hai rotto lo specchio. "You broke the mirror."	Questa stanza ha due finestre. "This room has two windows."
Questa è la mia stanza. "This is my room."	Domani andiamo in un negozio d’arredamento. "Tomorrow we’re going to a furniture shop."
Vorrei una birra ma non troppo fredda. "I’d like a beer but not too cold."	Non dovresti bere troppo vino. "You shouldn’t drink too much wine."
Ho bevuto troppo. "I drank too much."	Se prendi un abito di taglio classico non sbagli mai. "If you buy a classic cut suit, you can never go wrong."
I vasi in vetro di Murano sono tutti lavorati a mano. "The glass vases of Murano are all handmade."	Puoi portare il vino? "Can you bring the wine?"
Mi porti il conto, per favore. "Bring me the check, please."	Portami al mare domani! "Take me to the beach tomorrow!"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

lampada

It is a feminine noun and translates as "lamp." There are different lamps: *lampada da tavolo* ("table lamp"), *lampada a terra* ("standing lamp"), and *lampadario* ("chandelier").

salottino

It is a "small living room." *Salotto* is the Italian masculine noun for "living room." The suffix *-ino* gives the idea of something "small."

For Example:

1. *cappello*
   "hat"
2. *cappellino*
   "small hat"

troppo

The adverb *troppo* means "too" and "too much." When placed in front of adjectives, it means "too." When alone, it means "too much." It is unchangeable.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Demonstrative Adjective *Quello*.
Hai visto quel vaso in vetro rosso?
"Have you seen that red glass vase?"

The demonstrative adjective *quello* translates to the English "that." It refers to something or someone far from the speaker and the listener.

We always place it before the noun, and it agrees in gender and number with the noun to which it refers.

Look at the following chart:

	Masculine	Feminine	"English"
Singular	*quel, quello, quell'*	*quella, quell'*	"that"
Plural	*quei, quegli*	*quelle*	"those"

The demonstrative adjective *quello* follows the rules for the determinative article. So before a singular masculine noun that starts with *s-* + the consonant *-x*, *-y*, or *-z*, the adjective is *quello.*

For Example:

1. *Quello spagnolo è molto simpatico.*
   "That Spanish man is very friendly."

Before a singular masculine noun that starts with a vowel, the adjective is *quell'*.

For Example:

1. *Quell'ombrello è rotto.*
   "That umbrella is broken."

Before any other masculine singular noun, please use *quel.*

For Example:

1. *Quel tappeto è troppo piccolo.*
   "That carpet is too small."

Before a singular feminine noun, please use *quella.*

For Example:

1. *Quella lampada è un po' cara.*
   "That lamp is a bit expensive."

Before a singular feminine noun that starts with a vowel, the adjective to use is *quell'*.

For Example:

1. *Quell' automobile è vecchia.*
   "That car is old."

Let's now consider plural nouns.

Before a plural masculine noun that starts with *-s* + consonant, *-x*, *-y*, *-z*, and vowels, the adjective is *quegli.*

For Example:

1. *Quegli stivali sono stretti.*
   "Those boots are tight."

Before any other plural masculine noun, the adjective is *quei.*

For Example:

1. *Quei fiori rossi stanno bene sul balcone.*
   "Those red flowers look good on the balcony."

Before a plural feminine noun, please use *quelle.*

For Example:

1. *Quelle rose sono un regalo di Luca?*
   "Those roses are Luca's present?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Murano

Murano is an island in the Venetian laguna, located close to Venice. It is renowned around the world for its glass production. This activity started in 1291 where the oven necessary to produce the glass where all put on the island of Murano. At the time of the Serenissima, the Republic of Venice, the glass production was strictly controlled by the government. The glass makers were not allowed to leave Venice unless they had a special permit. The secrets of the Murano glass making had to be kept within the borders of the Venetian Republic, as glass goods were highly valuable and also exported. The glass makers also enjoyed special benefits, one of which was the right to marry daughters of noble men. Nowadays, it is very difficult to become a *maestro del vetro* ("glass master"). It takes years of apprenticeship, and the secrets of this art are often transmitted from father to son and father to son only. A master often works with two apprentices who hold a long metal reed while the maestro blows the glass while hot. It is possible to visit a workshop in Murano and watch how glass is made thanks to the creative work of the *maestri del vetro*.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #24
Running Late for a Conference in Italy

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- Dialogue - Italian
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- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#24

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Mieke : Taxi! Buongiorno. Hotel Astor, per favore. E' lontano?
2. Tassista : No, è appena fuori Torino, nella zona del Lingotto. Va alla fiera?
3. Mieke : No, vado a una conferenza di Slow Food. Purtroppo sono terribilmente in ritardo. Quanto ci vuole?
4. Tassista : Da qui ci vogliono circa venti minuti.
5. Mieke : Arriverò appena in tempo.
6. Tassista : Oggi c'è poco traffico. Forse impieghiamo meno tempo.

ENGLISH

1. Mieke : Taxi! Good morning. Hotel Astor, please. Is it far?
2. Taxi driver : No, it's just outside Turin, in the area of Lingotto. Are you going to the Fair?
3. Mieke : No, I'm going to a Slow Food conference. Unfortunately, I'm terribly late. How long does it take?
4. Taxi driver : From here, it takes about twenty minutes.
5. Mieke : I'll get there just in time.
6. Taxi driver : Today there is not much traffic. Maybe it will take us less time.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
fuori	out, outside	adjective	
traffico	traffic	noun	masculine
tassista	taxi driver	noun	
meno	less	adverb	
volerci	to take (as in time)	verb	
lontano	far, distant	adjective	
terribilmente	terribly	adverb	
purtroppo	unfortunately	adverb	
In tempo	In time	adverb	
zona	area	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Oggi fuori è molto freddo. "Today it's very cold outside."	Francesca abita fuori città. "Francesca lives out of the city."
È meglio tenere la spazzatura fuori casa. "It is better to keep the garbage out of the house."	Oggi c'è molto traffico sull'autostrada. "Today, there's a lot of traffic on the highway."
C'è sempre traffico in centro. "There is always traffic downtown."	Luisa fa la tassista da 10 anni. "Luisa has been a taxi driver for 10 years."
Dovrei pagare meno per questo servizio. "I should pay less for this service."	Sono meno grasso adesso. "I am less fat now."
Da Milano a Venezia ci vogliono tre ore di treno. "From Milan to Venice it takes three hours by train."	Voglio andare lontano da qui. "I want to go far from here."
Sono lontano da casa. "I'm far from home."	Sono terribilmente stanco! Voglio riposare un po'. "I'm terribly tired! I want to rest a little."
Purtroppo ho dimenticato le chiavi a casa. "Unfortunately, I forgot the keys at home."	Purtroppo il concerto è già finito. "Unfortunately, the concert finished already."
Se ti sbrighi, arriverai in tempo. "If you hurry up, you'll get there in time."	Questa zona è largamente conosciuta per l'alto tasso di criminalità. "This area is widely known for its high crime rate. "
Potresti abitare in questa bella zona di Brescia. "You could live in this nice area of Brescia."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

tassista

The word *tassista* is an Italianization of the English word "taxi" plus the suffix *-ista*, the most common ending for jobs. It is both a masculine and feminine noun (*il/la tassista*).

volerci

It means "to take" in terms of time. A synonym is *impiegarci*. They are both followed by nouns that indicate time like *minuti* ("minutes"), *ore* ("hours"), or *tempo* ("time").

in tempo

It means "in time" or "soon enough."

For Example:

1. *Spero di arrivare in tempo.*
   "I hope I can arrive in time."

A similar expression in Italian is *in orario.*

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Verbs *Volerci* and *Impiegare.*
Da qui ci vogliono circa venti minuti.
"From here it takes about twenty minutes."
Forse impieghiamo meno tempo.
"Maybe it will take less time."

Volerci

Volerci translates into English as "to take time." The infinitive mood of the verb *volerci* looks different from the usual *-are*, *-ere*, and *-ire* ending. That is because the verb *volere* ("to want") is combined with the pronoun *ci.* In the dictionary, you will find *volerci.*

For Example:

1. *Ci vuole un'ora per arrivare a Roma.*
   "It takes one hour to get to Rome."
2. *Ci vogliono anni per imparare a suonare il pianoforte.*
   "It takes years to learn how to play the piano."

There are only two forms of the verb *volerci*:

1. *Ci vuole* + singular noun

2. *Ci vogliono* + plural noun

The verb *volerci* is always followed by expressions of time: *ora/e* ("hours"), *giorno/i* ("days"), *mese/i* ("months"), *anno/i* ("years"), *tanto* ("a lot of"), *poco tempo* ("a little" or "short time"), etc.

For Example:

1. *Ci vuole un mese per preparare questo esame.*
   "It takes a month to prepare for this exam."
2. *Ci vogliono 12 ore con un volo diretto da Milano.*
   "It takes twelve hours on a direct flight from Milan."

When using *volerci*, the subject of the sentence is the noun following the verb *volerci* and therefore the only possible forms are *ci vuole* + singular noun and *ci vogliono* + plural noun.

Impiegare

Impiegare translates into English as "to take time." *Impiegare* is a regular verb that follows the declination of the verbs ending in *-are*.

Italian	"English"
io impiego	"I take time"
tu impieghi	"you take time"
lui/lei impiega	"he/she takes time"
noi impieghiamo	"we take time"
voi impiegate	"you take time" (plural)
loro impiegano	"they take time"

When using *impiegare,* the subject of the sentence can be I, you, he/she, we, you, or they, and therefore all the forms of the verbs are possible. The expression of time (one hour, four years, twenty days, etc.) becomes the object.

For Example:

1. *Impiego due ore per arrivare al lavoro.*
   "It takes me two hours to get to work."
2. *Quanto tempo impieghiamo a preparare questa ricetta?*
   "How long does it take us to prepare this recipe?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Slow Food

Slow Food is an international movement that was founded by Carlo Petrini in 1986. As the name suggests, it is an alternative to the fast food lifestyle. It promotes the production and consumption of locally grown and organic food, and it is against genetically modified foods. The movement started in Italy with the aim of preserving traditional and regional cuisine. Today, the movement exists in 150 countries and has more than 100,000 members. It also pays a lot of attention to educating the younger generations in learning how to cook rather than buying ready-made meals. This way, they can enjoy healthy, homemade packed lunches to take to school. There are a number of workshops and activities held in schools but also in supermarkets, squares, farms, and of course at the *Saloni del gusto* ("food fairs"). One of the most popular mottos is *Mangia bene e cresci meglio* ("Eat well and grow healthily"). For chefs and people in the field of food services, Slow Food has started two master's degree courses that are held in Bra, a town near Turin, and in the region of the Ducal Palace of Colorno, near Parma.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #25
Making Plans for the Holidays in Italy

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- Dialogue - Italian
  - Main
  - English
- Vocabulary
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- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#25

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Carla : Domani è festa, per fortuna! Si puo' dormire di più la mattina.
2. Laura : Beata te. Siccome è festa, io lavoro il doppio in pasticceria. E' meglio andare a dormire presto stasera. Però a Natale faccio un bel viaggio.
3. Carla : Ma come!? A Natale si sta in famiglia, si aprono i regali, si mangia il panettone tutti insieme...
4. Laura : Che noia! Sempre le stesse cose! Vorrei rilassarmi...
5. Carla : Perchè non parti per Capodanno? Anzi andiamo insieme!

ENGLISH

1. Carla : Tomorrow is a holiday, thank God! I can sleep longer in the morning.
2. Laura : Lucky you. Because it's a holiday, I work double at the patisserie. It's better to go to bed early tonight. But at Christmas I'll take a long trip!
3. Carla : What? At Christmas, one should stay with the family, open presents, and all eat panettone together...
4. Laura : How boring! It's always the same! I'd like to relax...
5. Carla : Why don't you leave around New Year's? Actually let's go together!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
dormire	to sleep	verb	
si	one	pronoun	
per fortuna	fortunately	adverb	
aprire	to open	verb	
bello	nice, good	adjective	
festa	feast, holiday, party	noun	feminine
meglio	better	adjective, adverb	
doppio	double	numeral adjective	
stare	to be, to stand, to lie, to be located, to be situated	verb	
beato te!	lucky you!	exclamation	
partire	to leave, to start, to take off	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

La domenica mio fratello dorme fino a mezzogiorno. "On Sundays, my brother sleeps until midday."	Il gatto dorme. "The cat is sleeping."
Ieri ho dormito tutto il giorno. "Yesterday, I slept all day long."	Da questa finestra si vede un bel panorama. "From this window one sees a beautiful landscape/From this window you can see a beautiful landscape. "
Sta piovendo: per fortuna abbiamo un ombrello. "It’s raining: fortunately we’ve got an umbrella."	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."
Quella casa è bella. "That house is nice."	Quel quadro è molto bello. "That picture is very nice."
Questa festa è proprio noiosa! "This party is really boring!"	Benvenuti alla mia festa di compleanno. "Welcome to my birthday party."
Facciamo una festa? "Shall we have a party?"	E' meglio così. "It's better this way."
Con la carne è meglio vino rosso o bianco? "With meat, is red or white wine better?"	Meglio di niente. "Better than nothing."
Anche se sono in pensione, a casa lavoro il doppio. "Even if I am retired, I work double at home."	Come stanno Luigi e Anna? "How are Luigi and Anna?"
Sto male. "I am ill. I am not well."	Beato te! Tu puoi divertirti oggi, mentre io devo lavorare. "Lucky you! You can enjoy yourself today, while I have to work."
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."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

festa

We use *festa* as a translation of "holiday" or "national holiday."

For Example:

1. *Il primo di novembre è festa*.
   "The first of November is a national holiday."

It also means "party."

For Example:

1. *Facciamo una festa per il compleanno di Samuele*.
   "Let's have a party for Samuele's birthday."

dormire
There is no exact translation for the English "to sleep in." The closest is *dormire di più*, which would literally be "to sleep more."

partire

The verb *partire* means "to leave" or "to depart." The noun is *partenza* and on the timetable board at the train stations or airports it says *partenze*. The opposite is *arrivare* and the noun is *arrive* (plural: *arrivi*).

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Impersonal Form.
A Natale si aprono i regali.
"At Christmas, one opens presents."
A Natale si mangia il panettone con la famiglia.
"At Christmas, one eats panettone with the family."

We construct the impersonal form as follows:

The impersonal pronoun *si* + verb third-person singular or plural

If the noun that follows the verb is singular, the verb declines in the third-person singular.

For Example:

1. *In Inghilterra si beve molto te'.*
   "In England, people drink a lot of tea."

If the noun is plural, the verb declines in the third-person plural.

For Example:

1. *In Italia si mangiano gli spaghetti quasi ogni giorno*.
   "In Italy, people eat spaghetti almost every day."

The impersonal form corresponds to the English "one," though it is much more frequent in Italian than it is in English where we also use "you," "we," "people," and other expressions to translate the same idea.

For Example:

1. *Come si dice "buongiorno" in giapponese?*
   "How does one say 'good morning' in Japanese?/How do you say 'good morning' in Japanese?"

In constructing the impersonal form, we use *si*:

- When the subject is generic

For Example:

1. *In Italia si beve molto caffè.*
   "In Italy, we/the Italians/people drink a lot of coffee."

- To make generalizations

For Example:

1. *In agosto si va al mare.*
   "In August, people go to the seaside."

- To describe customs and traditions of a country

For Example:

1. *A Pasqua si mangia l'agnello e la colomba.*
   "At Easter, people eat lamb and *colomba* cake."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

***Tradizioni di Natale, Capodanno e Pasqua* ("Traditions at Christmas, New Year's, and Easter")**

The biggest *feste* or "festivities" in the calendar year are probably Christmas, New Year's, and Easter. Traditions and customs for these three main festivities change from region to region and sometimes even from town to town, but it is possible to highlight some traditions that are shared by all Italians. Christmas is a time to spend with family. Most Italians celebrating *Natale* decorate their houses with a nativity scene or a Christmas tree. They may go to church at midnight on Christmas Eve and spend Christmas day with their dear ones around a table with poultry and sweets like *panettone*, a type of sweet bread loaf with raisins and candied orange zest, originally from Milan. Young people spend New Year's Eve with friends rather than with family. They often go to a house party and then wait for midnight to strike in the town square where at the change of the year there is always a display of fireworks. Traditional food to eat for New Year's Eve includes boiled *zampone* ("pig's leg"), *lenticchie* ("lentils"), and *uva* ("grapes"). Lentils and grapes are supposed to bring money.

Natale con i tuoi, Pasqua con chi vuoi! We translate this famous saying as "Christmas with your family and Easter with whomever you want." Some people also spend Easter with family eating lamb and *colomba*, a soft cake in the shape of a dove. Traditionally, chocolate eggs are opened in the morning and are a favorite Easter pastime. Others prefer to go away for the Easter weekend, taking advantage of the first rays of the spring sun.

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