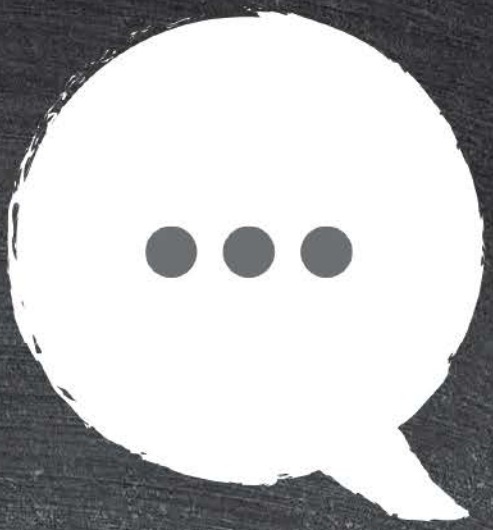
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LESSON NOTES

Beginner #1
The Importance of Introductions in Italian!

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5 Cultural Insight

1

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INFORMAL ITALIAN

1. Peter: Ciao, mi chiamo Peter.
2. Elena: Ciao, sono Elena.
3. Peter: Come?
4. Elena: E-l-e-n-a. Per piacere, chiamami Ele.
5. Peter: Piacere di conoscerti, Ele.
6. Elena: Altrettanto.

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Hello, my name is Peter.
2. Elena: Hi, I'm Elena.
3. Peter: I'm sorry?
4. Elena: E-l-e-n-a. Please, call me Ele.
5. Peter: It's nice to meet you, Ele.
6. Elena: You, too.

FORMAL ITALIAN

CONT'D OVER

1. Peter: Salve, mi chiamo Peter Grant.
2. Elena: Salve, sono Elena Rossi.
3. Peter: Come?
4. Elena: E-l-e-n-a. Per piacere, mi chiami Ele.
5. Peter: Piacere di conoscerLa, Ele.
6. Elena: Altrettanto.

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Hello, my name is Peter Grant.
2. Elena: Hi, I'm Elena Rossi.
3. Peter: I'm sorry?
4. Elena: E-l-e-n-a. Please, call me Ele.
5. Peter: It's nice to meet you, Ele.
6. Elena: It's nice to meet you, too.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
Piacere di conoscerti.	Pleased to meet you.	expression

ciao	hello, hi, bye	greeting expression
chiamami	call me (informal)	verb
salve	hello (formal or informal)	greeting expression
per piacere	please	expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Piacere di conoscerti. Mi chiamo John. "Pleased to meet you. My name is John."	**Ciao mamma!** "Hi, mom!"
Ciao, Laura. "Hello, Laura."	**Sono Elena, ma chiamami Ele.** "I am Elena, but call me Ele."
Salve, mi chiamo Franceso Russo. "Hello, my name is Francesco Russo."	**Un gelato per piacere.** "An ice cream, please."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Introducing Yourself in Italian

Ciao, mi chiamo Peter.

"Hello, my name is Peter."

***chiamarsi* "to be called"**

Italian (singular)	"English"	*Italian (plural)*	"English"
(io) mi chiamo	"my name is"	*(noi) ci chiamiamo*	"our names are"
(tu) ti chiami	"your name is"	*(voi) vi chiamate*	"your names are"
(lui/lei) si chiama	"his/her name is"	*(loro) si chiamano*	"their names are"

Chiamarsi is a reflexive verb. This means that the action of the verb happens to the subject of that verb. Literally, *mi chiamo* means, "I call myself...." Because it is a reflexive verb, the object pronoun (in this case, myself, yourself, etc.) has to change to match the subject of the verb, *Io mi chiamo* ("I call myself"), or *tu ti chiami* ("you call yourself"), among others as you can see in the chart above.

People use the expression *come* very often when a person doesn't catch what someone says. It is a polite way to ask someone to repeat what he or she has just said.

Altrettanto has no good literal translation. It means "and you" or "you, too." You can use it to return good wishes to the other person. For example, Peter says, "*piacere di conoscerti*," and Elena responds, "*altrettanto.*" Another example would be if someone said, "have a nice day," (*buona giornata*), an appropriate response is *altrettanto.*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Nicknames

Just as in English, Italians like to give and use nicknames. The Italian word for nickname is *soprannome*. The most common way to create a nickname in Italian is to take the first two syllables of someone's name-just as Elena does. Other examples are Lore, which is short for Lorenzo, and Eli, short for Elisa. For people with two-part names, such as MariaTeresa, they often take the first syllables of each part and put them together. MariaTeresa, for example, becomes MariTé.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #2
Asking About Occupations in Italy Could be Very Profitable

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5 Grammar
6 Cultural Insight

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FORMAL ITALIAN

1. Elena: Che lavoro fa?
2. Peter: Sono studente. E Lei, cosa fa?
3. Elena: Sono commessa in una panetteria
4. Peter: Davvero? Interessante...
5. Elena: Che cosa studia?
6. Peter: Studio ingegneria!

ENGLISH

1. Elena: What do you do?
2. Peter: I'm a student. And you, what do you do?
3. Elena: I'm a shop clerk in a bakery.
4. Peter: Really? Interesting…
5. Elena: What do you study?
6. Peter: I study engineering!

INFORMAL ITALIAN

CONT'D OVER

1. Elena: Peter che lavoro fai?
2. Peter: Sono studente. E tu, cosa fai?
3. Elena: Sono commessa in una panetteria.
4. Peter: Davvero? Interessante...
5. Elena: Che cosa studi?
6. Peter: Studio ingegneria!

ENGLISH

1. Elena: Peter, what do you do?
2. Peter: I'm a student. And you, what do you do?
3. Elena: I'm a shop clerk in a bakery.
4. Peter: Really? Interesting…
5. Elena: What do you study?
6. Peter: I study engineering!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender

commessa	shop clerk, shop assistant	noun	
davvero	really, truly, indeed	adverb	
ingegneria	engineering	noun	
interessante	interesting	adjective	
lavoro	work, job	noun	
panetteria	bakery	noun	feminine
studiare	to study	verb	
fare	to do, to make, to build	verb	
studente	student	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Sono una commessa. "I am a shop clerk."	**Sei davvero vegetariano?** "Are you really vegetarian?"
Devo davvero andare. "I really have to go."	**Davvero?** "Really?"
Studi ingegneria? "Do you study engineering?"	**Questa conferenza è molto interessante.** "This conference is very interesting."
È interessante studiare l'italiano. "Studying Italian is interesting."	**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?"
Lavoro in una panetteria. "I work in a bakery."	**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."
Cosa facevi quando eri in Italia? "What did you do when you were in Italy?"	**Vorrei fare un viaggio in Tailandia.** "I would like to make a trip to Thailand."
Faccio una telefonata. "I'm making a phone call."	**Che lavoro fai?** "What do you do?" / "What job do you do?"
Sono studente. "I am a student."	**Quando ero studente giocavo a calcio.** "I used to play soccer when I was a student."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking About Someone's Occupation in Italian
Che lavoro fa?
"What do you do?"

Verb Conjugation Charts:

***fare* "to do"**

Italian (singular)	"English"	*Italian (plural)*	"English"
(io)faccio	"I do"	*(noi) facciamo*	"we do"
(tu)fai	"you do"	*(voi) fate*	"you do"
(lui/lei)fa	"he/she/it does"	*(loro) fanno*	"they do"

***studiare* "to study"**

Italian (singular)	"English"	*Italian (plural)*	"English"
(io)studio	"I study"	*(noi)studiamo*	"we study"
(tu)studi	"you study"	*(voi)studiate*	"you study"
(lui/lei)studia	"he/she/it studies"	*(loro)studiano*	"they study"

Although *fare* is not exactly irregular, it does have some peculiarities due to its shortness. If you look at the charts above, you will notice that most of the endings are regular (*-o, -i, -a, -iamo, -ate, -anno*). The third person ending has a double -n, which happens with all the short verbs like *dare*, *stare,* and *fare*. The primary differences occur in the first person (I and we) where the base, or the stem, of the word changes to *facci-*. Often, we refer to these kinds of verbs as stem-changing verbs.

Also, note that in Italian, it is not necessary to put the indefinite article in front of the profession. While in English, we say "I'm an engineer" or "I'm a student," in Italian, it's common to hear *sono insegnante*, or *sono ingegnere*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian University Students

In Italy, university students don't live on a campus where they attend classes and eat in a cafeteria. Instead, the university is spread over the city in various *facoltà*, or "departments,"

that are each in a separate building, often very far from the other facoltà. (Peter, for example, says that he is studying *ingegneria*. Therefore, he is studying in the *facoltà di ingegneria*.) While attending school, most students live with their parents because apartments for rent in big cities are very difficult to find. Others live in the university housing, which is often very hard to obtain due to its low cost. Some even rent rooms from families or other students until they have passed all of the *esami* (exams) required for their *laurea*, or "degree."

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #3
An Italian Dilemma: To Kiss or Not to Kiss

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FORMAL ITALIAN

1. Elena: Peter, Le presento Anna.
2. Anna: Salve, Peter. È un piacere conoscerLa.
3. Peter: Salve. Altrettanto. Di dov'è?
4. Anna: Sono di Firenze. Siamo tutte e due di Firenze.

ENGLISH

1. Elena: Peter, this is Anna.
2. Anna: Hello, Peter. Nice to meet you.
3. Peter: Hello, nice to meet you, too. Where are you from?
4. Anna: I'm from Florence. We're both from Florence.

INFORMAL ITALIAN

1. Elena: Peter, ti presento Anna.
2. Anna: Ciao, Peter. È un piacere conoscerti.
3. Peter: Ciao. Altrettanto. Di dove sei?
4. Anna: Sono di Firenze. Siamo tutte e due di Firenze.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Elena: Peter, this is Anna.

2. Anna: Hello, Peter. Nice to meet you.

3. Peter: Hello, nice to meet you, too. Where are you from?

4. Anna: I'm from Florence. We're both from Florence.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
Ti presento...	This is… (literally, I present to you.) (informal)	expression
Le presento...	This is… (literally, I present to you.) (formal)	expression
Di dove sei?	Where are you from? (informal)	expression
Di dov'è?	Where are you from? (formal)	expression
tutte e due	both (female-female case only)	expression
Firenze	Florence	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ti presento Anna. "This is Anna."	**Le presento Peter.** "This is Peter."
Di dove sei? "Where are you from?" (informal)	**Di dov'è?** "Where are you from?" (formal)

Siamo tutte e due di Firenze. "We are both from Florence."	**Il centro storico di Firenze attira milioni di turisti ogni anno.** "The historic centre of Florence attracts millions of tourists each year."

Sono di Firenze.

"I am from Florence."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Italian Itroductions

Peter, ti presento Anna.

"Peter, this is Anna."

Introductions are an important part of socializing in any country. While In English, we usually say, "this is...," the Italian version, *ti presento*, literally translates as "I present to you."

***presentare* "to present"**	
Italian	**"English"**
Io presento	"I present"
Tu presenti	"You present"
Lui-lei presenta	"He/she/it presents"
Noi presentiamo	"We present"
Voi presentate	"You present"
Loro presentano	"They present"

Indirect Object Pronouns

Singular	Plural
(a me) - mi	(a noi) - ci
(a te) - ti	(a voi) - vi
(a lui) - gli	(a loro) - gli
(a lei) - le	

If introducing someone to a group of people, the indirect object pronoun *ti* becomes *vi*. For example, *vi presento Anna*. In a formal setting, we use *le (a Lei)*. The indirect object pronoun is to whom or for whom the action of a verb is performed. See the chart above for other examples of indirect object pronouns.

Introducing Multiple People
Siamo tutte e due di Firenze.
"We're both from Florence."

Tutte e due is the feminine form of "both." In order to say "both," for two males or a mixed group, you use *tutti e due*. Note that it declines (changes to become masculine, feminine, and plural) like all regular nouns. Another useful trick to know is that you can also transform this phrase to mean all of any number of people. For example, to say "all three," you just change *due* to *tre* as in *tutti e tre*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What's an Appropriate Italian Greeting?

Many foreigners are uncertain of the proper decorum when meeting Italians for the first time. It is fairly well-known that Italians greet each other with a kiss on each cheek (or they press

cheeks and kiss the air). What is less clear is when and where this is appropriate. For example, in an office or any other business environment, this usually does not take place. Most Italians prefer a handshake to say hello and then another when they part. This is also true of people that they are meeting for the first time or that they don't know very well. With more intimate friends and family, they expect a kiss on the cheek when they haven't seen each other for a long time and they welcome one at any time. It is a warm welcome when greeting guests and an appreciative thank you when receiving gifts.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #4
Tell Them How You Are in Italian!

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FORMAL ITALIAN

1. Elena: Salve Signor Marini. Come sta?
2. Luca: Sto bene, grazie. E Lei?
3. Elena: Non c'è male.

ENGLISH

1. Elena: Hello, Mr. Marini. How are you?
2. Luca: I'm fine, thanks. And you?
3. Elena: I'm all right.

INFORMAL ITALIAN

1. Elena: Ciao Luca. Come stai?
2. Luca: Sto bene, grazie. E tu?
3. Elena: Non c'è male.

ENGLISH

1. Elena: Hey, Luca. How are you?

CONT'D OVER

2. Luca: I’m fine, thanks. And you?

3. Elena: I’m all right.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
come	how	interrogative word
stare	to be, to stand, to lie, to be located, to be situated	verb
bene	well, good, fine	adverb
tu	you	adverb
male	bad, badly, ill, not well	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Come è il tempo a Roma? "How's the weather like in Rome?"	**Come ti chiami?** What is your name?
Come stai? How are you?	**Come stanno?** How are they?
Come state? How are you? (second person plural)	**Come stanno Luigi e Anna?** "How are Luigi and Anna?"
Stanno bene. "They are fine."	**Io sto bene, e tu?** "I'm doing fine, what about you?"

Stiamo bene! "We are fine!"	**Tu sei uno studente?** "Are you a student?"
Anche tu? "Even you?"	**Mi hai fatto male!** "You hurt me!"

Sto male.

"I am Ill. I am not well."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking How People and Things Are in Italian

Come stai?

"How are you?"

Stare is an important verb to know and use. Although people often use it as a near synonym for *essere*, it does not carry the same underlying meaning as *essere*. *Stare* is a more temporary state or characteristic, while *essere* defines or describes how something is characteristically.

For example, *come stai* means, "how are you," while the same question using *essere*, *come sei,* means, "what are you like?"

Stare: "to be, to stand, to lie, to be located, to be situated," and many more meanings.

Person	***Italian***	**"English"**
First person singular	*(io) sto*	"I am"
Second person singular	*(tu) stai*	"You are"
Third person singular	*(lui/lei) sta*	"He/she/it is"

First person plural	*(noi) stiamo*	"We are"
Second person plural	*(voi) state*	"You are"
Third person plural	*(loro) stanno*	"They are"

Answering Come stai?
Non c'è male.
"I'm fine."

A way to answer the question, "how are you," is with, *non c'è male,* which also means "I'm fine." Being fairly neutral, Italians use it to avoid revealing anything too personal or thinking too much. Because it does not refer directly to the person speaking, one can also use it when responding to questions about food, places, and events.

For example:

1. *Com'è il vino? Non c'è male*.
   "How is the wine? It is fine."

Do note that the phrase does not change in any way.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Come sta?

Asking how someone is doing is very common in Italy. Italians like to chat about anything and especially know how other people feel and what they like. You will always hear people inquiring about someone else's health even if they meet every morning. This is especially true between neighbors and old friends. Furthermore, in the case of parents and grandparents, it is very common to ask them about their children or grandchildren. A simple greeting such as, *come sta* (how are you?), can often become a twenty minute long conversation.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #5
Talk About Being Hungry...and Thirsty...and Tired in Italian!

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

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ITALIAN

1. Elena: Luca, stai bene?
2. Luca: No, non sto bene.
3. Elena: Che c'è adesso?
4. Luca: Ho fame! Ho sete! Sono stanco. Sono...
5. Elena: OK, OK... A dopo.

ENGLISH

1. Elena: Luca, are you okay?
2. Luca: No, I'm not [okay].
3. Elena: What's wrong?
4. Luca: I'm hungry! I'm thirsty! I'm tired. I'm...
5. Elena: Okay, okay...! See you later.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
Stai bene?	Are you okay?	expression	
Non sto bene.	I am not well. I am not feeling well.	expression	

Che c'è adesso?	What's wrong now? (literally, What is it now?)	expression	
fame	hunger	noun	
sete	thirst	noun	
stanco	tired	adjective	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Luca, Stai bene? "Luca, are you all right?"	**Professore, non sto bene.** "Professor, I am not feeling well."
Che c'è adesso mamma? "What is it now, Mom?"	**Hai fame?** Are you hungry?
Oggi non ho molta fame. "Today, I'm not very hungry."	**Luca ha fame.** "Luca is hungry."
Elena non ha sete. "Elena isn't thirsty."	**Sono stanco.** I'm tired.
Sembri proprio stanco. "You look very tired."	**Lui è stanco.** "He is tired."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking How People Feel in Italian

Che c'è?

"What's wrong?"

Che c'è is one way to ask what's wrong. More specifically, it means, "what is it?" Sometimes you will also hear *che c'hai* (pronounced [ke chai]). You may also use *che c'ha* either when asking about the symptoms of an illness or when someone seems to be in a bad mood.

In formal speech it is best to use *cos'ha*, literally meaning, "what do you have," but also translatable as "what is the matter?" You may use the more informal *cos'hai* with people whom you are acquainted.

***Avere* "to have"**

Person	*Italian*	"English"
First person singular	*Io ho*	"I have"
Second person singular	*Tu hai*	"You have"
Third person singular	*Lui/lei ha*	"He/she/it has"
First person plural	*Noi abbiamo*	"We have"
Second person plural	*Voi avete*	"You have"
Third person plural	*Loro hanno*	"They have"

Hunger, Thirst, and Temperature

Ho fame! Ho sete! Sono stanco.

"I'm hungry! I'm thirsty! I'm tired."

With hunger, thirst, and temperature, instead of using *essere* + adjective, we use the verb *avere* + noun. Look at when Luca says, "I'm hungry." In Italian he says, *ho fame* (I have hunger). It is important to observe that fame is not an adjective. Luca has hunger. This is true for *fame, sete, caldo,* and *freddo*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Most Important Phrase in Italy?

Ho fame is arguably the most important sentence in Italian culture. Daily schedules revolve around breakfast, lunch, dinner, and coffee breaks. Many families eat three meals a day together, making the table a quintessential element in family life.

A typical breakfast consists of cookies and *caffé latte* at home or a croissant and cappuccino at the bar (which is usually a small cafe that serves coffee, pastries, and sometimes-light pasta dishes). Lunch is the most substantial meal of the day for most Italians. Around one o'clock, businesses close and people return home for pasta and/or a meat dish with vegetables. After about four o'clock, shops and offices reopen for business until eight thirty or nine o'clock when everyone goes home for dinner. Almost every meal ends with a cup of espresso to help keep energy levels high throughout the day and to help digestion along.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #6
What Will Shopping in Italy Cost You Without this Lesson?

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ITALIAN

1. Peter: Mi scusi, quanto costa questo?
2. Commesso: Un euro.
3. Peter: Quanto costa quello?
4. Commesso: Anche quello costa un euro.
5. Peter: Wow! Solo un euro...è molto economico!
6. Commesso: È normale in Italia, Signore
7. Peter: Wow! I fiori sono molto economici in Italia!
8. Anna: Quanto costano negli Usa?

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Excuse me, how much is this?
2. Clerk: One euro.
3. Peter: How much is that?
4. Clerk: That's also one euro.
5. Peter: Wow! Just a euro...that's very cheap!
6. Clerk: It is normal in Italy, Sir.

CONT'D OVER

7. Peter: Wow! Flowers are very cheap in Italy!

8. Anna: How much are they in the U.S.A?

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
Mi scusi	Excuse me. (formal)	expression	
Usa	U.S.A.	noun	
normale	normal, regular, ordinary	adjective	
economico	cheap, economic	adjective	
solo	only	adverb	
quello	that	adjective	
Euro	Euro	noun	masculine
costare	to cost	verb	
questo	this (masculine singular)	demonstrative adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mi scusi, quanto costa questa bottiglia?	**Quanto costano negli Usa?**
"Excuse me, how much is this bottle?"	"How much are they in the U.S.A.?"

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?"
Questo supermercato è molto economico. "This supermarket is very cheap."	**Questo posto è molto economico.** "This place is very cheap."
Questa maglia costa solo cinque euro. "This shirt costs only five euros."	**Solo tre euro.** "Only three euros."
Andiamo a vedere quello spettacolo? "Shall we go see that show?"	**Quello costa un euro.** "That costs one euro."
Sono quattro Euro. It's four Euros.	**Cinque euro.** "Five euros."
Questo libro costa dodici euro. "This book costs twelve euros."	**Questi stivali costano duecento euro.** "These boots cost two hundred euros."
La giacca costa cento euro. "The jacket costs one hundred euros."	**Quanto costa quello?** "How much is that?"
Questo è un fiore. "This is a flower."	**Questo libro è interessante.** "This book is interesting."
Questo panino. "This sandwich."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Saying "to cost," "this," and "that," in Italian

Costare, Questo/a, Quello/a

To cost, This, That"

Regardless of your reason for being in Italy-work, travel, school, or relocating-you will have to buy things while you are there.

Costare "To cost"

Mi scusi, quanto costa questo?

"Excuse me, how much is this?"

We usually only use *costare* ("it/they") in third person. Look at the following conjugations:

Costare

Form	*Italian*	"English"
First Person Singular	*Io costo*	"I cost"
Second Person Singular	*Tu costi*	"You cost"
Third Person Singular	*Lui/lei costa*	"He/she/it costs"
First Person Plural	*Noi costiamo*	"We cost"
Second Person Plural	*Voi costate*	"You cost"
Third Person Plural	*Loro costano*	"They cost"

Another phrase for asking how much something costs, also usually in the third person, is *quanto viene* or *quanto vengono.* This is more like asking, "how much does it come?" *Quanto* in these cases is an adverb and does not change form.

Commenting on Prices

Questo/a

"This"

"This"		
Form	***Italian***	**"English"**
Masculine Singular	*questo*	"this"
Feminine Singular	*questa*	"this"

Examples:

1. *questo fiore*
   "this flower"

2. *questa bottiglia*
   "this bottle"

Quello/a
"That"

"That"		
Form	**Italian**	**"English"**
Masculine Singular	*quello*	"that"
Feminine Singular	*quella*	"that"

Examples:

1. *quello student*
   "that student"

2. *quella bottiglia*
   "that bottle"

Quello and *questo* decline like normal nouns.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Shopping in Italy

Shopping in Italy is a favorite pastime for residents and tourists alike. During the weekends and especially during holidays, Italians love to walk through the city center looking in shop windows and chatting. Italians, unlike most Anglo-Saxons, shop with their eyes and not with their hands. They tend to look in windows until they find something that interests them and then enter the shop to ask for it. Anglo-Saxons on the other hand, generally enter the shop to see and touch the things they are looking at more closely. Many Italian shopkeepers are still a little unnerved by this habit and prefer that friendly shoppers don't touch their goods without permission.

The city center is always full of clothing and accessory shops and markets. Each city has its own flair and personality. Some cities have permanent outdoor markets where you may find anything from socks to ham at lower prices. With the change to the euro, this price gap is shrinking drastically, however. Smaller cities have markets that open once a week in their *piazze del mercato*, or market squares. Markets are a fun way to mingle and meet people while searching for a bargain.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #7
Hurry! Listen To This Italian Lesson before You Are Late!

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ITALIAN

1. Elena: Pronto?
2. Peter: Ciao, sono Peter. C’è Anna?
3. Elena: Ah, ciao! Certo, aspetta un attimo. Anna, è per te!
4. Peter: Chi è?
5. Elena: È Peter.
6. Anna: Bene, arrivo!
7. Elena: Anna, sbrigati!
8. Anna: Pronto, ciao Peter!

ENGLISH

1. Elena: Hello?
2. Peter: Hello, this is Peter. Is Anna there?
3. Elena: Oh, hello! Sure, hold on. Anna, it’s for you!
4. Anna: Who is it?
5. Elena: It’s Peter.
6. Anna: Okay, coming!

CONT'D OVER

7. Elena: Anna, hurry up!

8. Anna: Hello, hi Peter!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
pronto	ready, hello (when picking up the phone)	interjection
Chi è?	Who is it?	expression
sbrigarsi	to hurry up	verb
arrivare	to arrive, to come	verb
un attimo	a moment	expression
chi	who	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Siamo pronti per uscire? "Are we ready to leave?"	**Pronto. Chi parla?** "Hello. Who's speaking?"
Chi è la tua insegnante di italiano preferita? "Who is your favorite Italian teacher?"	**Marco sbrigati!** "Marco, hurry up!"
Siamo arrivati a Roma. "We've arrived in Rome."	**Sono arrivati i vicini.** "The neighbors have arrived."
Arrivo! "I'm coming!"	**Un attimo per favore.** "One moment, please."

Chi è lui? "Who is he?"	**Di chi è questo?** "Whose is this?"
Chi è Marta? "Who is Marta?"	**Chi semina vento raccoglie tempesta.** "Making your bed and having to sleep in it."
Chi ha mangiato la mia torta? "Who ate my cake?"	**Chi vuole un gelato?** "Who wants an icecream?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is *Sbrigarsi* and *Arrivare*
"to hurry" and "to Arrive"

Being able to express that you are on your way...and sometimes, that you are hurrying in Italian...is very helpful! But, be careful that you know to use the reflexive verb s*brigarsi,* as well as the correct way to say "I am coming" in Italian.

Sbrigarsi
Anna, sbrigati!
"Anna, hurry up!"

Sbrigarsi is a reflexive verb just as *chiamarsi* was in the first lesson. Remember that reflexive verbs are verbs that act on their own subject. Also, look at the *tu* and *noi* forms in the paradigm below. An -h is inserted between the -g and the -i in order to maintain the hard -g sound in the infinitive. This happens in many -gar and -car verbs, such as *sbrigarsi* and *cercare*.

Sbrigarsi

Form	*Italian*	"English"

First Person Singular	*Io mi sbrigo*	"I hurry"
Second Person Singular	*Tu ti sbrighi*	"You hurry"
Third Person Singular	*Lui/lei si sbriga*	"He/she/it hurries"
First Person Plural	*Noi ci sbrighiamo*	"We hurry"
Second Person Plural	*Voi vi sbrigate*	"You hurry"
Third Person Plural	*Loro si sbrigano*	"They hurry"

Arrivare
Bene, arrivo!
"Okay, coming!"

In English, Anna tells Elena that she's coming. Now, look at the Italian dialogues. She doesn't say *vengo* as she would in English. She says *arrivo* ("I'm arriving").

We use *arrivare* to express a very near arrival. For example, if you call a friend to say that you are almost at a meeting point, the appropriate expression is *arrivo*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Where Can You Get the Best Cell Phone Rates in Italy?

Long before teenagers in America were texting, surfing, and chatting on their cell phones, every Italian had one in their pocket. Access to cellular phones is easy and relatively non-committal because there are two basic kinds of service: *abbonamento* (subscription) and *ricaricabile* (prepaid or literally, rechargeable). Different companies offer special rates on anything from texting between phones that carry the same service, to international calls. Because rates are often high between phones with competing services, many Italians have two or even three phones, each carrying different services with different advantages. Today, because many Italians are unsatisfied with landline services and costs, they are discontinuing phone service in their homes. Companies such as TIM, Vodafone, and Tre are now offering packaged deals to reduce rates for customers using their cell phones as

home phones as well.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #8
What Did You Do This Weekend in Italy?

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ITALIAN

1. Elena: Allora? Che cosa ha detto?
2. Anna: Mi ha chiesto cosa faccio questo fine settimana.
3. Elena: Cosa gli hai detto?
4. Anna: Che non sono sicura di essere disponibile.

ENGLISH

1. Elena: So? What did he say?
2. Anna: He asked me what I am doing this weekend.
3. Elena: What did you tell him?
4. Anna: That I am not sure if I am free.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
allora	so, then	adverb	
disponibile	available	adjective	
chiedere	to ask	verb	
fine settimana	weekend	noun	masculine
dire	to say, to tell	verb	
sapere	to know	verb	

sicura	sure, certain (feminine singular)	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ok, allora ci vediamo la prossima settimana. "Ok, then, I'll see you next week."	**Allora è deciso.** "Then, it's settled."
Allora? Che cosa ha detto? "So? What did he say?"	**Il prodotto sarà disponibile in tre diversi colori e forme.** "The product is going to be available in three different colors and shapes."
La camera è disponibile. "The room is available."	**Sei disponibile per una partita di calcio venerdi?** "Are you available for a soccer match on Friday?"
La camera è disponibile. "The room is available."	**Ti chiederò solo un'altra volta.** "I will only ask you one more time."
Chiedi a mamma le chiavi di casa. "Ask mom for the key to the house."	**Chiediamo del pane?** "Shall we ask for some bread?"
Ho chiesto una bambola. "I asked for a doll."	**Posso chiederti una cosa?** "Can I ask you something?"
Hai chiesto? "Did you ask?"	**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."

Hanno detto che vanno al cinema. "They said they're going to the cinema."	**Tra il dire e il fare c'è di mezzo il mare.** "Easier said than done."
Hai detto a Elisa che stiamo arrivando? "Have you told Elisa we are coming?"	**Mi ha detto che domani non viene.** "She told me she's not going to come tomorrow."
Lo so, lo so, so di essere in ritardo... "I know, I know, I know I'm late..."	**Non lo so.** "I don't know."
Sai che ore sono? "Do you know what time it is?"	**Sai come prenotare un biglietto per il treno?** "Do you know how to book a train ticket?"
Sai dove andare? "Do you know where to go?"	**Non so niente.** "I don't know anything."
È sicura di andare stasera. "She is sure to go tonight."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Forming the Present Perfect
Che cosa ha detto?
"What did he say?

In order to express past actions and events, Italian language has a very rich and detailed variety of verbal modes and tenses.

In the dialogue, both Anna and Elena use a past verbal tense called *passato prossimo* (present perfect). The passato prossimo is a compound tense composed of two words: the auxiliary verb and the past participle. We use it to express finished actions and events at the time of speaking.

This tense corresponds to two different tenses in English: the simple past (e.g., I visited Italy

last year.), and the present perfect (e.g., I have visited Italy for a month). Therefore, the English "I visited" and "I have visited" are the same in Italian.

Auxiliary verbs are *avere* ("to have") and *essere* ("to be"). In today's lesson, we will see the passato prossimo of transitive verbs (verbs that transfer action to a direct object). All transitive verbs require the auxiliary verb, avere.

To make the passato prossimo, you need the present tense of avere followed by the past participle of the verb you want. You should already know the present tense of avere (*Io ho*, *tu hai*, etc.), so you now need to learn how to make the past participle.

The table below explains how:

Form	Present Infinitive	Past Participle
First conjugation	parl-**are** (to speak)	parl-**ato**
Second conjugation	ricev-**ere** (to receive)	ricev-**uto**
Third conjugation	fin-**ire** (to finish)	fin-**ito**

So, the past participle of all regular verbs of the first conjugation (**-are**) end in **-ato** (*mangi-are* becomes *mangi-ato*), those of the second conjugation (**-ere**) end in **-uto** (*cred-ere* becomes *cred-uto*), and those of the third conjugation (**-ire**) end in **-ito** (*dorm-ire* becomes *dorm-ito*).

The Focus of This Lesson is Irregular Forms of the Past Participle: Strong Verbs
Mi ha chiesto cosa faccio questo fine settimana.
"He asked me what I am doing this weekend."

It is important that you understand that you can only make the past tense in Italian with two words-the auxiliary verb and a past participle-and that the past participle does not change when the auxiliary verb is avere.

The vast majority of verbs make their past participle by following the pattern in the table above, but some do not follow the general rule; we call them strong verbs. In today's dialogue the verbs *chiedere* ("to ask") and *dire* ("to say, to tell") are strong verbs and their past participle forms are irregular, so you need to learn them by heart.

Here is the full past tense of the verb *chiedere* (to ask) and *dire* (to say, to tell):

Simple Present of Auxiliary *avere*	Past Participle of *chiedere*	Past Participle of *dire*

(io) ho		
(tu) hai		
(lui/lei) ha	chiesto	detto
(noi) abbiamo		
(voi) avete		
(loro) hanno		

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Weekends

For many Italians, Saturdays are not days off work. Many public middle and high schools have classes on Saturday mornings, and many businesses still require employees to work a half-day. Students who do not have classes on Saturday are required to attend school a few afternoons a week, but others attend school only until around one o'clock when they go home for lunch. In turn, they must attend classes on Saturday as well. Sunday, however, remains a holiday, which means that most young people go out on Saturdays and not necessarily on Fridays.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #9
Italian Pets and the Most Important Italian Phrase to Know!

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ITALIAN

1. Anna: Peter, hai un animale domestico?
2. Peter: Sì - ho un cane, due gatti e...un...come si dice “hamster?”
3. Anna: Hamster?
4. Peter: Sí, un animale piccolo come un topo.
5. Anna: Ahh! Un criceto!

ENGLISH

1. Anna: Peter, do you have a pet?
2. Peter: Oh, yes! I have a dog, two cats, and…a…how do you say “hamster?”
3. Anna: Hamster?
4. Peter: Yes, a small animal like a mouse.
5. Anna: Ahh! A hamster!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
animale domestico	pet	noun	
criceto	hamster	noun	masculine

cane	dog	noun	masculine
gatti	cats	noun	
piccolo	small, tiny	adjective	
topo	mouse	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hai un animale domestico? "Do you have a pet?"	**Il criceto è piccolo.** "The hamster is small."
Il cane è il miglior amico dell'uomo. "A dog is a man's best friend."	**Il cane di Marta è un pastore tedesco.** "Marta's dog is a German Shepherd."
Peter ha due gatti. "Peter has two cats."	**Questo chiwawa è proprio piccolo!** "This Chihuahua is really small!"
Questo appartamento è piccolo. "This apartment is small."	**Ti piacciono i topi bianchi?** "Do you like white mice?"
Il gatto mangia il topo. "The cat eats the mouse."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking How to Say Something in Italian

Come si dice hamster?

"How do you say hamster?"

Come si dice...? is a useful phrase for asking about the meaning of words and phrases. *Si dice* is the impersonal form of the verb *dire* and in English it means, "how do you say...?"

Commonly, we use the impersonal construction in Italian when people in general perform the action of a verb, or by a subject that is indefinite (in English "you" or "one"). This construction uses *si* + third person of the verb and it is called *si impersonale*. Let's have a look at the examples below for better understanding:

1. *Si mangia per vivere.*
   "People eat in order to live."

2. *Non si può pagare con la carta di credito.*
   "You can't pay by credit card."

3. *Come si dice "cane" in inglese?*
   "How do you say "cane" in English?"

4. *Non si paga molto in quel ristorante.*
   "You don't pay much in that restaurant."

5. *Si vedono le montagne.*
   "You can see the mountains." / "The mountains can be seen."

Note that in the last example the verb is plural because the noun following it is plural. This usage is called the *si passivante* construction in Italian because if transformed from impersonal into personal, the verb form would be passive.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What Makes a Good Italian Pet?

While hamsters are uncommon pets in Italy, cats and small dogs are quite prevalent. Because most of the population lives in apartments, large dogs are neither very practical nor economical. Many shops and even restaurants are dog friendly and it is not uncommon to see dogs on leashes or being carried inside in large totes.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #10
Talking About Possessions in Italian: It's MY Coat!

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ITALIAN

1. Anna: Ehi Peter, c'è Luca?
2. Peter: No. Perché?
3. Anna: Ha il mio libro di storia. Ehi, è una foto di famiglia quella?
4. Peter: Sí, lo è.
5. Anna: Chi è questo?

ENGLISH

1. Anna: Hey, Peter. Is Luca here?
2. Peter: No, why?
3. Anna: He has my history book. Hey, is that a family picture?
4. Peter: Yes, it is.
5. Anna: Who is this?

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
perché	why	interrogative word	
libro	book	noun	masculine

famiglia	family	noun	
storia	history	noun	feminine
mio	my (masculine singular)	possessive adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Perché ridi? Perché sei divertente. "Why are you laughing? Because you're funny."	**Perché sei felice?** "Why are you happy?"
Ho comprato un libro. "I've bought a book."	**È un libro interessante.** "It's an interesting book."
La mia famiglia è originaria del Meridione. "My family comes from southern Italy."	**Luca ha una famiglia numerosa.** "Luca has a large family."
La storia è interessante. "History is interesting."	**Ti piace il mio cappotto?** "Do you like my coat?"
Luca ha il mio libro. "Luca has my book."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Possessive Adjectives and Definite Articles

Ha il mio libro di storia.

"He has my history book."

Like all other adjectives in Italian, the possessive adjectives also change according to the gender (masculine/feminine) and the number (singular/plural) of the noun they precede. Today, we shall see only the singular forms of both masculine and feminine possessive adjectives in relation to the personal pronoun they refer to. The only exception is the possessive adjective "their" (*loro*), which never changes. Look at the following table:

Personal Pronoun	***Masculine Singular***	***Feminine Singular***	**"English"**
io	*mio*	*mia*	"my"
tu	*tuo*	*tua*	"your"
lui/lei	*suo*	*sua*	"his"/ "her"
noi	*nostro*	*nostra*	"our"
voi	*vostro*	*vostra*	"your"
loro	*loro*	*loro*	"their"

As you can see in the dialogue, most possessive adjectives (my, your, his, etc.) require a definite article (the) preceding them. Both the article and the adjective must agree in person and number with the noun.

Here are some examples:

1. *Il mio libro*
   "My book"

2. *La tua giacca*
   "Your jacket"

3. *La sua penna*
   "His pen"

4. *Il suo computer*
   "Her computer"

Definite articles are not necessary with singular family nouns. However, with plural family nouns they are necessary.

For example:

1. ***Mia*** *madre si chiama Anna.*
   "My mother's name is Anna."

2. ***Mio*** *fratello ha dieci anni.*
   "My brother is ten years old."

3. ***Mio*** *padre è un dottore.*
   "My father is a doctor."

4. ***Mia*** *zia abita a Pisa.*
   "My aunt lives in Pisa."

Exceptions to this rule occur when we use diminutive or endearment nouns instead of the plain ones. For instance, *madre* is the plain Italian word for "mother," while *mamma* is an endearment term for it (in English "mummy/mama/mommy"). In the latter case, both *mia mamma* and *la mia mamma* are correct forms (i.e., without or with the definite article). However, when using the term *madre,* the only correct form is *mia madre* (without the definite article).

Another exception to this rule occurs when a demonstrative adjective follows the family name. In this case, we commonly use the definite article.

Examples:

1. *Il mio zio americano.*
   "My American uncle."

2. *Il mio fratello maggiore.*
   "My older brother."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Where Do Italians Live?

Homes in Italy are hard to find, and more often than not, are too expensive to live in alone. Young people opt to live at home into their late twenties and thirties. Many even share a room with siblings because housing is so difficult to obtain and costs more than they are willing to pay. While the average paycheck of a recent university graduate is slightly more than 800€, one month's rent for an apartment can easily cost equally as much, and it is difficult to get a loan to buy a home. In addition, when buying an apartment it is also important to consider the cost of renovation in the price. Especially since most Italians also completely renovate before moving into a new home-from the kitchen to the bathroom. As a result, Italians are accustomed to living in apartments with two, three, even four roommates when they leave their parents' homes. None of which prevents most from dreaming of villas by the seaside or in the mountains.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #11
Multiple Possessions: Stop the Plane! I Left My Glasses in Italy!

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ITALIAN

1. Antonio: Hai visto le mie chiavi della macchina?
2. Maria: Umm...No!
3. Antonio: E i miei occhiali?
4. Maria: Umm...No!
5. Antonio: E le mie sigarette, dove sono?
6. Maria: Ehh...le tue sigarette sono finite!
7. Antonio: Ma non hai smesso di fumare?!
8. Maria: Umm...No!

ENGLISH

1. Antonio: Have you seen my car keys?
2. Maria: Um...nope!
3. Antonio: And my glasses?
4. Maria: Um...nope!
5. Antonio: And my cigarettes, where are they?
6. Maria: Eh...you're out of cigarettes. (literally, “your cigarettes are finished.”)

CONT'D OVER

7. Antonio: But haven’t you quit smoking?!

8. Maria: Um...nope!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
chiavi	keys	noun	
occhiali	glasses	noun	masculine
sigarette	cigarettes	noun	
dove	where	interrogative word	
smettere	to quit, stop, end	verb	
fumare	to smoke	verb	
macchina	car	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Le chiavi di casa. "The house keys."	**I tuoi occhiali sono molto belli.** "Your glasses are very nice."
Antonio porta gli occhiali. "Antonio wears glasses."	**Ho comprato le sigarette.** "I bought the cigarettes."
Dove andiamo? Where are we going?	**Dove sei stato?** Where have you been?

Dove sei? Where are you?	**Dove abiti?** Where do you live?
Smetti di fumare! "Stop smoking!"	**Potresti smettere di lamentarti?** "Could you stop complaining?"
Smetti di ridere! "Stop laughing!"	**Mio padre non fuma.** "My father does not smoke."
Le famiglie in Italia di solito hanno 2 macchine. "Families in Italy usually own two cars."	**La mia macchina non è nuova.** "My car is not new."
Sono venuto in macchina. "I came by car."	**Ieri ho provato una macchina nuova.** "Yesterday I tried a new car."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Plural Possessive Adjectives
Hai visto le mie chiavi della macchina?
Have you seen my car keys?

As you should know, possessive adjectives change according to not only the gender (masculine/feminine), but also the number (singular/plural) of the noun they precede. The only exception is the possessive "their" (*loro*), which never changes.

The following table should help you in clarifying this point:

Personal Pronoun	***Masculine Plural***	***Feminine Plural***	**"English"**
io	*miei*	*mie*	"my"

tu	*tuoi*	*tue*	"your"
lui/lei	*suoi*	*sue*	"his/her"
noi	*nostri*	*nostre*	"our"
voi	*vostri*	*vostre*	"your"
loro	*loro*	*loro*	"their"

As you can see in the dialogue, possessive adjectives require a definite article ("the") preceding them. Both the article and the adjective must agree in person and number with the noun.

For example:

1. "My books" => *i miei libri*
2. "Your keys" => *le tue chiavi*
3. "His cigarettes" => *le sue sigarette*
4. "Her glasses" => *i suoi occhiali*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian No-Smoking Ban

Since January 10 2005, as Italy joined other European countries imposing strict restrictions on smokers, a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places such as bars, restaurants, hotels, schools, discotheques, and offices went into effect. According to this law, businesses face a fine of up to 2.000 Euros if they fail to ensure their customers do not smoke, while smokers could face a 275 Euro fine for ignoring the rules. At the very beginning, not everyone welcomed this ban, with some bar owners and smokers saying that cigarettes and smoking are an integral part of Italian bar and cafe culture. However, eventually even chain-smokers

and the most dogged smokers got used to taking their cigarette breaks out in the open air, while appreciating the new, refreshed air inside all public places.

The rules do allow smoking inside, but only in special sealed-off areas fitted with specific smoke extractors required by law, which are actually too expensive for the majority of bar owners to afford. So, for all public places that have no smoking areas of this kind, they only allow smoking in the outdoor areas.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #12
Italian Family Introductions: He is Your Brother?

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ITALIAN

1. Peter: Questo è il mio babbo, questa è la mia mamma e questi sono i miei fratelli. La mia sorella minore, Jennifer, e il mio fratello maggiore, Mike.

2. Anna: Tuo fratello Mike è davvero bello!

3. Peter: Cosa? Non è vero!

4. Anna: Sì, i suoi occhi sono molto belli. Anche il tuo babbo è un bell'uomo. E a te cos' è successo?!

ENGLISH

1. Peter: This is my dad, this is my mom, and these are my brothers, my younger sister Jennifer, and my older brother Mike.

2. Anna: Your brother Mike is very handsome!

3. Peter: What? It's not true!

4. Anna: Yes, he is. His eyes are very beautiful. Your dad is a handsome man, too. What happened to you?!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
babbo	dad, father	noun	
mamma	mom, mother	noun	

fratelli	brothers	noun	
sorella	sister	noun	
fratello	brother	noun	
maggiore	greater (older)	comparative adjective	
minore	lesser (younger)	comparative adjective	
occhi	eyes	noun	
uomo	man	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Il babbo di Elisa la sta cercando. "Elisa's dad is looking for her."	**Il mio babbo si chiama Enrico.** "My dad's name is Enrico."
La festa della mamma è l'otto maggio. "Mother's Day is on the eighth of May."	**La tua mamma è giovane!** "Your mom is young!"
Ho tre fratelli. "I have three brothers."	**Mia sorella si sposa.** "My sister is getting married."
La sorella di Peter è bella. "Peter's sister is beautiful."	**Ora i miei fratelli abitano tutti all'estero.** "Now all my brothers live abroad."
Tuo fratello è giovane. "Your brother is young."	**Mia sorella maggiore ha vent'anni.** "My older sister is twenty years old."

Mio fratello minore sta all'università. "My younger brother is at the university."	**Mike ha gli occhi verdi.** "Mike has green eyes."

Richard è un uomo intelligente.

"Richard is a smart man."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is a Review of Italian Possessive Adjectives
Tuo fratello Mike è davvero bello!
"Your brother Mike is very handsome!"

In today's lesson, we shall review all forms of the possessive adjectives previously seen. We use possessive adjectives for indicating to whom the noun they refer to belongs, and like all Italian adjectives, they need to be match in gender and number with the noun to which they refer. The following tables will help you clarify which one to pick.

The first table is for masculine possessive adjectives, both singular and plural.

"English"	***Masculine Singular***	***Masculine Plural***
"my"	*mio*	*miei*
"your"	*tuo*	*tuoi*
"his/her"	*suo*	*suoi*
"our"	*nostro*	*nostri*
"your"	*vostro*	*vostri*
"their"	*loro*	*loro*

The second table is for feminine possessive adjectives, both singular and plural.

"English"	*Feminine Singular*	*Feminine Plural*
"my"	*mia*	*mie*
"your"	*tua*	*tue*
"his/her"	*sua*	*sue*
"our"	*nostra*	*nostre*
"your"	*vostra*	*vostre*
"their"	*loro*	*loro*

Remember that the definite article (*il* or *la*) usually precedes the **singular possessive adjectives** except for a few cases such as family members. Therefore, "my brother" in Italian, is *mio fratello,* whereas "my bag" is *la mia borsa*.

A definite article always precedes the **plural possessive adjectives**, also in the case of family members. Therefore, "my brothers" in Italian, is *i miei fratelli,* just as "my bags" is *le mie borse*.

Please note that *babbo* is a very common way to say *papà* (i.e., "father/dad") in the Tuscan region and in other parts of Italy. In a formal conversation, it is best to say *padre* ("father").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Relationships

The average Italian relies primarily on his or her family to provide community and friendship. Because the family occupies so much time, friendships outside the family are usually lifetime friends met in high school, middle school, or even elementary school. It is often difficult (though not impossible) for new people to enter into an existing circle of friends simply because they have known each other for so long! When someone moves to a different city or

country, Italians are very sensitive to that loss.

Italians are always very friendly toward strangers, but real, strong friendship takes time to build.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #13
Italian Commands: Do What I Say...Please!

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ITALIAN

1. Anna: Raccontami di tuo fratello.
2. Peter: Non ci credo!
3. Anna: Dai raccontami! Ti prego!
4. Peter: Va bene. Mio fratello fa il web designer. Lavora per una ditta giapponese, e suona la chitarra.
5. Anna: La chitarra? Anch'io!

ENGLISH

1. Anna: Tell me about your brother.
2. Peter: I don't believe this.
3. Anna: Come on tell me! I beg you! (Pretty please!)
4. Peter: Okay, my brother is a web designer. He works for a Japanese company and he plays the guitar.
5. Anna: The guitar? Me, too!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
raccontare	to tell, recount	verb	

credere	to believe	verb	
lavorare	to work	verb	
suonare	to play (a musical instrument)	verb	
ditta	company	noun	
chitarra	guitar	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Raccontami una storia. "Tell me a story."	**Credo che qualcosa non vada.** "I believe there's something wrong."
Credo di si. "I believe so."	**Non ci credo!** "I don't believe it!"
Non lavorare troppo. "Don't work too much."	**Lavoro in una fabbrica.** "I work in a factory."
Non suono la chitarra. "I don't play the guitar."	**Lavoro in una ditta di computer.** "I work in a computer company."
Sai suonare la chitarra? "Do you know how to play the guitar?"	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Italian Imperative Mode

Raccontami di tuo fratello.

"Tell me about your brother."

Today, we will learn about informal imperative verbal mode (*imperativo,* in Italian). We use imperative mode when commanding someone we know to do something. This order can be more or less strong according to the intonation or other polite words we use with it, such as *per favore* ("please"). However, we must use it anyway when talking to someone we know well, such as family members, friends, etc.

We normally use the imperative in the second person singular ("you" - *tu*), the first person plural ("we" - *noi*), and the second person plural ("you" - *voi*) persons.

	I Conjugation -ARE Verbs raccont-*are* ("to tell")	**II Conjugation - ERE Verbs prend-*ere* ("to take")**	**III Conjugation -IRE Verbs sent-*ire* ("to listen, hear, feel")**
Second Person Singular	raccont-*a*	prend-*i*	sent-*i*
First Person Plural	raccont-*iamo*	prend-*iamo*	sent-*iamo*
Second Person Plural	raccont-*ate*	prend-*ete*	sent-*ite*

Note that when the verb and phrase require a personal pronoun, we must attach this pronoun to the end of the verb to make a single word. In the dialogue for instance, we attach the personal pronoun *mi* ("me" or "to me" in English) at the end of the verb *racconta* ("tell") and they become the single word *raccontami* ("tell me").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Conversation

The best accompaniment to good food is good wine. The next best thing is a good conversation. Italians love to communicate. It is very rare for a family or a group of friends to plan to go to "dinner and a movie" simply because the conversation usually lasts long after dessert. In pubs, parks, and even in the streets, groups of people (young and old) stand in circles or walk together chatting away. Those in retirement often spend the afternoon taking their grandchildren for walks so they can catch up on life in the neighborhood. When it's not too cold, they sit at the park or on the balcony of their apartments and have a coffee together. Overall, it is a very social culture, and the best conversation starter is *E allora, cosa mi racconti?*

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #14
Italian Negative Commands: Don't joke!

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ITALIAN

1. Peter: Non scherzare!
2. Anna: Perché, qualcosa non va?
3. Peter: Bè ehm, vedi…
4. Anna: Dimmi!
5. Peter: E tu Anna, hai sorelle?
6. Anna: No, sono figlia unica.
7. Peter: Peccato!
8. Anna: Cosa vuoi dire?

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Don't joke!
2. Anna: Why is there something wrong?
3. Peter: Well, ehm, you see…
4. Anna: Tell me!
5. Peter: Anna, do you have any sisters?
6. Anna: No, I'm an only child.

CONT'D OVER

7. Peter: That’s too bad!

8. Anna: What do you mean?

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
qualcosa	something	indefinite pronoun
scherzare	to joke, make fun of	verb
figlia unica	only child (feminine singular)	noun
peccato	too bad	exclamation

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Vorrei mangiare qualcosa di dolce. "I'd like to eat something sweet."	**Hai qualcosa da mangiare?** "Do you have something to eat?"
Sto solo scherzando, non ti arrabbiare. "I am just joking. Don't get angry."	**Scherzi sempre!** "You are always joking!"
Sto scherzando. "I am joking."	**Anna è figlia unica.** "Anna is an only child."
È un peccato. "It's too bad."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is The Italian Negative Imperative

Non scherzare!

"Don't joke!"

To make the negative form of the imperative for *noi* ("we") and *voi* ("you," plural), you need to add *non* ("not") before the conjugated verb.

For Example:

1. Affirmative: *sentiamo*
   Negative: *non sentiamo*

2. Affirmative: *prendete*
   Negative: *non prendete*

We build the negative form of the imperative for *tu* ("you," singular) with *non +* the infinitive of the verb we want.

For Example:

1. Affirmative: *racconta*
   Negative: *non raccontare*

2. Affirmative: *prendi*
   Negative: *non prendere*

3. Affirmative: *senti*
   Negative: *non sentire*

The following table demonstrates how to conjugate the three verb conjugations in the negative imperative.

Negative Imperative	**I Conjugation - ARE: *raccont-are* ("to tell")**	**II Conjugation - ERE: *prend-ere* ("to take")**	**III Conjugation - IRE: *sent-ire* ("to listen, hear, feel")**
noi	*non* raccont - *iamo*	*non* prend - *iamo*	*non* sent - *iamo*
voi	*non* raccont - *ate*	*non* prend - *ete*	*non* sent - *ite*
tu	*non* raccont - *are*	*non* prend - *ere*	*non* sent - *ire*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italians Love to Laugh!

Teasing and joking is a favorite pastime among friends. While practical jokes are not so common, Italians love a good laugh. They will make fun of almost anything. Telling *barzellette*, or "jokes," is an art form. Physical, slapstick humor, such as that of Roberto Benigni (*Life is Beautiful*) is quite popular. There are hundreds of jokes about the Pope and even more about the *carabinieri*, an Italian military police force. Be aware however, that teasing is a dangerous sport. Because English humor tends to be sarcastic and Italian humor is much less so, it is important to be aware of people's feelings. A good laugh is never worth offending someone and you might find yourself explaining.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #15
Expressing Your Desires in Italy!

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#15

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ITALIAN

1. Elena: Buongiorno signore! Prego?
2. Cliente: Vorrei quattro rosette e dieci grissini.
3. Elena: Altro?
4. Cliente: Um, sì. Prendo anche due pezzi di quella pizza margherita... Sembra buona!
5. Elena: Sì, la nostra pizza è speciale!
6. Cliente: Ah, bene! Quant'è?
7. Elena: Sono 4 euro e cinquanta.
8. Elena: Grazie e buona giornata!
9. Customer: Arrivederci!

ENGLISH

1. Elena: Good day, sir. How can I help you?
2. Customer: I would like four rosettes and ten grissini.
3. Elena: Anything else?
4. Customer: Um, yes. I'll take also two slices of that pizza margherita...it looks delicious!

CONT'D OVER

5. Elena: Yes, our pizza is special!

6. Customer: Ah, good! How much is it?

7. Elena: It's four Euros and fifty.

8. Elena: Thank you. Have a nice day!

9. Customer: Goodbye!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
volere	to want, to wish, to demand	verb
speciale	special	adjective
buona	good	adjective
sembrare	to seem, look, look like	verb
pezzi	pieces, slices	noun
prendere	to take, get (figuratively, to buy)	verb
altro	another, else	adjective
grissino	a kind of hard breadstick	noun
rosetta	Italian rose shaped dinner rolls (a kind of round bread cut to look like a rose when baked).	noun
Buona giornata	(Have a) Good morning, (Have a) Good day	greeting expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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."	**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."	**Buona questa pasta al pesto.** "This pesto (genovese) pasta is tasty."
Questa borsa sembra carissima. "This bag looks very expensive."	**Le cose non sono sempre come sembrano.** "Things are not always what they seem."
Quegli spaghetti sembrano buoni. "That spaghetti looks delicious."	**Mangio due pezzi di pane.** "I eat two pieces of bread."
Andiamo a prendere Luca. "Let's go get Luca."	**Prendere due piccioni con una fava.** "Kill two birds with one stone."
Hai preso il pane? "Did you buy the bread?"	**Anthony prende un gelato.** "Anthony gets an ice cream."
Prendi le chiavi per favore. "Get the keys, please."	**Prendo un altro cioccolatino.** "I'll take another chocolate."
I grissini con il prosciutto sono buoni. "Grissini and ham are good."	**Vorrei una rosetta, per favore.** "I'd like a rosetta, please."
Grazie, buona giornata. "Thank you, have a good day."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Expressing Desires in Italian

Vorrei quattro rosette e dieci grissini.

"I would like four rosettes and ten grissini."

Volere ("to want") in the *condizionale* ("conditional tense"), is most like "would like" in English. We use it to express our desires, whether they are real or dreamed.

For example:

1. *Ahhh vorrei una casa al mare.*
   "Ahhh I'd like a house by the sea."

Person	***Italian***	**"English"**
First Person Singular	*Io vorrei*	"I would like"
Second Person Singular	*Tu vorresti*	"You would like"
Third Person Singular	*Lui / lei vorrebbe*	"He/she would like"
First Person Plural	*Noi vorremmo*	"We would like"
Second Person Plural	*Voi vorreste*	"You would like"
Third Person Plural	*Loro vorrebbero*	"They would like"

When ordering in restaurants and cafés, using this phrase is a very polite way to speak to the people serving you. In some cases, Italians use the present tense *voglio* or *prendo* to place orders. While this seems abrupt at times to English speakers, they determine the level of politeness in Italian more by how friendly a person's behavior or tone of voice is than the verb tense they use.

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking How Much Something Costs in Italian

Quant'è?

"How much is it?"

Quant'è is made of the phonetic union of *quanto* ("how much") and *è* (the third person singular of the verb *essere*). In the question, the verb is singular because it's impersonal. But when answering, *essere* needs to be conjugated depending on the amount of money. If the amount is singular then the verb is *è.*

For example:

1. *È un euro.*
   "It's one euro."

If the amount is plural then the verb is *sono.*

For example:

1. *Sono quattro euro e cinquanta.*
   "It's four Euros fifty."

A posto (sometimes written *apposto*) literally means "in place" or "in order." When ordering in shops and restaurants, the person taking the order will most often ask, *È a posto così?* In English, this means, "will that be all?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Bread

Bread serves as a staple in Italian dining. While you can find many shapes, sizes, and kinds in any *panificio* or *panetteria* ("bakery"), each region has its own specialty. For example, they traditionally make Tuscan bread without salt and bake it in a wood-burning oven. Typically, they purchase it by weight fresh every morning to eat with the midday and evening meals. They use any leftover bread to make thick soups and stews, like *ribollita*, which is tomato-based soup using stale bread. As a government subsidized product, it was once quite cheap. However, recent rises in bread prices have been making headlines and causing much worry,

especially among people already in retirement who live on a fixed income.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #16
Discussing Time Frames in Italian: How Often Do You Call?

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ITALIAN

1. Form A

2. Anna: Ogni quanto chiami i tuoi genitori?

3. Peter: Intendi con skype?

4. Anna: Si.

5. Peter: Circa una volta alla settimana. E tu?

6. ---

7. Form B

8. Anna: Quante volte alla settimana chiami i tuoi genitori?

9. Peter: Intendi con skype?

10. Anna: Si.

11. Peter: Circa una volta. E tu?

ENGLISH

1. Form A

2. Anna: How often do you call your parents?

3. Peter: Do you mean using Skype?

CONT'D OVER

4. Anna: Yes.

5. Peter: About once a week. What about you?

6. ----------

7. Form B

8. Anna: How many times a week do you call your parents?

9. Peter: Do you mean using Skype?

10. Anna: Yes.

11. Peter: About once. What about you?

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
con	with	preposition	
volta	time	noun	
circa	about, around, nearly, circa	adverb	
intendere	to intend, mean	verb	
genitori	parents	noun	
tuoi	your	possessive adjective	
chiamare	to call, to phone	verb	

quanto	how much	adjective	
ogni	every	adjective	
settimana	week	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mangio la zuppa con il cucchiaio. "I eat the soup with the spoon."	**Con chi esci?** "Who are you going out with?"
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!"	**Studio circa 3 ore al giorno.** "I study about three hours a day."
Luca ha circa trent'anni. "Luca is nearly thirty years old."	**Intendi domani?** "Do you mean tomorrow?"
I miei genitori vanno in vacanza alle Maldive. "My parents go on holiday to the Maldives."	**I tuoi genitori sono giovani.** "Your parents are young."
I tuoi occhiali sono rotti. "Your glasses are broken."	**Da dove chiami?** "Where are you calling from?"
Ti chiamo domani sera. "I'll call you tomorrow evening."	**Chiama la polizia!** "Call the police!"

Quanto costa questo? How much is this?	**Quanto sei alto?** "How tall are you?"
Quanto costa questo fiore? "How much does this flower cost?"	**Quanto costa quello?** "How much is that?"
Quanto costano negli Usa? "How much are they in the U.S.A.?"	**Quanto costa una mela?** "How much does an apple cost?"
Quanto costa un panino? "How much does a sandwich cost?"	**Quanto pane mangi al giorno?** "How much bread do you eat in a day?"
Quanto costa? "How much does it cost?"	**Ogni giorno.** "Every day."
Vado in pizzeria ogni Sabato. "I go to the pizzeria every Saturday."	**Ci sono sette giorni in una settimana.** "There are seven days in a week."
La prossima settimana. "Next week."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking "How Often" in Italian
Ogni quanto chiami i tuoi genitori?
"How often do you call your parents?"

It is important to notice that forms A and B are perfectly equivalent and are interchangeable. However, we should keep the syntactical structure of the question answer when we answer.

In form A, "how often" corresponds to *ogni quanto*. Note that in Italian, *ogni* may also mean "every, any," but when it is associated with *quanto* it becomes a fixed expression such as the English "how often." Since the question does not refer to any specific period, you can freely formulate the answer, "once a week" as well as "thrice a month," And so on.

In Italian, there is no equivalent of "once, twice, thrice," instead we use "one time, two times, three times," (*una volta, due volte, tre volte*). Note the difference between the singular *volta* and the plural *volte*.

In form B, the initial question refers to a specific period, therefore we shall have to formulate our answer within that particular scheme. Given that we state the period in the question, there is no need to duplicate it again in the answer because it would be an unnecessary repetition. *Circa una volta* implies *alla settimana*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Communications

Although Italy has never been amongst the most technologically developed countries, long-distance communication has recently seen a considerable growth, especially among the new generations. Almost every family owns a personal computer or has access to one in Internet cafes or at their workplaces. Italians use many different programs to communicate. The most frequent ones are Skype, MSN (Windows Messenger), and many public chat lines in particular. Due to the nature of the parent-child relationship in Italy, mothers tend to call their children more often than fathers do, thus expressing their care and tenderness towards their sons and daughters. This family bond is particularly strong between females. Therefore, it is quite common to see daughters spending a good deal of time on the phone. Italian males tend to keep their calls short, preferring to spend time together, maybe having an *aperitivo* after they finish working.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #17
When Does Your Vacation in Italy Begin?

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#17

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ITALIAN

1. Peter: Quando iniziano le tue vacanze estive?
2. Elena: Iniziano il cinque luglio.
3. Peter: E quando finiscono?
4. Elena: Il cinque agosto.
5. Peter: Sul serio?

ENGLISH

1. Peter: When do your summer vacations start?
2. Elena: They start on the fifth of July.
3. Peter: And when do they finish?
4. Elena: On the fifth of August.
5. Peter: Really?

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
quando	when	interrogative word	
iniziare	to begin	verb	

vacanze	holidays, vacations	noun	
estive	summer, summer's	adjective	
luglio	July	noun	masculine
finire	to finish, end, stop	verb	
agosto	August	noun	masculine
sul serio	really, seriously	expression	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Quando mangiamo il gelato? "When are we eating the ice cream?"	**Iniziamo a mangiare.** "Let's start to eat."
Come sono andate le vacanze? "How were your holidays?"	**Vacanze invernali.** "Winter vacations."
Piogge estive. "Summer rains."	**Il ventuno luglio.** "The twenty-first of July."
Hai finito i compiti? "Did you finish your homework?"	**Non finisci mai di sorprendermi!** "You never cease to amaze me!"
Finisco subito. "I will finish right away."	**In agosto le città italiane sembrano deserte.** "In August, Italian cities look deserted."
Il diciannove agosto. "The nineteenth of August."	**Sul serio hai vinto alla lotteria?** "You really won the lottery?"

Usciamo sul serio?

"Are we really going out?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking "When" and Talking About Dates in Italian
Quando iniziano le tue vacanze estive?
"When do your summer vacations start?"

Since we use *quando* ("when") in Italian to refer to both definite and indefinite periods, Peter can ask his first question without specifying any particular day. It is important to notice that we can use *quando* for past, present, and future actions. Therefore, the form of the question stays the same with only the verb tense informing us about the time to which Peter is referring.

When Peter formulates his second question, he does not need to repeat the object *vacanze estive*, since it is already implied by the fact that he did not mention any other period in between his inquiries. If he had mentioned another period, he should have restated the object.

When talking about dates and months, in English we use ordinal numbers (first, second, third, and so on). In Italian, we use cardinal numbers instead, followed by the month with or without the preposition *di* ("of"). Since cardinal numbers are masculine, we shall use the definite masculine article.

For example:

1. *il due (di) luglio*
   "the second of July"

2. *il tre (di) luglio*
   "the third of July"

The only exception is the first day of the month, which in Italian is *il primo (di) luglio* ("the first

of July").

We use the Italian expressions, *sul serio?* (informal), *davvero?* (formal), and *veramente?* (formal), to express surprise and astonishment, and they are utterly equivalent. Additional questions normally follow these utterances. In the dialogue, they regard the length of Elena's summer vacations and most likely, what she planned to do during her vacations.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Vacations

Italians love talking about their summer and winter vacations. This is an important topic and people usually plan them months ahead. For their winter vacations, Italians prefer to go to popular ski resorts such as *Cortina d'Ampezzo*, or *Valle del Monte Bianco* (White Mountain Valley). These vacations are generally quite short, rarely lasting more than a week. There are many different popular summer vacation resorts in Italy, too many to mention here. Basically, there is one in every Italian region. The average length of those vacations is normally three to four weeks. Instead of spending this rather long period (rather than the average two weeks per year in the U.S.A.) in a single place, it has become common recently to travel around different cities. Vacationers enjoy visiting museums and famous Italian villas, as well as getting a tan on beautiful, well-known Italian shores. Italy is a country in which cultural interests and sheer fun are not separate, but cohabit peacefully in every city and in many individuals!

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #18
Using the Italian Imperative: Wake Them Up!

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#18

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ITALIAN

1. Elena: Anna, svegliati! Oggi hai molte cose da fare!
2. Anna: Che ore sono?
3. Elena: Sono le sette. Devi andare al museo.
4. Anna: Ahh... Ho sonno.
5. Elena: Dai, dai, svegliati!

ENGLISH

1. Elena: Anna, wake up! Today you have many things to do!
2. Anna: What time is it?
3. Elena: It's 7:00. You have to go to the museum.
4. Anna: Ahh...I'm sleepy.
5. Elena: Come on, come on, get up!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
svegliati	wake up (you)	verb	
oggi	today	noun	masculine

molte	many	adjective
cose	things	noun
ore	hours	noun
dovere	to have to/must	verb
andare	to go	verb (irregular)
museo	museum	noun
sonno	sleep	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Svegliati perchè è tardi! "Wake up because it's late!"	**Oggi è stata una giornata d'estate straordinariamente calda.** "Today was an extraordinarily hot summer day."
La sfilata è oggi. "The parade is today."	**Oggi mi sento bene.** "Today I feel good."
Oggi non vado a scuola. "Today, I'm not going to school."	**Oggi devo andare dal dentista.** "Today, I have to go to the dentist."
Molte famiglie italiane hanno due macchine. "Many Italian families have two cars."	**Quante cose portiamo?** "How many things do we bring?"
Che ore sono? What time is it?	**Torno tra due ore.** "I'll be back in two hours."

Quante ore di lezione hai? "How many hours of lessons do you have?"	**Devo proprio andare, scusami.** "I really have to go. Sorry."
Devi mangiare la nutella. "You have to eat Nutella."	**Devi fare i compiti.** "You must do your homework."
Dovresti lavorare. "You should work."	**Dobbiamo parcheggiare qui.** "We have to park here."
Sono andato all'ospedale veterinario. "I went to the animal hospital."	**I miei amici vanno in vacanza in Sardegna.** "My friends go on holiday to Sardinia."
Siamo andati a Venezia. "We went to Venice."	**Siamo andati in vacanza.** "We went on vacation."
Vai a casa? "Are you going home?"	**Vorrei andare a ballare.** "I would like to go dancing."
Andiamo al cinema? "Shall we go to the cinema?"	**Vorrei visitare il museo del Prado.** "I would like to visit the Prado Museum."
Non ho per niente sonno. "I'm not sleepy at all."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Diverse Uses of the Italian Verb Dovere

Devi andare al museo.

"You have to go to the museum."

We shall first see the diverse uses of the important verb *dovere,* which we call *verbo servile* in Italian.

Presente indicativo

First, in its present indicative conjugation, the Italian verb *dovere* is the equivalent of the English expression "to have to/must" in its present tense. When we use this form in its imperative, we normally associate it with a dictation or a command. We cannot use it in the formal level of speech.

For example:

1. *Devi andare piano!*
   "(You must/have to) slow down!"

dovere **("to have to/must")**	
Italian	**"English"**
Io devo	"I have to/must"
Tu devi	"You have to/must"
Lui/lei deve	"He/she has to/must"
Noi dobbiamo	"We have to/must"
Voi dovete	"You have to/must"
Loro devono	"They have to/must"

More examples:

1. *Devi bere acqua.*
   "You have to drink water."

2. *Devo studiare Italiano.*
   "I have to study Italian."

Waking Up with Svegliati!

The most common Italian phrase we use to wake up a friend (or many Italian mothers use it when waking their children up), is *svegliati* or *sveglia*, which means, "wake up." *Sveglia* also means "alarm clock."

In both the English and Italian dialogues, we conjugate the verb *svegliare* in the *imperativo* ("imperative") mode, which lacks the first singular and plural persons (since we do not give orders to ourselves).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How to Wake Up an Italian

In Italian, the use of the verb *dovere* works slightly differently from its English equivalent with regard to the contexts in which use it. While people tend to be very warm and inquisitive when dealing with newcomers, they maintain a fair degree of respect when asking or advising someone on what, according to their opinion, they should do. Therefore, even close friends use the *condizionale* among themselves unless they have to communicate quickly or give a peremptory order. In general, we should avoid using the present form, unless in the aforementioned circumstances.

In general, Italians don't like it when someone else wakes them up unless they come into their rooms with breakfast. Among couples and lovers, it is considered particularly nice to bring the partner's breakfast (the typical Italian breakfast, *colazione*, is a cup of tea or milk with coffee, along with some biscuits) when they are still sleeping. We should of course only do

this with our partners since it is not common and this gesture expresses a closeness of which we have to be aware.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #19
What Should You Know About Italian Bakeries?

CONTENTS

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

19

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ITALIAN

1. Elena: Guarda, c'è Peter!
2. Anna: Ciao Peter! Vuoi un grissino?
3. Peter: Sì, grazie. È molto buono.
4. Anna: Fanno due euro.
5. Peter: Stai scherzando?
6. Elena e Anna: Haha, dovresti vedere la tua faccia.

ENGLISH

1. Elena: Look, it's Peter!
2. Anna: Hello, Peter! Do you want a grissino?
3. Peter: Yes, thanks. It's very good.
4. Anna: That will be two Euros.
5. Peter: Are you joking?
6. Elena and Anna: Haha! You should see your face.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender

guardare	to look, to watch	verb	
grissino	breadstick	noun	
grazie	thank you	exclamation	
mangiare	to eat	verb	
molto	very, really	adjective	
buono	good	adjective	masculine
scherzare	to joke, make fun of	verb	
dovere	to have to/must	verb	
faccia	face	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

La domenica molti italiani guardano il calcio in TV. "On Sunday a lot of Italian people watch soccer on TV."	**Guardiamo un film italiano?** "Shall we watch an Italian movie?"
Guardi la tv? "Are you watching TV?"	**Mangio un grissino.** "I eat a breadstick."
Grazie, ciao. "Thank you, bye."	**Grazie dell'informazione.** "Thank you for the information."
Hai mangiato bene? "Did you eat well?"	**È meglio non mangiare troppo.** "It's better not to eat too much."

Mangio molto. "I eat a lot."	**Il tuo vestito è molto chic.** "Your dress is very chic."
È molto caro. "It's very expensive."	**Il cibo italiano è buono.** "Italian food is good."
Non è buono. "It isn't good."	**Sto solo scherzando, non ti arrabbiare.** "I am just joking. Don't get angry."
Scherzi sempre! "You are always joking!"	**Sto scherzando.** "I am joking."
Devo proprio andare, scusami. "I really have to go. Sorry."	**Devi mangiare la nutella.** "You have to eat Nutella."
Devi fare i compiti. "You must do your homework."	**Dovresti lavorare.** "You should work."
Dobbiamo parcheggiare qui. "We have to park here."	**Lavati la faccia.** "Wash your face."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Italian Verb Dovere
Dovresti vedere la tua faccia.
"You should see your face."

We shall first consider the correct expression we use in Italian to verbally indicate a person. When Elena sees Peter, she tells Anna, *c'è Peter* (literally, "there is Peter").

Our second topic is the conditional form of the verb *dovere*. When the verb *dovere* is inflected in the *condizionale* (either present or past) mode, it corresponds to the English expressions, "should + verb," "ought to + verb," and "might + verb," we use to express polite suggestions. It is associated with the formal style.

Let us take a look at its conjugation:

Condizionale Presente

***dovere* ("to have to/must")**	
Italian	**"English"**
Io dovrei	"I should/ought to"
Tu dovresti	"You should/ought to"
Lui/lei dovrebbe	"He/she should/ought to"
Noi dovremmo	"We should/ought to"
Voi dovreste	"You should/ought to"
Loro dovrebbero	"They should/ought to"

We use the expressions *tu dovresti* (informal) and *Lei dovrebbe* (formal), most often when referring to somebody. Even friends prefer to be addressed this way and don't like it too much when we use the *presente indicative* forms, *devi* or *deve*. So we should try to employ the *condizionale*, since when we use it in its present tense it corresponds to "must + verb." We use *devi + andare* in the informal dialogue, which sounds in both languages as an order). So remember to limit the use of the present indicative tense to situations such as waking up a well-known friend and so on.

Depending on the context, we can also use the conditional of this verb to communicate our emotions to someone else without offending them. When saying *dovresti vedere la tua faccia*, Elena and Anna in fact mean, "you would laugh with us if you could see your facial

expression." This is therefore a metaphoric expression commonly used in many European languages to convey our emotional state and not our opinions.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Bakeries

Italian bakeries (*panifici*, from the word *pane* meaning, "bread") are quite characteristic and spread throughout the world, particularly in the United States and Australia. They are usually family-run, medium to small-sized businesses and may have historically established peculiarities. Depending on the region, and often on the city itself, these shops offer a spectrum of products that range from simple *grissini* ("breadsticks," plural form of *grissino*) to elaborate cakes and pastries. Italians eat breadsticks as starters before their meals, although it is not unheard of to eat them even in the morning. According to the place we live in, we should ascertain the local bakery products and decide what we like most.

Elena and Anna played a joke on Peter, who seemed to be puzzled by their attitude. Italians, as many other Latino people, are cheerful and tend to joke around even when working. This attitude is particularly strong in central and southern Italy where even getting a sandwich often involves having a short conversation with the baker (or bar tender) about aspects of our life. This attitude does not offend Italians, which is in fact just a way to lighten the burden of working with flashes of wit and irony. When we are having a joke played on us, we should play along with them and answer back with a short sentence. If we play along, people will know we did not get offended and will start building a more intimate relationship with us.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #20

How Do You Tell Them you Are Sleepy in Italian?

CONTENTS

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

#20

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Elena : Torniamo a casa?
2. Anna : Che ore sono?
3. Elena : Sono quasi le due, è tardi!
4. Anna : Restiamo ancora un pò.
5. Elena : No, ti prego! Ho sonno!

ENGLISH

1. Elena : Shall we go back home?
2. Anna : What's the time?
3. Elena : It's almost two; it's late!
4. Anna : Let's stay a bit more.
5. Elena : No, please! I'm sleepy!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
tornare	to go back, to come back, to get back	verb	
ti prego	please, I beg you	expression	
un po'	a little, a bit, a little bit, some	adjective, phrase	
ancora	still, yet, again	adverb	
restare	to stay	verb	
tardi	late	adjective	
quasi	almost	adverb	
ore	hours	noun	
casa	home, house, one's place	noun	feminine
sonno	sleep	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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."	Ti prego portami al mare! "Please take me to the beach!"
Posso avere un pò d'acqua? "Can I have some water?"	Ho ancora sonno! "I am still sleepy!"
Resto con te. "I'm staying with you."	Resto con te. "I'm staying with you."
Svegliati perchè è tardi! Wake up because it's late!	Torno a casa tardi stasera. Tonight I'll be back (home) late.
in ritardo di un'ora an hour late	in ritardo per una riunione late for a meeting
Il cliente è in ritardo per la riunione. The client is late for the meeting.	È tardi, vero? "It's late, right?"
Era troppo tardi per cambiare le mie brutte abitudini. "It was too late for me to change my bad habits."	Arrivi sempre tardi in ufficio. "You always arrive late at the office."
Ieri notte sono tornato tardi. "Last night I came back late."	Scusa, ho fatto tardi. "Sorry, I'm late."
Siamo quasi arrivati. "We're nearly there."	È quasi pronto! "It's almost ready!"
Che ore sono? What time is it?	Torno tra due ore. "I'll be back in two hours."
Quante ore di lezione hai? "How many hours of lessons do you have?"	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."	Non ho per niente sonno. "I'm not sleepy at all."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is to Describe a Condition Using the Italian Verb Avere
Ho sonno!
"I'm sleepy!"

The English expression "I am sleepy" is translated in Italian as *ho sonno,* which literally means, "I have sleep." So in Italian we often use the verb *avere* ("to have") and not the verb *essere* ("to be") to describe a condition.

For example:

1. *Ho fame.*
   "I am hungry." (literally, "I have hunger")
2. *Ho sete.*
   "I am thirsty."

Please look at Beginner lesson 5.

Asking the Time

To ask for the time in Italian we have two different possibilities that have exactly the same meaning:

1. *Che ore sono?*
   "What hours are they?"
2. *Che ora è?*
   "What hour is it?"

So both the singular and the plural are correct to use when asking, "What time is it?" or "What's the time?"

Un pò

Un pò is a very common expression and we often use it even in the formal level of speech as a way to be kinder and less direct.

For example:

1. *Gradisce un pò di latte nel caffé?*
   "Would you like some milk in the coffee?"

So we can use this expression to translate many different English meanings, such as we have seen with, "some," "a bit," and "a little bit."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

San Gimignano in Tuscany

San Gimignano rises on a hill dominating the Elsa Valley situated in the heart of Tuscany, forty km away from Florence. Once, it was the seat of a small Etruscan village of the Hellenistic period. It took its name from the Holy Bishop of Modena, St. Gimignano, who became a legend by saving the village from the barbarian hordes. In 1199, it became a free municipality and fought against the Bishops of Volterra and the surrounding municipalities. On May 8, 1300, Dante Alighieri went to San Gimignano as the Ambassador of the Guelph League in Tuscany. The construction of the towers dates back to the 11th and 13th centuries.
Pisa, Siena, and Florence influenced the architecture of the city. There are 14th century paintings of the Sienese School and 15th century paintings of the Florentine School.
Today, San Gimignano is a famous tourist place full of typical farmhouses and hostels that were once the old inns. Here you can taste the *Vernaccia* wine, which is a local home-produced wine. The famous Dante Alighieri also mentioned this wine in his *Divina Commedia*. We can find it among the gluttons of his Purgatory when Foreste Donati shows Dante an old man (Pope Martino IV) who is paying the price for having stuffed himself with *anguille alla vernaccia* ("eels cooked in *Vernaccia* wine").

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #21
What Part of Your Italian Vacation Do

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

#21

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ITALIAN

1. Luca: Vorrei trascorrere il week-end in quell'agriturismo… Come si chiama?

2. Elena: Dici "La tana del ghiro"?

3. Luca: Si si, quello! Lì si possono fare anche passeggiate a cavallo, ti piacciono i cavalli?

4. Elena: Oh si! Mi piacciono molto, ma c'è anche la piscina!

5. Luca: Uhm… Non mi piace nuotare

6. Elena: Ma puoi prendere il sole!

7. Luca: Mi piace prendere il sole!

ENGLISH

1. Luca: I would like to spend the weekend in that farmhouse...what's it called?

2. Elena: You mean La tana del ghiro?

3. Luca: Yes, yes, that one! There you can also do horse rides. Do you like horses?

4. Elena: Oh, yes! I like them a lot, but there is also the swimming pool!

5. Luca: Um…I don't like swimming

6. Elena: But you can sunbathe!

CONT'D OVER

7. Luca: I like sunbathing!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
trascorrere	to spend time, to pass (time)	verb	
agriturismo	farmhouse holiday	noun	
lì	there	adverb	
passeggiate	walks	noun	
cavallo	horse	noun	masculine
piacere	to like	verb	
piscina	swimming pool	noun	
nuotare	to swim	verb	
prendere il sole	to sunbathe, sunbathing	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Trascorro le domeniche al mare. "I spend Sundays at the beach."	**Ho trascorso davvero una bella vacanza.** "I actually spent a very nice holiday."
Vado in vacanza in un agriturismo in Toscana. "I'll go on vacation in a farmhouse holiday in Tuscany."	**Lì puoi mangiare una buona pizza.** "There you can eat a good pizza."

Faccio molte passeggiate sulla spiaggia. "I take many walks at the beach."	**I cavalli selvaggi sono bellissimi.** "Wild horses are gorgeous."
Vado a cavallo una volta al mese. "I go horseback-riding once a month."	**A Paola non piace il pollo.** "Paola doesn't like chicken."
Pulirò la piscina. "I will clean the swimming pool."	**Questa piscina è molto pulita.** "This swimming pool is very clean."
In piscina indosso sempre la cuffia. "I always wear the swimming cap in the swimming pool."	**Ieri ho nuotato per tre ore.** "Yesterday, I swam for three hours."
Anche i cani nuotano. "Also dogs swim."	**Mi piace prendere il sole in spiaggia.** "I like sunbathing at the beach."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Saying "I Like" in Italian
Mi piace prendere il sole!
"I like sunbathing!"

In Italian, as you have seen in the dialogue, the verbal structure we use to translate "I like" is based on a different pattern. The English subject in Italian becomes the indirect object and the English object becomes the subject. For example, "I like pasta" in Italian is conveyed with *mi piace la pasta*. If we have the subject "I" in English, then in Italian it becomes the indirect object and the expression *mi* (which literally means "to me").

We can also substitute the pronominal particle *mi* with *a me*. For example, *mi piace il mare* or *a me piace il mare* will have exactly the same meaning, which is "I like the sea."

Italian	**"English"**
Mi piace / A me piace	"I like"
Ti piace / A te piace	"You like"

Gli piace / A lui piace	"He likes"
Le piace / A lei piace	"She likes"
Ci piace / A noi piace	"We like"
Vi piace / A voi piace	"You like"
A loro piace	"They like"

As you can see, the third person plural is the only exception and in fact it just holds the form *a loro*.

Since the subject can change in Italian, we have to make sure to use the plural form not only for nouns but also for the verb. So the plural of *mi piace* is *mi piacciono*.

For example:

1. *Mi piacciono i cavalli.*
   "I like horses."

2. *Ci piacciono i gatti*.
   "We like cats."

The negative form is very straightforward because you just need to add *non*. But we will see it in the next lesson! The last important feature we should consider in the dialogue is how to answer questions. While in English it is sufficient to simply use the particle "do" (i.e., "Do you like cats? Yes, I do"), in Italian we have to restate the sentence without employing the interrogative high pitch of voice (*Ti piacciono I gatti? Sì, mi piacciono*). We always state the subject (in our case, *mi piacciono*), whereas the object is usually implied.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Farmhouse Vacations

Nowadays, people consider a farmhouse vacation much better and more convenient than the usual beach-vacation in a crowded summer resort. Italian people as well as many foreigners today choose the *agriturismo*. An *agriturismo* is a place where you can relax, find many leisure activities, and enjoy a good time with friends, family, or a partner. A

farmhouse-vacation can be a good idea during every period of the year. It has become a place to run to when escaping from the stress of the city, even if only for a weekend. It can be the perfect starting point for exploring and enjoying the culture and the natural beauty of Italy.

Tuscany is one of the most beautiful Italian regions and is full of *agriturismi*. When you imagine what you will experience while staying in your farmhouse, you become calm and your mind drifts off. You picture yourself sitting in a cozy antique chair in front of a fireplace and reading a book that details why the local wine is so famous. Or maybe you are relaxing by the pool and sipping a glass of tantalizing Tuscan wine.

There are many farmhouses and cottages in Tuscany. Here you may have access to certain amenities you wouldn't receive in a hotel. For example, they can provide you with a barbeque, toaster, American-style coffee maker, dishwasher, washing machine, Satellite TV, CD player, stereo, and even mountain bikes for you to use. You may end up so comfortable that you won't even think of leaving your farmhouse in Tuscany.

Family farmhouse vacations in Italy are ideal because they are cheaper than a hotel where the cost of your trip increases as you usually eat out. In addition to that, you can't relax in your own setting with just family and friends surrounding you.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #22
You "Don't Like" What the Italian Hairdresser Did to Your Hair?

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

#22

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ITALIAN

1. Elena: Ciao Luca. Mi piace il tuo nuovo taglio di capelli!

2. Luca: Oh grazie, ma a me non piace.

3. Elena: Perché? È così selvaggio e… interessante.

4. Luca: Sei troppo gentile. Il parrucchiere è bravo, ma non mi piace il taglio. È troppo corto.

ENGLISH

1. Elena: Hi, Luca. I love your new hairstyle!

2. Luca: Oh, thanks. But I don't like it.

3. Elena: Why? It's so wild and…interesting.

4. Luca: You're too nice. The hairdresser is good, but I don't like the haircut. It's too short.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
tuo	your, yours	possessive adjective, pronoun
nuovo	new	adjective
taglio di capelli	haircut	expression
selvaggio	wild, uncivilized, primitive	adjective

gentile	kind, nice, polite	adjective
interessante	interesting	adjective
troppo	too much	adverb and adjective
parrucchiere	hairdresser	noun
corto	short	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

E' quello il tuo cane? "Is that your dog?"	**Come sta tua nonna.** "How is your grandma doing?"
Qual'è il tuo nome? "What is your name?"	**Cosa fa tuo padre?** "What does your father do?"
Il merito è tuo. "The credit is yours."	**Oh, hai una macchina nuova.** "Oh, you got a new car."
Non è facile continuare a creare nuove idee. "It's not so easy to keep creating new ideas."	**Ho perso il mio nuovo cellulare.** "I lost my new mobile."
Ho un appartamento nuovo al quinto piano. "I have a new apartment on the fifth floor."	**Hai visto la nuova puntata di "Friends"?** "Have you watched the new episode of 'Friends?'"
Quel taglio di capelli è fuori moda. "That haircut is out of fashion."	**La lince è un animale selvaggio.** "The lynx is a wild animal."

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."	**Questa conferenza è molto interessante.** "This conference is very interesting."
È interessante studiare l'italiano. "Studying Italian is interesting."	**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."
Vado dal parrucchiere prima del matrimonio. "I am going to the hairdresser before the wedding."	**Mia sorella indossa gonne molto corte.** "My sister wears very short skirts."
Quella gonna è corta. "That skirt is short."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Reviewing the Italian Phrase "I Like/ Don't Like"
Il parrucchiere è bravo, ma non mi piace il taglio.
"The hairdresser is good, but I don't like the haircut."

First, we shall quickly revise the Italian structure *mi piace* and the verb *piacere* ("to like") we

use to express our opinion about something.

In the dialogue, we have seen *mi piace il tuo nuovo taglio di capelli* ("I like your new hairstyle") in which *mi* corresponds to "I" in English. However, in Italian, it's an indirect pronoun and not a subject as it is in English. Furthermore, we conjugate the verb *piacere* according to the number of objects. The syntactic order is therefore: pronoun (*mi, ti, gli/le, ci,* or *vi*) + verb (*piace* if the object is singular, *piacciono* when the object is plural) + object.

We convey the negative form by adding *non*. You just need to be careful about its position.

For example:

1. **Affirmative sentence**: *Mi piacciono i gatti.* ("I like cats".)
   Negative sentence: *Non mi piacciono i gatti.* ("I don't like cats.")
   In this case, *non* goes before the indirect object (*mi*).

2. **Affirmative sentence**: *A me piaccciono i gatti.* ("I like cats.")
   Negative sentence: *A me non piacciono i gatti.* ("I don't like cats.")
   In this case, *non* goes after the indirect object (*a me*).

While the word "hair" in English is a singular noun, the Italian equivalent *capelli* is plural. Therefore, when we say, "I like your hair," we have to use the plural form of the article and verb as in, *mi piacciono i tuoi capelli*. When we explicitly refer to the hairstyle, we use *taglio di capelli*, which corresponds to the American expression "haircut."

This is a list of the most common adjectives we use with "hairstyle." They are all in the plural form (since the noun *capelli* is plural):

Italian	"English"
lunghi	"long"
corti	"short"
marroni	"brown"
neri	"black"
biondi	"blonde"

rossi	"red"
selvaggi	"wild"
calvo	"bald person"
pettinati	"well-combed"
spettinati	"ruffled"

Finally, we note that the expression *essere gentile* ("to be kind") works exactly as its English equivalent.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Hairstyles

Italians love fashion in every form and hairstyle is not an exception. We have two types of hairdressers in Italy: *parrucchiere/a* ("hairdresser") and *barbiere* ("barber"). Whereas there is presently not much difference between them, in the past people thought the barber was cheaper and less skilled than a hairdresser was. The *barbiere* is still specialized in men's hairstyle only, while hairdressers are specialized in either men's or women's hairstyles. It is quite common for Italian girls and women to spend a good deal of time at the hairdresser's shop, chatting sometimes even for more than an hour.

Especially in medium-sized and large cities, young people tend to differentiate from the rest of the population by developing their own individual hairstyle. Sometimes they follow international trends, and other times they relate to cultural identities. For instance, members of the upper classes tend to have a more polished hairstyle that also matches their own style of dressing, while people of the lower classes often willingly decide to keep a less formal, more creative, style. The choice depends on the dialectic between difference and homologation and it is utterly personal.

Foreigners usually keep their own styles in their first period of stay and then take on an Italian one. Since the spectrum of possibilities is far too large to be thoroughly described, this choice depends ultimately on their social class and the city they live in as well as on their personal preferences.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #23
Are Italian False Friends Catching You Off Guard?

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#23

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ITALIAN

1. Peter: Niente sottotitoli?
2. Anna: No, mai. Be', effettivamente a volte si possono trovare i sottotitoli, ma solo in casi particolari.
3. Peter: Casi particolari?
4. Anna: Sì, per gli amanti della lingua originale.
5. Sconosciuto: Shhhh... Per cortesia, fate silenzio.

ENGLISH

1. Peter: No subtitles!?!
2. Anna: No, never. Well, actually you can find subtitles sometimes, but only in special events.
3. Peter: Special events?
4. Anna: Yes, for original language lovers.
5. Unknown person: Shhhh...please, be quiet.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
niente	nothing	pronoun, indefinite pronoun

sottotitoli	subtitles	noun
mai	never	frequency adverb
particolari	special, characteristic	adjective
casi	cases, events	noun
effettivamente	actually	adverb
amanti	lovers	noun
per cortesia	please	expression
fare silenzio	to be quiet	expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Niente di speciale. "Nothing special."	**Non vedo niente.** "I see nothing."
Niente per te! "Nothing for you!"	**Perchè i film italiani non hanno i sottotitoli?** "Why don't Italian movies have subtitles?"
Sei mai stato a Roma? "Have you been to Rome?"	**Non è mai in orario.** "He's never on time."
Mai dire mai. "Never say never."	**Segni particolari.** "Characteristic marks."
In certi casi. "In certain cases."	**Effettivamente non so cosa dirti.** "Actually, I don't know what to tell you."
Ginevra e Lancillotto erano amanti. "Ginevra and Lancelot were lovers."	**Mi passeresti il vino per cortesia?** "Would you pass me the wine, please?"

Ora che entriamo in aula fa' silenzio.

"Now that we walk into the classroom, be quiet."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Italian False Friends

Be', effettivamente a volte si possono trovare i sottotitoli, ma solo in casi particolari.

"Well, actually you can find subtitles sometimes, but only in special events."

We shall first define the important "false friend" concept."False friend" is a label we use to identify those words that have a similar written form in different languages (because they historically come from the same Latin word) and very diverse meanings. Anna starts her sentence with *effettivamente*, an adverb that corresponds in English to "actually." The Italian word *attualmente*, which closely resembles the aforementioned English word, in fact means "presently," or "at the present moment," and does not bear any semantic connection with its English false friend. We should always be aware of this linguistic feature and try not to allow superficial written similarities to mislead us.

Here are other examples:

1. *fattoria* - "farm"
   "factory" - *fabbrica*

2. *parenti* - "relatives"
   "parents" - *genitori*

3. *attendere* - "to wait"
   "to attend" - *assistere / seguire / frequentare*

When we employ the *imperativo* ("imperative") mode in polite, but firm requests, we should always introduce it using a courtesy expression, such as *per favore* (in informal Italian) or *per cortesia* (in formal Italian). Failure to do so would result in giving a direct order to someone we do not know, thus creating more troubles rather than solving our problems.

While in English we use "you" in the sentence "you can find subtitles," in Italian we say *si possono trovare i sottotitoli*. The *si* that you find in this sentence is the so-called *si impersonale* ("impersonal *si*") and it has two functions:

1. It substitutes *noi* ("we"): For example:
   Si affittano camere (*noi affittiamo camere*)
   "Rooms for rent"

2. It represents an indefinite subject (*uno, qualcuno, ognuno, tutti, ecc*): For example:
   Alla facoltà di lingue si studia letteratura inglese.
   "At the faculty of languages, people study English literature."

We finally note that out of the two frequency adverbs, *mai* and *a volte*, only the latter follows the general syntax S + frequency adverb + V that we studied in previous lessons. *Mai* is an exception and we always position it after the verb as in, *non ci sono mai i sottotitoli* ("there are never subtitles"), and it is usually matched with *non*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Movie Theaters

We have two different kinds of movie theaters in Italy. The traditional *cinema* (uncountable noun, "movie theaters") usually contains between fifty and one hundred seats, and they are located in historical buildings. They lack the most recent technological improvements and have a unique flavor as is masterfully represented by *Nuovo Cinema Paradiso* (New Cinema Paradise), shot by the world-famous Italian director Giuseppe Tornatore. Normally, these traditional and old style cinemas run the so-called *cineforum* in some periods of the year, which is the screening of a collection of high-level movies produced all over the world, usually connected by a common theme.

The second type of theater is the multi-screen cinema, *multisala*, which has been taking over the traditional movie theaters and is widespread throughout Italy. They usually have many different options, opening hours, and are generally located in cities' suburbs. Both kinds of *cinema* show Italian and foreign movies.

As for the preferences of Italians, autochthonous and American movies are the most common,

though we can sometimes find movies produced in other countries.

Italians do not like eating and drinking at movie theaters as Americans do, they prefer to have a drink after having watched the movie and normally do not purchase food and drink. This is because pop corn, large-size soda cans, and such are not very popular and are considered unhealthy. When the Italian currency was the *Lira*, Italians could afford *pizza e cinema* ("pizza and cinema") all together, but now with the Euro, they simply choose only one thing.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #24
Will You Go Sight Seeing in Rome or Go Eat Lunch in Florence?

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

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ITALIAN

1. Peter: Mi scusi.
2. Driver: Sì?
3. Peter: Questo autobus va a Santa Maria Novella?
4. Driver: No, deve scendere alla prossima fermata e prendere il numero ventitre.
5. Peter: Grazie!
6. Driver: Prego!

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Excuse me.
2. Driver: Yes?
3. Peter: Does this bus go to Santa Maria Novella?
4. Driver: No, you need to get off at the next stop and then take the number 23.
5. Peter: Thank you!
6. Driver: You're welcome!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
questo	this (masculine singular)	demonstrative adjective	
autobus	bus	noun	masculine
andare	to go	verb (irregular)	
scendere	to get off, get out, get down, go down	verb	
salire	to get on, to get in, to go up	verb	
fermata	bus stop	noun	
ventitre	twenty-three	cardinal number	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Questo è un fiore. "This is a flower."	**Questo libro è interessante.** "This book is interesting."
Questo panino. "This sandwich."	**Quello è un autobus elettrico.** "That's an electric bus."
Hai preso l'autobus per tornare a casa? "Did you take the bus to come back home?"	**I miei amici vanno in vacanza in Sardegna.** "My friends go on holiday to Sardinia."
Siamo andati a Venezia. "We went to Venice."	**Siamo andati in vacanza.** "We went on vacation."

Vai a casa? "Are you going home?"	**Vorrei andare a ballare.** "I would like to go dancing."
Andiamo al cinema? "Shall we go to the cinema?"	**Ferma la macchina, voglio scendere!** "Stop the car, I want to get out!"
Scendi al secondo piano. "Go down to the second floor."	**Non sono mai salito su un aeroplano.** "I've never been on an airplane."
Salgo al primo piano. "I go up to the first floor."	**A quale fermata devo scendere?** "At which stop do I have to get off?"
Ho ventitre anni. "I'm twenty-three."	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Italian Verb Meaning, "to go"
Questo autobus va a Santa Maria Novella?
"Does this bus go to Santa Maria Novella?"

Andare ("to go") is one of the most widely used verbs in Italian. Its *presente indicativo* conjugation follows an irregular pattern, showing two different stems: *va* + ending and *and* + ending.

We use the former for all the singular persons and the third person plural as in, *io vado, tu vai, lui/lei va,* and *loro vanno* ("I go, you go, he/she goes, they go").

We use the latter exclusively for the first and second plural persons as in, *noi andiamo* and *voi andate* ("we go, you go"). The remaining *indicativo* mode tenses follow the regular formation, that is stem *and-* + ending.

Finally, different prepositions can follow this verb, the most common one is *a*, which corresponds to the English "to." Therefore, the sentence "we go to school" would be *noi andiamo a scuola* in Italian.

Furthermore, the other possible prepositions that may follow the verb *andare* are *in* and *da*. Please remember that we can also find these prepositions as articled prepositions.

For example:

1. *Vado al mare.*
   "I'll go to the beach."

2. Vado dal dottore.
   "I'll go to the doctor."

In English, we use two specular couples of phrasal verbs to indicate the action of boarding vehicles, such as "to get on/to get off (a bus)" and "to get in/to get out (a car)."
On the contrary, in Italian we use only one couple, regardless of the kind of vehicle to which we refer.

For example:

1. *Salire* - "to get on / to get in / to go up"

2. *Scendere* - "to get off / to get out / to go down / to get down"

We use these verbs to express every vertical movement that goes, respectively "upwards" (*salire*) or "downwards" (*scendere*). This applies whether we mean physical or metaphorical movement.

Italian Numbers Between Twenty and One Hundred

In Italian, we express numbers between twenty (*venti*) and one hundred (*cento*) exactly as we do in English. Therefore, we form them by combining the prefix (in this case, "twenty," *venti*) plus the suffix (in the dialogue, "three," *tre*). So you have the tens from *venti* ("twenty") to *novanta* ("ninety") and you simply add the units.

Numbers above one hundred work exactly as explained above. For example, the number "one-hundred fifty-two" is *centocinquantadue*, in Italian. That is, *cento* ("one-hundred") + *cinquanta* ("fifty") + *due* ("two"). Note that in Italian we do not employ the "and" conjugation.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Public Transportation

Italian public transportation shows similarities and differences to other European systems. Italian buses, even the inter-regional ones, are always one-deck and bright orange in color. In no circumstance can you purchase tickets on board. You must by them in the Italian *tabacchi* ("tobacco shops") in advance.

We have two different types of tickets. The first type is time-based and it's valid for the period indicated on it (usually half an hour, one hour, or two hours) after it has been clocked in (Italian tickets have to be clocked in automatic machines on the bus). The second one is journey-based, and it's valid only for either a one-way or a round-trip ride. In cities, it is often advisable to purchase time-based tickets since people normally need to take one or more buses, while journey-based tickets are better for city-to-city trips.

The reliability of Italian buses varies according to the area we live in. Generally speaking, public transportation works better in northern and central Italy. In certain southern areas, including major cities, public transportation is less reliable. Therefore, when we cannot afford the possibility of being late, in those areas it is normally wiser to take a train or reach our destination by car. Considering the forgiving nature of the Italian weather, many people, Italians and foreigners alike, prefer to ride bikes rather than using buses. This is especially true in tourist cities such as Rome and Florence, where many parts of the city are restricted to normal traffic.

Finally, day and night buses have different timetables and routes even when they bear the same number. Make sure you check them out and/or ask someone about them before taking a bus or you might find yourself waiting in the middle of night on the opposite side of the city for hours!

LESSON NOTES

Beginner #25
Before We Leave for Naples, "We Must" Clean the House!

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

#25

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ITALIAN

1. Peter: Ciao Luca, cosa fai oggi?
2. Luca: Devo pulire tutta la casa.
3. Peter: Ah! Voglio darti una mano.
4. Luca: Grazie.
5. Peter: Da dove posso cominciare?
6. Luca: Puoi pulire il bagno.

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Hey, Luca! What will you do today?
2. Luca: I must clean the entire flat.
3. Peter: Ah! I want to give you a hand.
4. Luca: Thanks.
5. Peter: From where can I start?
6. Luca: You can clean the bathroom.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender

oggi	today	noun	masculine
cominciare	to start, begin	verb	
potere	can	verb	
dare una mano	to give a hand	expression	
mano	hand	noun	feminine
dare	to give	verb	
volere	to want, to wish, to demand	verb	
tutto	everything, all	adjective	
pulire	to clean	verb	
bagno	bathroom	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Oggi mi sento bene. "Today I feel good."	**Oggi non vado a scuola.** "Today, I'm not going to school."
Oggi devo andare dal dentista. "Today, I have to go to the dentist."	**Comincia la partita.** "The soccer game is starting."
Ho cominciato a frequentare un corso di danza del ventre. "I started attending a belly-dancing course."	**Domani comincia la nuova serie di Heroes.** "Tomorrow, the new Heroes series will start."
Devi fare i compiti. "You must do your homework."	**Non ci posso credere!** "I can't believe it."

Mi daresti una mano per favore? "Could you give me a hand please?"	**Tienimi la mano.** "Hold my hand."
Dammi la mano. "Give me your hand."	**Mi daresti una mano per favore?** "Could you give me a hand please?"
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."	**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."
Pulisciti le scarpe prima di entrare! "Wipe your feet before coming in!"	**Ultimamente non pulisco mai il mio appartamento.** "Recently, I never clean my apartment."
Hai pulito la tua stanza? "Did you clean your room?"	**La spazzola è nel bagno.** "The hairbrush is in the bathroom."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Italian Verb Meaning, "have to/must," "to want," or "can"

Voglio darti una mano.

"I want to give you a hand."

In this lesson, we can see the so-called *verbi servili dovere*, *volere,* and *potere* respectively "have to/must," "to want" and "can." In Italian, the usage of the *verbi servili* is conveyed by their own conjugation plus the infinitive form of another verb (also called *verbi modali* or "modal verbs"). *Verbi modali* literally serve the other verbs without changing the main meaning of the sentence. In practice, they add something more specific to the sentence.

In the dialogue, Luca expresses a need or a necessity using *devo* ("I have to"), while Peter specifies a willingness using *voglio* ("I want"). Please note that Peter and Luca are friends and they are using the informal level of speech.

When talking to someone we don't know and employing the informal level of speech, we should avoid using the present tense of the verb *volere*, since it wouldn't sound kind. We have to employ the *condizionale* tense, *vorrei*, which is equivalent to "would like to" in English.

The Italian *presente indicative* Mode

Another important topic we will cover in this lesson is the usage of the Italian *presente indicativo* mode to convey the English future "to be + going to," or "will." In the Italian language, we use the present more often than the future and actually, we employ it in place of the future itself.

For example:

1. When we are talking about upcoming actions:
   Alle 4 vado a fare la spesa.
   "At 4:00, I will go and get groceries"

2. When we are sure about future actions:
   L'anno prossimo vado in vacanza in America
   "Next year, I will go on holiday to the USA."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Helpful Italians

It is common in every part of Italy for people to be helpful in normal circumstances. Unless they are hurrying or talking on the phone (mobile phones are extremely widespread in Italy), Italians are generally forthcoming and friendly. When talking to someone with whom you have a good degree of familiarity (family members, friends, well-known colleagues, etc.), you can formulate the question without introducing yourself with a formal expression ("I beg your pardon, sir...," or *mi scusi...*), already considered in the previous lessons. This aspect does not change whether the speakers are Italian or foreigners.

Particularly in central and southern Italy, Italians feel the necessity to be helpful and perform as such in daily social life. It may happen that someone's willingness to be helpful in those areas gets pushy, thus forcing the person who refuses their help to repeat their answers more than once. In this case, we should not get upset, since central and southern Italians see this attitude as a sign of good will and proper education. Repeating your refusal a couple of times will be sufficient as this reaction will not offend the other speaker.

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Intro

1 The Importance of Introductions in Italian!

2 Asking About Occupations in Italy Could be Very Profitable

3 An Italian Dilemma: To Kiss or Not to Kiss

4 Tell Them How You Are in Italian!

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