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Volume 2



Italian

Upper Beginner



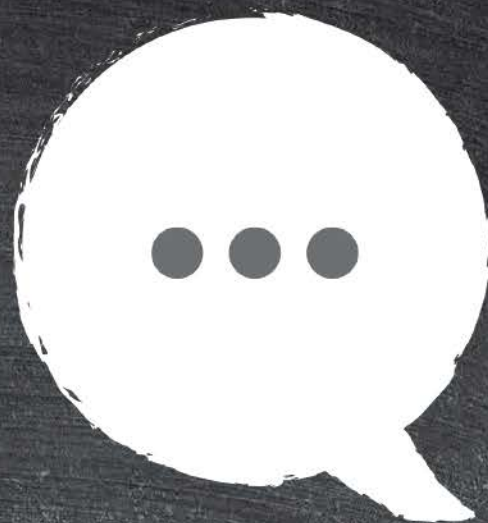
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LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #1

Talking About your Family in Italian

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1

ITALIAN

1. Peter: Grazie Claudio per avermi invitato all'aperitivo stasera. E' proprio carino questo bar e gli stuzzichini sono gustosi [ride]. Non lo conoscevo.
2. Claudio: Allora dobbiamo venirci più spesso! Ah Peter, conosci Maria?
3. Peter: Sì, facciamo il corso di architettura insieme. Vieni qui spesso Maria?
4. Maria: Diciamo una volta alla settimana. Abito dietro l'angolo.
5. Peter: Wow, abiti in una bella zona residenziale di Milano!
6. Maria: Sì è vero. Sono fortunata. Vivo con la mia famiglia in una palazzina davanti al quel parco. E tu Claudio, dove abiti?
7. Claudio: Io sto negli alloggi dell'università. Condivido l'appartamento con altri due studenti. E' una bella esperienza!
8. Peter: E tu Maria, non pensi mai di andare a vivere da sola?
9. Maria: Beh, a casa sto bene. Ho una bella famiglia - ho una sorella minore e un fratello maggiore e anche mia nonna abita con noi.
10. Peter: E cosa fanno tua sorella e tuo fratello?
11. Maria: Mia sorella è al liceo e mio fratello è chirurgo. Tra poco si sposa e abiterà nell'appartamento accanto al nostro. Così posso andare a trovarlo ogni volta che voglio.

CONT'D OVER

12. **Peter:** Comodo! Io invece è quasi un anno che abito da solo, qui in Italia. Mi piace la mia indipendenza e avere un appartamento che è solo mio.
13. **Maria:** Sì a volte anch'io vorrei essere più indipendente, ma la casa dei miei è vicino all'università e il costo della vita a Milano è troppo alto per permettermi di vivere da sola. E poi in Italia è normale vivere con la famiglia almeno fino alla laurea.

ENGLISH

1. **Peter:** Thank you, Claudio, for inviting me to the happy hour tonight. This bar is nice, and the snacks are tasty [laugh]. I didn't know about this bar before.
2. **Claudio:** We should come here more often then. Ah, Peter, do you know Maria?
3. **Peter:** Yes, we take a course in architecture together. Do you come here often, Maria?
4. **Maria:** Yeah, about once a week. I live around the corner.
5. **Peter:** Wow, you live in a nice residential area of Milan!
6. **Maria:** Yes it's true. I'm lucky. I live with my family in a building in front of that park. Where do you live, Claudio?
7. **Claudio:** I live in the university accommodations. I share an apartment with two other students. It's a good experience.

CONT'D OVER

8. **Peter:** Maria, have you ever thought of living alone?
9. **Maria:** Well, I'm happy at home. I've got a nice family — I have a younger sister and an older brother, and my grandma also lives with us.
10. **Peter:** What do your sister and brother do?
11. **Maria:** My sister is in high school, and my brother is a surgeon. He is getting married soon, and he is going to live in the apartment next to ours. So I can visit him any time I want.
12. **Peter:** Nice! On the other hand, I have been living alone for almost a year here in Italy. I like my independence and having an apartment that's only mine.
13. **Maria:** I understand. I also would like to be more independent sometimes, but my parents' house is near the university, and the cost of living in Milan is too high for me to afford to live alone. In Italy, it's normal to live with the family until graduation.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
permettersi	to afford	verb
minore	lesser (younger)	comparative adjective
stuzzichino	snacks	noun
andare a trovare	to visit	verb
alloggio universitario	university accommodation	noun+ adjective
palazzina	building	noun
abitare dietro l'angolo	to live around the corner	verbal expression

architettura	architecture	noun
condividere	to share	verb
maggiore	greater (older)	comparative adjective
chirurgo	surgeon	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Grazie al mio nuovo lavoro posso permettermi un appartamento.</p> <p>"Thanks to my new job I can afford a bigger apartment."</p>	<p>Mio fratello minore sta all'università.</p> <p>"My younger brother is at the university."</p>
<p>Prima del pranzo ci gustiamo spesso un po' di stuzzichini.</p> <p>"Before lunch we often have some snacks."</p>	<p>Sono andata a trovare i miei genitori tre mesi fa.</p> <p>"I visited my family three months ago."</p>
<p>50% degli studenti fanno domanda per alloggiare negli alloggi universitari.</p> <p>"50 percent of the students apply for university accommodations."</p>	<p>Mi trovi subito: la mia casa è una palazzina gialla a due piani.</p> <p>"You can find me easily: my house is a yellow, two-story yellow building."</p>
<p>Nostra figlia si è sposata e abita dietro l'angolo di casa mia.</p> <p>"Our daughter got married and now lives around the corner."</p>	<p>A Venezia c'è una prestigiosa facoltà di architettura.</p> <p>"In Venice there is a prestigious faculty of architecture."</p>
<p>Condivido la camera da letto con mia sorella.</p> <p>"I share a bedroom with my sister."</p>	<p>Mia sorella maggiore ha vent'anni.</p> <p>"My older sister is twenty years old."</p>

Ho paura del sangue. Non potrei mai fare il chirurgo.

"I'm scared of blood. I could never be a surgeon."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

palazzina ("house")

A *palazzina* is a bourgeois house usually on two or three floors. It can have a small garden, and it's a typical building found in nice, residential areas in the main cities of Italy.

minore/maggiore ("lesser"/"greater")

In informal Italian, it's possible to also use the expressions *più piccolo/a* (literally, "smaller") or *più giovane* (literally, "younger") and *più grande* (literally, "bigger") when talking about your brothers or sisters.

andare a trovare (qualcuno) ("to visit (someone)")

It literally means "to go to find someone," but it's the best translation for the English "to visit someone." We can only use *visitare* in Italian when visiting cities, museums, and famous buildings.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Using Possessive Adjectives with Family Names and Pronouns.

Vivo con la mia famiglia in una palazzina davanti al quel parco.

"I live with my family in a building in front of that park."

This lesson explains the formation and usage of possessive adjectives. Here is a table for your reference.

Singular

"my," "mine"	<i>il mio</i>	<i>la mia</i>	<i>i miei</i>	<i>le mie</i>
"your," "yours"*	<i>il tuo</i>	<i>la tua</i>	<i>i tuoi</i>	<i>le tue</i>

"his," "her," "hers," "your," "yours"***	<i>il suo</i>	<i>la sua</i>	<i>i suoi</i>	<i>le sue</i>
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Plural

"our," "ours"	<i>il nostro</i>	<i>la nostra</i>	<i>i nostri</i>	<i>le nostre</i>
"your," "yours"*	<i>il vostro</i>	<i>la vostra</i>	<i>i vostri</i>	<i>le vostre</i>
"their," "theirs"	<i>il loro***</i>	<i>la loro***</i>	<i>i loro***</i>	<i>le loro***</i>

* Familiar forms

** Formal forms

*** *Loro* is invariable

However, the usage of possessive adjectives is different when the possessed noun is a specific family relative and used in the singular. In that case, we drop the article.

For Example:

1. *Mio padre è alto. (not il mio padre)*
"My father is tall."
2. *Mia zia è giovane. (not la mia zia)*
"My aunt is young."
3. *Mio fratello è pigro. (not il mio fratello)*
"My brother is lazy."
4. *Mia sorella è al liceo e mio fratello è chirurgo.*
"My sister is in high school, and my brother is a surgeon."

BUT if the noun is plural, the article is required:

For Example:

1. *I miei cugini abitano a Roma.*
"My cousins live in Rome."

If the possessive adjective is followed by the noun *famiglia* ("family"), we do not drop the article.

For Example:

1. *Vivo con la mia famiglia in una palazzina davanti al quel parco.*
"I live with my family in a building in front of that park."

Possessive Pronouns

The possessive adjectives and pronouns are the same word. The way to differentiate whether an Italian possessive is an adjective or a pronoun is by its usage. If the possessive is modifying a noun, then it is a **possessive adjective**. If it is being used on its own or with a definite article, then it is a **possessive pronoun**.

The possessives are typically coupled with a definite article. Possessive pronouns, like possessive adjectives, must agree in gender and number with the noun they are referring to.

For Example:

1. *Mi piace la mia indipendenza e avere un appartamento solo mio.*
"I like my independence and having an apartment that's only mine."

When a possessive pronoun **directly** follows *essere* and means "mine," "yours," etc., omit the article:

For Example:

1. *Di chi è questa macchina? È mia.*
"Whose car is this? It's mine."
2. *Questa borsa è sua non tua.*
"This bag is hers, not yours."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Mammoni: Perché?

Boys (and recently girls too) who love their mothers and live with them way after they become economically independent: this is a simple definition of what a *mammone* is, a word that has already become a stereotype of Italians.

Eight out of ten Italian men aged eighteen to thirty live with their parents, compared to one in five in the United Kingdom and one in four in the United States. Do they live at home so long because they love their mothers? Some recent statistics have shown that it has more to do with money and power than a supply of good pasta and love. The high propensity of young Italians to live with their parents is related to an extremely high rate of unemployment for young people, low and declining fertility, and low and declining migration rates. On the other hand, Italian parents don't help their children to gain independence. They can benefit from the companionship and other services their children can give and from the opportunity to control their children's lives when they live together.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #2

Getting Nostalgic About Your Italian Past

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ITALIAN

1. Maria: Ti dispiace se ci fermiamo qui a comprare da mangiare per Billo, il mio cane?
2. Peter: Hai un cane? Non lo sapevo.
3. Maria: Sì. E' un po' vecchio ora, ma è sempre molto affettuoso. Pensa che quando ero più piccola mi accompagnava ogni giorno a scuola e al mio ritorno mi aspettava dietro il portone di casa.
4. Peter: Ma davvero?
5. Maria: Noi siamo fortunati perchè abitiamo davanti a dei giardinetti pubblici e posso portare spesso Billo a fare delle passeggiate. In campagna però Billo stava sicuramente meglio.
6. Peter: Ah, non vivevi qui da piccola?
7. Maria: No, fino a 13 anni abitavo in cascina fuori Milano. Era la casa dei miei nonni. Avevamo anche dei gatti e persino un pappagallo. Quando ci penso mi viene un po' di nostalgia. Poi a 13 anni, durante l'estate, ci siamo trasferiti in città per il lavoro di mio papà. Comunque mi sono abituata alla vita di città! E tu, Peter, hai animali domestici?
8. Peter: No, ma da bambino avevo un gatto. Era un gatto randagio. Un giorno mia madre l'ha trovato tutto malmesso davanti a casa nostra e l'abbiamo adottato. Ora nel mio condominio non è permesso tenere animali domestici.
9. Maria: Peccato.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Maria: Do you mind if we stop here to buy something to eat for Billo, my dog?
2. Peter: You have a dog? I didn't know that.
3. Maria: Yes. He's a bit old now, but he is always affectionate. When I was little, he used to go to school with me, and when I went back home, he was always waiting for me behind the main entrance.
4. Peter: Really?
5. Maria: We are lucky because we live in front of a park and I can often take Billo for a walk. In the countryside, Billo was definitely doing better though.
6. Peter: Oh, you didn't live here when you were little?
7. Maria: No, until I was thirteen years old, I used to live on a farm outside of Milan. It was my grandparents' house. We used to have cats and even a parrot. The place was nice and spacious for us children. When I think about it, I get a bit nostalgic. Then at thirteen years old, during the summer, we moved to the city for my dad's job. Well, I got used to life in the city. Peter, do you have pets?
8. Peter: No, not anymore, but as a child I had a cat. It was a stray cat. One day my mom found him in bad condition in front of our house, and we adopted him. Now in my condominium, pets are not allowed.
9. Maria: Too bad.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
condominio	condominium	noun
adottare	to adopt	verb
malmesso	in bad condition/ to look terrible	adjective
randagio	stray	adjective
giardinetto pubblico	park	noun+ adjective
dispiacere	to mind	verb
abituarsi	to get used to	verb
cascina	farm	noun
pappagallo	parrot	noun
animale domestico	pet	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Non andrei mai ad abitare in un condominio!</p> <p>"I'd never live in a condominium!"</p>	<p>Una coppia di nostri amici ha adottato una bambina.</p> <p>"A couple who is friends with us has an adopted child."</p>
<p>Sei proprio malmesso: hai lavorato troppo recentemente?</p> <p>"You look terrible: have you been working too much recently?"</p>	<p>Era un gatto randagio: gli ho portato subito una ciotola di pane e latte.</p> <p>"It was a stray cat – I got him a bowl of bread and milk right away."</p>
<p>Luca ed io ci siamo fermati a giocare ai giardinetti pubblici.</p> <p>"Luca and I stopped to play at the park."</p>	<p>Ti dispiace se, per rilassarmi, fumo una sigaretta?</p> <p>"Do you mind if I smoke a cigarette to relax?"</p>

<p>Marco si è abituato velocemente al freddo della Russia.</p> <p>"Marco quickly got used to the cold in Russia."</p>	<p>In Pianura Padana ci sono tante cascine.</p> <p>"In the Po Valley there are many farms."</p>
<p>La mia vicina di casa ha avuto un pappagallo per molti anni.</p> <p>"My neighbor had a parrot for many years."</p>	<p>Hai un animale domestico?</p> <p>"Do you have a pet?"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***dispiacere* ("to be sorry")**

When used as a verb, *dispiacere* usually means "to be sorry" about something. In the polite phrase *Ti/Le/vi dispiace se...?* it means "Do/Would you mind if...?" and it is of common usage.

***malmesso* ("run-down," "poor")**

This adjective, which is made up of two words, *male* and *messo* (the past participle of *mettere*), literally means "put in a bad way." We can use it both for animals and people. It can refer to health or act as a synonym of "poor."

***Condominio* ("apartment building," "condominium")**

We can translate *condominio* both as "an apartment building" and as "a condominium." Apartments in a *condominio* can be for buying or for renting.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the *Passato Prossimo* and *Imperfetto* in the Past.

Fino a 13 anni abitavo in cascina fuori Milano.

"Until I was thirteen years old, I used to live on a farm near Milan."

The *imperfetto* has three main functions:

1. DESCRIPTION OF A PAST SITUATION:

For Example:

1. Era la casa dei miei nonni.
"It was my grandparents' house."
2. Era un posto molto bello.
"It was a beautiful place."
3. L'albergo si trovava su una collina, e poco sotto iniziava una strada che portava al lago.
"The hotel was located on a hill, and just below began a road that led to the lake."

2. REPEATED OR HABITUAL PAST ACTION:

For Example:

1. *Billo mi accompagnava ogni giorno a scuola e al mio ritorno mi aspettava dietro il portone di casa.*
"Billo used to go to school with me, and when I went back home, he was always waiting for me behind the main entrance."
2. *Da bambino, andavo in montagna tutti gli anni.*
"When I was a child, I used to go to the mountains every year."

3. DURATIVE PAST ACTION (with stress on duration):

For Example:

1. *Mi fissava con paura.*
"He was staring at me with fear."

Passato Prossimo

The kind of action the *passato prossimo* expresses is a **completed action** that occurred at some point in the past. We often express the time in terms of dates, months, or other specific expressions of time (e.g., in 1994, in August, in summer 2003, last winter, on Thursday, last week...).

For Example:

1. *Poi a 13 anni, durante l'estate, ci siamo trasferiti in città.*
"At thirteen years old, during the summer, we moved to the city."
2. *Un giorno mia madre l'ha trovato tutto malmesso davanti a casa nostra e l'abbiamo adottato.*
"One day, my mom found him in bad condition in front of our house, and we adopted him."
3. *Mercoledì scorso sono andato al cinema con Francesco.*
"Last Wednesday, I went to the cinema with Francesco."

The *Passato Prossimo* Used in Contrast with the *Imperfetto*

The *passato prossimo* refers to **completed actions** that took place at some *point* in the past. In contrast, the *imperfetto* focuses on the **duration** of an action rather than on its completeness. This contrast is particularly evident when we use the tenses in combination, as in the following examples.

For Example:

1. *Quando ero piccolo abitavo in campagna, ma a 13 anni mi sono trasferito in città.*
"When I was little, we used to live in the countryside, but when I was thirteen, we moved to the city."
2. *Prima di sposarmi andavo in palestra tutte le sere, poi ho smesso di fare sport.*
"Before getting married, I used to go to the gym every night, and then I stopped doing any sports."

Passato prossimo

Mi sono trasferito

Ho smesso

Imperfetto

Ero

Abitavo

Andavo

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cats and the Italian Language

Cats, more than any other animal, play a central role in Italian superstitions and language. Cats are mentioned in many Italian animal sayings and proverbs that, when translated into other languages, have nothing at all to do with cats or any other animal. For example, the saying *Ho altre gatte da pelare*, which literally means "I have other cats to skin," equates to the English "I have other fish to fry." Another example could be *La gatta frettolosa fece i gattini ciechi*, which literally means "The hurried cat made blind kittens," carries the meaning of "Haste makes waste." Or we would literally translate *Non c'è trippa per gatti* as "There is no tripe for cats." What has tripe got to do with cats? Nothing! It simply means there is absolutely no hope of you getting whatever you want.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #3 A Beautiful Day Out in Italy

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ITALIAN

1. **Maria:** Peter, Giulia, ci possiamo fermare qui. Questa è una zona attrezzata per i pic-nic nel parco.
2. **Giulia:** Benissimo. Maria, avevi ragione - il parco Sigurtà è proprio incantevole. Peter, sei mai stato in questo posto?
3. **Peter:** No, non ci sono mai stato. Sono già venuto due volte al lago di Garda, ma qui è la prima volta.
4. **Maria:** E' un immenso giardino - c'è una grande varietà di piante tra cui una quercia di 400 anni, ci sono dei giardini acquatici, un eremo e un castelletto. Ci possiamo andare dopo il pic-nic se volete.
5. **Giulia:** Sì, sì, ma ora sto morendo di fame. Ecco le bevande e.. mannaggia! Ho dimenticato i bicchieri di plastica!
6. **Peter:** Non c'è problema. Ci ho pensato io.
7. **Maria:** Grazie Peter! Io ho portato il dolce - un tiramisù fatto in casa. Però ci dobbiamo sbrigare a mangiarlo perchè si sta già squagliando.
8. **Giulia:** Non ti preoccupare al dolce io non ci rinuncio di sicuro!
9. **Peter:** Ragazze, qui però c'è il sole a picco. Mettiamoci là, sotto quella tenda. Che ne dite?
10. **Maria:** Buona idea. Ci abbronziamo più tardi mentre passeggiamo nel parco.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. **Maria:** Peter, Giulia, we can stop here. This is the picnic area in the park.
2. **Giulia:** Okay. You were right, Maria—Sigurtà Park is really gorgeous. Peter, have you ever been here?
3. **Peter:** No, I've never been here before. I've already been to Lake Garda twice, but it's my first time here.
4. **Maria:** It's a huge park—there is a great variety of plant life, including a four-hundred-year-old oak, and there are some water gardens, a hermitage, and a little castle. We can go there later if you want.
5. **Giulia:** Yes, yes, but now I'm starving. Here are the drinks and...oh no! I forgot the plastic glasses!
6. **Peter:** No worries. I brought them.
7. **Maria:** Thank you, Peter! I brought the dessert—a homemade tiramisu. But we have to hurry to eat it because it's already melting.
8. **Giulia:** Don't worry, I won't leave the dessert for sure.
9. **Peter:** Ladies, the sun is really hot here. Let's move over there under that tent. What do you think?
10. **Maria:** Good idea. We will get a tan later while walking in the park.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
abbronzarsi	to sunbathe, to get a tan	verb

sole a picco	hot sun, (sun) directly overhead	nominal expression
rinunciare	to leave, to say no, do without	verb
squagliare	to melt	verb
fermarsi	to stop	verb
morire di fame	to starve	verbal expression
giardino acquatico	water garden	noun+adjective
immenso	huge	adjective
incantevole	gorgeous, stunning, enchanting, charming	adjective
sbrigarsi	to hurry up, be quick	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Laura si sdraia in spiaggia e si abbronzava per ore.</p> <p>"Laura lies on the beach and sunbathes for hours."</p>	<p>A mezzogiorno il sole è a picco.</p> <p>"At midday the sun is directly overhead."</p>
<p>Un italiano non rinuncia mai all'espresso dopo pranzo.</p> <p>"An Italian can never go without an espresso after lunch."</p>	<p>Marco, il tuo gelato si sta squagliando!</p> <p>"Marco, your ice cream is melting!"</p>
<p>Mi fermo un attimo dal panettiere.</p> <p>"I stop for one minute at the baker."</p>	<p>Mamma, non hai ancora preparato il pranzo? Sto morendo di fame!</p> <p>"Mom, you haven't prepared lunch yet? I'm starving!"</p>

<p>La villa ha un giardino acquatico con le ninfee.</p> <p>"The villa has a water garden with water lilies."</p>	<p>Yellowstone è un immenso parco negli USA, famoso per i geysers.</p> <p>"Yellowstone is a huge park in the US famous for its geysers."</p>
<p>Dalla mia terrazza la vista è incantevole.</p> <p>"From our terrace the view is stunning."</p>	<p>Se voglio arrivare in orario, devo sbrigarmi.</p> <p>"If I am to arrive on time, I have to hurry up."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***morir di fame* ("to be very hungry," "to be starving")**

This phrase literally means "to die of hunger," but it is a very common expression to say "you are very hungry or starving." Another common phrase is *avere una fame da lupi*, literally meaning "I'm as hungry as a wolf."

***rinunciare* ("to give up," "to say no")**

It has many different meanings, mainly "to give up" or "to say no." It requires the preposition *a*, which can be followed by a noun or a verb.

***sole a picco* ("sheer," "straight down")**

We can translate *a picco* as "sheer" or "straight down." Together with the word "sun," it indicates the rays of the sun being perpendicular to the earth like at midday. We use it to express the hottest time of the day.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the Pronoun *Ci*.

Ci possiamo fermare qui.

"We can stop here."

The *particella pronominale ci* can be:

- **A reflexive pronoun:** We can use it as a reflexive and reciprocal pronoun for the first person plural.

When using a reflexive verb, *ci* is the reflexive pronoun for the first person plural.

For Example:

1. ***Ci possiamo fermare qui.*** (*fermarsi*)
"We can stop here."
2. ***Ci dobbiamo sbrigare.*** (*sbrigarsi*)
"We should hurry."
3. ***Ci abbronderemo più tardi.*** (*abbronzarsi*)
"We will sunbathe later."

Ci can also be a reciprocal pronoun when using reflexive verbs that express a reciprocal action.

For Example:

1. ***Prima di partire ci abbracciamo a lungo.*** (*abbracciarsi*)
"Before a departure, we hug each other for a while."
2. ***Nella mia famiglia ci salutiamo sempre con un bacio.*** (*salutarsi*)
"In my family, we always greet each other with a kiss."

- **An object pronoun:** We can use it as a direct or indirect pronoun for the first person plural.

For Example:

1. ***Giulia e Marco ci verranno a trovare domenica.***
"Giulia and Marco will visit us on Sunday."

2. *Quando va in vacanza, Mario ci scrive sempre una cartolina. (a noi)*
"When he goes on vacation, Mario always writes a postcard to us."

- **We can use *ci* to mean "here" or "there," usually once a place has been stated.**

For Example:

1.

Giulia: Peter sei mai stato in questo posto?

*Peter: Non, non **ci** sono mai stato. (**ci = in questo posto**)*

Giulia: "Peter, have you ever been to this place?"

Peter: "No, I've never been **here** before."

2.

*E' un immenso giardino [...] **ci** sono i giardini acquatici, un eremo e un castelletto.*

***Ci** possiamo andare dopo. (**ci = ai giardini acquatici, all'eremo e al castelletto**)*

"It's a huge park [...]. There are water gardens, a hermitage, and a little castle.

We can go **there** later."

3.

Giovanna: Vado al mercato.

*Dario: Aspetta! **Ci** vado con te! (**ci = al mercato**)*

Giovanna: "I'm going to the market."

Dario: "Wait! I'll come (there) with you."

- ***Ci* replaces noun phrases that follow the preposition **a**, as with the following verbs:**

pensare a
credere a
rinunciare a
giocare a
partecipare a
tenere a
provare a
riuscire a

For Example:

1.

Giulia: Ho dimenticato i bicchieri.

*Peter: **Ci** ho pensato io. (**ci = ai bicchieri**)*

"I got them." (literally, "I thought about it")

2.

*Al dolce io non **ci** rinuncio di sicuro! (**ci = al dolce**)*

"I won't leave the dessert for sure!"

3.

Giochi a tennis durante la settimana?

*No, **ci** gioco di sabato. (**ci = a tennis**)*

"Do you play tennis during the week?"

"No, I play it on Saturdays."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Parco Sigurtà

The *Parco Sigurtà* is considered to be the most beautiful gardens in the world. It lies on the

Moreniche hills, overlooking Italy's biggest lake, Lago di Garda, and it is only a few kilometers from Verona. The park, with its 600,000 square kilometers of natural oasis, offers various attractions: eighteen flowering ornamental lakes, water gardens, the Great Oak (four hundred years old), the Hermitage, and the Medicinal Herb garden. The park is blooming year-round with its five flowering seasons (tulips, irises, roses, lilies, and asters). Particularly loved by visitors is the display of hundreds and hundreds of tulips in the month of April.

The park originated from the seventeenth century garden of Villa Maffei, purchased in 1941 by Carlo Sigurtà who, by exploiting the century-old right to draw water from the river Mincio, managed to transform the arid hillside into a wonderful garden.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #4

Can You Manage Some Light Exercise in Italy?

CONTENTS

- 2 Italian
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

4

ITALIAN

1. Peter: Ah Maria, anche tu qui!
2. Maria: Beh dopo tutto quello che ho mangiato per le feste natalizie, devo per forza far un po' di esercizio fisico. Altrimenti come faccio a perdere i chili che ho messo su?
3. Peter: Non esagerare! Non mi sembri ingrassata per niente!
4. Maria: Parli bene tu, sei un grissino.
5. Peter: Comunque, ti piace fare sport?
6. Maria: Sì, sì mi piace. Purtroppo però ho poco tempo a disposizione.
7. Peter: Questa palestra è molto vicina all'università. Non hai scuse. E poi hai visto com'è attrezzata?
8. Maria: In realtà io è la prima volta che ci metto piede e quindi non sono molto in forma.
9. Peter: Per riscaldarci proviamo a correre sul tapis roulant. Regoli la velocità e ce la farai senz'altro.
10. Maria: Forse invece è meglio cominciare con qualche stiramento. Non ce la faccio a correre subito!
11. Peter: Mah.. va bene.
12. Maria: Allora.. uno, due... mamma mia com'è tardi! Se non me ne vado subito, non ce la faccio ad arrivare in tempo dal dentista. Ciao Peter!

CONT'D OVER

13. Peter: Ma come? Te ne vai già?! Chissà se è veramente solo una questione di tempo...

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Oh, Maria, you are also here!
2. Maria: Well, after all I ate during the Christmas holiday, I really have to exercise. Otherwise, how can I lose some of the kilos I put on?
3. Peter: Don't exaggerate! It doesn't look like you put on weight at all!
4. Maria: That's easy for you to say. You are as thin as a rake!
5. Peter: Anyway, do you like to exercise?
6. Maria: Yes, yes, I do. But unfortunately, I have very little time.
7. Peter: This gym is very close to the university. You have no excuses. And have you seen how well equipped it is?
8. Maria: Actually, it's the first time I've ever set foot in here. I'm not really in shape.
9. Peter: To warm up, let's jog on the treadmill. Set the speed, and you can do it, no problem.
10. Maria: Maybe it's better to start with some stretching. I can't start running straight away.

CONT'D OVER

11. Peter: Oh...okay.
12. Maria: So...one, two...oh my God, it's late! If I don't leave right away, I can't make it to the dentist on time. Bye, Peter!
13. Peter: What?! Are you leaving already? Hmm...I wonder whether it's just a matter of time...

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
riscaldarsi	to warm up	verb
festa natalizia	Christmas holiday	noun
stiramento	stretching	noun
mettere piede	to set foot	verb
essere un grissino	to be very thin, to be as thin as a rake	verb+noun
mettere su	to put on	verb
essere in forma	to be in shape	verb
tapis roulant	treadmill	noun+adjective
regolare	to set	verb
per niente	at all, not at all, nothing at all	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Prima di ogni partita di calcio è meglio riscaldarsi un po'.</p> <p>"Before every soccer match, it's better to warm up."</p>	<p>Quest'anno passerò le feste natalizie a casa mia.</p> <p>"This year I'll spend the Christmas holiday at home."</p>
<p>Prima della corsa, è necessario fare qualche stiramento.</p> <p>"Before jogging, it's better to do some stretching."</p>	<p>Amanda non vuole più mettere piede in quell'orribile discoteca!</p> <p>"Amanda doesn't want to set foot in that horrible club again."</p>
<p>Mangia di più! Sei un grissino!</p> <p>"Eat more! You are so thin!"</p>	<p>In due mesi ho messo su quasi tre chili!</p> <p>"In two months I put on almost 3 kilos!"</p>
<p>La campionessa di nuoto Pellegrini è in forma perfetta.</p> <p>"The swimming champion Pellegrini is in perfect shape."</p>	<p>Ho comprato un tapis roulant per fare esercizio a casa.</p> <p>"I bought a treadmill to exercise at home."</p>
<p>Per favore, puoi regolare la sveglia?</p> <p>"Please, can you set the alarm?"</p>	<p>Ti piacciono i film horror? No, per niente.</p> <p>"Do you like horror movies? No, not at all."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

per niente

Like most negatives in Italian (e.g., *nessuno* or *mai*), we must use *niente* and its similar forms including *per niente* together with *non* before the verb.

essere un grissino

A *grissino* is a popular breadstick in Italy, and it is often on the table at restaurants. The similitude between being thin and a breadstick is very common in everyday Italian.

mettere piede

Other very common idiomatic expressions using *piede* in Italian can be *prendere piede*,

meaning "to take off," or *mettere (qualcosa) in piedi*, meaning "to set (something) up."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Understanding the Meaning and Usage of the Verb *Farcela*.

Ce la farai senz'altro.

"You can do it, no problem."

The verb *farcela* means "to manage (to)" or "to be able to"/"can."

It is synonymous with *riuscire + a*. The difference is that ***farcela*** is more colloquial and idiomatic and attempts to convey a greater sense of emotion and purpose. ***Non farcela*** also means "to be unable to cope" or "to be unable to go on."

For Example:

1. *Non ce la faccio a correre subito.*
"I can't start running straight away."
2. *Anna non ce la fa senza di te.*
"Anna can't do it without you."

Farcela is a verb that employs the particle *ci* and the direct object pronoun *la*. With this verb, *ce* (*ci* becomes *ce* when combined with another pronoun) and *la* must precede the verb.

For Example:

1. *Ce la fai a comprare i biglietti per il concerto?*
"Are you able to buy the tickets for the concert?"
2. *Se ce la fate a camminare ancora un chilometro, potrete ammirare un bel panorama.*
"If you manage to walk one more kilometer, you'll see a beautiful view."

The preposition *a* precedes the infinitive.

For Example:

1. *Ce la faccio a studiare con tutto il rumore.*
"I am managing to study with all the noise."

In compound tenses, *farcela* takes *avere*, and the past participle is always in the feminine singular.

For Example:

1. *Bravi ce l'avete **fatta** ad arrivare in orario.*
"Well done! You managed to get here on time."
2. *Ce l'abbiamo **fatta** a trovare il cinema.*
"We managed to find the movie theater."

The pronoun *la* elides with *avere*, as seen in the example above.

Conjugation of *farcela* in the present and the *passato prossimo*:

Present tense:

(io) ce la faccio
(tu) ce la fai
(lui/lei/Lei) ce la fa
(noi) ce la facciamo
(voi) ce la fate
(loro) ce la fanno

Passato prossimo:

(io) ce l'ho fatta
(tu) ce l'hai fatta
(lui/lei/Lei) ce l'ha fatta
(noi) ce l'abbiamo fatta
(voi) ce l'avete fatta
(loro) ce l'hanno fatta

We use the verb *farcela* in a number of idiomatic expressions.

For Example:

1. *farcela con le proprie forze*
"making it by one's own strength"
2. *farcela con la sola fortuna*
"hit the jackpot"
3. *farcela per un pelo*
"to wing it"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Do You Like to Exercise?

According to a recent survey commissioned by Direct Line car insurance company, more than half of Italians say that they usually play sports or exercise once or twice a week. But the most interesting data is that more than half of them reach the gym by car (53.4%), while only 32.8% go on foot. A few also use their bicycle, which is preferred by only 7.9% of respondents, not to mention public transport, used by 2.8%. "The cliché that Italians are a nation of lazy people, second only to Mexicans, unfortunately, is confirmed in our research," said Barbara Panzeri, Marketing Director of Direct Line. Most of the people interviewed for the survey go to the gym, sweat buckets, and swim twenty lengths, but they take their car if the gym is more than a mile away from home.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #5

It Takes Time to Get to Japan from Italy

CONTENTS

- 2 Italian
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

5

ITALIAN

1. Peter: Maria, dove andrai per le prossime vacanze?
2. Maria: Ho pensato di andare in Giappone e visitare Tokyo e alcune città come Kyoto e Hiroshima.
3. Peter: Wow. Una bella vacanza!
4. Maria: E' tanto tempo che voglio visitare l'Estremo Oriente e una mia amica si è trasferita là un mese fa.
5. Peter: Quante ore di viaggio sono in aereo?
6. Maria: Eh! Ci vogliono circa 12 ore con un volo diretto da Milano.
7. Peter: Hai mai fatto voli così lunghi?
8. Maria. No, ma penso di farcela. Leggerò un paio di libri, alcune riviste e guarderò i film.
9. Peter: Cerca anche di riposare un po'. Quando torno a New York da Milano io ci metto circa 8 ore e di solito dormo per metà del viaggio.
10. Maria: Beato te! Io non riesco a dormire durante il volo.
11. Peter: Senti, chi ti porta in aeroporto? Vuoi un passaggio in macchina?
12. Maria: Grazie. Sei sempre molto gentile, ma parto dall'aeroporto di Malpensa, che è un po' lontano da Milano. Ho deciso di prendere il treno dalla Stazione Centrale. Ci vuole meno di un'ora e così si evita il traffico dell'autostrada. Grazie lo stesso.

CONT'D OVER

13. Peter: Mi sembra un'ottima soluzione!

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Where are you going on your next vacation?

2. Maria: I have decided to go to Japan and visit Tokyo and some other cities like Kyoto and Hiroshima.

3. Peter: Wow! Nice vacation!

4. Maria: I have wanted to visit the Far East for a long time, and a friend of mine moved there last month.

5. Peter: How many hours does it take by plane?

6. Maria: It takes twelve hours on a direct flight from Milan.

7. Peter: Have you ever been on a flight so long?

8. Maria: No, but I think I can do it. I will read a couple of books and magazines and watch some movies.

9. Peter: Try to rest a bit too. When I go back to New York from Milan, it takes about eight hours, and I usually sleep half of the trip.

10. Maria: Lucky you! I can't sleep on flights.

11. Peter: So who is taking you to the airport? Do you need a lift by car?

CONT'D OVER

12. **Maria:** Thank you. You are always so kind, but I leave from the airport of Malpensa, which is quite far from Milan. I will just take the train from Milan Central Station. It takes less than an hour, and one can avoid the traffic on the freeway. Thanks anyway.
13. **Peter:** It's an excellent solution!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
evitare	to avoid	verb
Estremo Oriente	Far East	noun
metterci	to take	verb
farcela	to be able to, can	verb
volerci	to take (as in time)	verb
trasferirsi	to move	verb
passaggio	lift, ride	noun
autostrada	freeway	noun
soluzione	solution, result, answer	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Evita di mangiare fast food se non vuoi ingrassare.</p> <p>"Avoid eating fast food if you don't want to put on weight."</p>	<p>La cultura dell'Estremo Oriente è affascinante.</p> <p>"The culture of the Far East is fascinating."</p>
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<p>Con questo traffico ci mettiamo due ore ad arrivare al lago.</p> <p>"With this traffic it will take two hours to arrive at the lake."</p>	<p>Pensi di farcela a superare l'esame di storia?</p> <p>"Do you think you can pass the history exam?"</p>
<p>Da Milano a Venezia ci vogliono tre ore di treno.</p> <p>"From Milan to Venice it takes three hours by train."</p>	<p>Da quanto tempo ti sei trasferita a Los Angeles?</p> <p>"Since when have you moved to Los Angeles?"</p>
<p>Mi dai un passaggio?</p> <p>"Can you give me a ride?"</p>	<p>Questa mattina l'autostrada è bloccata per lavori in corso.</p> <p>"Today the freeway is jammed due to construction."</p>
<p>Mi puoi dare una soluzione?</p> <p>"Can you give me a solution?"</p>	<p>Non c'è soluzione.</p> <p>"There is no solution."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

trasferirsi

Synonyms of *trasferirsi* can be *traslocare* or more simply *cambiare casa*. A dialectal expression from the northeast of Italy is *fare San Martino*, which refers to the habit of moving house in mid-November, around the day of San Martino (November 15).

passaggio

This noun comes from the verb *passare* ("to pass"). We can also use *dare un passaggio* when "giving a lift to a person" who "hitchhikes" (*fare l'autostop*). But remember, if you are caught by the police, it will cost you between thirty and one hundred euros.

autostrada

It is usually named with a letter and a number (e.g., A21) or commonly referred to by the most famous destination cities (e.g., *la Salerno-Reggiocalabria*). Note that it takes the article *la* (e.g., *la A21*) since the word *autostrada* is feminine singular.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Verbs *Volerci* and *Metterci* to Express Time.

Ci vogliono circa 12 ore con un volo diretto da Milano.

"It takes twelve hours on a direct flight from Milan."

Volerci

By combining the pronoun *ci* with the third person singular or plural of *volere* (*vuole* or *vogliono*, respectively), the meaning becomes "to take time."

For Example:

1. *Ci vuole più di un'ora per arrivare a Firenze.*
"It takes more than one hour to get to Florence."
2. *Ci vogliono anni per imparare a suonare bene uno strumento musicale.*
"It takes years to learn how to play a musical instrument well."
3. *Ci vuole meno di un'ora*
"It takes less than one hour."

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

If it is not followed by an expression of time, the meaning changes to "to require." (It can also mean "to need," but in the sense that you require it.)

For Example:

1. *Per fare immersioni, ci vuole un patentino.*
"To dive, you need a diving license."

Metterci

The verb *mettere* conveys a meaning of time when the pronoun *ci* is combined with all the persons.

For Example:

1. *Quando torno a New York da Milano, io ci metto circa 8 ore.*
"When I go back to New York from Milan, it takes about eight hours."
2. *Quanto ci mettono Sabrina e Carlo a venire in ufficio?*
"How long does it take for Sabrina and Carlo to come to the office?"
3. *Matteo ci ha messo due mesi per prendere la patente.*
"It took Matteo two months to get a driving license."

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

When using *metterci*, the subject of the sentence can be "I," "you," "he/she," "we," "you," and "they," and therefore all the forms of the verbs are possible. *Metterci* follows the declination of *mettere*, a regular verb in *-ere*. The expression of time ("one hour," "four years," "twenty days," etc.) becomes the object.

For Example:

1. *Quando fate shopping, ci mettete sempre tutta la giornata.*
"When you go shopping, it always takes the whole day."
2. *Se ci metti solo 10 minuti, perchè non vai al lavoro a piedi?*
"If it only takes ten minutes, why don't you go to work on foot?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Festival of Italy

When visiting Italy, it's always a good idea to stop at some festivals to make the most of the trip and to come into contact with some genuine Italian culture. Here are some of the most popular:

1. *Il Carnevale* ("the Carnival in Venice"). *Carnevale* events often occur prior to the actual Carnival date, which usually falls in February.
2. *Il palio di Siena* ("horse race in the main square"). Siena's *palio* is a horse race run in the unusual fan-shaped piazza, *Il Campo*. Siena's seventeen *contrade*, or "neighborhoods," compete to win the *palio*. The horse race takes place in both July and August, with other events taking place prior to the races.
3. *Il festival di San Biagio* ("San Biagio Festival"). It is not a big festival, but it's celebrated in several places in Italy. It's a two-day event with music, a procession, and food. Avetrana, the town where it takes place, is on the Salento Peninsula of Puglia.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #6

Looking for THE Italian Job

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- 2 Italian
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

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ITALIAN

1. Impiegata: Buongiorno. Prego, s'accomodi.
2. Claudio: Buongiorno. Sono Bianchi Claudio e sono in cerca di un lavoro part-time. Ho trovato la vostra agenzia interinale su internet.
3. Impiegata: Anzitutto quale tipo di lavoro le piacerebbe svolgere?
4. Claudio: Mi piacerebbe lavorare nel settore informatico. Sono in possesso del diploma di perito in informatica che ho conseguito presso l'Istituto tecnico "Galileo Galilei" di Milano. Ora sto studiando ingegneria informatica all'università, qui a Milano.
5. Impiegata: Quindi vorrebbe lavorare nell'ufficio informatico di qualche azienda?
6. Claudio: Sì, sarebbe l'ideale.
7. Impiegata: Ha già qualche esperienza nel campo?
8. Claudio: Sì, ho fatto assistenza tecnica in un'azienda che si trova qui nella zona. Fino al mese scorso poi ho lavorato in un negozio di informatica nel settore assistenza ai clienti.
9. Impiegata: Va bene. Allora mi può dare il suo curriculum vitae che lo inseriamo nel nostro sistema informatico.
10. Claudio: Eccolo. Spero di poter essere chiamato al più presto da voi.
11. Impiegata: In questo periodo ci sono molte richieste da parte di aziende che richiedono qualifiche di questo tipo.

CONT'D OVER

12. Claudio. Va bene. La ringrazio e arrivederci.

13. Impiegata: Arrivederci.

ENGLISH

1. Clerk: Good morning. Please have a seat.

2. Claudio: Good morning. My name is Claudio Bianchi, and I am looking for a part-time job. I found your temp agency on the Internet.

3. Clerk: First of all, what kind of job would you like to do?

4. Claudio: I would like to work in the IT sector. I graduated from an IT technical high school, Galileo Galilei, in Milan. Now I am studying computer engineering at the university.

5. Clerk: So you would like to work in the IT department of some company, right?

6. Claudio: Yes, that would be ideal.

7. Clerk: Do you have any work experience in this field?

8. Claudio: Yes, I have worked in the technical support department of a company that is located nearby. Until last month, I also worked in the customer service of a PC store.

9. Clerk: I understand. Could you give me your resume so we can input it in our system?

CONT'D OVER

10. Claudio: Here you are. I hope to hear back from you soon.
11. Clerk: Recently, there have been many requests from companies that require this type of qualification.
12. Claudio: Okay. Thank you very much. Good-bye.
13. Clerk: Good-bye.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
assistenza tecnica	support services	noun+adjective
assistenza ai clienti	customer service	noun+noun
curriculum vitae	resume,cv	noun
qualifica	qualification	noun
agenzia interinale	temp agency	noun+adjective
ingegneria	engineering	noun
Istituto tecnico	technical high school	noun+adjective
svolgere	to do	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Il televisore al plasma non funziona. Devo chiamare l'assistenza tecnica.</p> <p>"The plasma TV doesn't work. I need to call the technical support department."</p>	<p>L'assistenza ai clienti di quest'azienda è poco efficiente.</p> <p>"The customer service of this company is not very efficient."</p>
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<p>Non dimenticare di allegare il tuo curriculum vitae alla domanda di lavoro.</p> <p>"Don't forget to attach your resume to the application form."</p>	<p>Non so se hai le qualifica giuste per questo lavoro.</p> <p>"I don't know if you have the right qualifications for this job."</p>
<p>Domani avrò un colloquio di lavoro presso un'agenzia interinale.</p> <p>"Tomorrow I will have an interview at a temp agency."</p>	<p>Studi ingegneria?</p> <p>"Do you study engineering?"</p>
<p>L'Istituto tecnico ti prepara a lavorare in azienda.</p> <p>"A technical high school prepares you to work in company. "</p>	<p>Mi piacerebbe svolgere un lavoro a contatto con le persone.</p> <p>"I'd like to do a job in contact with people."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

agenzia interinale*, also known as *agenzia di lavoro interinale

The adjective *interinale* comes from the Latin word *interim* and means "temporary." We hardly use the adjective *interinale* outside this expression.

istituto tecnico

Istituto tecnico is a type of secondary school in Italy. Students attend this school for five years. It aims to give a student a more technical and practical education. A similar school is the *istituto professionale*, which students attend for three years.

CV

A CV is a general format for your resume in Italian that includes first your *informazioni personali* ("personal information," including your date of birth and nationality), then your *esperienza lavorativa* ("work experience," starting with your most recent job), and your *istruzione* ("educational background," from the highest qualification), and last your *capacità* ("abilities").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Relative Clauses When Introduced by *Che*.

Ho fatto assistenza tecnica in un'azienda che si trova qui nella zona.

"I have worked in the technical support department of a company that is located nearby."

The relative pronoun *che* introduces a relative clause: it connects two sentences in addition to substituting for the noun. The clause introduced by the pronoun is subordinate and is dependent on the main clause.

The relative pronoun *che* is invariable, and we can only use it when it substitutes for the subject or object of the relative clause.

For Example:

1. *Sono venuto nella vostra agenzia interinale, che ho trovato su internet.* (object)
"I have come to your temping agency, which I found on the Internet."
2. *Ho fatto assistenza tecnica in un'azienda che si trova qui nella zona.* (subject)
"I have worked in the technical support department of a company that is located nearby."

The relative pronoun *che* translates into different English expressions.

For Example:

1. *Questo è il vestito **che** ho comprato ieri.*
"This is the dress (that) I bought yesterday."

While in English it is okay to omit the relative pronoun "*that*," it is not possible to omit *che* in Italian. In this sentence, *che ho comprato ieri* is a specification of the dress.

For Example:

1. *Faccio **quello che** voglio.*
"I do what I want."

Quello che, *ciò che*, and *quel che* refer to an unspecified antecedent meaning "the things that." They are usually a good translation for the English "what."

Please note: *Faccio che cosa voglio* is wrong.

For Example:

1. *L'ho vista **che correva** per la strada.*
"I saw her running down the road."

In English, "running" is an adjective modifying "her," and in Italian we **should not** translate it with a gerund. Instead, we need to translate it with a relative clause: *che correva*. If we use a gerund in Italian, the sentence would be ambiguous.

The sentence *L'ho visto correndo per la strada* in Italian means "I saw him while **I** was running in the street."

For Example:

1. *Non si impegna, **il che** è un peccato!*
"He doesn't make any effort, which is a pity!"
2. *Carlo è arrivato alla festa tardi. E ha dimenticato il regalo, **il che** è peggio.*
"Carlo arrived to the party late. And he forgot the present, which is worse."

If the relative clause refers to the entire previous sentence and not only to a single word, the relative pronoun *che* needs to be preceded by the definite article *il*.

Please note that the word *che* in Italian has many different functions: relative pronoun (as explained above), interrogative adjective and pronoun (*Che ore sono?* meaning "What time is it?"), adverb (*Che bella giornata!* meaning "What a beautiful day!"), and conjunction (*Ecco che arriva la torta*, meaning "There, the cake is coming!").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

An Old Job: *L'ombrellaio*

Some jobs that seemed so necessary in the past have already or are slowly disappearing now. One of these jobs is that of the *ombrellaio*.

When your umbrella breaks, what do you do? Nowadays, we probably throw it away. Is there a place where umbrellas can get repaired? A few decades ago, people couldn't afford to spend too much money on umbrellas, so when their umbrella was broken, they'd wait for the *ombrellaio*, the man whose job was to repair umbrellas. He used to cycle through the towns shouting *Ombrellaio, ombrellaio!* The busiest time of the year for the *ombrellaio* was in spring and autumn. He used to carry his tools (some textile, scissors and knives, string...) in a wooden box and sit on it while he was repairing umbrellas.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #7

Making Time for the Italian Theater

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- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

7

ITALIAN

1. Peter: Ciao Maria. Sei bagnata. Piove?
2. Maria: Sì ha cominciato a piovere cinque minuti fa e io non avevo l'ombrello, come al solito.
3. Peter: Oh poveretta. Ecco il tuo biglietto per la commedia musicale. Aggiungi un posto a tavola. Non vedo l'ora di vederla.
4. Maria: Grazie. E' un classico imperdibile. La stagione teatrale è cominciata da un mese e questa è la prima volta che sono riuscita a venire.
5. Peter: Come sai, quella dell'anno scorso è cominciata ad ottobre ed è finita ad aprile di quest'anno. E io sono venuto a teatro solo una volta. Che peccato!
6. Maria: Quest'anno ci sono in programma anche delle commedie italiane insolite e interessanti. Non perdiamole!
7. Peter: Infatti! Ah lo sai, Maria, che ho iniziato a leggere La Locandiera di Goldoni? E' un po' difficile per me, ma è avvincente!
8. Maria: Bene. Quando hai finito il libro, vorrei leggerlo anch'io. Le persone stanno entrando. Lo spettacolo inizia tra poco. Andiamo a prendere posto.

ENGLISH

1. Peter: Hi, Maria. You're wet. Is it raining?

CONT'D OVER

2. **Maria:** Yes, it started to rain five minutes ago, and I didn't have an umbrella, as usual.
3. **Peter:** Oh, sorry. Here is your ticket for the musical "Aggiungi un posto a tavola." I can't wait to see it.
4. **Maria:** Thank you. It's a classic. The theater season started a month ago, but this is the first time I've been here this year.
5. **Peter:** As you know, last year it started in October and finished in April this year, and I only came to the theater once. What a shame!
6. **Maria:** This year, there are also some unusual and interesting comedies on the program. Let's not miss them!
7. **Peter:** Sure! Ah, did you know that I started reading "La locandiera" by Goldoni? It's a little difficult for me, but it's very engaging!
8. **Maria:** Oh good. When you finish the book, I also would like to read it. Look, people are entering. The show will start soon. Let's go take our seats.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
avvincente	engaging	adjective
prendere posto	to take a seat	verbal expression
bagnato	wet	adjective
insolito	unusual, unique	adjective
stagione teatrale	theater season	noun+adjective

imperdibile	not to be missed	adverb
commedia musicale	musical	noun
perdere	to lose, to waste, to miss	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Era un romanzo avvincente: l'ho letto tutto d'un fiato!</p> <p>"It was an engaging novel: I read it in a single breath."</p>	<p>La cena è pronta. Prendete posto.</p> <p>"Dinner is ready. Please take your seat."</p>
<p>Il giornale è bagnato, non riesco più a leggerlo.</p> <p>"The newspaper is wet; I can't read it anymore."</p>	<p>Il tuo maglione è tutto bagnato!</p> <p>"Your jumper is all wet!"</p>
<p>Questo vino ha un sapore un po' insolito.</p> <p>"This wine has a rather unusual flavor."</p>	<p>Il 20 settembre apre la stagione teatrale alla Scala.</p> <p>"On September 20 the theater season opens at La Scala."</p>
<p>A Corso Montenapoleone ci sono dei saldi imperdibili.</p> <p>"In Corso Montenapoleone there are sales we can't miss."</p>	<p>Un evento imperdibile.</p> <p>"An event not to be missed."</p>
<p>Broadway è famosa per le commedie musicali.</p> <p>"Broadway is famous for its musicals."</p>	<p>Forza ragazzi! Stiamo perdendo la partita.</p> <p>"Come on, boys! We are losing the match."</p>

Ho perso il portafogli.

"I lost my wallet."

Abbiamo perso la partita.

"We lost the match."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

commedia musicale: This is the Italian term for "musical," although it is more and more common to use the English word. In Italian, "musical" is a masculine singular noun, so it takes the article *il*.

stagione teatrale: This is a common term that includes all the different performances that can take place at the theater. It includes *la stagione della prosa* ("prose"), *la stagione lirica* ("opera"), *la stagione concertistica* ("concert"), and *la stagione della danza* ("dance").

prendere posto: In Italian, other common ways to ask someone to sit could be *accomodarsi* (both formal and informal) and *sedersi* (more informal). These two verbs are the best ways to translate the English expression "have a seat" (cannot be translated with *avere*).

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Verbs *Cominciare/Iniziare* and *Finire* in the *Passato Prossimo* ("Present Perfect").

1. Sì, ha cominciato a piovere 5 minuti fa.

"Yes, it started to rain five minutes ago."

2. La stagione teatrale è cominciata da un mese.

"The theater season started a month ago."

***Cominciare/Iniziare* and *Finire* as Transitive and Intransitive Verbs**

The verbs *cominciare* and *iniziare* and *finire* can be transitive (takes a direct object) and intransitive (does not take a direct object).

When transitive, the verbs can be followed by a noun or another verb introduced by a preposition. *Cominciare* and *iniziare* take the preposition *a*, while *finire* takes *di*.

For Example:

1. *Comincio a lavorare alle 9:00.*
"I start to work at nine o'clock."
2. *Iniziamo la riunione alle 16:00.*
"We start our meeting at four o'clock."
3. *Maria finisce di studiare matematica alle 18:00.*
"Mary finishes studying mathematics at six o'clock."

Passato Prossimo of the Verbs *Cominciare/Iniziare* and *Finire*

When we form the *passato prossimo* of the verbs *cominciare/iniziare* and *finire*, we can use both the auxiliary *essere* and *avere*. Note that *essere* and *avere* require their respective present forms as auxiliary verbs, while the main verb is in the past participle form.

We use auxiliary *avere* when the verbs *cominciare/iniziare* and *finire* are transitive.

For Example:

1. *Ha cominciato a piovere 5 minuti fa.*
"It started to rain five minutes ago."
2. *Quando hai finito il libro, vorrei leggerlo anch'io.*
"When you finish the book, I also would like to read it."
3. *Camilleri ha cominciato a scrivere un nuovo romanzo giallo.*
"Camilleri started writing a new detective story."
4. *Ho finito di preparare la torta.*
"I finished preparing the cake."

We use the auxiliary *essere* when the verbs *cominciare/iniziare* and *finire* are intransitive. When using the auxiliary *essere*, we conjugate its past participle according to the gender and number of the subject it refers to, following the scheme provided in the eighth Newbie lesson.

For Example:

1. *La stagione teatrale è cominciata da un mese.* (feminine singular)
"The theatre season has started a month ago."
2. *L'anno scorso [la stagione] è cominciata ad ottobre ed è finita ad aprile di quest'anno.*
"Last year [the season] started in October and finished in April this year."
3. *Il concerto è finito tardi.* (masculine singular)
"The concert finished late."
4. *I giochi olimpici sono iniziati con una bella cerimonia d'apertura.* (masculine plural)
"The Olympic Games started with a beautiful opening ceremony."
5. *Le lezioni sono finite alle 20:00.* (feminine plural)
"Lessons finished at eight o'clock."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Aggiungi un posto a tavola

Aggiungi un posto a tavola (meaning "an extra place at the table") can be called the musical par excellence of the Italian theater. It was created in 1974, and since then, it has been represented in over fifty versions. The story is freely inspired by "After Me the Deluge" by David Forrest. It is about the adventures of Don Silvestro and his village, chosen by God to build a new ark to save themselves from a second flood. But it is not so simple: neither the parishioners nor the priest himself really believe in God's words.

It is a unique and special show thanks to its text, music, and the perfect theatrical machine invented by Giulio Coltellacci, who also designed the scenes and costumes.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #8

Da Vinci vs. the Italian Math Exam

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- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
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- 9 Cultural Insight

8

ITALIAN

1. Maria: Ciao Peter! Che sorpresa! Che ci fai da queste parti?
2. Peter: Sono appena uscito da Palazzo Reale. Ho visitato la mostra di Leonardo, appena aperta qualche giorno fa. Tu ci sei già stata?
3. Maria: No, non ancora. E' quella sui disegni inediti di Leonardo?
4. Peter: Esattamente.
5. Maria: Non sono potuta andarci. Sto preparando un esame di matematica.
6. Peter: Povera te! E' proprio un esame impegnativo.
7. Maria: Lo so, è un mattone! Ma devo assolutamente passarlo.
8. Peter: Non hai chiesto aiuto a tuo fratello che è ormai ingegnere?
9. Maria: Non ha potuto aiutarmi, è sempre occupato al lavoro. E comunque, com'è la mostra?
10. Peter: La mostra è decisamente affascinante, ma molto affollata. Infatti sono arrivato alle 2;30 circa e non ci sono potuto entrare prima delle 3;15. E oggi non è nemmeno domenica! Pazzesco!
11. Maria: Ne è valsa la pena?
12. Peter: Certo! Ho voluto visitarla dopo qualche giorno dall'apertura. Forse per questo motivo c'era così tanta gente.

CONT'D OVER

13. Maria: Sì, probabilmente. Ma sei riuscito ad ottenere almeno lo sconto studenti?
14. Peter: Mannaggia! Me ne sono dimenticato!
15. Maria: [ride] Dai, la prossima volta. Magari ci ritorniamo insieme!

ENGLISH

1. Maria: Peter, what a surprise! What are you doing here?
2. Peter: I just left Palazzo Reale. I was visiting the exhibition of Leonardo da Vinci, which opened a couple of days ago. Have you been already?
3. Maria: No, not yet. Is that the one on the unpublished drawings of Leonardo?
4. Peter: Exactly.
5. Maria: I haven't been able to go. I'm preparing for the math exam.
6. Peter: Poor you! It is a really difficult exam.
7. Maria: I know. It's hard to process everything, but I certainly have to pass it.
8. Peter: Have you asked for help from your brother, who is now an engineer?
9. Maria: He hasn't been able to help me. He is always busy at work. By the way, how was the exhibition?

CONT'D OVER

10. Peter: The exhibition was fascinating but also very crowded. I arrived at two-thirty and couldn't get in before three-fifteen. And today is not even Sunday! Crazy!
11. Maria: Was it worth it?
12. Peter: Sure. I have wanted to visit it since its opening. That's probably why there were so many people.
13. Maria: Yes, probably. Did you get the student discount?
14. Peter: Darn! I forgot about it.
15. Maria: [laugh] Don't worry, maybe next time. We can go back there together.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
dimenticarsi	to forget	verb	
mannaggia!	damn!	exclamation	
apertura	opening	noun	
valere la pena	to be worth, to be worth the trouble	verbal expression	
pazzesco	crazy	adjective/ exclamation	
non...nemmeno	not...even	adverb	
inedito	unpublished	adjective	

affollato	crowded	adjective	masculine
affascinante	fascinating	adjective	
decisamente	certainly	adverb	
esattamente	exactly, precisely	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Non posso guidare perchè ho dimenticato a casa la patente.</p> <p>"I can't drive because I forgot my driving license at home."</p>	<p>Mannaggia! Ho perso l'ultimo treno per Venezia.</p> <p>"Damn! I missed the last train to Venice."</p>
<p>L' apertura della fiera è fissata per il 6 settembre.</p> <p>"The opening of the trade fair is scheduled for September 6."</p>	<p>Le Hawaii sono un paradiso. Vale la pena fare 26 ore di volo per raggiungerle.</p> <p>"Hawaii is like paradise. It's worth flying 26 hours to get there."</p>
<p>E'pazzesco! Bolt ha corso i 100 metri in 9"58.</p> <p>"It's crazy! Bolt ran the 100 meters in 9"58."</p>	<p>Ho dimenticato il portafoglio a casa. Non ho nemmeno un centesimo per pagare la cena.</p> <p>"I forgot my wallet at home. I don't even have a cent to pay for dinner."</p>
<p>Queste sono alcune opere inedite dell'artista.</p> <p>"These are some unpublished works of the artist."</p>	<p>Questo ristorante è affollato.</p> <p>"This restaurant is crowded."</p>

Che donna affascinante.

"What a fascinating woman."

Luca è un ragazzo piuttosto affascinante.

"Luca is a quite fascinating guy."

Fai esattamente come ti dico!

"Do exactly what I say to you!"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

non...nemmeno

Like most negatives in Italian (*niente* or *mai*), we must also use *nemmeno* only together with *non* before the verb.

valere la pena

It expresses the effort in doing something. *Valere* means "to be worth," and *la pena* literally means "the pain" or "the sorrow."

mannaggia

It is a common and non-vulgar imprecation that expresses annoyance. It is followed by the preposition *a* when we use it with an object pronoun, as in *Mannaggia a te!*

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Modal Verbs *Volere* and *Potere* in the *Passato Prossimo* ("Present Perfect").

Ho voluto visitarla dopo qualche giorno dall'apertura

"I have wanted to visit it since its opening."

Non sono potuta andarci

"I haven't been able to go."

Volere means "to want" or "to want to." It can be directly followed by an infinitive or a noun.

For Example:

1. *Sara vuole andare al museo.*
"Sara wants to go to the museum."
2. *Loro vogliono una casa nuova.*
"They want a new house."

Potere means "can" or "be able to," referring to permission and logical possibility.*

For Example:

1. *Puoi prendere il dizionario se ti serve.* (PERMISSION)
"You can take the dictionary if you need it."
2. *Puoi vedere le montagne dal mio soggiorno.* (POSSIBILITY)
"You can see mountains from my living room."

*Note that *potere* does not express the idea of skill or ability that "can" has. We express "skill" and "ability" with the verbs *sapere* + infinitive and *riuscire a* + infinitive.

The Usage of the Modal Verbs *Volere* and *Potere* in the *Passato Prossimo* ("Present Perfect")

Volere takes the auxiliary *avere* when followed by a noun.

For Example:

1. *Ho voluto tanto questa macchina.*
"I have always wanted this car."

Volere and *potere*, when followed by an infinitive, take the auxiliary *avere* or *essere* that the infinitive would take. Note that *essere* and *avere* require their respective present forms as auxiliary verbs, while the main verb is in the past participle form.

For Example:

VOLERE

1. *Ho voluto visitarla dopo qualche giorno dall'apertura*
"I have wanted to visit it since its opening."
2. *Sono volute andare in vacanza in Egitto.*
"They have wanted to go on vacation in Egypt."

POTERE

1. *Non sono potuta andarci.*
"I haven't been able to go."
2. *Non ha potuto aiutarmi.*
"He hasn't been able to help me."

When using the auxiliary *essere*, we conjugate its past participle according to the gender and number of the subject it refers to.

For Example:

1. *Peter: Non sono potuto entrare.*
"I was not able to enter."
2. *Maria: Non sono potuta entrare.*
"I was not able to enter."
3. *Peter e Marco: Non siamo potuti entrare.*
"We weren't able to enter."
4. *Maria e Carla: Non siamo potute entrare.*
"We weren't able to enter."

Note that if *volere* and *potere* are followed by the infinitive of *essere*, the auxiliary is not *essere* as in the *passato prossimo*, but **avere**.

For Example:

1. *Non ho potuto essere a casa per le 5.*
"I haven't been able to get home by five."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Musei d'Italia ("Museums in Italy")

One of the best things that Italy offers to tourists is certainly museums and galleries. No matter where you go, with over 3,500 museums scattered around the country, you can find one that pleases your taste and curiosity. The most world-renowned museums are in Rome, Florence, Naples, and Milan. Palazzo Reale, the museum mentioned in the dialogue of this lesson, was the home of the Visconti and Sforza families between the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The architect Giuseppe Piermarini redesigned it from 1771 to 1778, giving it the appearance it still has today. Nowadays it is an important cultural center and houses many exhibitions every year.

If most people and tourists know about Palazzo Reale when visiting Milan, many don't know the existence of tiny and curious museums in minor cities of Italy. Apart from a great variety of museums about fashion and food (from pasta to oil and wine), there are museums dedicated to lightbulbs (near Turin), gasoline stands (in Milan), water tabs (in Novara, Piedemont) and if you dare, go the museum of the witches (in Sardinia, near Oristano) and serial killers (in Florence).

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #9

An Italian Dating Nightmare

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9

ITALIAN

1. Giulia: Ciao Maria. Hai una faccia! Com'è andato l'appuntamento ieri sera?
2. Maria: Lasciamo perdere! E' stato un disastro!
3. Giulia: Mi dispiace. Lorenzo sembrava simpatico. Forse non è il tuo tipo.
4. Maria: E' proprio un cafone! Anzitutto è arrivato ben venti minuti in ritardo all'appuntamento.
5. Giulia: Ma come!?
6. Maria: E' dovuto andare da un cliente all'ultimo minuto e così ha fatto tardi. Capisco che puo' capitare. Poi però invece di portarmi in un bel ristorante per farsi perdonare, mi ha portato in una trattoria da quattro soldi.
7. Giulia: Com'era il cibo?
8. Maria: La pizza era poco guarnita e quasi fredda. In più hanno portato il gelato ormai sciolto. E nel bicchiere c'era una mosca. Ho dovuto chiedere al cameriere di cambiarlo.
9. Giulia: Lorenzo non sa scegliere i ristoranti!
10. Maria: Ma non è tutto! Lorenzo ha dovuto rispondere a tre telefonate di lavoro. Praticamente ho mangiato da sola. E poi ha parlato del suo lavoro il resto del tempo! E quando è arrivato il conto, lui è uscito a telefonare nuovamente e ho dovuto pagare io!
11. Giulia: No! Non ci posso credere!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Giulia: Hi, Maria! You look upset! How did the date go?
2. Maria: Forget it! It was a disaster!
3. Giulia: I'm sorry to hear that. Lorenzo seemed nice. Maybe he's not your type though.
4. Maria: He had such boorish behavior. First of all, he arrived twenty minutes late for the date.
5. Giulia: Really?
6. Maria: He had to go see a client at the last minute, so he arrived late. I understand that this can happen. But then instead of taking me to a nice restaurant to make up for it, he took me to a small, cheap restaurant.
7. Giulia: So, how was the food?
8. Maria: The pizza had few toppings, and it was cold. Besides, when they brought the ice cream, it was melted. And in the glass there was a fly. I had to ask the waiter to change it.
9. Giulia: Lorenzo is not good at choosing restaurants!
10. Maria: That's not all! Lorenzo had to answer three phone calls for work. I practically ate by myself. And then he talked about his work the rest of time. And when the bill arrived, he left to make a call again and I had to pay!
11. Giulia: No! I can't believe it!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
avere una faccia	to look upset	verbal expression
lasciar perdere	to forget	verb
tipo	type	noun
cafone	boorish	noun/adjective
capitare	to happen	verb
da quattro soldi	dirt cheap	nominal expression
guarnito	topping	adjective
praticamente	practically	adverb
nuovamente	again	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>L'esame è andato male? Hai una faccia!</p> <p>"The exam didn't go well? You look upset."</p>	<p>Che serata noiosa è stata! Lasciamo perdere!</p> <p>"What a boring night it was! Let's forget it!"</p>
<p>Claudia non va per niente d'accordo con Luca. Per me non è il suo tipo!</p> <p>"Claudia doesn't get along with Luca at all. I think he is not his type!"</p>	<p>Che comportamento da cafone!</p> <p>"What a boorish behaviour!"</p>
<p>Sono cose che possono capitare.</p> <p>"These are things that can happen."</p>	<p>Non andare in quel negozio. Ha merce da quattro soldi.</p> <p>"Don't go to that store. He has cheap products."</p>

Mamma ha preparato una pizza guarnita di olive e tonno.

"Mom has prepared a pizza with olives and tuna."

Ho avuto così tante cose da fare per la casa e praticamente non ho fatto nulla per il lavoro!

"I had so many errands to run that I have practically haven't done anything for work."

Stai giocando nuovamente con la playstation?!

"Are you playing again with the PlayStation?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

avere una faccia

It means "to look upset and disappointed." According to the context, it can also mean "to look tired or sick."

lasciare perdere

Lasciare perdere expresses a feeling of disappointment. A similar expression is *lasciar stare*. If we use it in the first person plural, we can translate it as "Let's forget it!" or "Let's call the whole thing off!"

da quattro soldi

This expression literary means "of four coins," which expresses something cheap in a negative way.

non...nemmeno

Like most negatives in Italian (*niente* or *mai*), we must also use *nemmeno* only together with *non* before the verb.

valere la pena

It expresses the effort in doing something. *Valere* means "to be worth," and *la pena* literally means "the pain" or "the sorrow."

mannaggia

Mannaggia is a common and non-vulgar imprecation that expresses annoyance. It is

followed by the preposition *a* when we use it with an object pronoun, as in *Mannaggia a te!*

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Modal Verb *Dovere* in the *Passato Prossimo* ("Present Perfect").

Ho dovuto pagare io!

"I had to pay!"

The modal verb *dovere* means "to owe," "must," and "to have to."

For Example:

1. *Ti devo 20 dollari.*
"I owe you twenty dollars."
2. *Deve andare al lavoro alle 8:00.*
"He has to go to work at eight o'clock."
3. *Dobbiamo arrivare in orario.*
"We must arrive on time."

In conditional tenses, *dovere* also means "should" or "ought to."

For Example:

1. *Dovrebbe essere qui a minuti.*
"She should be here in a few minutes."

The verb *dovere*, like the other modal verbs *volere* and *potere*, is followed by an infinitive without a preposition.

For Example:

1. *Sara deve passare l'esame di storia per laurearsi a luglio.*
"Sara has to pass the history exam in order to graduate in July."

2. *Il Milan deve vincere la prossima partita per entrare in Champion's League.*
"AC Milan must win the next match to enter the Champion's League."

The Usage of the Modal Verb *Dovere* in the *Passato Prossimo* ("Present Perfect")

Dovere, when followed by an infinitive, takes the auxiliary *avere* or *essere* that the infinitive would take. Note that *essere* and *avere* require their respective present forms as auxiliary verbs, while the main verb is in the past participle form.

For Example:

1. *E' dovuto andare da un cliente all'ultimo minuto.*
"He had to go to a client at the last minute."
2. *Ho dovuto chiedere al cameriere di cambiarlo.*
"I had to ask the waiter to change it."
3. *Ha dovuto rispondere a tre telefonate di lavoro.*
"He had to answer three work phone calls."
4. *Ho dovuto pagare io!*
"I had to pay!"

When using the auxiliary *essere*, we conjugate its past participle according to the gender and the number of the subject it refers to.

For Example:

1. *Peter: Sono dovuto andare a Roma per lavoro.*
"I had to go to Rome for work."
2. *Maria: Sono dovuta andare a Roma per lavoro.*
"I had to go to Rome for work."
3. *Peter e Marco: Siamo dovuti andare a Roma per lavoro.*
"We had to go to Rome for work."

4. *Maria e Carla: Siamo dovute andare a Roma per lavoro.*
"We had to go to Rome for work."

When *dovere* is followed by *essere*, we use the auxiliary *avere*.

For Example:

1. *Ho dovuto essere a casa alle 17:00.*
"I had to be home at five o'clock."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Giacomo Casanova

Giacomo Girolamo Casanova de Seingalt (April 2, 1725-June 4, 1798) is probably the most famous womanizer from Italy, and his name is often said to be synonymous with the art of seduction. He was from the Republic of Venice, and he associated with European royalty, high positions in the church, as well as with luminaries like Voltaire and Goethe. Violinist, writer, soldier, spy, gambler, and adventurer, he is also the author of *Histoire de ma vie* ("The Story of My Life"), an autobiography that describes his eventful life: his short career in the church as a priest, his many visits to prison, and his various affairs. His autobiography is also one of the most authentic sources of the norms and customs that regulated European social life in the eighteenth century.

If the 350 pages of *Histoire de ma vie* are a little too many for you to read, you should try the movie *The Young Casanova* (2002), a beautiful portrait of a man who lived his life with incredible energy and passion.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #10

Do You Have to Open an Italian Bank Account?

CONTENTS

- 2 Italian
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

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ITALIAN

1. Impiegata: Buongiorno!
2. Peter: Buongiorno. Vorrei avere qualche informazione su come aprire un conto corrente presso la sua banca. Quali documenti servono per aprire un conto?
3. Impiegata: Prego s'accomodi. Allora, questa è la nostra brochure con le informazioni necessarie. Le servono la carta d'identità o il passaporto, il codice fiscale, il permesso di soggiorno e poi bisogna compilare questo modulo.
4. Peter: Bene. Ho sentito che in Italia il conto corrente non è gratuito. Quanto costa la gestione di un conto corrente?
5. Impiegata: Dipende dalle operazioni che lei vuole fare in un mese. Generalmente costa sui 20 euro al mese.
6. Peter: Posso accedere al mio conto on line e fare bonifici per pagare affitto e bollette?
7. Impiegata: Certamente. Basta iscriversi sul nostro sito.
8. Peter: Ho ancora una domanda - serve un deposito minimo iniziale?
9. Impiegata: Sì, ma bastano 100 euro di deposito.
10. Peter: Benissimo. Allora torno domani con tutti i documenti necessari. Devo telefonare per prendere un appuntamento?
11. Impiegata: No, basta venire qui tra le 9;30 e le 15;00.

CONT'D OVER

12. Peter: Ottimo. Grazie e arrivederci.

13. Impiegata: Arrivederci.

ENGLISH

1. Clerk: Good morning!

2. Peter: Good morning. I'd like to get some information about opening an account at your bank. What documents are necessary to open an account?

3. Clerk: Please have a seat. So, here is our brochure with the most important information. To open an account, you need an id card or your passport, the social security number, and your visa and then you need to fill out this document.

4. Peter: Okay. I've heard that in Italy a bank account is not free. How much does it cost to have a bank account?

5. Clerk: It depends on the number of operations you do every month. Usually, it costs twenty euros a month.

6. Peter: Can I access my account online and transfer money to pay my rent and bills?

7. Clerk: Sure. You only need to sign up on our website.

8. Peter: I have one more question—is there a minimum deposit needed?

9. Clerk: Yes, but one hundred euros is enough as a deposit.

CONT'D OVER

10. Peter: Good. Well, I'll come back tomorrow with all the necessary documents. Do I need to call to set up an appointment?
11. Clerk: No, just come here between nine-thirty a.m. and three p.m.
12. Peter: Great. Thank you. See you tomorrow.
13. Clerk: Good-bye.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
deposito minimo iniziale	minimum deposit needed	noun+adjectives
conto corrente	account	noun+adjective
compilare	to fill in, complete	verb
permesso di soggiorno	visa	noun
codice fiscale	social security number	noun+adjective
carta d'identità	identity card	noun
bonifico	money transfer	noun
bolletta	bill	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Quanto ti ha chiesto la tua banca come deposito minimo iniziale?</p> <p>"How much money did your bank require as a minimum deposit?"</p>	<p>In quale banca hai aperto un conto corrente?</p> <p>"At which bank have you opened a bank account?"</p>
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<p>Mi può aiutare a compilare questo modulo?</p> <p>"Can you help me fill out this form?"</p>	<p>Compili questi fogli, per favore.</p> <p>"Please complete these papers."</p>
<p>Non è facile ottenere un permesso di soggiorno.</p> <p>"It is not easy to obtain a visa."</p>	<p>Finalmente sono riuscito a memorizzare il mio codice fiscale</p> <p>"Finally I managed to memorize my social security number."</p>
<p>Guardi signor Rossi che la sua carta d'identità sta per scadere.</p> <p>"Be careful Mr. Rossi, your ID card is about to expire."</p>	<p>Ho disposto un bonifico a favore dei terremotati del Giappone.</p> <p>"I have transferred some money to earthquake victims of Japan."</p>

È arrivata la bolletta del gas.

"The gas bill has arrived."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

carta d'identità: This is an identification card that every resident has. It is different from the passport and it allows traveling in the European Union. It is valid for ten years, and it is issued by the city hall of the town you live in.

codice fiscale: This is an alphanumerical code for personal identification that is similar to the American Social Security Number. It is calculated based on your name and date and place of birth. People use it for everything from buying a mobile phone to going to a doctor.

permesso di soggiorno: This is a residence permit for non-EU citizens. If you stay in Italy for more than three months, you should apply for *permesso di soggiorno*, which is issued for the first five years of residence in Italy, and it is renewable.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Verbs *Servire* to Express Necessity and *Bastare* to Say What Is Enough.

Servono la sua carta d'identità o il passaporto, il codice fiscale, il permesso di soggiorno.

"You need an ID card or your passport, the social security number, and your visa."

Bastano 100 euro di deposito.

"One hundred euros is enough as a deposit."

Servire

When we use it impersonally, *servire* means "to need."

This is the conjugation of the verb. Note how we conjugate it like *piacere*.

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
First person	<i>mi serve/servono</i>	<i>ci serve/servono</i>
Second person	<i>ti serve/servono</i>	<i>vi serve/servono</i>
Third person (<i>lui</i>)	<i>gli serve/servono</i>	<i>gli serve/servono</i>
(<i>lei</i>)	<i>le serve/servono</i>	
(<i>Lei</i>)	<i>Le serve/servono</i>	

The pronoun we use is the indirect object pronoun: *mi* ("to me"), *ti* ("to you"), *gli* ("to him"), *le* ("to her"), *Le* ("to you," formal), *ci* ("to us"), *vi* ("to you," plural), and *gli* ("to them"). With a personal name, we use the preposition *a*.

For Example:

1. *A Carlo e Giovanna servono due giorni di vacanza.*
"Carlo and Giovanni need two days of vacation."

Like *piacere*, the number of the verb is **determined by the thing needed** and not by the person or thing needing it:

Serve + singular noun

Servono + plural noun

For Example:

1. **Servono** la sua carta d'identità o il passaporto, il codice fiscale, il permesso di soggiorno.
"You need an id card or your passport, the social security number, and your visa."
2. Quali documenti **servono** per aprire un conto?
"What documents are necessary to open a bank account?"
3. **Serve** un deposito minimo iniziale?
"Do I need a minimum deposit?"
4. Gli **serve** una macchina nuova.
"He needs a new car."

We can also use *servire* directly with infinitives, without the need for a preposition. However, the verb, *occorrere*, is best used with infinitives in place of *servire*.

For Example:

1. *Le serve comprare un tailleur per il nuovo lavoro.* (okay)
Le occorre comprare un tailleur per il nuovo lavoro. (better)
"She needs to buy a suit for the new job."

Bastare

The verb *bastare* means "to be sufficient," "to suffice," or "to be enough."

The construction of the verb *bastare* is similar to that of the verb *piacere* or *servire*: we use it in

the third person singular or plural, depending on the person or thing that is sufficient. For conjugation, see *servire* (as above).

***Basta* + singular noun/infinitive**

***Bastano* + plural noun**

For Example:

1. ***Bastano*** 100 euro di deposito.
"One hundred euros is enough as a deposit."
2. *Ci* ***basta*** una macchina piccola.
"A small car is enough for us."

Bastare is like *piacere* (and *servire*), and it takes indirect objects or the preposition *a plus a name*.

For Example:

1. *Le* ***basta*** compilare questo modulo.
"(For you) It is sufficient to fill out this form."

Bastare can be followed by nouns or infinitives. When followed by an infinitive, we use the verb *bastare* in the third person singular, *basta*.

For Example:

1. ***Basta iscriversi*** sul nostro sito.
"It is enough to sign up on our website."
2. ***Basta venire*** qui tra le 9:30 e le 15:00.
"It is enough to come here between nine-thirty and three o'clock."
3. *Ti* ***basta dormire*** solo cinque ore ogni notte?
"Is it enough for you to sleep only five hours every night?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Practical Information on the Banking System in Italy

Banking hours: They can vary slightly, but in general, a bank is open from eight-thirty a.m. to one-thirty p.m. and an hour and a half in the afternoon from two-thirty p.m. to four o'clock p.m. Banks are usually closed on weekends and holidays.

Cash cards: We call them *Bancomat*, and they are very popular and widely applied. You can use *Bancomat* cards at automatic tellers throughout the country as well as in supermarkets and shops (*PagoBancomat*).

Credit cards: You can use *carta di credito* in most shops, hotels, and restaurants. A few small stores off the main tourist route might not accept them. Some stores may refuse to accept your credit card for discounted items, but they have no right to do so.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #11

Shopping at the Italian Farmers' Market

CONTENTS

- 2 Italian
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

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ITALIAN

1. Giulia: Ciao Maria, anche tu al mercato?
2. Maria: Eh sì, devo fare un po' di spesa. Sono appena tornata dalle vacanze e non ho niente in casa. Vorrei prendere della frutta fresca almeno.
3. Giulia: Prova quel banco laggiù, di solito ha dei buoni prodotti a buon prezzo.
4. Maria: Grazie. Ora vado a vedere. Ciao.
5. Venditore: Buongiorno! Desidera qualcosa?
6. Maria: Il suo banco è ben fornito, ha tanta frutta e tanta verdura. Vorrei delle fragole, dei lamponi, qualche pera e alcune mele.
7. Venditore: Ecco fatto. Qualcos'altro?
8. Maria: Vedo che ha poca frutta esotica come mango o papaya...
9. Venditore: Eh sì, costa molto importarla. Oggi mi è rimasto questo ananas. Oppure ho alcuni meloni, ma sono un prodotto nostrano.
10. Maria: Va bene. Li vorrei tutti e due, grazie.
11. Venditore: Le serve la verdura?
12. Maria: A dir la verità mangio poca verdura, ma ne compro un po' per mia mamma. Vediamo...un chilo di patate e qualche zucchina.

CONT'D OVER

13. Venditore: Ecco fatto. Sono 20 euro in tutto. Grazie e buona giornata!

ENGLISH

1. Giulia: Hi, Maria. You're also here at the market?
2. Maria: Yes, I have to do some shopping. I have just come back from vacation, and I have nothing at home. I'd at least like to buy some fresh fruit.
3. Giulia: Try that stall over there—he usually has good products at good prices.
4. Maria: Thanks. I'll take a look. Bye.
5. Seller: Good morning! May I help you?
6. Maria: I see your stall is well-stocked—you have a lot of fruit and vegetables. I'd like some strawberries, some raspberries, a few pears, and some apples.
7. Seller: Here you go. Anything else?
8. Maria: I see you don't have much exotic fruit like mango or papaya...
9. Seller: Yes...it costs a lot to import them. Today I have one pineapple left. Or I have some melons, but they're a local product.
10. Maria: That's fine. I'd like them both.

CONT'D OVER

11. Seller: Do you need any vegetables?
12. Maria: To be honest, I don't eat many vegetables, but I can buy some for my mom. Let's see...a kilo of potatoes and some zucchinis.
13. Seller: Here you are. It's twenty euros. Thank you, and have a good day!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
mercato	market	noun	masculine
banco	stall	noun	
laggiù	over there	adverb	
fornito	well-stocked	adjective	
lampone	raspberry	noun	masculine
importare	to import	verb	
nostrano	local	adjective	
tutti e due	both	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ogni martedì vado al mercato per fare la spesa.</p> <p>"Every Tuesday I go to the market to do some shopping."</p>	<p>Il banco preferito di mio figlio è quello delle caramelle.</p> <p>"My son's favorite stall is the candy one."</p>
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<p>Laggiù, di fronte alla banca, c'è il negozio di antiquariato.</p> <p>"Over there, in front of the bank, there's an antique shop."</p>	<p>Questo è un negozio fornito di tutti gli accessori per l'automobile.</p> <p>"That shop is well-stocked with accessories for cars."</p>
<p>Vado matto per il gelato al lampone e mirtilli.</p> <p>"I adore the raspberry and blueberry ice cream."</p>	<p>L'Italia importa energia elettrica dalla Francia.</p> <p>"Italy imports electric energy from France."</p>
<p>Non hai mai assaggiato questo salame nostrano? E' una specialità.</p> <p>Have you ever tried this local salami? It's a specialty.</p>	<p>Questa sera Giulia ed io usciamo tutti e due a cena per festeggiare il compleanno di Sara.</p> <p>"Tonight both Giulia and I go out for dinner to celebrate Sara's birthday."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Mercato: A few expressions in Italian refer to the fact that the *mercato* is a place where you get good deals. *Prodotto a buon mercato* means "a cheap product" and *cavarsela a buon mercato* means "to get off lightly."

Nostrano: This adjective derived from the possessive adjective *nostro* has the meaning of "local" when referring to food or products. A synonym is *casareccio*.

Tutti e due: The indefinite pronoun *tutto* when followed by a number can only be plural. It can be *tutti* if it refers to a masculine noun or *tutte* if it refers to a feminine one. When followed by the number two, it means "both." With higher numbers, we can translate it as "all three" (*tutti e tre*) or "all four" (*tutti e quattro*), etc.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is *Aggettivi Indefiniti* ("Indefinite Adjectives").

Vorrei delle fragole, dei lamponi, qualche pera e alcune mele.

"I'd like some strawberries, some raspberries, a few pears, and some apples."

Partitivi ("Partitives")

We use *partitivi* ("partitives") to express an unspecified quantity in Italian. They are usually followed by a plural noun. We use them with a singular noun when followed by an uncountable noun.

For Example:

1. *Vorrei dei biscotti.*
"I'd like some cookies."
2. *Vorrei della birra.*
"I'd like some beer."

To review the formation and usage of *partitivi*, please refer to Beginner Season 1, Lesson 33.

Aggettivi Indefiniti ("Indefinite Adjectives")

We also use *aggettivi indefiniti* ("indefinite adjectives") in Italian to express quantity in a general, non-specific way. There are a number of *aggettivi indefiniti*, and here we are going to focus on *alcuni/alcune* and *qualche*.

1. We use *alcuni/alcune* in the plural to denote the partitive.

For Example:

1. *Vorrei [...] alcune mele.*
"I'd like [...] some apples."

2. *Ho alcuni meloni.*
"I have some melons."
3. *Hanno comprato **alcuni giochi** per i figli di Andrea.*
"They bought some toys for Andrea's children."

We avoid the articulated preposition, *di*, when the partitive occurs within a prepositional phrase. We use *alcuni/alcune* to substitute for the partitives or simply omit the *partitivo*:

For Example:

1. *Sono andati **ad alcune feste** durante il weekend.*
"They went to some parties during the weekend."
2. *Sono andato a teatro **con alcuni amici**. (also possible: *con amici*)*
"I went to the cinema with some friends."

We can use the singular forms *alcuno/a* to convey "any" in negative partitive constructions, although it is not very common.

For Example:

1. *Non ho **alcun tempo**.*
"I don't have any time."

2. We can also use *qualche* instead of the partitives. Please note that *qualche* is only followed by a singular noun, although the meaning is plural.

For Example:

1. *Vorrei [...] **qualche pera**.*
"I'd like a few pears."
2. *[Prendo] **qualche zucchina**.*
"[I'll have] some zucchinis."

When using *qualche* together with a noun that is the subject of the sentence, the verb will be in the third person singular (*lui, lei*).

For Example:

1. **C'è qualche nuvola** in cielo stasera.
2. "There are some clouds in the sky tonight."

To express an indefinite quantity in Italian ("some," "several," "a few..."), you can use:

- *Di* + article + plural noun

Delle fragole

- *Alcuni/e* + plural noun

Alcune fragole

- *Qualche* + singular noun

Qualche fragola

Some other *aggettivi indefiniti* are **tanto** ("a lot," "much," or "many") and **poco** ("a little" or "few"). Adjectives must agree with the noun they refer to.

	Singolare	Plurale
Maschile	<i>C'è tanto/poco rumore.</i> "There's a lot/little of noise."	<i>Tanti/Pochi studenti dormono in classe.</i> "Many/few students sleep in class."

Femminile

Ha **tanta/poca** frutta.

"You have a lot/little of fruit."

A Carnevale si vedono
tante/poche maschere.

"At the Carnival, you can
see many/few masks."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Markets in Italy

In every city as well as in small towns, a market is held at least once a week in the town square. At the market, there is not only fruit, vegetables, and food, but clothes, shoes, bags, and housewares are also sold. What makes the market special is the familiar atmosphere and the good rapport a customer can have with the seller. Sellers can sometimes use *tu* instead of *lei* when addressing a habitual client and often chat about their lives or the news.

Some of the markets held in the big cities are quite famous: the *mercato di S.Lorenzo* and *S. Ambrogio* in Florence, the *mercato di Porta Portese* in Rome, and the *mercato della Vucciria* in Palermo. The *mercato di S. Lorenzo* in Florence is particularly loved by tourists since it's located near the main train station, *stazione di Santa Maria Novella*. The market, both covered and open-air, is open every day and is on two floors. On the first floor the stalls sell a variety of special dishes and products from Tuscany.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #12

Finding the Perfect Italian Bouquet

CONTENTS

- 2 Italian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

12

ITALIAN

1. Fiorista: Buongiorno. Desidera?
2. Peter: Vorrei comprare un mazzo di fiori.
3. Fiorista: Che tipo di fiori preferisce?
4. Peter: Sinceramente non ne ho idea. Non me ne intendo molto.
5. Fiorista: E' per qualcuno speciale? La sua ragazza?
6. Peter: No, no, è per un'amica che si laurea domani mattina.
7. Fiorista: Ogni fiore ha un significato diverso. Visto che è giugno, Le consiglio dei girasoli. Dato che è una laurea serve qualcosa di rosso, per esempio alcune rose.
8. Peter: Ho sentito che in Italia si usa l'alloro per la laurea. Uno dei miei amici porterà persino una corona di alloro domani.
9. Fiorista: Sì, possiamo mettere anche dell'alloro nel suo mazzo di fiori. Ha qualche altra preferenza? Sa, ciascuno ha gusti diversi. Conosce il fiore preferito della sua amica?
10. Peter: Secondo me a lei piacciono le gerbere. Ogni volta che vado da lei ce n'è un mazzo sul tavolo.
11. Fiorista: Perfetto. Aggiungo qualche gerbera arancione ed ecco a Lei un bel bouquet colorato. Le ho anche messo un bigliettino così può scrivere qualcosa di speciale o un augurio.
12. Peter: Grazie. Mi sembra perfetto!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Florist: Good morning. May I help you?
2. Peter: I'd like to buy a bouquet of flowers.
3. Florist: What kind of flowers would you like?
4. Peter: To be honest, I have no idea. I'm not really sure what to get.
5. Florist: Is it for someone special? Your girlfriend?
6. Peter: No, no, it's for a friend who is graduating tomorrow morning.
7. Florist: Well, each flower has its own meaning. Since it is June, I would recommend some sunflowers. It is also good to have something red for a graduation—some roses, for example.
8. Peter: I heard that in Italy, laurel branches are common for graduation. One of my friends will even bring a laurel wreath tomorrow.
9. Florist: Yes, we can put some laurel branches in your bouquet of flowers. Do you have any other preference? You know, everyone has different tastes. Do you know your friend's favorite flower?
10. Peter: I think she might like gerberas. Every time I go to her place, she has a bouquet of them on the table.
11. Florist: Perfect. I've added some orange gerberas. Here you go, a nice colorful bouquet. I also put a little card so you can write something special or some wishes.
12. Peter: Thank you. That's perfect!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
gerbera	gerbera	noun	
preferenza	preference	noun	
corona	wreath	noun	
alloro	bay leaves, laurel	noun	
laurearsi	To graduate (only university graduation)	verb	
sinceramente	honestly, sincerely	adverb	
visto che	since	conjunction	
mazzo	bunch	noun	
intendersi	to be an expert in, to know something about	verb	
girasole	sunflower	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Le gerbere sono dei fiori semplici, ma eleganti.</p> <p>"Gerberas are simple, yet elegant flowers."</p>	<p>Tra i generi di musica moderna, la mia preferenza è per il jazz.</p> <p>"Among the modern music genres, my preference is for jazz."</p>
<p>I vincitori delle Olimpiadi di Atene ricevevano una corona di ulivo.</p> <p>"The winners of the Olympic games in ancient Athens received an olive wreath."</p>	<p>Nell'antichità l'alloro era una delle piante sacre.</p> <p>"In the ancient times laurel was one of the sacred plants."</p>
<p>Allora, Giorgia, quando ti laurei?</p> <p>"So, Giorgia, when do you graduate?"</p>	<p>Sinceramente, quell vestito non ti sta bene.</p> <p>"Honestly, that dress is not good on you."</p>

<p>Visto che è il tuo compleanno, abbiamo comperato la tua torta preferita.</p> <p>"Since it's your birthday we bought your favorite cake."</p>	<p>Ho raccolto un mazzo di rose dal nostro giardino.</p> <p>"I picked this bunch of roses from our garden."</p>
<p>Non parlarmi di finanza: non me ne intendo molto!</p> <p>"Don't talk to me about finance: I don't know much about it."</p>	<p>Adoro i girasoli.</p> <p>"I love sunflowers."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

MAZZO: It has a various meaning besides "bunch," and we can use it with words like *chiavi* (*mazzo di chiavi* or "set of keys") or *carte* (*mazzo di carte* or "a deck of cards"). The expression *fare il mazzo* means "to shuffle the cards."

LAUREARSI: The verb *laurearsi* ("to graduate") and its noun *laurea* ("graduation") come from the Latin word *laurus*, which means *alloro*, or, in English, "laurel." The laurel wreath was given to the best poets in Ancient Rome. In Italian, we only use it for university graduation.

ALLORO: The laurel wreath is typical of the Latin culture. It should not be confused with the olive wreath, given to winning athletes in Ancient Greece. The habit of giving a laurel wreath to graduate students started at the University of Padua.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of Indefinite Adjectives and Pronouns.

Ogni fiore ha un significato diverso.

"Well, each flower has its own meaning."

Ogni

Ogni means "every" or "each." It's invariable and we use it only in the singular.

For Example:

1. *Ogni fiore ha un significato diverso.*
"Every flower has a different meaning."
2. *Faccio la doccia ogni giorno.*
"I shower every day."
3. *Dobbiamo controllare I registry ogni tre settimane.*
"We have to check the registers every three weeks."

Ciascuno/a

We only use ***ciascuno/a*** in the singular. We can use it instead of the more common *ogni*.

For Example:

1. *Nel mio giardino ciascuna (/ogni) pianta ha un'etichetta.*
"In my garden, each plant has a label."
2. *Ciascun (/ogni) figlio ha una macchina.*
"Each son has a car."

Ciascuno/a is also a pronoun.

For Example:

1. *Ciascuno ha gusti diversi.*
"Everyone has different taste."
2. *Ho tre figlie e a Natale devo comperare un regalo per ciascuna.*
"I have three daughters, and for Christmas, I must buy a present for each (one)."

Qualcuno/a

Qualcuno/a means "somebody," "someone," or "something" and refers to an undefined but small number of people or things. It is a pronoun, not an adjective.

For Example:

1. *E' per qualcuno speciale?*
"Is it for someone special?"
2. *C'è qualcuno alla porta.*
"There's somebody at the door."
3. *Ho fatto molte fotografie. Vuoi vederne qualcuna?*
"I took a lot of pictures. Do you want to see some?"

Qualcosa

Qualcosa, or "something," is invariable and refers only to things. We usually consider its gender masculine (although *cosa* is feminine), and note the use of *di* when we use an adjective:

For Example:

1. *Le ho anche messo un bigliettino così può scrivere qualcosa di speciale.*
"I also put a little card so you can write something special."
2. *C'è sempre qualcosa da fare.*
"There is always something to be done."
3. *C'è qualcosa di buono da mangiare?*
"Is there something good to eat?"

Nessuno

We only use *nessuno* (and its variants *nessuna*, *nessun'*, and *nessun*), like *qualche*, with singular nouns, although their meaning conveys the plural. When it comes after the verb, it has to have the second negative *non* before the verb:

For Example:

1. *Luigi compra dei biglietti.*
"Giovanna is buying some tickets."

2. *Giovanna non compra **nessun** biglietto.*
"Giovanna is not buying any tickets."
3. *Non ho **nessuna** idea.*
"I have no idea."

Nessuno is also a pronoun, and we translate it as "nobody" or "no one."

For Example:

1. *Nessuno è arrivato in orario.*
"No one arrived on time."
2. *Non c'è nessuno.*
"There is nobody."

Niente or Nulla

Niente and *nulla* mean "nothing" and are also invariable. We use them as pronouns only. When we place them after the verb, they require a second negative (*non*) before the verb.

For Example:

1. *Non c'è niente da fare.*
"There is nothing to do."
2. *Non è successo nulla.*
"Nothing happened."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Graduation in Padua

How do you celebrate university graduation? Students at the University of Padua follow some old and traditional rituals. In the Italian educational system, university students graduate, one

by one, on the day they complete their research project defense.

While many graduations may still take place on the same day, each ceremony is prepared around one person. After the graduate has finished his or her thesis defense, the friends and family wait for him or her at a square nearby where the graduate gets stripped to a bathing suit or gets dressed in an animal costume (depending on the season!). In some extreme cases, the graduate's face is painted or covered in whipped cream.

Then, the graduate is crowned with a laurel wreath and decorated with a red bow, the color of graduation. Usually songs accompany these rituals. Then the graduate has to read a *papiro*, "a scroll," written in Italian or dialect by the friends and family. When the graduate mispronounces words, he or she has to drink some wine, and friends make sure the graduate finishes reading the *papiro* rather drunk. The scroll is left hanging for a few days on the walls of university as a public display.

Later on, the *dottore* (the title a student receives after graduation) gets redressed and celebrations continue in a café in Padua. At the end, *confetti*, or sugar-coated almonds wrapped in red tissue paper, are distributed to the guests as a graduation favor.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #13

A Delicious Italian Discussion about Pizza

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- 5 Sample Sentences
- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

13

ITALIAN

1. Peter: Allora Maria, cosa ne pensi di questa pizzeria?
2. Maria: E' un bel posto, tranquillo e pulito. E c'è un buon profumino. Mi piace.
3. Peter: Benissimo. Sono già stato qui con dei miei amici qualche settimana fa. Il servizio è un po' spartano ma le pizze sono veramente buone.
4. Maria: Diamo un'occhiata al menu. Dopo la nostra lunga passeggiata in centro mi sta venendo una gran fame.
5. Cameriere: Che cosa volete ordinare?
6. Maria: Allora... io prendo una margherita e tu Peter?
7. Peter: Una capricciosa. E da bere? Ti va del vino bianco?
8. Maria: Perché no?! [al cameriere] Allora una margherita, una capricciosa e mezzo litro di vino bianco.
9. Cameriere: Benissimo. Cinque minuti e sono da voi col vino. Per le pizze ci vogliono circa 15 minuti.
10. Peter: Allora Maria, che hai fatto oggi di bello?
11. Maria: Niente di speciale. Come al solito mi sono svegliata presto e ho fatto jogging per 20 minuti. Poi ho fatto una bella doccia e una colazione abbondante e sono andata in università.
12. Peter: Ma ti alleni ogni mattina?!
13. Maria: Quando il tempo è bello.

CONT'D OVER

14. Peter: Hai delle buone abitudini. Io invece mi alzo all'ultimo minuto e finisco col fare tutto di fretta. Faccio una doccia veloce, mi vesto e prendo un caffè al volo al bar.
15. Maris: (ride) Si vede...
16. Cameriere: Ecco le pizze signori.
17. Maria: Buon appetito!
18. Peter: Grazie e altrettanto.

ENGLISH

1. Peter: So, Maria, what do you think of this pizzeria?
2. Maria: This is a nice place, quiet and clean. And...it smells nice. I like it.
3. Peter: Great. I came here with some of my friends some weeks ago. The service is basic, but the pizzas are really tasty.
4. Maria: Let's take a look at the menu. After our long walk downtown, I'm getting really hungry.
5. Waiter: What would you like to order?
6. Maria: I'll have a margherita pizza, and you, Peter?
7. Peter: A capricciosa pizza. And to drink? Do you feel like white wine?
8. Maria: Why not?! [to the waiter] So, a margherita, a capricciosa, and a half liter of white wine, please.

CONT'D OVER

9. **Waiter:** Perfect. I'll be back with the wine in five minutes. The pizzas will take about fifteen minutes.
10. **Peter:** So, Maria, what did you do today?
11. **Maria:** Nothing special. I got up early and went jogging for twenty minutes. Then I took a long shower, had a big breakfast, and went to university.
12. **Peter:** Do you run every morning?
13. **Maria:** When the weather is nice.
14. **Peter:** You have some good habits. I wake up at the last minute and end up doing everything in a rush. I take a quick shower, I get dressed, and I have a quick coffee at the bar.
15. **Maria:** (laughing) Yes, I can see it...
16. **Waiter:** Here are your pizzas.
17. **Maria:** Enjoy your meal.
18. **Peter:** You too.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
altrettanto	same to you	adverb
al volo	quick, quickly	expression
all'ultimo minuto	at the last minute	expression
abbondante	big	adjective

prendere	to order	verb
dare un'occhiata	to take a look at	verbal expression
capricciosa	capricciosa	noun
spartano	basic, simple	adjective
ordinare	to order	verb
volerci	to take (as in time)	verb
andare a te	to feel like	verb+pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>"Buon appetito!" "Grazie e altrettanto!"</p> <p>"Enjoy your meal! 'Thank you. You too."</p>	<p>Capisci sempre le cose al volo!</p> <p>"You always understand the things quickly!"</p>
<p>All'ultimo minuto Totti ha segnato il gol per la Roma.</p> <p>"At last minute, Totti scored a goal for Roma ."</p>	<p>E' stata una cena abbondante. Sei sempre generosa!</p> <p>"It was a big dinner. You're always generous!"</p>
<p>Prendo un piatto di lasagne.</p> <p>"I'll have the lasagne."</p>	<p>La facciata della cattedrale di Cremona è bellissima. Diamo un'occhiata anche dentro!</p> <p>"The facade of the cathedral of Cremona is beautiful. Let's take a look also inside."</p>
<p>Tra le pizze italiane, la mia preferita è la capricciosa.</p> <p>"Among Italian pizzas, my favorite is the capricciosa."</p>	<p>La sistemazione è piuttosto spartana.</p> <p>"The accommodation is rather basic."</p>
<p>Ho ordinato un caffè anche per te.</p> <p>"I ordered a coffee for you too."</p>	<p>Per favore, non ordinare cose, di cui non hai bisogno</p> <p>"Please don't order stuff that you don't need."</p>

<p>Abbiamo tutti ordinato la stessa cosa al ristorante.</p> <p>"All of us ordered the same at the restaurant."</p>	<p>Possiamo ordinare online?</p> <p>"Can we order online?"</p>
<p>Perché non ordiniamo un espresso?</p> <p>"Why don't we order an espresso?"</p>	<p>Ordiniamo un antipasto?</p> <p>"Shall we order an appetizer?"</p>
<p>Da Milano a Venezia ci vogliono tre ore di treno.</p> <p>"From Milan to Venice it takes three hours by train."</p>	<p>Ti va di fare jogging domani mattina?</p> <p>"Do you feel like jogging tomorrow morning?"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

DARE UN'OCCHIATA: It means "to take a look," "to give a quick look at something," or "to look at." It usually implies a short and quick action. It is always followed by the preposition *a* and the object to look at.

ANDARE A QUALCUNO: It means "to feel like." Differently from English, the subject that determines the verb *andare* is what a person feels like, while the person (in English, the subject of feel like) follows the preposition *a*. This verb works as *piacere* ("like").

ALTRETTANTO: It means "you too" or "to you too." We use it when the reply is exactly the same as the sentence before. We often use it as a reply to *Buon appetito*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of *Bello* and *Buono*.

E' un bel posto, tranquillo e pulito.
"It's a nice place, quiet and clean."

Bello

It is an adjective.

When we use *bello* on its own, it agrees in gender and number like other adjectives. It appears as *bello*, *bella*, *belli*, *belle*.

For Example:

1. *Il signor Barbieri è bello.*
"Mr. Barbieri is handsome."
2. *I bambini di Silvia sono belli.*
"Silvia's children are beautiful."

Here, *bello* is a predicate adjective and does not modify directly the noun to which it refers.

When it precedes a noun and modifies it, it changes form like the definite article:

	<i>Singolare</i>	<i>Plurale</i>
<i>Maschile</i>	<i>Bel tavolo</i>	<i>Bei tavoli</i>
	<i>Bello sport</i>	<i>Begli studenti</i>
	<i>Bell'albergo</i>	
<i>Femminile</i>	<i>Bella signora</i> <i>Bell'automobile</i>	<i>Belle signore</i>

MEANING:

- "Beautiful," "handsome," or "good-looking"
Lei è una bella donna.
"She is a beautiful woman."
- "Pleasant" or "fine " (often used to describe the weather)
Quando tempo è bello, vado a correre.
"When the weather is fine, I go jogging."
- "Nice" or "lovely "
Che bello!
"How lovely!"

- When describing objects/things, we also often use it to intensify their quality.
Ho fatto una bella doccia.
"I took a long (also meaning "relaxing" or "refreshing") shower."

Buono

It is an adjective.

When we use *buono* on its own (like as a predicate adjective), it agrees with the noun to which it refers: *buono*, *buona*, *buoni*, *buone*.

For Example:

- Le pizze sono veramente buone.*
"The pizzas are really tasty."
- Che buona la tua torta!*
"Your cake tastes good!"

When it precedes a noun, like *bello*, it changes form like the indefinite article (*un*, *una*). The plural does not change:

	<i>Singolare</i>	<i>Plurale</i>
<i>Maschile</i>	<i>Buon vino</i>	<i>Buoni vini</i>
	<i>Buono studente</i>	<i>Buoni studenti</i>
<i>Femminile</i>	<i>Buona torta</i>	<i>Buone torte</i>

MEANING:

- "Good" or "kind" when referring to people
Lui è una buona persona.
"He is a good person."

- "Honest," "respectable," or "virtuous"
La sua famiglia è buona.
"His family is respectable."
- "Good" or "fine " when referring to the quality of something
La torta era buona! Vorrei la ricetta.
"The cake was good! I would like the recipe."

We also use *buono* in certain expressions to express thanks, well wishes, or congratulations:

For Example:

1. *Buon viaggio!*
"Have a good trip!"
2. *Buon appetito!*
"Enjoy your meal!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Margherita Pizza History

Pizza is one of the most popular foods in the world, and although there are different types, it is usually considered a typical food of the Italian cuisine, in particular of Naples. The most traditional one is the pizza Margherita. And this is the story of how it was first created.

In the summer of 1889, the king Umberto I with the queen Margherita of Savoy went to Napoli on vacation. The queen was quite curious about pizza and asked to talk to the *pizzaiolo* Don Raffaele Esposito and his wife Donna Rosa who worked at one of the best pizzerias in town.

The couple used the oven from the royal palace and prepared three different pizzas: one with lard, cheese, and basil; one with garlic, oil, and tomato; and one with mozzarella, tomato, and basil, the colors of the Italian flag. Don Raffaele decided to call this last pizza *alla Margherita* in honor of the queen who liked it so much, not just for its taste but also for the choice of colors.

Since then *la pizza margherita* has become one of the most popular and well-known pizzas around the world.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #14

Compliments on your Fine Italian

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- 8 Cultural Insight

14

ITALIAN

1. Commesso: Buongiorno. In cosa posso aiutarla?
2. Peter: Sto cercando un dizionario elettronico italiano-inglese. Ne cerco uno facilmente utilizzabile e a buon prezzo.
3. Commesso: Purtroppo al momento teniamo solo questi tre modelli - questo è sicuramente quello più in voga. Il prezzo è accessibile e ha un voluminoso vocabolario.
4. Peter: Capisco. Ora ci do un'occhiata.
5. Commesso: Se ha altre domande mi chiami pure.
6. Peter: Mm... che ne dici Maria?
7. Maria: Sicuramente è più comodo del dizionario cartaceo che ti porti sempre appresso.
8. Peter: Non c'è dubbio! Ma, in confidenza, Maria, sono bravo a parlare italiano o sono ancora una frana?!
9. Maria: No, Peter, sei migliorato molto. Parli bene. Dopo soli 5 mesi in Italia riesci a esprimerti molto bene.
10. Peter: Beh! Ho ancora un forte accento americano, non credi? Non me lo toglierà nessuno.
11. Maria: Non preoccuparti! Anche noi italiani abbiamo tanti accenti diversi. E alcuni sono così stretti che nemmeno io riesco a capirli! Il tuo accento si capisce bene.

CONT'D OVER

12. Peter: Guarda, questo dizionario ha anche la funzione vocale. Così posso far pratica per la mia pronuncia.

13. Maria: Mi sembra un'ottima idea!

ENGLISH

1. Clerk: Good morning. How can I help you?

2. Peter: I'm looking for an electronic dictionary for Italian-English. I'm looking for one that's easy to use and cheap.

3. Clerk: Unfortunately, at the moment, we only keep these three models—this one is surely the most popular. The price is affordable, and it has a large vocabulary.

4. Peter: I understand. Now I'll take a look at it.

5. Clerk: If you have other questions, please call me.

6. Peter: Mm...what do you think, Maria?

7. Maria: For sure, it's handier than the paper dictionary that you always carry around.

8. Peter: No doubt! In confidence, Maria, tell me, am I good at speaking Italian, or am I still hopeless?

9. Maria: No, Peter, you've improved a lot! You speak quite well now. After only five months in Italy, you can express yourself very well.

CONT'D OVER

10. Peter: Well, I still have my thick American accent, don't you think? It can't be washed away!
11. Maria: Don't worry! Italians also have many different accents. And some are so thick that even I cannot understand a word. Yours is easy to understand.
12. Peter: Look, this dictionary has also the "text to voice" function so I can practice my pronunciation.
13. Maria: Sounds like a great idea!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
stretto	thick	adjective
accento	accent	noun
frana	hopeless	noun
portare appresso	carry around	verbal expression
cartaceo	paper	adjective
utilizzabile	easy to use	adjective
dare un'occhiata	to take a look at	verbal expression
accessibile	affordable	adjective
in voga	popular (adject.)	adverbial expression
a buon prezzo	cheap (adject.)	adverbial expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Non posso capire niente. Il suo accento è troppo stretto.</p> <p>"I can't understand anything. Her accent is too thick."</p>	<p>Tu sei di Roma vero? Hai il tipico accento romano.</p> <p>"You are from Rome aren't you? You have a typical accent of Rome."</p>
<p>In matematica sei proprio una frana!</p> <p>"In mathematics you are quite hopeless!"</p>	<p>Ti porti sempre appresso questo portafortuna?</p> <p>"Do you always carry around this lucky charm with you?"</p>
<p>Preferisco il mio dizionario cartaceo.</p> <p>"I prefer my paper dictionary."</p>	<p>Questa lettore DVD non è più utilizzabile.</p> <p>"This DVD player cannot be used anymore."</p>
<p>La facciata della cattedrale di Cremona è bellissima. Diamo un'occhiata anche dentro!</p> <p>"The facade of the cathedral of Cremona is beautiful. Let's take a look also inside."</p>	<p>Mi posso permettere questo Pc. Il prezzo è accessibile.</p> <p>"I can afford this PC. The price is totally affordable."</p>
<p>Negli ultimi anni è tornata in voga la minigonna.</p> <p>"In the past years the miniskirt got fashionable again."</p>	<p>Per il Natale sono in vendita degli smartphone a buon prezzo.</p> <p>"For Christmas smartphones are on sale at a cheap price."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

IN VOGA. There are a number of expressions that we can use to say "fashionable": *alla moda, di moda, or al passo con la moda*. We can use *essere in voga* not just to refer to fashion but also, in general, it means "to be popular."

PORTARE APPRESSO. *Appresso* means "close to" or "near." A similar expression and a

more common one is *portare con sè*. *Stare appresso* or *andare appresso a qualcuno* means "to follow somebody."

ESSERE UNA FRANA. This expression comes from the language of the military. It describes a person who is not successful or whose actions often lead nowhere.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Adverb *Bene* and the Adjective *Bravo*.

Sono bravo a parlare italiano?

"Am I good at speaking Italian?"

Bravo

As an adjective, *we can only use bravo* to describe people or animals. We never use it to describe objects or things. It has two main meanings:

1. "skillful," "smart," or "rich in experience"
"good," "reliable," or "honest"

To express a skill in something, we use it in two expressions:

Bravo + in + noun

For Example:

1. *Sono bravo in chemistry.*
"I'm good at chemistry."

Bravo + a + infinitive

For Example:

1. *Sono bravo a sciare.*
"I'm good at skiing."

To express honesty and reliability, we often use *bravo* in various expressions:

For Example:

1. *E' una brava persona.* ("honest")
"He/she is a good person."
2. *E' un bravo ragazzo.* ("reliable")
"He is a good boy."

Notice that while English uses the adjective "good," Italian uses *bravo/a*.

For Example:

1. *Riesci a esprimerti molto bene.*
"You can express yourself well."

Bene

As an adverb, *bene* follows the verb it refers to. It is invariable.

For Example:

1. *Lei scrive bene in francese.*
"She writes well in French."

When *bene* modifies an adjective and not a verb, it precedes the adjective it modifies. It can mean "well" or "very," and it is similar to the adverb *molto*. Notice that in this case, it loses the ending *-e*.

For Example:

1. *Questo compito è ben fatto.*
"This homework is well done."
2. *Ho lavorato troppo oggi. Sono ben stanco.*
"I worked too much today. I'm very tired."

We can also use *bene* as an adjective, and it means "upper class" when referring to people or "posh" or "first class" when referring to places. It is invariable.

For Example:

1. *Ultimamente Arianna frequenta solo le persone bene che ha incontrato alla sua nuova scuola.*
"Recently, Arianna hangs out only with upper-class people she met at her new school."

We often use *bene* in exclamations.

For Example:

1. *Bene! E' un buon lavoro!*
"Well done! Good job!"

We can use both *bene* and *bravo* to express ability: *bravo* as an adjective refers to the "skillful" person, while *bene* refers to the action.

For Example:

1. *Parli bene l'italiano*
"You speak Italian well."
2. *Sei bravo a parlare l'italiano.*
"You are good at speaking Italian."
3. *Sei bravo in italiano.*
"You are good at Italian."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Accademia della Crusca, literally translated as "The Academy of Chaff," is not the Academy of Italian Culinary Tradition as most people might think. On the contrary, it is the national language academy of Italy. It seems inevitable that the national language academy would be named after a by-product of the bread-making process, considering that Italy is well renowned for its cuisine.

The Accademia della Crusca has been in existence long before Italy was a unified country. It was founded in Florence in 1582 to regulate and maintain the purity of the language. Its first major achievement was the compilation of A.F. Grazzini's *Vocabulario*, a dictionary published in 1612.

The Accademia della Crusca is still very active today. It is still located just outside of Florence, and it is a major center of research: there is a precious historical archive for those interested in the history of the Italian language and philological studies. There is also a *biblioteca virtuale* ("virtual library") that you can easily access from your PC.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #15 A Birthday Dinner in Italy

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ITALIAN

1. Maria: Ciao Elena, buon compleanno! ciao Giulia! Entrate pure. Siete arrivate puntualissime per la cena.
2. Elena: Wow! Che tavola stupenda! Con le candele ed i fiori. Qui ci voleva un abito da cerimonia.
3. Maria: Ma no! E' una cena molto semplice. Sedete pure! La cena è pronta.
4. Giulia: Maria, questa pasta è buonissima! Un piatto da sogno per noi studentesse abituate a mangiare alla mensa dell'università.
5. Elena: Speciale anche questa carne. E questo vino rosso dal sapore fruttato, da dove viene?
6. Maria: E' un regalo di mio zio Angelo che si intende di vini - fa il sommelier.
7. Maria: Ho preparato anche un semifreddo come dolce.
8. Elena: Grazie Maria per aver preparato una cena coi fiocchi per il mio compleanno.
9. Giulia: Proprio una cena da ricordare!
10. Maria: Non esagerare!
11. Giulia: Adesso però, Maria, ti diamo una mano a sparecchiare la tavola e poi ci sono i piatti da lavare.
12. Maria: No, no. Ci mancherebbe altro! E poi... c'è la lavastoviglie!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Maria: Hi, Elena, happy birthday! Hi, Giulia! Come on in. You have arrived perfectly on time for dinner.
2. Elena: Wow! What a beautiful table with candles and flowers. We should have worn formal dress.
3. Maria: No, no. I prepared a simple dinner. Please have a seat. Dinner is ready.
4. Giulia: Maria, this pasta is very tasty! A dreamlike dish for us students who are used to eating at the university cafeteria.
5. Elena: The meat is also special. And this wine that has a fruity taste, where is it from?
6. Maria: It's a present from my uncle Angelo who is an expert in wines...he is a sommelier.
7. Maria: I also prepared a cake as dessert.
8. Elena: Thank you, Maria, for preparing an excellent dinner for my birthday.
9. Giulia: A dinner to remember!
10. Maria: Don't exaggerate!
11. Giulia: Now, let's help you clear the table and wash the dishes.
12. Maria: Don't worry about it! And anyway...I have a dishwasher!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
lavastoviglie	dishwasher	noun	feminine
ci mancherebbe altro!	Don't mention it!, Don't worry about it!	verbal expression	
sparecchiare	clear	verb	
dare una mano	to give a hand	expression	
abituato	to be used	verb/adjective	
semifreddo	semifreddo/ ice cream cake	adjective/noun	
intendersi	to be an expert in, to know something about	verb	
fruttato	fruity	adjective	
mensa	cafeteria	noun	
coi fiocchi	excellent	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Dovresti comprare una lavastoviglie. E' proprio comoda!</p> <p>"You should buy a dishwasher. It's very handy."</p>	<p>"La cena, la pago io" "Ci mancherebbe altro! Paghi sempre tu."</p> <p>"Dinner is on me.' 'No way! Don't mention it! You always pay!'"</p>
<p>Ragazzi, tocca a voi sparecchiate la tavola stasera.</p> <p>"Kids, it's your turn to clear the table tonight."</p>	<p>Mi daresti una mano per favore?</p> <p>"Could you give me a hand please?"</p>

<p>Sono abituato a fare jogging ogni giorno al mattino.</p> <p>"I'm used to jog every day in the morning."</p>	<p>Il tiramisù è un semifreddo italiano.</p> <p>"Tiramisu is an Italian semifreddo."</p>
<p>Non parlarmi di finanza: non me ne intendo molto!</p> <p>"Don't talk to me about finance: I don't know much about it."</p>	<p>Ti consiglio un vino fruttato per questa torta.</p> <p>"I recommend a fruity wine for this cake."</p>
<p>Questo vino della Puglia ha un sapore fruttato.</p> <p>"This wine from Puglia has a fruity taste."</p>	<p>La mensa costa poco, ma il cibo non è molto buono.</p> <p>"The cafeteria is cheap, but the food is not very tasty."</p>

Marta ha preparato una torta coi fiocchi per Giulio.

"Marta prepared an excellent cake for Giulio."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

INTENDERSI. It means "to be an expert at" or "to know a lot about" something. It can also express practical knowledge. It's a reflexive verb and requires the preposition *di*, followed by a noun.

DARE UNA MANO. It means "to help" or "to give a hand." The preposition *a* introduces the person who is helped. We can use an indirect pronoun as well.

CI MANCHEREBBE ALTRO. This expression has a number of meanings. We can use it to refuse an offer, like in the conversation above. We can also use it to ward off bad luck.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Preposition *Da*.

Questa è una cena da ricordare.

Questa è una cena che bisogna ricordare.

"This is a dinner to be remembered."

The preposition *da* has three basic meanings:

1) Together with the verb *venire*, we use *it* to express the place of origin.

For Example:

1. *Vengo da Brescia.*
"I come from Brescia."

2) We use it to express the place where we are staying and the place where we are going.

For Example:

1. *Vado a cena da Mario.*
"I am going to dinner at Mario's."

3) It expresses the place where someone or something is coming from.

For Example:

1. *Anna arriva dal lavoro alle 8.*
"Anna comes from work at eight."

We also use the preposition *da* to express a way of being; it expresses the way someone or something is. It conveys the meaning of how something or somebody is.

For Example:

1. *Federica ha un vestito **da** vera signora.*
*Federica ha un vestito **come** una vera signora.*
"Federica has a ladylike dress/elegant dress."

2. *E' un piatto **da** sogno per noi studentesse.*
*E' un piatto **come** un sogno per noi studentesse.*
"It's a dream/like a dream for us students."

It describes the quality of someone or something. We can substitute *con* or *che ha* for it.

For Example:

1. *Questo vino rosso **dai** sapore fruttato, da dove viene?*
*Questo vino rosso **che ha** un sapore fruttato, da dove viene?*
"This red wine that has a fruity taste, where is it from?"
2. *Un ragazzo **dai** capelli neri.*
*Un ragazzo **che ha/con** i capelli neri.*
"A boy with black hair."

When we use it in front of an infinitive verb, it expresses the way someone or something is. The meaning of the sentence is "that needs to."

For Example:

1. *Questa è una cena **da** ricordare.*
"This is a dinner to be remembered."
*Questa è una cena **che bisogna** ricordare.*
"This is a dinner that needs to be remembered."
2. *Ci sono i piatti **da** lavare.*
"There are plates to wash."
*Ci sono piatti **che bisogna** lavare.*
"There are plates that need to be washed."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance Cuisine

Not many people know that Leonardo da Vinci had a great passion for cooking. A popular Florentine story tells us that da Vinci used to work as a waiter at the *Taverna delle Tre lumache*, near Ponte Vecchio when he was twenty years old. He was then promoted to the position of chef and then *capocuoco* ("head chef"). He invented various instruments to peel and cut various ingredients. He also studied different ways to absorb bad odors, and he built a mechanical device to roast chicken, the ancient *girarrosto*.

Italy in the Renaissance had some of the most creative chefs in Europe who introduced new dishes, *pasta farcita* ("pasta filled with sauce") and *maccheroni*. It was in this period that pasta became a more integral part of the Italian cuisine.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #16

What's in the Italian News Today?

CONTENTS

- 2 Italian
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

16

ITALIAN

1. Edicolante: Buongiorno.
2. Claudio: Buongiorno. Vorrei il quotidiano La stampa.
3. Edicolante: Vuole anche l'inserito?
4. Claudio: Di che si tratta?
5. Edicolante: E' un supplemento con le notizie sportive, specialmente sui campionati di serie A e B.
6. Claudio: Allora, lo prendo. Guardiamo se ci sono notizie interessanti. Ieri le partite sono state abbastanza movimentate!
7. Edicolante: Eh sì...Ha sentito dei cambiamenti nel quartiere?
8. Claudio: No. Che cosa succede?
9. Edicolante: Beh, questo bel parco qui davanti tra qualche settimana diventerà un parcheggio pubblico.
10. Claudio: Oh no. Che brutta notizia!
11. Edicolante: Infatti. Ogni giorno ci sarà un viavai di macchine. E io dovrò respirare i gas di scarico delle automobili.
12. Claudio: Povero Lei! Anche per noi studenti sarà un disagio. L'università è a due passi e spesso veniamo qui a mangiare un panino a pranzo.

CONT'D OVER

13. Edicolante: Domenica c'è una manifestazione degli abitanti del quartiere contro questo progetto.
14. Claudio: Benissimo. Vengo anch'io!

ENGLISH

1. Newsagent: Good morning.
2. Claudio: Good morning. I'd like the paper La Stampa.
3. Newsagent: Would you like the supplement?
4. Claudio: What is it about?
5. Newsagent: It's a supplement with sports news, especially about the serie A and B championships.
6. Claudio: Then I'll take it. Let's see if there is any interesting news. Yesterday the games were quite exciting!
7. Newsagent: Oh yes... Have you heard about the changes here in the neighborhood?
8. Claudio: No. What will happen?
9. Newsagent: Well, this beautiful park in front of us will become a public parking lot in a few weeks.
10. Claudio: Oh, no. What terrible news!

CONT'D OVER

11. Newsagent: Indeed. Every day, cars will be coming and going. And I will have to breathe the exhaust emissions all day long.
12. Claudio: Poor you! It will be a problem for us students too. The university is very close, and we often come here to eat a sandwich at lunch.
13. Newsagent: On Sunday, there is a demonstration of the people from the area against this project.
14. Claudio: Great. I'll be there, too!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
manifestazione	demonstration	noun	
a due passi	very close	adverbial expression	
disguido	hitch, mistake	noun	
gas di scarico	exhaust emissions	nominal expression	
viavai	coming and going	noun	
inserto	supplement	noun	
parcheggio	parking	noun	masculine
cambiamento	change	noun	
partita	match, game	noun	
campionato	championship	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Domani a Roma c'è una manifestazione di studenti universitari contro il governo.</p> <p>"Tomorrow in Rome there is a demonstration of university students against the government."</p>	<p>A due passi da casa mia c'è la piscina comunale.</p> <p>"The public swimming pool is very close to my house."</p>
<p>Sono arrivato tardi per un disguido.</p> <p>"I arrived late because something came up."</p>	<p>In questa zona della città c'è la più alta concentrazione di gas di scarico.</p> <p>"In this area of the city there is the highest concentration of exhaust emissions."</p>
<p>Il continuo viavai dei visitatori della biblioteca mi ha reso impossibile concentrarmi.</p> <p>"The continual coming and going of library visitors made it impossible for me to concentrate."</p>	<p>Ogni mese questa rivista pubblica degli inserti sulla salute.</p> <p>"Every month this magazine publishes some supplements on health."</p>
<p>Non trovo parcheggio.</p> <p>"I can't find parking."</p>	<p>Il parcheggio costa un euro l'ora.</p> <p>"The parking costs one Euro per hour."</p>
<p>Non voglio più cambiamenti nella mia vita.</p> <p>"I don't want any more changes in my life."</p>	<p>Italia-Germania è una partita emozionante.</p> <p>"Italy-Germany is an exciting match."</p>
<p>Facciamo una partita?</p> <p>"Shall we play a match?"</p>	<p>L'Italia ha vinto il campionato del mondo di calcio.</p> <p>"Italy won the world soccer championship."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

INSERTO. This noun comes from the verb *inserire* ("to insert" or "to add"). If related to a newspaper or magazine, we can also call it *supplemento* or *insert staccabile* ("pull-out supplement").

VIAVAI. This compound noun is made of *via*, which literally means "away," and *vai*, which literally means "to go." It expresses a chaotic and lively movement of people or vehicles.

A DUE PASSI. "A few steps away" is a good literal translation for this Italian idiom. It simply means "very close"/"near to" or "within walking distance." A similar expression *fare due passi* means "to take a short walk."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Word *Notizia* and the Difference Between the Italian Word *Notizia* and the English News.

Che brutta notizia!

"What terrible news!"

Although in English "*news*" is singular, in Italian, *notizia* is countable and therefore has a plural, *notizie*.

For Example:

1. *Ho ricevuto una notizia interessante.*
"I received interesting news."
2. *Guardiamo se ci sono notizie interessanti*
"Let's see whether there is some interesting news."

When we use it in the plural, we use it to indicate more than one story or pieces of news.

For Example:

1. *Ho due notizie da darti: mercoledì vado alle Hawaii e sabato mi sposo.*
"I have two pieces of news to give you: on Wednesday, I go to Hawaii, and on Saturday I get married."

If the news being relayed was just one of those two, then we would use the singular.

For Example:

1. *Ho una notizia da darti: mercoledì vado alle Hawaii.*
"I have news to give you: on Wednesday I go to Hawaii."

When we use it in the plural with connection to the news reported by a newspaper or on television, we use it to refer to many news stories in a specific category of news, such as ***ultime notizie, notizie sportive, notizie politiche***, etc.

For Example:

1. *E' un supplemento con le notizie sportive.*
"It is a supplement with sports news."

We use ***la notizia*** to refer to a single, specific event.

For Example:

1. *Che brutta **notizia!***
"What terrible news."
2. *La nascita di mia nipote Sara è **una notizia** che mi fa molto felice!*
"The birth of my granddaughter Sara is news that makes me very happy!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Newspapers in Italy

In Italy, there are both national newspapers like *La Repubblica*, *La Stampa*, *Il Corriere della sera* and local ones, whose titles often have the name of the city on it: for example, *Il giornale di Brescia* or *l' Eco di Bergamo* (two cities in Lombardy), or *la Gazzetta di Modena* (in *Emilia Romagna*). The format of the newspaper is common to all newspapers.

The front page, which is called *la prima pagina*, is dedicated to the headline news and often on the top left side of the page there is the *articolo di fondo*, the editor's column.

The following pages are often an expansion of the news from the front page. This is called *Primo Piano*, which literally means "close up." After the *Primo Piano*, you can read about *Cronaca*, or "commentary." In the center of the paper, you often find a supplement related to the region you are in. This is followed by the business section and finally the culture and sports pages. Most newspapers have a classified section at the back.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #17 Go Book Hunting in Italy

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- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

17

ITALIAN

1. Claudio: Giulia, hai voglia di entrare in questa libreria?
2. Giulia: Sì, mi fa sempre piacere dare un'occhiata alle ultime uscite. Tu cerchi qualcosa in particolare?
3. Claudio: Ti ricordi quel romanzo "La ragazza con l'orecchino di perla" di cui ti ho parlato l'altro giorno? Ormai ha qualche anno e non tutte le librerie lo tengono.
4. Giulia: Sì, l'ho letto tempo fa. Proviamo ad entrare. Questa libreria sembra ben fornita, magari lo possiamo trovare qui.
5. Claudio: Speriamo. Il libro è per il compleanno di mia mamma. Vado subito alla sezione romanzi.
6. Giulia: Io invece resto qui dove ci sono i libri di cucina. Vorrei trovare qualche libro sulle ricette della cucina tradizionale lombarda; ci sono dei piatti per cui vado matta e vorrei essere capace anch'io di prepararli.
7. Claudio: Ecco il libro; finalmente ho trovato il libro di cui mia madre ha parlato per mesi.
8. Giulia: Anch'io ho trovato qualcosa di cucina. Guarda, questa è la ricetta dei tortelli di zucca, un piatto mantovano.
9. Claudio: Sembrano gustosi.
10. Giulia: Appena divento più esperta ti invito a cena. Che ne dici?
11. Claudio: Basta che non mi usi come cavia.

CONT'D OVER

10. Giulia: As soon as I get better at it, I'll invite you for dinner. What do you say?
11. Claudio: As long as you don't use me as your guinea pig.
12. Giulia: Not at all! Come on, let's go to the cashier to pay now. The shop is closing.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
figurarsi	not at all, of course, but naturally	verb	
cavia	guinea pig	noun	
gustoso	tasty	adjective	
andare matti	to be crazy about	verbal expression	
aver voglia	to feel like	verbal expression	
sezione	section	noun	
magari	hopefully	adverb	
fornito	well-stocked	adjective	
far piacere	to be happy to	verbal expression	
cucina	kitchen, cooking, food, cuisine	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Pago io la cena. Figurati! Ti ho invitato io.</p> <p>"Dinner is on me. Of course! I invited you."</p>	<p>Nessuno ama fare la cavia.</p> <p>"Nobody likes to be a guinea-pig."</p>
<p>Questo piatto indiano è veramente gustoso!</p> <p>"This Indian dish is very tasty."</p>	<p>Vado matto per i dolci della Toscana; sono deliziosi.</p> <p>"I'm crazy about the sweets from Tuscany; they are delicious."</p>
<p>Ho voglia di mangiarmi una pizza stasera.</p> <p>"I feel like eating pizza tonight."</p>	<p>Ho visitato La National Gallery; una sezione è dedicata ai disegni di Leonardo.</p> <p>"I visited the The National Gallery; a section is dedicated to the drawings of Leonardo."</p>
<p>"Andiamo al cinema stasera?" "Magari! Purtroppo devo studiare."</p> <p>"Let's go to the cinema tonight! 'I wish! Unfortunately I have to study.'"</p>	<p>Questo è un negozio fornito di tutti gli accessori per l'automobile.</p> <p>"That shop is well-stocked with accessories for cars."</p>
<p>Ti fa piacere venire al concerto? Ho un biglietto extra.</p> <p>"Are you happy to come with me to the concert? I have an extra ticket."</p>	<p>Ti piace la cucina italiana?</p> <p>"Do you like Italian cooking?"</p>
<p>Cosa ti piace della cucina italiana?</p> <p>"What do you like about Italian cuisine?"</p>	<p>Mi piace la cucina thailandese.</p> <p>"I like Thai food."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

AVERE VOGLIA DI. This expression is very similar in meaning to *volere* ("to want"), but like the English expression "feel like," it highlights the feeling and the desire to do something.

Another way to express this could be **SENTIRSI**.

FAR PIACERE. We can translate this with a passive voice "to be pleased" or "be happy with" (*Le fa piacere cenare fuori*, which means "She's pleased/happy to dine out"), or as an active form with "would like to" (For example, "She would like to dine out.").

ANDARE MATTO. We can translate this phrase as "be crazy about," depending on the context. *Matto* as an adjective should agree with the noun to which it refers (*matto, matta, matti, matte*).

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Relative Pronoun *Cui*.

Ti ricordi quel romanzo di cui ti ho parlato l'altro giorno?

"Do you remember that novel I talked to you about the other day?"

Cui is a relative pronoun, and it replaces **indirect objects** (*complemento indiretto*). ***Cui*** can mean "whom" (with people), "which," and "that," and, in some cases, it can mean "where." We always use it together with a preposition (*in, con su, per tra fra*).

Whereas *che* is the relative pronoun for a noun that functions as subject or object of the relative clauses, *cui* replaces indirect objects.

Many verbs in Italian take a preposition, and Italian sentences cannot finish with a preposition like they can in English.

For Example:

1. *Ti ricordi quel romanzo di cui ti ho parlato l'altro giorno?*
"Do you remember that novel I talked to you about the other day?"

Let's look closely at the example above. The sentence is a combination of two sentences: a main sentence and a relative clause. It is the result of the combination of two independent clauses: *Ti ricordi quel romanzo?* and *Ti ho parlato di quel romanzo l'altro giorno.*

The common element in both sentences is the word *romanzo*. In the first sentence, *romanzo* is the object; and in the second one, it is the indirect object. *Parlare* requires the preposition *di* before the noun that expresses the topic related to the verb "to talk," which is, in this example, *di quel romanzo*. Remember, in order to replace a *complemento indiretto* (which *romanzo* is in the second sentence), we have to use *cui*, and it is preceded by the preposition required by the verb: *Ti ricordi quel romanzo **di cui** ti ho parlato l'altro giorno?*

For Example:

1. *Ci sono dei piatti **per cui** vado matta.*
"There are some dishes I am crazy about."

The verb *andare matto* requires **per** before the indirect object, which is, in this case, what one goes crazy about.

For Example:

1. *Il signor Bertolli ha lavorato a Genova con mio cugino. Sono andato ieri dal signor Bertolli.*
"Mr. Bertolli worked in Genova with my cousin. I went to Mr. Bertolli yesterday."

In the example above, the common element is *signor Bertolli*. In the first sentence, he is the subject of the sentence. In the second, he is a *complemento indiretto* or the object of the prepositional phrase that starts with *da*.

For Example:

1. *Il signor Bertolli, **da cui** sono andato ieri, ha lavorato a Genova con mio cugino.*
"Mr. Bertolli, to whom I went yesterday, worked in Genova with my cousin."

You *cannot* use *che* because Mr. Bertolli is **not** the subject, **nor** is he the direct object.

For Example:

1. *L'Olanda è il mio Paese preferito. Ho passato una vacanza bellissima in Olanda.*
"Holland is my favorite country. I had a beautiful vacation in Holland."

The common element is "Holland." In the first sentence, it is the subject of the sentence. In the second, it is a *complemento indiretto* or the object of the prepositional phrase that starts with *in*.

For Example:

1. *L'Olanda è il mio Paese preferito **in cui** ho passato una bellissima vacanza.*
"Holland is my favorite country in which I had a beautiful vacation."

According to what the speaker wants to focus on, in Italian as in English, the position may vary.

For Example:

1. *L'Olanda, **in cui** ho passato una bellissima vacanza, è il mio Paese preferito.*
"Holland, in which I had a beautiful vacation, is my favorite country."

For Example:

1. *Questo è Sandro. Gioco sempre a tennis con Sandro.*
"This is Sandro. I always play tennis with Sandro."

The common element is "Sandro." In the first sentence, he is the subject of the sentence. In the second, he is a *complemento indiretto* or the object of the prepositional phrase that starts with *con*.

For Example:

1. *Questo è Sandro **con cui** gioco sempre.*
"This is Sandro with whom I always play tennis."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Food and Proverbs

Since Ancient Rome, proverbs talking about food have been very popular. Here are some popular sayings in Italian that show the importance of good quality food: *Chi ben cena, ben dorme* ("He who dines well, sleeps well.") Also, *Buon vino fa buon sangue* ("Good wine makes good blood.") Some sayings give advice on how to choose tasty food: *Gallina vecchia fa buon brodo* ("Old hen makes good broth.") And, *La migliore carne è quella vicino all'osso* ("The best meat is near the bone.")

Some proverbs come from the rural world and express that world's closeness to nature and its dependence on local food. *I fagioli sono la carne dei poveri* ("Beans are the meat of the poor.") And, *Al contadino non far sapere quanto è buono il formaggio con le pere* ("Don't tell the farmer how tasty the cheese is with the pears.")

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #18

An Unfortunate Incident in Italy

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- 2 Italian
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

18

ITALIAN

1. Poliziotto: Buona sera. Prego s'accomodi.
2. Giulia: Buona sera. Sono qui per sporgere denuncia di un furto che è avvenuto in casa mia.
3. Poliziotto: Prego mi racconti.
4. Giulia: Quando sono rientrata a casa dall'università verso le 17.00, ho trovato tutto l'appartamento sottosopra.
5. Poliziotto: Da dove pensa sia entrato il ladro?
6. Giulia: La finestra da cui è probabilmente entrato è in camera da letto. Il vetro è in frantumi.
7. Poliziotto: Che cosa le manca?
8. Giulia: Circa 50 euro e una catenina d'oro a cui ero legata particolarmente.
9. Poliziotto: Lei ha qualche sospetto?
10. Giulia: Beh negli ultimi due giorni ho notato due individui camminare vicino a casa mia a diversi orari del giorno.
11. Poliziotto: Può descriverli?
12. Giulia: Due uomini, alti circa 170 centimetri, sulla quarantina, vestiti con un completo.
13. Poliziotto: Nient'altro?

CONT'D OVER

14. Giulia: Li ho visti scendere da un macchina lussuosa della quale adesso non ricordo la marca. Ricordo una parte della targa...
15. Poliziotto: Va bene. Le facciamo sapere qualcosa al più presto. La saluto.
16. Giulia: Grazie.

ENGLISH

1. Police officer: Good evening. Please have a seat.
2. Giulia: Good evening. I'm here to report a burglary that happened in my house.
3. Police officer: Please tell me about it.
4. Giulia: When I got back home from the university around five p.m., I found my apartment a mess.
5. Police officer: Where do you think the burglar broke in from?
6. Giulia: The window where he probably entered is in my bedroom. The glass is shattered.
7. Poliziotto: What is missing?
8. Giulia: About fifty euros and a golden necklace to which I'm particularly attached.
9. Police officer: Do you have any suspects?

CONT'D OVER

10. Giulia: Well, in the past two days, I've noticed a couple of individuals walking by my house at different times of the day.
11. Police officer: Can you describe them?
12. Giulia: Two men, 170 centimeters tall, in their forties, dressed in suits.
13. Police officer: Anything else?
14. Giulia: I saw them getting out of a luxury car of which I don't remember the brand now. I remember a part of the plate number...
15. Police officer: Thank you. We'll call you as soon as possible.
16. Giulia: Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
targa	plate number	noun	
sulla quarantina	in one's forties	numeral adjective	
furto	burglary	noun	
catenina	necklace	noun	
in frantumi	to be shattered	adverbial expression	
sottosopra	in a mess	adverb	
rientrare a casa	to go back home, to go home	verbal expression	

essere legati	to be attached	verb	
completo	suit	noun	masculine
lussuoso	luxurious	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Uso la macchina nuova tutti i giorni, ma non ricordo ancora la targa.</p> <p>"I drive the new car every day, but I still don't remember the plate number."</p>	<p>Il nostro insegnante di filosofia non è vecchio; sarà sulla quarantina.</p> <p>"Our philosophy teacher isn't old; he is in his forties."</p>
<p>E' la prima volta che subisco un furto a casa mia.</p> <p>"It's the first time that there is a burglary at my house."</p>	<p>Non compro mai catenine d'oro. Sono troppo care.</p> <p>"I never buy gold necklaces. They are too expensive."</p>
<p>Perchè il vaso di fiori sul balcone è in frantumi?</p> <p>"Why is the flower vase on the balcony shattered?"</p>	<p>Mamma, guarda la camera di Cecilia: è tutta sottosopra!</p> <p>"Mom, look at Cecilia's bedroom:> it's a mess!"</p>
<p>Sono appena rientrata a casa e il telefono sta già squillando!</p> <p>"I just got back home and the phone is already ringing!"</p>	<p>Pietro è legato ai suoi libri. Non li presta mai a nessuno.</p> <p>"Pietro is attached to his books. He never lends them to anyone."</p>
<p>L'uomo prova il completo.</p> <p>"The man tries on the suit."</p>	<p>Ho comprato una macchina lussuosa.</p> <p>"I bought a luxurious car."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

RIENTRARE A CASA. This expression is made of the verb *entrare* preceded by the prefix *ri*, which means "again" or "one more time." Similar verbs are *tornare a casa*, *andare a casa*, or the less common *rientrare* and *rincasare*.

ESSERE LEGATO A. In Italian, the verb *legare* and its past participle *legato* literally mean "tied up." *Essere legato a* expresses a strong attachment to something or somebody. We use the preposition *a* to precede the object or person to which someone is attached.

QUARANTINA. To express an approximate age, Italian uses the decimal numbers and adds the suffix *-ina* to it. It is a noun, and it is preceded by the verb *avere* (which we always use to express age), and it is followed by *d'anni*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Relative Clause, and, Specifically, the Relative Pronouns *Cui* and *Il Quale*.

La finestra da cui è entrato è in camera da letto.

"The window from which he probably has entered is in my bedroom."

There are three types of relative clauses in Italian:

1. Relative clauses introduced by *che*;
2. Relative clauses introduced by *cui*; and
3. Relative clauses introduced by *il quale*.

1. CHE: *Che* is the relative pronoun for a noun that functions as subject or object of the relative clauses.

For Example:

1. *Sono qui per sporgere denuncia di un furto **che** è avvenuto in casa mia.*
"I'm here to report a burglary that happened in my house."

Burglary is the object of the main clause and the subject of the relative clause. Therefore, we use *che*.

2. **CUI:** As we have seen in the previous lesson, ***cui*** is a relative pronoun, and it replaces **indirect objects** (*complemento indiretto*). *Cui* is preceded by the preposition (*in, con, su, per, tra, or fra*) required by the verb.

For Example:

1. *La finestra da cui è entrato è in camera da letto. (entrare da)*
"The window from which he has probably entered is in my bedroom."
2. *[Manca] una catenina d'oro a cui ero legata particolarmente. (essere legato a)*
"A golden necklace I was particularly attached to is missing."

3. **IL QUALE:**

A. We can use ***il quale*** in place of ***che*** when the relative pronoun is the subject of the relative clause. We can combine it with the definite article ***il, la, i, or le***, **according to the gender and number of the noun to which it refers**. Generally, when the relative pronoun functions as the direct object, *che* is preferred.

For Example:

Masculine Singular	Feminine Singular	Masculine Plural	Feminine Plural	
<i>Il quale</i>	<i>La quale</i>	<i>I quali</i>	<i>Le quali</i>	= <i>che</i>

For Example:

1. *Oggi ho telefonato a Giulio, il quale/ che ha dimenticato il nostro appuntamento.*
"Today I called Giulio, who forgot our appointment."

If it refers to a woman, then *il quale* becomes *la quale*.

For Example:

1. *Oggi ho telefonato a Giulia, la quale ha dimenticato il nostro appuntamento.*
"Today I called Giulia, who forgot our appointment."

We often use *il quale* in order to avoid misunderstandings.

For Example:

1. *Ho incontrato la moglie di Matteo che lavora in ospedale.*
 "I met Matteo's wife, who works at the hospital."

Who works in the hospital? To make it clear, we use *il quale* or *la quale*.

For Example:

1. *Ho incontrato la moglie di Matteo, la quale lavora in ospedale.*
 "I met Matteo's wife, who works at the hospital." (It is the wife who works at the hospital.)

B. When we articulate it with a simple preposition (*alla, dalle, dei, or sul*, for example), it can replace *cui*. It is a variable pronoun, and when we use it in the plural, **quale** becomes **quali**. It must agree in number and in gender with the noun to which it refers.

Example with the preposition *di*:

Masculine Singular	Feminine Singular	Masculine Plural	Feminine Plural	
<i>del quale</i>	<i>della quale</i>	<i>dei quali</i>	<i>delle quali</i>	= <i>di cui</i>

For Example:

1. *Li ho visti scendere da un macchina lussuosa della quale adesso non ricordo la marca.*
 = *Li ho visti scendere da un macchina lussuosa di cui adesso non ricordo la marca.*
 "I saw them getting out of a luxury car of which I don't remember the brand now."

2. *Oggi ho incontrato quella ragazza con la quale ho parlato in biblioteca due giorni fa.*
=*Oggi ho incontrato quella ragazza con cui ho parlato in biblioteca due giorni fa.*
"Today I met that girl with whom I talked in the library two days ago."

However [article/preposition] + *quale* is not as common as [preposition] + *cui* in spoken Italian. It is more common in written language.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Popular Detective Dramas on Italian Television

Following are three of the most popular detective dramas on Italian television.

The first one is *Il commissario Rex*, or "*Inspector Rex in Rome*." It is the successor to an Austrian television series (*Kommissar Rex*) that ran from 1994 to 2004. It features a smart German shepherd that works for the police district. The dog is involved in solving crimes.

The second one is "*Don Matteo*," starring Terence Hill as an inquisitive parish priest who solves crimes that happen in his town. Don Matteo has a good sense of humor, and he is also quietly athletic. The series is set in the beautiful medieval town of Gubbio, in the central Italian region of Umbria.

The last detective story is *Il commissario Montalbano* ("Inspector Montalbano"), which is based on the acclaimed novels by Andrea Camilleri and features Zingarelli. The inspector is a sharp, unconventional, anti-authoritarian person. He loves to eat, and he refuses to talk while concentrating on his food. He is intuitive in his approach to solving crimes, and he doesn't let regulations stand in his way of getting results. The drama is set in Sicily, in a fictional town named Vigata, but the series is filmed in the southern Sicilian city of Ragusa.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #19

Take a Relaxing Holiday in Italy

CONTENTS

- 2 Italian
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

19

ITALIAN

1. Giulia: Ciao Claudio, come stai oggi?
2. Claudio: Ciao Giulia, sto abbastanza bene. Grazie.
3. Giulia: Ho saputo che sei stato parecchio male.
4. Claudio: Eh sì, ho avuto un virus che ha preso lo stomaco. Sono stato in ospedale per tre giorni.
5. Giulia: Mamma mia. Sono contenta di vederti in forma adesso.
6. Claudio: Grazie. Ora avrei bisogno di fare una vacanza per rilassarmi. Approfitto del ponte del primo maggio per passare qualche giorno al mare. A questo proposito volevo chiederti una cosa.
7. Giulia: Dimmi.
8. Claudio: Ho saputo che l'estate scorsa sei stata in un campeggio, vicino a Palermo.
9. Giulia: Sì è vero. Sono un'appassionata del campeggio. Ma...come l'hai saputo?
10. Claudio: Maria mi ha detto che siete andate insieme e vi siete divertite molto.
11. Giulia: E' verissimo. Le attrezzature per il campeggio funzionavano bene e la spiaggia era proprio vicina. Inoltre i ristoranti della zona offrivano un piccolo sconto ai campeggiatori. Noi non lo sapevamo ed è stata una piacevole sorpresa!
12. Claudio: Mi potresti dire il nome del campeggio. Vorrei cercarlo su internet.

CONT'D OVER

13. Giulia: Guarda, ora non ricordo, ma domani ti porto il catalogo e tutte le informazioni necessarie.

14. Claudio: Grazie.

ENGLISH

1. Giulia: Hi, Claudio, how are you today?

2. Claudio: Hi, Giulia, I'm doing okay. Thank you.

3. Giulia: I heard you were quite sick.

4. Claudio: Oh yeah. I got a virus that gave me a stomachache. I was in the hospital for three days.

5. Giulia: Oh my gosh, I'm happy to see you are well now.

6. Claudio: Thank you. Now I really need a vacation to relax. I want to take advantage of the long weekend of the first of May to spend a few days by the sea. Speaking of which, I wanted to ask you something.

7. Giulia: Tell me, what is it?

8. Claudio: I heard that last summer you went camping near Palermo.

9. Giulia: Yes, that's right. I'm really into camping. But...how did you find that out?

10. Claudio: Maria told me that you went together and had a lot of fun.

CONT'D OVER

11. Giulia: That's true. The camping equipment worked well, and the beach was really close. Besides, the restaurants of the area offered a discount to all the campers. We didn't know that, so it was a pleasant surprise.
12. Claudio: Could you tell me the name of the campsite? I'd like to search about it on the Internet.
13. Giulia: Well, I don't remember it now, but tomorrow I can bring the catalog and all the necessary information to you.
14. Claudio: Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
attrezzatura	equipment	noun	
parecchio	quite	adverb	
catalogo	catalog	noun	
campeggio	camping	noun	
ponte	long weekend (literally; bridge)	noun	
approfittare	to take advantage	verb	
stomaco	stomach	noun	masculine
appassionato	to be into/to be passionate about	adjective	
campeggiatore	camper	noun	

sorpresa

surprise

noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>L'attrezzatura di questa palestra è un po'vecchia.</p> <p>"The equipment of this gym is a bit old."</p>	<p>Laura è stata parecchio delusa dal viaggio in Tunisia.</p> <p>"Laura got quite disappointed with the trip to Tunisia."</p>
<p>Questo è il catalogo per la collezione primavera-estate.</p> <p>"This is the catalog for the spring-summer collection."</p>	<p>Di solito trascorriamo le nostre vacanze in campeggio.</p> <p>"We usually spend our holiday camping."</p>
<p>Per il ponte di Tutti i Santi ci facciamo una capatina a Londra.</p> <p>"For the long weekend of All Saints' Day, we're doing a flying visit to London."</p>	<p>I bambini approfittarono dell'assenza della madre.</p> <p>"The kids took advantage of their mother's absence."</p>
<p>Ho mal di stomaco.</p> <p>"I have stomachache."</p>	<p>Vedo che sei un appassionato di musica classica.</p> <p>"I see you are a lot into classical music."</p>
<p>I campeggiatori dovrebbero sempre rispettare le regole del campeggio.</p> <p>"The campers should always respect the rules of the camping place."</p>	<p>C'è una piacevole sorpresa per te.</p> <p>"There is a pleasant surprise for you."</p>
<p>Non mi piacciono le sorprese.</p> <p>"I don't like surprises."</p>	<p>Ho fatto una sorpresa alla mia ragazza.</p> <p>"I surprised my girlfriend."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

PONTE. *Ponte* literally means "bridge," and it's a visual metaphor for a long weekend. In Italy not all festivities are on Friday. If the holiday is on Tuesday, Monday is a day off too. That is a "bridge."

CAMPEGGIO. *Andare in campeggio* means "to go to a camping place," and we translate it as a verb in English meaning "to go"

APPASSIONATO. The adjective *appassionato* refers to a person who has a strong interest in or passion for something. It comes from the word "passion." It can also describe things. *Un dibattito appassionato* is a lively debate.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Verb *Sapere* in the *Passato Prossimo* and *Imperfetto*.

Ho saputo che l'estate scorsa sei stata in un campeggio, vicino a Palermo.

"I've heard that last summer you went camping near Palermo."

Sapere translates to two different meanings:

1. "to know" or "to get to know"

For Example:

1. *So che cosa devo fare.*
"I know what I have to do."

2. "to know how to" or "can"

For Example:

1. *So suonare il violino.*
"I can play the violin."

In this lesson, we consider *sapere* in relation to the first meaning.

Sapere has a different meaning depending on whether we use it in the *passato prossimo* or

in the *imperfetto*.

Sapere: Imperfetto

Sapere is a regular verb ending in *-ere*, and the conjugation is the following:

io sapevo
tu sapevi
lui/lei/Lei sapeva
noi sapevamo
voi sapevate
loro sapevano

In the imperfect (*l'imperfetto*), **sapere** translates as "knew." It means to have known something for a long time.

For Example:

1. **Sapevo** che la festa era oggi.
"I **knew** that the party was today."
2. *Noi non lo sapevamo.*
"We didn't know it."
3. *Sapevamo che Carla era una brava ballerina, am oggi ci ha veramente stupito.*
"We knew that Carla was a good ballerina, but today she really surprised us."

Sapere: Passato Prossimo

In the present perfect, the meaning changes to "found out," "have heard," or "got to know." It means getting to know something from somebody.

For Example:

1. *Ho saputo che la festa era oggi.*
"I found out that the party was today."

2. *Ho saputo che arrivano i tuoi nonni.*
"I have heard that your grandparents are coming."
3. *Come l'hai saputo?*
"How did you find it out?"
4. *Ho saputo che sei stato parecchio male.*
"I heard you were quite sick."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

May in Italy

May in Italy is a good time to find different festivals. There are flower festivals, food and wine festivals, local history reenactments, and many other events. May starts with a public holiday: May Day on May first. In Italian, it is called *Primo Maggio* or *giornata dei lavoratori*, which means "the day of the workers." Therefore, many shops and services are closed, although the tourist areas are often open.

The first May Day celebration started in 1890 as an attempt to celebrate workers' achievements in their struggle for their rights. The Fascist regime suppressed this bank holiday, but it was reintroduced after the Second World War. Many events and demonstrations are held in the squares of the main cities, and they are often organized by labor unions. Very popular is the *Concerto del Primo Maggio* ("1 May's Concert"), which is organized by Italian labor unions in Rome in Piazza San Giovanni. About 300,000 to 350,000 people attend every year, and the most famous pop and rock bands as well as songwriters perform for the entire day.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #20

Having an Italian Gossip Session

CONTENTS

- 2 Italian
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

20

ITALIAN

1. Maria: Ciao Giulia. Oggi non ti ho visto in università.
2. Giulia: Oggi sono stata a casa. Ho dormito tutto il giorno.
3. Maria: Come mai?
4. Giulia: Beh l'altra sera sono stata alla festa di facoltà e poi quando sono tornata a casa non mi sentivo bene. Ho passato la notte in bianco.
5. Maria: Mi spiace. E la festa com'è andata?
6. Giulia: Molto vivace. Ho conosciuto un sacco di persone.
7. Maria: Qualcuno in particolare?
8. Giulia: ahah...Ti piace il pettegolezzo!?
9. Maria: Ovvio!
10. Giulia: beh, ho parlato a lungo con un ragazzo di nome Giorgio. Un tipo in gamba.
11. Maria: Interessante...
12. Giulia: E poi sai chi c'era? Il nuovo ragazzo di Antonella, uno spagnolo molto carino, ma un po' vanitoso.
13. Maria: Ah, sì Pedro. E' timido e a volte dà l'impressione di essere un po' antipatico. In realtà è una persona sensibile.

CONT'D OVER

14. Giulia: E tu come lo sai?
15. Maria: Antonella mi ha presentato Pedro l'altro giorno. Guarda non ci crederai - io lo conoscevo già! Ci siamo incontrati due anni fa a Madrid durante uno scambio scolastico.
16. Giulia: Ma non mi dire!

ENGLISH

1. Maria: Hi, Giulia. Today I didn't see you at the university.
2. Giulia: Today I stayed at home. I slept all day.
3. Maria: Why?
4. Giulia: Well, the other night, I went to the faculty party and when I got back home, I wasn't feeling very well. I didn't sleep all night.
5. Maria: I'm sorry to hear that. And how did the party go?
6. Giulia: It was very lively. I met lots of people.
7. Maria: Anyone in particular?
8. Giulia: [laughs]...You love gossiping!
9. Maria: Of course!
10. Giulia: Well, I talked a lot with a guy named Giorgio. A cool guy.

CONT'D OVER

11. Maria: Interesting...
12. Giulia: You know who was there? Antonella's new boyfriend. A good-looking Spanish guy, but he seemed a little vain.
13. Maria: Ah yes, Pedro. He is shy and sometimes he gives the impression to be a little unpleasant. In fact, he is a sensitive person.
14. Giulia: And how do you know that?
15. Maria: Antonella introduced Pedro to me the other day. You won't believe it —I already knew him from before! We met two years ago in Madrid during a school exchange.
16. Giulia: You're joking!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
sensibile	sensitive	adjective	
dare l'impressione	to give the impression	verbal expression	
timido	shy	adjective	masculine
vanitoso	vain	adjective	
un tipo in gamba	a cool guy	nominal expression	
ovvio	of course	adverb	
passare la notte in bianco	to not sleep all night	verbal expression	

pettegolezzo	gossip	noun
un sacco	a lot, lots	noun
vivace	lively	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Non puoi dire nulla ad Alice. E' molto sensibile.</p> <p>"You can't say anything to Alice. She's very sensitive."</p>	<p>E' importante dare una buona impressione al primo colloquio di lavoro.</p> <p>"It's important to give a good impression at the first job interview."</p>
<p>Carlo è troppo timido: non parla quasi mai.</p> <p>"Charles is too shy: he hardly ever talks."</p>	<p>A scuola mio figlio è timido, ma a casa è vivacissimo!</p> <p>"At school my child is shy, but at home he is rowdy!"</p>
<p>Non ho mai conosciuto una ragazza vanitosa come te!</p> <p>"I never met a girl as vain as you!"</p>	<p>Mio cugino è proprio un tipo in gamba.</p> <p>"My cousin is really a cool guy."</p>
<p>Vai a vedere il derby Milan- Inter? Ovvio!!!</p> <p>"Are you going to watch derby Milan against Inter? Of course!!!"</p>	<p>Domani ho l'esame; probabilmente passerò la notte in bianco.</p> <p>"Tomorrow I have an exam; I probably won't sleep all night."</p>
<p>Luisa si sposa? Penso sia solo un pettegolezzo.</p> <p>"Is Luisa going to get married? I think it's a mere gossip."</p>	<p>Alla mia festa di laurea c'era un sacco di gente.</p> <p>"At my graduation party there were a lot of people."</p>

Ieri c'è stata una discussione vivace tra me e Samantha.

"Yesterday there was a lively discussion between me and Samantha."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

PASSARE LA NOTTE IN BIANCO.

A literal translation would be "to spend a white night." It means "to lack sleep during the night." We often use the expression *in bianco* in idiomatic expressions like *mangiare in bianco* ("to have a light meal") or *andare in bianco* ("to draw a blank/not to score")

UN SACCO DI.

This expression literally means "a sack of." We use it to express "a big quantity," and it is rather common in spoken language. We do not use it in written language.

SENSIBILE.

We translate this word as "sensitive" in English. This word has a false friend. *Una persona sensibile* ("sensitive") is a person who cares about people's feelings. A word in Italian that looks very similar to "sensitive" is *sensitivo*, but in fact it has a very different meaning. *Una persona sensitiva* is a "medium." *Sensibile* also looks like the word *sensible* in English, but while in Italian *sensibile* means "sensitive" as described

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Difference Between the Verbs *Sapere* and *Conoscere*.

Ho conosciuto un sacco di persone.

"I met a lot of people."

The verbs *sapere* and *conoscere* both mean "to know" but have different implications. As we have seen in the preceding lesson, *sapere* means "to know," "to be able to," or "to know how to."

For Example:

1. *So questa lezione.*
"I know this lesson."
2. *So cantare.*
"I know how to sing; I am able to sing."

Conoscere means "to know," "to be acquainted with," or "to make the acquaintance of."

For Example:

1. *Io conosco Sara, ma non Maria.*
"I know Sara, but not Maria."
2. *Non conosciamo la città.*
"We don't know the city."

Sapere has wider usage than *conoscere*.

Let's now look at the difference in meaning and usage of the verb *conoscere* when we use it+ ++ in the *imperfetto* and *passato prossimo*.

In the *imperfetto*, *conoscere* conjugates as a regular verb in *-ere*:

Io conoscevo

Tu conoscevi

Lui conosceva

Noi conoscevamo

Voi conoscevate

Loro conoscevano

In the imperfect, **conoscere** expresses "something that we have known for a long time."

For Example:

1. ***Lei conosceva già il professor Dionero.***
"She already knew Professore Dionero."
2. ***Lo conoscevo già!***
"I already knew him from before."

In the present perfect, the meaning changes. It means "to get to know someone" or "to meet someone."

For Example:

1. ***Lei ha conosciuto il professor Dionero alla conferenza.***
"She met Professor Dionero at the conference."
2. ***Ho conosciuto un sacco di persone.***
"I met a lot of people."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Aperitivo

The *aperitivo* time is probably a great occasion to meet people and socialize when in Italy. First of all, what is it? An *aperitivo* is a "pre-dinner drink," meant to "open" the palate and give you a chance to relax and nibble as dinnertime approaches.

A good rule of thumb for evening *aperitivo* is from seven P.M. to nine P.M. What is offered with your *aperitivo* drink really depends on the bar. A few olives and potato chips are usually offered at your table or at the bar counter. Some places also prepare more snacks and even plates with focaccia or pizza, fruit salads, roasts, hot pasta, and cold cuts like prosciutto or salami.

People don't usually just sit at a table as they would at a dinner party but often stand at the bar counter and walk around greeting people they know or making new acquaintances.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #21

Finding a Convenient Italian Apartment

CONTENTS

- 2 Italian
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

21

ITALIAN

1. Claudio: Permesso.
2. Maria: Ciao Claudio! Entra pure. Ma sei bagnato. Piove?
3. Claudio: Sì. Purtroppo mi sono accorto della pioggia solo dopo essere uscito.
4. Maria: Ecco un asciugamano.
5. Claudio: Grazie! Che carino questo tuo nuovo appartamento.
6. Maria: Sì. Ti ricordi quello dell'anno scorso? Vecchio, piccolo e buio.
7. Claudio: Come l'hai trovato?
8. Maria: Stavo leggendo il quotidiano locale e appena prima di buttare via il giornale mi sono accorta di un'inserzione di una piccola agenzia immobiliare. Ho fissato l'appuntamento per vedere l'appartamento. Mi è piaciuto subito e l'ho preso in affitto.
9. Claudio: Sei proprio stata fortunata anche perché dista poco dall'università.
10. Maria: Infatti.
11. Claudio: A proposito di università, ti sei accorta che in bacheca sono esposti i risultati dell'esame scritto di inglese?
12. Maria: No! Non me ne sono accorta. L'ultima volta che sono stata all'università, avevo una fretta maledetta e non ho guardato la bacheca. Allora? Non tenermi sulle spine!

CONT'D OVER

13. Claudio: Abbiamo superato entrambi la prova. Adesso ci aspetta solo l'esame orale.
14. Maria: Solo l'orale.... si fa per dire! Ci sono almeno 5 libri da studiare!

ENGLISH

1. Claudio: May I come in?
2. Maria: Hi, Claudio! Come in, please. You're wet. Is it raining?
3. Claudio: Yes. I realized it was raining only after I left my place.
4. Maria: Here's a towel.
5. Claudio: Thanks. Your new apartment is really nice.
6. Maria: Yes. Do you remember the one from last year? Old, tiny, and dark.
7. Claudio: How did you find it?
8. Maria: I was reading the newspaper, and just before throwing it away I noticed there was an ad from a small real estate agency. I scheduled an appointment to see the apartment. I liked it straightaway, and I rented it.
9. Claudio: You were very lucky also because it is close to the university.
10. Maria: Indeed.

CONT'D OVER

11. Claudio: On the topic of the university, have you noticed that the results of the English written tests are out on the bulletin board?
12. Maria: No! I didn't notice that. Last time I went to the university, I was in a big hurry and I didn't check the bulletin board. So don't keep me on my tiptoes!
13. Claudio: We both passed the test! Now we only have to take the oral test.
14. Maria: Only the oral one... But as a matter of fact, there are at least five books to read!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
permettere	may	verb
maledetto	damn	adjective
bacheca	board	noun
distare	to be far from	verb
prendere in affitto	to rent	verbal expression
fissare l'appuntamento	to schedule an appointment	verbal expression
agenzia immobiliare	real estate agency	noun+adjective
inserzione	ad	noun
quotidiano	newspaper	noun
tenere sulle spine	to keep on one's tiptoes	verbal expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>E' permesso? Sono Sandro.</p> <p>"May I come in? It's Sandro."</p>	<p>Non possiamo lavorare con questo maledetto rumore!</p> <p>"We can't work with so much damn noise."</p>
<p>Puoi trovare offerte di libri di seconda mano in bacheca.</p> <p>"You can find offers of second hand books on the board."</p>	<p>Quanto dista la tua casa dal centro città?</p> <p>"How far is your house from the city center?"</p>
<p>In estate prendiamo in affitto un appartamento perchè l'albergo è troppo caro.</p> <p>"In summer we rent an apartment because the hotel is too expensive."</p>	<p>Hai fissato per la prossima settimana l'appuntamento dal dentista?</p> <p>"Have you scheduled the dentist appointment for next week?"</p>
<p>Sei già andato in agenzia immobiliare a firmare il contratto?</p> <p>"Have you already been to the real estate agency to sign the contract?"</p>	<p>Recentemente ci sono poche inserzioni di lavoro su questo giornale.</p> <p>"Recently there are a few job ads in this newspaper."</p>
<p>Leggo il quotidiano ogni giorno a colazione.</p> <p>"I read the paper every morning at breakfast."</p>	<p>Non tenermi sulle spine. Raccontami come è finito il film.</p> <p>"Don't keep me on my tiptoes. Tell me how the movie ended."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

QUOTIDIANO. As a noun, it means "newspaper." As an adjective, it means "of every day." *La vita quotidiana* is "the life of every day." A newspaper that is published every day is therefore generally called *il quotidiano*.

PRENDERE IN AFFITTO. *Affittare* in Italian means both "rent" and "to rent out." A clearer way

to express these concepts is *prendere in affitto* ("to rent") and *dare in affitto* ("rent out").

DISTARE. In Italian, to explain "distance" (*la distanza*), we often use the verb *distare*. A number or a noun that indicates distance then follows the verb.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Verb *Accorgersi*.

Purtroppo mi sono accorta della pioggia solo dopo essere uscita.

"I realized it was raining only having left my place."

Accorgersi is a pronominal verb. It has two meanings:

1. "to realize it"
2. "to notice something"

The past participle is *accorto*. *Accorgersi* takes *essere* in compound tenses like all the pronominal and reflexive verbs. The past participle *must agree* with the subject of the sentence.

Simple tense:

For Example:

1. *Non mi accorgo mai quanti soldi spendo quando faccio shopping.*
"I never realize how much money I spend when I go shopping."

Compound tense:

For Example:

1. *Appena prima di buttare via il giornale mi sono accorta di un'inserzione di una piccola agenzia immobiliare.*
"Just before throwing the newspaper away, I noticed there was an ad for a small real estate agency."

The verb *accorgersi* takes the preposition *di* followed by an infinitive verb or a noun.

For Example:

1. *Ti sei accorta della neve?*
"Have you noticed the snow?"
2. *Mi sono accorta di amare Carlo.*
"I realized I love Carlo."

In this last sentence, the subject of the verb *accorgersi* and the subject of the verb *amare* are the same (in this case *io = I*).

If the subject is different, the sentence requires a relative clause introduced by *che*.

For Example:

1. *Maria non si è ancora accorta che Luca non la sopporta. (lei/lui)*
"Maria has not realized yet that Luca can't stand her." (she/he)
2. *Ti sei accorta che nevica? (tu/ lui)*
"Have you noticed that it is snowing?" (you/it)

The pronoun *ne* can substitute for *di* + the noun or the infinitive verb.

For Example:

1. A: *Ti sei accorta della neve?*
B: *No, non me ne sono accorta! (ne= della neve)*
A: "Have you noticed the snow?"
B: "No, I didn't notice it."
2. *Ho lasciato le chiavi in casa. Purtroppo, me ne sono accorta quando sono arrivata alla macchina e non potevo aprirla. (ne = che ho lasciato le chiavi in casa)*
"I left the keys in the house. Unfortunately, I realized it when I reached the car and could not open it."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Apartments to Rent

In Italy, eighty percent of families own their places; only twenty percent live in rental apartments. Most people who want to rent a house or an apartment look for a place on the Internet, in the newspaper classifieds, in apartment hunter publications, on college campus bulletin boards, or in real estate agencies (*agenzie immobiliari*). Depending on the market, this service of real estate agencies may be free (paid for by landlords) or cost you a percentage of your rent. The "initial deposit" is called *deposito* or *caparra*.

Of course, the cost of an apartment will vary according to the location, size, and age of an apartment. Most apartments are available both "furnished" (*ammobiliati*) and unfurnished. The apartments that are furnished don't have all the same appliances as American apartments. Dryers, air conditioners, and elevators are quite rare. Each apartment is different, but washing machines and dishwashers are usually common electronics. Kitchens are usually well equipped with dishes, glasses, and eating utensils; and, of course, there is always an Italian-style espresso maker called Moka.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #22

A Doomed Italian Shopping Trip

CONTENTS

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

#22

DIALOGUE - ITALIAN

MAIN

1. Giulia : Trovare un parcheggio in questa zona è come cercare un ago in un pagliaio.
2. Sara : Giulia, guarda. Quel posto è libero!
3. Giulia : Bravissima sorellina! Ecco, ora parcheggiamo e andiamo a fare la nostra spesa per la festa di domani sera. Ce l'hai la lista della spesa?
4. Sara : Sì, ce l'ho... o almeno credo.
5. Giulia : Cosa vuol dire 'credo'. Ci avevo scritto tutto quello che manca. Ed era pure una lunga lista.
6. Sara : Aspetta un secondo che controllo. No, non ce l'ho! Mi sa che è nell'altra borsa.
7. Giulia : Uffa! Non posso mai fare affidamento su di te. Sempre la stessa storia.
8. Sara : Dai, ora esageri. Sicuramente ci ricordiamo cosa dobbiamo comprare quando passiamo per le corsie del supermercato.
9. Giulia : Ah sì? Ce li abbiamo i mandarini? E le carote ce le abbiamo o no?
10. Sara : Beh, per sicurezza compriamo entrambi no?
11. Giulia : E bevande, quante bottiglie ne dobbiamo comprare?
12. Sara : Giulia, te lo dico sempre di scriverti la lista sul cellulare o di scaricarti l'applicazione apposita, ma tu sei alla vecchia e scrivi tutto su un pezzo di carta. Quindi non prendertela con me!
13. Giulia : [ride] ce l'hai vinta sempre tu. Forza andiamo!

ENGLISH

1. Giulia : Looking for a parking space in this area is like looking for a needle in a haystack.
2. Sara : Giulia, look. That parking spot is free!
3. Giulia : Well done, little sister! So, now we park, and then we go to do our big shopping for tomorrow evening's party. Do you have the shopping list?
4. Sara : Yes, I have it...or at least I think so.
5. Giulia : What do you mean "I think so?" On it I wrote everything we don't have. And it was quite a long list.
6. Sara : Wait a second while I check. No, I don't have it. It's probably in the other bag.
7. Giulia : Oh man! I can never rely on you. It's always the same story.
8. Sara : Come on, now you're exaggerating. Surely we can remember what we have to buy when we go through the aisles of the supermarket.
9. Giulia : Oh really? Do we have tangerines? And the carrots, do we have any or not?
10. Sara : Well, we should buy both just in case.
11. Giulia : And the soft drinks, how many bottles shall we buy?
12. Sara : Giulia, I always tell you to write the shopping list on your cell phone or to download the shopping app, but you are so old-fashioned and always write everything on a piece of paper. So don't take it out on me!
13. Giulia : [laughs] You always win. Come on, let's go!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
averla vinta	to win, to have it one's way	verbal expression
prendersela con	to take it out on	verbal expression
essere alla vecchia	to be old-fashioned	verbal expression
scaricare	to download	verb
mandarino	tangerine	noun
corsia	aisle	noun
fare affidamento su	to rely on	verbal expression
sorellina	little sister	noun
cercare un ago nel pagliaio	look for a needle in a haystack	verbal expression
spesona	big shopping	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Maria è testarda. Vuole sempre averla per vinta.</p> <p>"Maria is stubborn. She always wants it her way."</p>	<p>Ma perché te la prendi sempre con tuo fratello più piccolo?</p> <p>"Why do you always take it out on your little brother?"</p>
<p>Perché non ti compri un cellulare? Sei un po' alla vecchia.</p> <p>"Why don't you buy a cellphone? You are a bit old-fashioned."</p>	<p>Scaricare film da internet è illegale.</p> <p>"It's illegal to download movies from the Internet."</p>
<p>Mi dispiace, non c'è più neanche un mandarino!</p> <p>"I'm sorry, there are no more tangerines left."</p>	<p>I piselli li puoi trovare nella corsia dello scatolame.</p> <p>"You can find the peas in the canned goods aisle."</p>
<p>Puoi sempre fare affidamento su di me.</p> <p>"You can always count on me."</p>	<p>Vi presento la mia sorellina Samantha.</p> <p>"This is my little sister Samantha."</p>
<p>Trovare la mia amica in questa folla è come cercare l'ago nel pagliaio.</p> <p>"Finding my friend in this crowd is like looking for a needle in the haystack."</p>	<p>Che spesa! Non devi andare al supermercato per almeno due settimane.</p> <p>"That's a lot of shopping! You won't need to go to the supermarket for at least 2 weeks."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

CERCARE UN AGO NEL PAGLIAIO. This expression is exactly like the English "to look for a needle in the haystack." We use it when it's difficult or impossible to find something.

SPESONA. It's a "big shopping trip." In Italian the suffixes *-one* for the masculine nouns and *-ona* for the feminine ones indicate largeness. The opposite is *-inol/-ina*.

Some examples are *libro-librone*, *pigro-pigrone*, *mano-manona*.

ESSERE ALLA VECCHIA. You can combine the expression *alla vecchia* with different verbs. It means *alla vecchia maniera*, and the closest translation is "old-fashioned." We often use it to refer to people or places. You can also use it to express something that you used to do.

For Example:

1. *Quest'estate i miei amici ed io abbiamo preso una macchina e siamo partiti alla vecchia.*

"Last summer my friends and I rented a car and left as we used to do."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Verb *Avere* When It Means "to Possess" Together with Pronouns.

Ce l'hai la lista della spesa?

"Do you have the shopping list?"

In Italian, the verb *avere* is one of the two auxiliary verbs for the compound tenses.

It also means "to have," and it is an irregular verb that ends in *-ere*.

When the verb "to have"(1) means "to possess" AND (2) we use it with a direct pronoun, then you place the particle *ce* before the direct pronoun.

For Example:

1. *Hai la lista della spesa?*

Sì, ce l'ho.

Let's focus on the sentence *Sì, ce l'ho*. In this sentence, the pronoun that precedes the verb *avere* is *la* because it refers to *la spesa*, a feminine singular noun. When *la* is before the verb *avere* it becomes *l'*.

L'ho

L'hai

L'ha

L'abbiamo

L'avete

L'hanno

Let's now review the other direct pronoun.

Number	Masculine Noun	Feminine Noun
Singular noun	<i>lo</i>	<i>la</i>
Plural noun	<i>li</i>	<i>le</i>

In front of the verb *avere* (in all its tenses) you apostrophize only the pronouns *lo* and *la*, not the pronouns *li* and *le*.

For Example:

1. A: *Hai un cappotto per l'inverno?*
B: *No, non ce l'ho (lo = un cappotto)*
A: "Do you have a coat for the winter?"
B: "No, I don't have it."

2. A: *Hai la lista della spesa?*
B: *Sì, ce l'ho. (la = la lista)*
A: "Do you have the shopping list?"
B: "Yes, I have it."

3. A: *Hai i guanti che ti ha regalato Giovanna?*
B: *Non non ce li ho. Li ho persi. (li = i guanti)*
A: "Do you have the gloves that Giovanna gave you?"
B: "No, I don't have them. I lost them."

4. A: *Hai le torte da portare alla festa?*
B: *Sì, ce le ho. Sono in cucina. (le = le torte)*
A: "Do you have the cakes to bring to the party?"
B: "Yes, I have them. They are in the kitchen."

Remember that the direct pronoun always precedes the verb *avere* when it is in the present tense, *imperfetto*, future, and *passato prossimo*.

When you use the verb *avere* with a direct pronoun, you place the particle **ce** before the pronoun.

For Example:

1. *E le carote ce le abbiamo o no?*
"And the carrots? Do we have any or not?"
2. *Ce li abbiamo i mandarini?*
"Do we have tangerines?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Products DOC and DOP

Recently, Italians have become more and more attentive to the type of food they buy. Organic food is more popular, and many people choose DOP or DOC products. They are more expensive but more genuine and more controlled. What do these codes stand for? DOC stands for *denominazione di origine controllata*, and it is often on wine labels. A similar code, DOP, which stands for *denominazione di origine protetta*, certifies the origin of the products. DOC and DOP products are exported all around the world and their lists are quite long, from the Roman *ricotta* (similar to cottage cheese) to the *pecorino* from Sardinia or the balsamic vinegar. However, the three most popular products are *Parmigiano Reggiano* ("parmesan cheese"), *Prosciutto di Parma* ("parma ham"), and *Mozzarella di bufala* ("buffalo mozzarella cheese").

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #23

Talking TV in Italian

CONTENTS

- 2 Italian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

23

ITALIAN

1. Luca: Oh finalmente! Sta per finire questo telegiornale; sempre le stesse notizie! Non vedo l'ora di godermi il film che inizia dopo il TG.
2. Giulia: Cosa hai detto Luca? Eh no! C'è un dibattito sul nucleare. Niente film questa sera.
3. Luca: Ma no Giulia! E' un film datato, ma interessante, "I Ragazzi dello zoo di Berlino."
4. Giulia: Già ieri sera ho sopportato la mamma che ha voluto vedere quel polpettone della "Principessa Sissi." Stavo per andare a letto per la disperazione!
5. Luca: Pensandoci bene, prima di cena stavo lavorando a un articolo che devo scrivere per lavoro. Facciamo così - registro il film e lo guardiamo un'altra sera.
6. Giulia: Davvero? Il dibattito dura solo 45 minuti. Perché non lo guardiamo insieme e poi vai a lavorare? Magari ti piacerà.
7. Luca: Va bene, dai. Potrebbe essere interessante. Guardiamolo per un pochino.
8. Giulia: Luca, hai inserito il DVD nel lettore per registrare il film?
9. Luca: Oh no... mi son dimenticato!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Luca: Finally! This newscast is about to finish; always the same news! I can't wait to watch the movie that starts after the news.
2. Giulia: What did you say, Luca? Oh no! Tonight there's a TV debate on nuclear energy. No movies tonight.
3. Luca: No, Giulia! I don't want to miss this movie. It's dated, but it is an interesting one, "We Children From Bahnhof Zoo."
4. Giulia: Last night I had to put up with Mom, who wanted to watch that boring movie, "Princess Sissi." I was about to go to bed at nine o'clock out of desperation.
5. Luca: Well...thinking it over, before dinner, I was working on an article that I have to write for work. Let's do this...I'll record the movie and watch it another night.
6. Giulia: Really? The debate only lasts forty-five minutes. Why don't we watch it together and then you finish work? You might like it.
7. Luca: Why not? It could be interesting. Let's watch it for a short while.
8. Giulia: Luca, have you inserted the disk in the DVD player to record the movie?
9. Luca: Oh no...I forgot!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
non veder l'ora	can't wait	verb	

registrare	to record	verb	
pensarci bene	to think over well	verbal expression	
polpettone	boring, heavy	noun	
sopportare	to bear with, to put up with	verb	
datato	dated	adjective	
nucleare	nuclear	noun	
dibattito	debate	noun	
TG (Telegiornale)	newscast	noun	
lettore DVD	DVD player	phrase	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Non vedo l'ora che arrivino le vacanze di Natale!</p> <p>"I can't wait for the Christmas holiday to come."</p>	<p>Questa sera, registra il film, così domani possiamo vederlo.</p> <p>"Tonight, record the movie, so we can watch it tomorrow."</p>
<p>A pensarci bene, lo sai che hai proprio ragione!</p> <p>"Thinking it over, you are right!"</p>	<p>Il film di ieri sera è stato proprio un polpettone.</p> <p>"The movie last night was really boring."</p>
<p>Cerca di sopportare la nonna: lo sai, ha 100 anni!</p> <p>"Try to bear with Grandma: you know she is 100 years old!"</p>	<p>Questo è un romanzo datato, ma lo leggerò comunque.</p> <p>"This novel is a bit dated, but I still want to read it."</p>

<p>In Italia tutte le centrali nucleari sono chiuse.</p> <p>"In Italy all nuclear plants are closed."</p>	<p>Il dibattito politico di ieri sera è stato movimentato.</p> <p>"The political debate last night was lively."</p>
<p>Il TG1 va in onda alle 20:00.</p> <p>"TG1 is broadcasted at 8 p.m."</p>	<p>Il lettore DVD è rotto.</p> <p>"The DVD player is broken."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

NON VEDERE L'ORA. A verb always follows this expression, and a noun cannot follow it, as it does in English. The preposition that introduces the verb is *di*.

TG. It is the abbreviation of the word *telegiornale*, and it is formed by the word *tele*, or "TV," and *giornale*, for "newspaper." In Italy, the number following the code TG indicates the channel that broadcasts it. So, TG1 is on RAI 1 or channel 1.

POLPETTONE. Literally, *polpettone* is a dish, and it is similar to "meatloaf." We also use it to describe something boring or heavy to read or watch.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Verb *Stare*.

Sta per finire questo telegiornale.

"This newscast is about to finish."

The verb *stare* has numerous meanings and usages in the Italian language.

1. *Stare* indicates a **temporary physical condition**, and an adverb often follows it. We use it as an answer to the question *Come stai?* (*sto bene/benissimo, sto male/malissimo, sto meglio di ieri, sto peggio di ieri, etc.*)

For Example:

1. *Come stai oggi?*
"How are you today?"

2. *Stare* can describe a **physical position**. It expresses stillness and persistence of a condition. In this sense, a synonym is the verb *restare* ("stay").

For Example:

1. ***Sto qui ad aspettarti da due ore!***
"I've been waiting here for you for two hours!"

3. *Stare* can express an action that is happening right now. We use it to form the *presente progressivo* and *passato progressivo* (the "present progressive" and "past progressive").

We form it as *stare* + gerundio*

For Example:

1. *Prima di cena stavo lavorando a un articolo che devo scrivere per lavoro.*
"Before dinner, I was working on an article that I have to write for work."
2. *Sto andando al supermercato.*
"I'm going to the supermarket." (That is, you are going right now.)
3. *Non ti arrabbiare! Stavamo solo scherzando!*
"Don't be mad! We were only joking!"

* The verbs in *-are* form the gerund as *-ando*. *Cantare* = *cantando*

The verbs in *-ere* form the gerund as *-endo*. *Leggere* = *leggendo*

The verbs in *-ire* form the gerund as *-endo*. *Dormire* = *dormendo*

4. ***Stare per* + infinitive** means "to be about to do something."

For Example:

1. *Sta per finire questo telegiornale.*
"This newscast is about to finish."
2. *Stavo per andare a letto per la disperazione!*
"I was about to go to bed out of desperation!"
3. *Il treno sta per partire.*
"The train is about to depart."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Beginning of Italian TV

In Italy, the first TV experiments were conducted in Turin in 1934, while the TV program was officially broadcast in 1954 by the RAI Broadcast Center in Turin. In the 1950s, a television was a luxury good and only some bars and restaurants, as well as well-to-do families, could afford it. Those who could spend the money on them became community leaders and often invited the neighborhood to visit. Bars and cafés turned into mini-cinemas, where arguments over what show to watch would break out. Churches also bought televisions, and more people would spend time in the parish community. The first set of programming for RAI 1 (which stands for *Radio Audizioni Italiane*) was almost completely educational with no advertising, except for the popular *Carosello*. Early shows were meant to teach a common language, Italian, to a country that had never truly shared a common language. Some of the most popular shows were quiz and game shows. *Il Musichiere*, presented by the actor Mario Riva, was a quiz show about songs and music. Another popular show at the time was *Lascia o Raddoppia?* ("Leave or Double it?"), a kind of precursor to a modern-day game show like "Deal or No Deal?" It was hosted by the famous American-born Mike Bongiorno. In the 1960s, TV became available in most Italian homes, and for the next decade the TV history of Italy is really the story of its public channel RAI. Until the 1970s, RAI was the only broadcaster in Italy.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #24

The Italian Wedding

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- 2 Italian
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

24

ITALIAN

1. Giulia: Pronto?
2. Maria: Ciao Giulia, sono Maria. Come va?
3. Giulia: Bene. Tutto a posto Maria? Non chiami mai al telefono fisso...
4. Maria: Lo so, scusa, ma ho smarrito il tuo numero di cellulare. Senti avrei un piacere da chiederti. Ho visto un bellissimo abito da sera in quel negozio che ti piace di corso Emanuele II.
5. Giulia: Finalmente l'hai trovato. E.. io che c'entro?
6. Maria: Siccome oggi c'è lo sciopero dei mezzi pubblici e dei taxi, pensavo.... ecco... per caso mi puoi accompagnare?
7. Giulia: Guarda, oggi è un po' difficile perchè sono un po' presa. Magari lunedì.
8. Maria: Devo assolutamente comprarlo oggi. Il matrimonio di Luisa è domani. Come faccio senza vestito? Io sono la testimone.
9. Giulia: Capisco, però perchè ti riduci sempre all'ultimo momento? Mi dispiace, ma non posso accompagnarti; ho un appuntamento dal dentista. Prova a chiamare Claudio.
10. Maria: Buona idea. Ora lo chiamo.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Giulia: Hello?
2. Maria: Hi, Giulia, Maria speaking. How are you?
3. Giulia: Fine. Is everything okay, Maria? You never call me on the landline.
4. Maria: I know, sorry, but I lost your cell phone number. Listen...I have a favor to ask you. I saw a beautiful evening gown in the shop that you like on Emanuele II Avenue.
5. Giulia: Finally, you found it. And...what's that got to do with me?
6. Maria: Since today there is the strike of public transportation and taxis, I was thinking...could you drive me there?
7. Giulia: Look, today it's a bit difficult because I'm a bit busy. Maybe on Monday.
8. Maria: I really have to buy it now. Luisa's wedding is tomorrow. How do I do without a dress? I'm her witness.
9. Giulia: I understand, but why do you always leave it to the last minute? I'm sorry, but I cannot take you there; I have an appointment at the dentist. Call Claudio.
10. Maria: Good idea. I'll call him now.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
ridursi all'ultimo momento	to leave to the last minute	verbal expression	

testimone	witness	noun	
essere un po' presi	to be a bit busy	verbal expression	
accompagnare	to go/come with, to take, to bring, to accompany	verb	
a posto	ok	adverb	
entrar-ci	do with	verb	
corso	avenue	noun	
smarrire	to lose	verb	
telefono fisso	landline	noun	
sciopero	strike	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Devi ancora studiare un libro per l'esame di domani? Ti riduci sempre all'ultimo minuto.</p> <p>"You still have to start to study for your test? You always leave everything to the last minute."</p>	<p>Andrea mi ha invitato ad essere testimone alle sue nozze.</p> <p>"Andrea asked me to be his wedding witness-man."</p>
<p>Oggi non posso aiutarti. Sono un po' preso.</p> <p>"Today I can't help you. I'm a bit busy."</p>	<p>Mi puoi accompagnare alla stazione?</p> <p>"Can you take me to the station?"</p>
<p>Tutto a posto? Allora Partiamo.</p> <p>"Everything ok? Then let's leave."</p>	<p>Ma che c'entra Luca in questo?</p> <p>"What does Luca have to do with this?"</p>

<p>Corso Campi è la via più famosa di Cremona.</p> <p>"Corso Campi is the most famous street in Cremona."</p>	<p>Oh no! Ho smarrito la mia carta di credito.</p> <p>"Oh no! I lost my credit card."</p>
<p>Chiamami al telefono fisso. Il cellulare è rotto.</p> <p>"Call me on my landline. My cellphone is broken."</p>	<p>In Italia gli scioperi sono molto frequenti.</p> <p>"In Italy strikes are very frequent."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

A POSTO. A synonym is the very common English word "okay" or the Italian equivalent *va bene*. We can also use it to refuse an offer, especially food or drinks. Do not confuse *essere a posto* with the expression *essere al posto di*, which means "to be someone else" or "to be in someone else's shoes."

ACCOMPAGNARE. It means "to accompany" someone or "to go with" someone somewhere. The word *accompagnare* contains the preposition *con* ("with"). It can be by car or on foot.

ESSERE PRESO. This means "to be busy." There are other common expressions that you can also use, like *essere occupato* or *avere da fare*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of Direct Pronouns and Infinitive Verbs.

Mi dispiace, ma non posso accompagnarti.

"I'm sorry, but I can't take you there."

Review of Object Pronouns

Transitive verbs take direct objects, which can be "direct object pronouns" (*i pronomi diretti*).

These pronouns are the person or thing that the action of the transitive verb affects. They answer the question "what?" or "whom?"

For Example:

1. *Ha chiamato la sorella ieri sera.*
"She called her sister last night." (Whom did she call? Her sister.)
2. *Hanno mangiato la torta.*
"They eat the cake." (What do they eat? The cake.)

The nouns *la sorella* and *la torta* are direct objects. Direct object pronouns replace direct object nouns.

For Example:

1. *Sara invita le amiche alla sua festa di compleanno. Le invita alla festa.*
"Sara invites her friends to her birthday party. She invites **them.**"

Person	Singular	Plural
First	<i>Mi</i> ("me")	<i>Ci</i> ("us")
Second	<i>Ti</i> ("you")	<i>Vi</i> ("you")
Third	<i>Lo</i> ("him," "it" masculine)	<i>Li</i> ("them" masculine)
	<i>La</i> ("her," "it" feminine)	<i>Le</i> ("them" feminine)

Position of the Pronouns

You place a direct object pronoun immediately before a conjugated verb.

For Example:

1. *Se incontriamo la zia al mercato, la invitiamo a pranzo.*
"If we meet my aunt at the market, we'll invite her to lunch."

2. *Compra la frutta e la mangia ogni giorno a colazione.*
"She buys the fruit and eats it every morning."

Position of the Pronouns with an Infinitive

When a sentence contains an infinitive, we attach the object pronoun to the end of it. Please note that we drop the final -e of the infinitive.

For Example:

A: *Vorrei invitare zia Luisa a pranzo.*

B: *Certo! E' una buona idea invitarla!*

A: "I'd like to invite Aunt Luisa for lunch."

B: "Yes! It's a good idea to invite her."

Position of the Pronouns with Modal Verbs

Modal verbs (*potere, volere, dovere*) always require an infinitive.

For Example:

1. *Vorrei andare al cinema stasera.*
"I'd like to go to the cinema tonight."

With the modal verb and the infinitive, you can either place the object pronouns before the modal or attach them to the following infinitive.

For Example:

1. *Sandro è allergico al cioccolato. Sandro non lo puo' mangiare.*
Sandro è allergico al cioccolato. Sandro non puo' mangiarlo.
"Sandro is allergic to chocolate. Sandro cannot eat it."

2. *Mi puoi accompagnare?*
Puoi accompagnarmi?
"Can you drive me there?"

3. *Devo comprarlo oggi.*
Lo devo comprare oggi.
"I must buy it today."

Be aware that a few Italian verbs that take a direct object, such as *ascoltare*, *aspettare*, *cercare*, and *guardare*, correspond to English verbs that we use with prepositions ("to listen to," "to wait for," "to look for," or "to look at").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Wedding Traditions in Italy

If you are getting married to an Italian or simply taking part to a wedding ceremony in Italy, here is a simple and general description of wedding celebrations and their rituals.

Before the ceremony, the groom and the bride are not supposed to see each other because it is thought to bring bad luck. On the wedding day, the groom usually waits for the bride outside the church or the city hall with a bouquet of flowers. He presents her with the bouquet of flowers before the couple walks into the church together.

It is a custom for Italian grooms to keep a small piece of iron in their suit pockets to fend off the evil eye and keep negative spirits away from the ceremony and the marriage. In some regions, a small piece of bread is used instead.

The bride is supposed to wear something old, which represents the past life and all the memories. She should also have something borrowed from a friend or a family member. It is also important that the future wife wears something blue, which expresses purity and sincerity. The garter is usually blue.

At the end of the ceremony, all the guests usually wait outside until the couple comes out; then they shower the couple with rice, *coriandoli* ("confetti"), pasta, and even white rose

petals. Rice represents prosperity, and it is a wish for wealth and perhaps even fertility.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #25

A Romantic Italian Getaway

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ITALIAN

1. Giulia: Ciao Claudio. Ti vedo pensieroso.
2. Claudio: Ciao Giulia. Capiti a proposito. Volevo chiederti un consiglio
3. Giulia: Certo. Che c'è?
4. Claudio: Vorrei fare un regalo a Sara, la mia ragazza. La conosci no?
5. Giulia: Di vista. Sinceramente non la conosco così bene e se vuoi darle qualcosa di speciale, devi chiedere a lei.
6. Claudio: Volevo farle una sorpresa. E poi tu hai buon gusto.
7. Giulia: Non fare il ruffiano adesso. Ti do una mano lo stesso.
8. Claudio: Grazie. Vediamo - a Sara piace la musica classica, ma casa sua è già piena di CD. Poi adora sciare, ma i suoi hanno una casa a Madonna di Campiglio. E' inutile regalarle una settimana bianca. E le piace mangiare fuori.
9. Giulia: No, una cena è scontata.
10. Claudio: Magari in un ristorante particolare. Lei adora la cucina pugliese.
11. Giulia: E che ne dici di un weekend ad Alberobello? E' un posto così particolare! Se ama la Puglia, le piacerà sicuramente.
12. Claudio: Ottima idea!

CONT'D OVER

13. Giulia: Un'amica lavora per un'agenzia viaggi. Posso chiederle informazioni e un preventivo.

14. Claudio: Perfetto!

ENGLISH

1. Giulia: Hi, Claudio. You look like you're thinking about something.

2. Claudio: Hi, Giulia. You arrived at the right time. I wanted to ask you for some advice.

3. Giulia: Sure. What's up?

4. Claudio: I'd like to give a present to Sara, my girlfriend. You know her, right?

5. Giulia: By sight. Honestly, I don't know her very well, and if you want to give her something special, you should ask her.

6. Claudio: I wanted to make it a surprise. You have good taste.

7. Giulia: Don't be a brown noser! I will help you anyway.

8. Claudio: Thank you. Well let's see—Sara likes classical music, but her house is already full of CDs. She loves skiing, but her parents have a house at Madonna di Campiglio. It's pointless to buy her a ski trip. And, she likes eating out.

9. Giulia: No, a dinner out is a predictable present.

CONT'D OVER

10. Claudio: How about in a special restaurant? She adores the cuisine from Puglia.
11. Giulia: And how about a weekend in Alberobello? It is such a unique place! If she loves Puglia, she will like it for sure.
12. Claudio: Great idea!
13. Giulia: A friend of mine works at a travel agency. I can ask her for information and an estimate for the trip.
14. Claudio: Perfect!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
preventivo	estimate	noun
particolare	unique	adjective
scontato	predictable	adjective
pensieroso	pensive, wistful, thoughtful, pondering	adjective
ruffiano	brown noser	adjective
buon gusto	good taste	nominal expression
di vista	by sight	adverbial phrase
consiglio	advice	noun
settimana bianca	ski trip, skiing holiday week	nominal expression
pugliese	from Puglia	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Vorrei un preventivo di un una vacanza di 15 giorni alle Hawaii.</p> <p>"I'd like an estimate of a 15 day-holiday in Hawaii."</p>	<p>Sul lago di Garda ci sono località veramente particolari dove trascorrere le vacanze.</p> <p>"At the Garda lake there are some really unique resorts where you can spend your holiday."</p>
<p>Questo peluche per la piccola Agata è un regalo troppo scontato!</p> <p>"This teddy bear for little Agata is quite a predictable present!"</p>	<p>Oggi sembri molto pensieroso.</p> <p>"Today, you look very thoughtful."</p>
<p>Non fidarti di Andrea: è un ruffiano!</p> <p>"Don't trust Andrea: he's a brown noser!"</p>	<p>Hai avuto buon gusto nell'arredare il tuo appartamento.</p> <p>"You had a good taste in decorating your apartment."</p>
<p>Parli di Carlo? Lo conosco solo di vista.</p> <p>"Are you talking about Carlo? I know him only by sight."</p>	<p>Un consiglio importante.</p> <p>"An important advice."</p>
<p>Segui il mio consiglio.</p> <p>"Follow my advice."</p>	<p>Sono di ritorno da una settimana bianca a Ortisei.</p> <p>"I'm back from a ski trip at Ortisei."</p>

Devi assaggiare il pane pugliese; è una specialità italiana.

"You have to taste the bread from Puglia; it's an Italian specialty."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

GUSTO. *Gusto* translates as "taste" and "flavor" if you are talking about food and drinks. If you

enter an ice cream shop in Italy, you'll be asked *Quali gusti vuole?* ("What flavor would you like?") To express taste in Italy, you would say, *Al gusto di...* For example, you could say, *una torta al gusto di caffè* ("a coffee-flavored cake"). *Gusto* also expresses an aesthetic concept, such as in *Aver buon gusto* or *avere cattivo gusto* ("to have good taste" or "to have bad taste"). As in English, *avere buon/cattivo gusto* is followed by *in*.

PARTICOLARE. In Italian, it is both an adjective and a noun. As an adjective, it translates as "peculiar" (*ha un gusto particolare*) or "special" (*Niente di particolare* means "Nothing special"). As a noun, it is masculine singular and it means "detail."

SETTIMANA BIANCA. In winter months, many Italians go to the mountains to ski and snowboard. The name *settimana bianca* (literally, "White Week") comes of course from the color of the snow. The verb that goes with *settimana bianca* is *fare*. *Da domani vado a fare la settimana bianca a Cortina* means "Tomorrow I'll go on a ski trip to Cortina."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of Indirect Pronouns with Modal Verbs.

Volevo chiederti un consiglio.

"I wanted to ask you for some advice."

Review of Indirect Pronouns

"Indirect object nouns and pronouns" (*i pronomi indiretti*) answer the question "To whom?" or "For whom?" In English, we sometimes omit the word "to," while in Italian you should always use the preposition *a* before an indirect object noun.

For Example:

1. *Maria ha dato un regalo a Davide.*
"Maria gave a present to David."
2. *Maria ha dato a Davide un regalo.*
"Maria gave David a present."

A *Davide* is the answer to the question "To whom?"

In Italian, if the preposition *a* is before an article, it combines with the definite article to form a *preposizione articolata* ("articulated preposition").

For Example:

1. *Maria ha dato un regalo **allo zio** Davide.*
"Maria gave a present to Uncle David."

The nouns *a Davide* and *allo zio* are indirect direct objects. Indirect object pronouns can replace indirect object nouns.

For Example:

1. *Quando Maria va in ufficio, il suo capo **le** offre sempre un caffè.*
"When Maria goes to the office, her boss always offers **her** a cup of coffee."
2. *Ho scritto a Claudio e Sara tre volte oggi, ma non hanno mai risposto.*
Gli ho scritto tre volte oggi, ma non hanno mai risposto.
"I wrote them (to Claudio and Sara) three times today, but they never replied."

Person	Singular	Plural
First	<i>Mi</i> ("to/for me")	<i>Ci</i> ("to/for us")
Second	<i>Ti</i> ("to/for you")	<i>Vi</i> ("to/for you")
Third	<i>Gli</i> ("to/for him") <i>Le*</i> ("to/for her")	<i>Loro</i> ("to/for them" masculine/feminine) <i>Gli**</i> ("to/for them" masculine/feminine)

**le*: In spoken language, we also tend to use *gli* instead of the singular feminine form *le*. For example, you'll see *Quando la incontri non dargli niente* in place of *Quando la incontri non darle niente* ("When you meet her, don't give her anything").

***gli*: The use of the indirect object pronoun *gli* instead of *loro* is very common.

Position of the Pronouns

We place a direct object pronoun immediately before a conjugated verb.

For Example:

1. *Quando andiamo al bar, Giulia ci offre sempre la colazione.*
"When we go to the café, Giulia always offers us breakfast."

Position of the pronouns with an infinitive:

When a sentence contains an infinitive, we attach the object pronoun to the end of it. Please note that we drop the final -e of the infinitive.

For Example:

1. *E' inutile regalarle una settimana bianca.*
"It's pointless to buy her a ski trip."

Position of the pronouns with modal verbs:

Modal verbs (*potere, volere, dovere*) always require an infinitive.

For Example:

1. *Dobbiamo cucinare tutto il giorno per la cena di stasera.*
"We have to cook all day for tonight's dinner."

With the modal verb and the infinitive, we can either place the object pronouns before the modal or attach them to the following infinitive.

For Example:

1. *Ti volevo chiedere un consiglio.*
Volevo chiederti un consiglio.
"I wanted to ask you for some advice."

2. *Le posso chiedere informazioni.*
Posso chiederle informazioni.
"I can ask her for information."

3. *Gli voglio parlare.*
Voglio parlargli.
"I want to talk to him."

Some common verbs that take an indirect object include the following:

<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>dare</i>	"to give"
<i>dire</i>	"to say"
<i>domandare</i>	"to ask"
<i>prestare</i>	"to lend"
<i>insegnare</i>	"to teach"
<i>mandare</i>	"to send"
<i>mostrare</i>	"to show"
<i>offrire</i>	"to offer"
<i>regalare</i>	"to give (as a gift)"
<i>scrivere</i>	"to write"
<i>telefonare</i>	"to telephone" (in English "to call" takes a direct object)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Alberobello

Alberobello is located in the region of Puglia in southern Italy. It is one of the unique and picturesque destinations of tour operators as well as independent travelers. The small town has been made a UNESCO World Heritage site. What makes it such a unique place? The *trulli*. The *trulli* are whitewashed, conical-roofed houses characteristic of this area. They are remarkable examples of drywall construction, a prehistoric building technique still in use in this region. The whole structure is built with local limestone. In ancient times, the stones were irregular, while the more recent ones are regular and well ordered. The roofs of the larger buildings end in a decorative pinnacle. Roofs are constructed to be able to collect rainwater in a region where water is quite scarce. Roofs may also be decorated with symbols that are probably related to primitive magic and religion.

The best way to experience *trulli* is to stay in one, so you can get an idea of what a *trullo* is like as a home. In Alberobello, there are a few hotels that have some *trullo* accommodation or there is even a more affordable alternative. You can stay in a self-catering *trullo* apartment.



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