

LEVEL
7
Volume 2



Italian

Intermediate



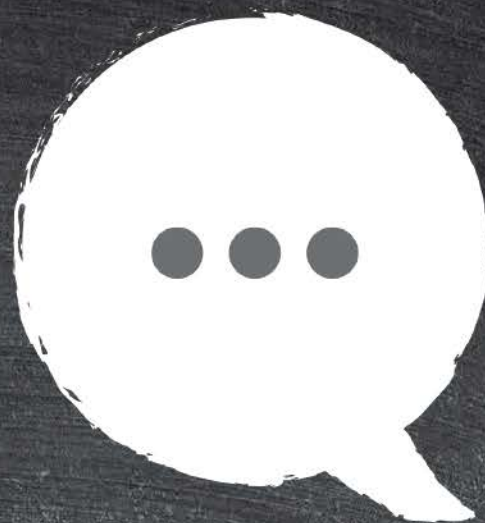
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LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #1

Complaining is Pointless in Italy

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#1

ITALIAN

1. Sandro: Giovanna, buongiorno. Come mai sei così in ritardo? Tutto bene?
2. Giovanna: Sì. La mia macchina è dal meccanico e con i mezzi pubblici ci vuole un'eternità a venire qui. E' impossibile fare affidamento sull'autobus di questa città! Per fortuna stasera la mia 500 dovrebbe essere pronta e vado a ritirarla.
3. Sandro: Ho capito. E' che anche Sara non è in ufficio e mi stavo preoccupando. Sono mica venuto al lavoro in un giorno di ferie?
4. Giovanna: No, no. Oggi ci sono lezioni regolarmente. Sara non si è fatta ancora vedere perchè dovrebbe essere andata dall'oculista per una visita. Mi ha detto che vede le note un po' sfocate.
5. Sandro: A che ora arriva?
6. Giovanna: Non mi ha detto esattamente, ma forse arriverà per l'ora di pranzo.
7. Sandro: Allora noi iniziamo a lavorare sul programma dello spettacolo del prossimo mese.
8. Giovanna: Volevo proprio parlarti della scaletta. Sono un po' insoddisfatta della scelta dei pezzi. Forse è meglio inserire anche una canzone di Natale visto che siamo a dicembre. Che ne dici?
9. Sandro: Potrebbe essere un'idea.
10. Giovanna: Aspetta vado a prendere il catalogo delle canzoni natalizie. Dovrebbe essere nell'altro ufficio se Sara non ha dimenticato di restituirlo l'altro giorno. Torno subito.

CONT'D OVER

11. Sandro: Trovato?
12. Giovanna: No, niente. Appena arriva, mi sente! Si dimentica sempre di riportare i libri di uso ufficio...
13. Sandro: Per ora è inutile lamentarsi. Tanto vale concentrarsi su qualcos'altro. Abbiamo talmente tanto da preparare e così poco tempo.

ENGLISH

1. Sandro: Giovanna, good morning. Why are you so late? Is everything okay?
2. Giovanna: Yeah. My car is at the mechanic, and with the public transportation, it takes ages to get here. It's impossible to rely on the bus system in this city! Fortunately, my car should be ready tonight, and I can pick it up.
3. Sandro: I see. Sara also hasn't shown up yet in the office, and I was getting worried. Did I come to work on a holiday?
4. Giovanna: No, no. Today there are regular lessons. Sara should be at the ophthalmologist for a checkup. She told me that recently she sees notes a bit out-of-focus.
5. Sandro: At what time will she arrive?
6. Giovanna: She didn't tell me exactly, but maybe she'll arrive at lunchtime.
7. Sandro: Then let's start working on the program for the show of next month.

CONT'D OVER

8. **Giovanna:** Actually, I wanted to talk to you about the set list of songs. I'm a bit unsatisfied with the choice of the pieces. Maybe it's better to add a Christmas song too since we are in December. What do you think?
9. **Sandro:** That could be an idea.
10. **Giovanna:** Okay, I'm going to get the catalog of Christmas songs. It should be in the other office if Sara didn't forget to return it the other day. I'll be back right away.
11. **Sandro:** Did you find it?
12. **Giovanna:** Nope, nothing. As soon as she arrives, I'll have a word with her. She always forgets to return the books that are to be used in the office...
13. **Sandro:** For now, it's pointless to complain. We might as well focus on something else. We have so much to prepare and so little time.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
talmente	so much	adverb	
tanto vale	as well	adverbial locution	
Sentire qualcuno	to have a word with someone, to tell someone off	verb	
restituire	to give back, to return	verb	
meccanico	mechanic	noun	masculine
visita	checkup, visit	noun	

farsi vedere	to show up	verb
eternità	ages	noun
fare affidamento	to rely	verb
scaletta	set list of songs, schedule	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

E' talmente buona questa torta, che ne prendo un'altra fetta. "This cake is so tasty that I'll have another slice."	E' inutile lamentarsi. Tanto vale pagare la multa al più presto. "There's no point in complaining. You might as well pay the fine as soon as possible."
Sono le due di notte. Quando mia figlia torna a casa, mi sente! "It's 2 am. When my daughter gets back I'll have a word with her!"	Restituiscimi la mia matita! "Give me back my pencil!"
Ho portato la mia moto dal meccanico. "I brought my motorbike to the mechanic."	Non posso venire: ho preso un appuntamento per una visita col mio dentista. "I cannot come. I have an appointment for a checkup with my dentist."

Carlo non si fa più vedere al bar da quando ha una nuova ragazza. "Carlo doesn't show up at the bar since he got a new girlfriend."	Ci vuole un'eternità per arrivare a casa di Silvia perchè abita in un piccolo paese di montagna. "It takes ages to get to Silvia's place because she lives in a small town in the mountains."
Non puoi fare affidamento su Luisa: e' sempre in ritardo. "You can't rely on Luisa: She is always late."	Carlo, fammi vedere la scaletta dello spettacolo di fine anno. "Carlo, please show me the schedule for the end of the year show."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

FARE AFFIDAMENTO.

It means "to rely on," and it requires the preposition *su* before a personal or a general noun. The word *affidamento* comes from the verb *fidarsi* ("to trust"). A synonym can be *contare su* or the more general *fidarsi di*.

SENTIRE qualcuno.

It literally means to hear somebody. There is no exact translation in English. Similar expressions would be "to have a word with somebody" or "to tell somebody off." In the English expressions, the person who is angry is the subject while in Italian is the object.

TALMENTE.

This adverb is quite common, and similar expressions are *in modo tale*, *tanto*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Modal Verb *Dovere* to Express a Hypothesis.

Sara dovrebbe essere andata dall'oculista per una visita.

"Sara should be at the ophthalmologist for a checkup."

We usually translate the modal verb *dovere* as "must" or "have to," and it expresses an obligation or a duty.

For Example:

1. *Oggi devo consegnare questo progetto, ma sono in ritardo sulla tabella di marcia.*
"Today I have to hand in this project, but I am behind schedule."
2. "Today I have to hand in this project, but I am behind schedule."

We also use the modal verb *dovere* to express a hypothesis.

For Example:

1. *Sara dovrebbe essere andata dall'oculista per una visita.*
"Sara should be at the ophthalmologist for a checkup."
2. *Il catalogo delle canzoni natalizie dovrebbe essere nell'altro ufficio.*
"The catalogue of the Christmas songs should be in the other office."
3. *Gli invitati dovrebbero arrivare verso le otto.*
"The guests should arrive around eight."

In all the examples above, we could replace the verb *dovere* with the adverb *forse* or *probabilmente*.

For Example:

1. *Sara forse/probabilmente è dall'oculista per una visita.*
"Sara is maybe/probably at the ophthalmologist for a checkup."
2. *Il catalogo delle canzoni natalizie forse è nell'altro ufficio.*
"The catalogue of the Christmas songs is maybe in the other office."
3. *Gli invitati forse arrivano verso le otto.*
"The guests may arrive around eight."

As you might notice, we often use the verb *dovere* in the conditional present tense. Although this is often the case, *dovere* can express a hypothesis also when it is in the indicative present tense.

For Example:

1. *Carlo non è ancora arrivato. Deve aver perso il treno.*
"Carlo has not arrived yet. He must have missed the train."
2. *Non sento più rumori. I nostri vicini devono essere già partiti.*
"I don't hear any more noise. Our neighbors must have already left."

Usage of the Prefix *In-* to Give a Negative Meaning to Adjectives

By adding the prefix *in-* to an adjective, the meaning of the adjective becomes negative.

<i>Italian</i>	"English"	<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>soddisfatta</i>	"satisfied"	<i>insoddisfatta</i>	"dissatisfied"
<i>utile</i>	"useful"	<i>inutile</i>	"useless"
<i>coerente</i>	"coherent"	<i>incoerente</i>	"incoherent"

For Example:

1. *E' impossibile fare affidamento sull'autobus di questa città!*
"It is impossible to rely on the bus system of this city!"
2. *Sono un po' insoddisfatta della scelta dei pezzi.*
"I'm a bit dissatisfied with the choice of the pieces."
3. *E' inutile lamentarsi.*
"It's pointless to complain."

Be wary that the prefix *in-* becomes

- *il-* before an *-l*

For Example:

<i>Italian</i>	"English"	<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>logico</i>	"logic "	<i>illogico</i>	"illogic"

- *im-* before the letters *-b*, *-m*, and *-p*

<i>Italian</i>	"English"	<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>possibile</i>	"possible"	<i>impossibile</i>	"impossible"
<i>bevibile</i>	"drinkable"	<i>imbevibile</i>	"undrinkable"
<i>morale</i>	"moral"	<i>immorale</i>	"immoral"

- *ir-* before letter *-r*

<i>Italian</i>	"English"	<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>razionale</i>	"rational"	<i>irrazionale</i>	"irrational"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Public Transportation in Italy

If you are a tourist in an Italian city, the best way to go around is by public transportation. It is usually cheap and quite efficient, and if you are a student, you can even get a student

discount on the monthly local transportation.

Every city usually has an extensive bus or tram network that can be slow around peak hours. Rome, Naples, Turin, and Milan have an underground network known as the *Metropolitana*. Milan has three lines and Rome two, although a new line is being built.

In a city, you can also travel by taxis, which are usually white or yellow. Be aware that fares can be quite high, and there are additional charges for luggage, pets, at nighttime. Official taxis should have taximeters that display the fare to be paid and issue a receipt. The good news is there no need to tip the taxi driver.

Another option for smaller cities is the bicycle. The city center is often close to the traffic and despite the lack of cycling lanes in most cities, cycling is a cheap and interesting option to enjoy your vacation, even in the countryside.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #2

Sending Registered Mail in Italy

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- 2 Italian
- 3 English
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2

ITALIAN

1. All'ufficio postale
2. Sara: Sto andando in posta per spedire una raccomandata.
3. James: Imbucami allora questa lettera - mi fai un grosso piacere.
4. Sara: Certo, non ci sono problemi.
5. Impiegato: Buongiorno, desidera?
6. Sara: Ho bisogno di fare una raccomandata con ricevuta di ritorno. Posso avere l'apposito modulo da compilare?
7. Impiegato: E' lì sul bancone di destra - lo compili e lo consegni al primo sportello.
8. Sara: Ecco fatto. Penso di avere compilato il modulo in tutte le sue parti. Provi a controllare.
9. Impiegato: Manca la Sua firma. Guardi, la metta qui.
10. Sara: Che sbadata! E quanto viene?
11. Impiegato: Sono 5€ e 60 centesimi.
12. Sara: Ecco.
13. Impiegato: Questa è la sua ricevuta. La conservi. Le potrebbe servire in caso di problemi con la Sua raccomandata.

CONT'D OVER

14. Sara: Va bene. Grazie.

ENGLISH

1. At the post office
2. Sara: I'm going to the post office to send a registered letter.
3. James: Then mail this letter for me. It'd be a big favor.
4. Sara: Sure, no problem.
5. Clerk1: Good morning. How may I help you?
6. Sara: I need to send a registered letter with an acknowledgment of receipt. Can I have the appropriate form to fill in?
7. Clerk 1: It's on the right counter. Please fill it in, and then hand it in at the first window.
8. Sara: I'm done. I think I've filled in all parts of the form. Please check it for me.
9. Clerk 2: Your signature is missing. Please write it here.
10. Sara: How silly of me! And how much is it?
11. Clerk 2: It's five euros and sixty cents.
12. Sara: Here you are.

CONT'D OVER

13. Clerk 2: This is your receipt. Please keep it. It could be useful if there are any problems with your registered mail.
14. Sara: Okay. Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
ricevuta	receipt	noun	feminine
sbadato	silly	adjective	
mettere la firma	to write here, to sign	verbal expression	
firma	signature	noun	
raccomandata	registered letter	noun	
bancone	counter	noun	masculine
apposito	appropriate	adjective	
imbucare	to mail, to post	verb	
ricevuta di ritorno	acknowledgment of receipt	noun	
sportello	door, window, counter	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Questa ricevuta va conservata almeno per un anno. "This receipt has to be kept for at least one year."	Sei sbadato questa mattina. Stai per uscire con il maglione al rovescio. "You're distracted this morning. You're about to go out with your sweater inside out."
Metta qui la sua firma per esteso. "Please, sign here your name in full."	Può apporre la sua firma qui per cortesia? "Can you sign here please?"
Ho appena spedito una raccomandata. "I have just sent a registered mail."	Ci sediamo al bancone? "Shall we take a seat at the counter?"
Metti il violino nell'apposita custodia! "Put the violin in its appropriate case."	Mi puoi imbucare questa cartolina, che ho fretta? "Can you mail this card since I'm in a hurry?"
Vuole la ricevuta di ritorno? "Would you like an acknowledgment of receipt?"	Lo sportello dell'auto non si chiude bene. "The car door doesn't close well."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

IMBUCARE. It comes from the noun *buca postale*, meaning "the letter box." It means to put a letter or a postcard in the *buca postale*. A more general word would be *spedire*, meaning "a letter or a postcard." *Imbucarsi*, as a reflexive verb, has a totally different meaning. It means "to hide"; it also means "to crash a party."

METTERE LA FIRMA. It has the same meaning as *firmare*. It's important to remember that in Italian it is not possible to say *scrivere la firma*, meaning "write a signature."

SPORTELLLO. It is usually the door of a cupboard or a closet. We also use it to indicate the window where the employees of an office talk to customers. We use it, for example, in *banca* ("bank"), *ufficio postale* ("post office"), or *uffici pubblici* ("public administration").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of Formal Imperative Together with Pronouns.

Manca la Sua firma. Guardi, la metta qui.

"Your signature is missing. Please write it here."

Let's first review the formation of *imperativo formale* (Lei).

In the third-person singular, we create the *imperativo* as follows:

Verbs ending in *-are* use *-i*

For Example:

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Imperative</i>
<i>Lavorare</i>	<i>Lavori!</i>
<i>Cantare</i>	<i>Canti!</i>

Verbs ending in *-ere* use *-a*

For Example:

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Imperative</i>
<i>Prendere</i>	<i>Prenda!</i>
<i>Correre</i>	<i>Corra!</i>

Verbs ending in *-ire* use *-a*

For Example:

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Imperative</i>
<i>Dormire</i>	<i>Dorma!</i>
<i>Sentire</i>	<i>Senta!</i>

Irregular verbs ending in *-ire* use *-a*

For Example:

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Imperative</i>
<i>Finire</i>	<i>Finisca!</i>
<i>Preferire</i>	<i>Preferisca!</i>

We create the negative form of the imperative in the third-person singular by adding the adverb *non* to the imperative.

For Example:

1. *Non scriva qui la Sua data di nascita.*
"Do not write your date of birth here, please."

Let's now focus on the position of the pronouns when we use them with the *imperative formale*. The pronouns always precede the imperative.

For Example:

1. ***Lo** compili e **lo** consegni al primo sportello.*
"Please fill it in and then hand it in at the first window."
2. *Questa è la sua ricevuta. **La** conservi.*
"This is your receipt. Please hold on to it."

If the sentence is negative, the pronoun goes between the adverb *non* and the verb in the imperative form.

For Example:

1. *Oggi c'è freddo: la giacca è troppo leggera. Non la metta.*
"Today it's cold: the jacket is too light. Do not wear it."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Le Poste Italiane

How was the postal system created? Some ancient documents prove that messengers with horses were used to bring messages already around 4000 B.C. in China. Ancient Egypt also had a quite developed system used by the pharaohs as well as by intellectuals and businessmen. Messages on papyrus were exchanged by water. The Romans paid a lot of attention to creating an efficient postal system, which worked thanks to the existence of 200,000 kilometers of roads throughout the Empire and, above all, in Italy. It would take about twenty-four hours for a *cursores* (the Roman "postman") to cover a distance of 270 kilometers to deliver a letter.

And how does the postal system work now in Italy? It is called *Poste Italiane* or "PT." The mailbox is usually red, while the official colors of the *Poste Italiane* are yellow and blue. There is usually a round yellow sign outside the post office. At the post office, you can carry out all the services related to mailing as well as opening a "savings and checking account," called *banco posta*.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #3

Deciding on an Italian Writing Course

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3

ITALIAN

1. In una scuola di Italiano
2. James: Buongiorno, direttore. Ho chiesto di poter parlare con lei per un corso di italiano.
3. Direttore: Certo, prego si sieda. Lei parla già molto bene. Complimenti. Da quanto tempo è in Italia?
4. James: Da quasi due anni. Mi sembra di capire e esprimermi abbastanza bene nella vita quotidiana. Però devo migliorare lo scritto.
5. Direttore: Ha già fatto dei corsi specifici?
6. James: No. Prima di trasferirmi qui in Italia, avevo studiato italiano alla scuola superiore nella mia città Pittsburg. Ma ho frequentato solo corsi di italiano generale. All'università poi avevo frequentato un corso intensivo di italiano prima di andare a Roma. Ho abitato a Roma per 6 mesi, ma dividevo un appartamento con due ragazzi madrelingua inglese. Avevo anche cercato di cambiare casa dopo un mese, ma a Roma non è semplice.
7. Direttore: Peccato!
8. James: Per lavoro ora ho bisogno di migliorare il mio italiano scritto, anche per eventuali pubblicazioni. E poi vorrei frequentare un corso avanzato con un approfondimento del linguaggio musicale. E poi ho anche qualche problema con la grammatica. Alcune regole proprio non mi entrano in testa.

CONT'D OVER

9. **Direttore:** Non si preoccupi. Non deve pensare troppo alla grammatica , altrimenti si blocca. Se va in segreteria, la possono aiutare a scegliere il corso adatto alle sue esigenze. Comunque, prima di iniziare un corso, deve fare l'esame attitudinale.
10. **James:** Ho capito. Grazie e arriverderci.

ENGLISH

1. (In an Italian language school)
2. **James:** Good morning, director. I asked for this meeting to talk to you about an Italian language course.
3. **Director:** Sure, please have a seat. You already speak very well. How long have you been living in Italy?
4. **James:** Almost two years. I feel that I can understand and express myself quite well in everyday life, but I have to improve my writing skills.
5. **Director:** Have you taken any writing courses before?
6. **James:** No. Before I moved here to Italy, I had studied Italian in high school in my hometown of Pittsburg. But I only attended general courses of Italian. Then in college I took an intensive course in Italian before going to Rome. I lived in Rome for 6 months, but I shared an apartment with two English speaking guys. I tried to move after one month but it's not easy in Rome.
7. **Director:** Too bad...

CONT'D OVER

8. James: I need to improve my writing for work now and also for possible publications. And I would like to attend an advanced course in Italian in the field of music. I also have some trouble with grammar. I can't get certain rules into my head.
9. Director: Don't worry. You shouldn't think too much about grammar, otherwise you will lose confidence. If you go to the administration office, the staff will help you choose courses that match your requests. Anyway, before starting a course, you must take an aptitude test. Anyway, before starting a course, you must take an aptitude test.
10. James: Okay. Thank you. Good-bye.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
segreteria	administration office	noun	
corso intensivo	intensive course	noun+adjective	
trasferirsi	to move	verb	
scuola superiore	high school	phrase	feminine
scritto	writing	verb/noun	
eventuale	possible	adjective	
entrare in testa	to get into one's head	verbal expression	
bloccarsi	to lose confidence/to stop	verb	
esame attitudinale	aptitude test	noun+adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Passa in segreteria per l'iscrizione alla classe successiva. "Go to the administration office to sign up for the following class."	Secondo me hai bisogno di un corso intensivo per migliorare il tuo italiano "In my opinion you need an intensive course to improve your Italian."
Da quanto tempo ti sei trasferita a Los Angeles? "Since when have you moved to Los Angeles?"	Ho dei bellissimi ricordi dei tempi della scuola superiore. "I have some beautiful memories of my high school days."
E' difficile migliorare nello scritto. "It's difficult to improve my writing."	E' meglio che tu faccia l'assicurazione contro eventuali incidenti. "It would be better that you sign a waiver against possible accidents."
Non mi entrano in testa altri verbi italiani. "I can't get any more Italian verbs into my head."	Quando parlo in italiano, qualche volta mi blocco senza motivo. "When I speak Italian, I sometimes stop without reason."
Prima di iscriverti al corso in psicologia, devi fare un esame attitudinale. "Before signing up for the course in psychology, you have to take an aptitude test."	Condivido la camera da letto con mia sorella. "I share a bedroom with my sister."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

TRASFERIRSI. It is a reflexive verb. Synonymous verbs are *traslocare*, *cambiare casa*, and *abitazione*.

ENTRARE IN TESTA. It literally means "to enter somebody's head," and it's a clear image of verbs like *capire* ("to understand") or *imparare* ("to learn"). A similar expression is *rimanere in testa*, which means "to stay in my head or to remember."

BLOCCARSI. It is a reflexive verb, and it generally means "to physically stop." It is often a sudden action. It also expresses a moment of panic perhaps caused by fear or strong emotions.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the *Trapassato Prossimo*.

Prima di trasferirmi qui in Italia, avevo studiato italiano alla scuola superiore nella mia città.

"Before I moved here to Italy, I had studied Italian in high school in my city."

We use the *trapassato prossimo*, or the "past perfect" tense, when two actions happened at different times in the past. The action in the *trapassato prossimo* happens before the action in the *passato prossimo* or *passato remoto* or *imperfetto*.

For Example:

1. *Siamo andati da Luisa per la cena, ma lei aveva dimenticato il nostro appuntamento.*
"We went to Luisa's for dinner, but she had forgotten our appointment."
2. *Quando Sara arrivò a casa, Marco era già uscito.*
"When Sara arrived at home, Marco had already left."
3. *La bicicletta sbandava perchè la ruota era sgonfia.*
"The bicycle was sliding because the wheel was flat."

In Italian, we form the *trapassato prossimo*, a compound tense, with the *imperfetto* of the auxiliary verb *avere* or *essere* and the past participle of the acting verb. The verbs that require the auxiliary verb *essere* in the *passato prossimo* require the same auxiliary verb in the *trapassato prossimo*.

For Example:

1. *Avevo anche cercato di cambiare casa dopo un mese, ma a Roma non è semplice.*
"I tried to move houses after a month, but it's not easy in Rome."

Here, the verb *cercare* requires the auxiliary verb *avere*.

For Example:

1. *Quando Sara arrivò a casa, Marco era già uscito.*
"When Sara arrived at home, Marco had already left."

The verb *uscire* requires the auxiliary verb *essere*.

We often use the *trapassato prossimo* with time adverbs like *quando* or *prima di* that express the passing of the time between the two actions in the past.

For Example:

1. *Quando Luca è arrivato in ufficio, la riunione era già iniziata.*
"When Luca arrived at the office, the meeting had already started."

Please notice that *già* is always between the auxiliary and the past participle.

For Example:

1. *All'università poi avevo frequentato un corso intensivo di italiano prima di andare a Roma.*
"In college, I took an intensive course on Italian before going to Rome."

Notice that the preposition *di* and an infinitive form always follow *prima*.

For Example:

1. *Prima di andare a Roma...*
"Before going to Rome..."

2. *Prima di iniziare un corso...*
"Before starting a course..."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Parli Italiano?

Italian is a neo-Latin language that, as the name suggests, derives from the Latin language. In particular, it derives from the Latin spoken in the Late Roman Empire or *latino volgare*. Over the centuries, what is now called modern Italian has been influenced by the literary language used in Florence in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries but also by many other languages like French, German, Arabic, and Turkish as a result of the several foreign dominations occurring on the Italian soil during the centuries.

Italian is the official language of Italy, the Republic of San Marino, Switzerland (together with French and German), and the Vatican City. It is spoken also in Slovenia, Croatia, and Albania. According to a survey of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Italian is the fifth most-studied language in the world as a second language. A country like Montenegro is an interesting case study. Italian has been taught in middle school since 1995, and most students seem to like the language of the *Bel Paese*. Over 30,000 university students have chosen to study Italian as a foreign language. An impressive number, if we consider that the population counts only 600,000 people.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #4

Suffering Losses in Italy

CONTENTS

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

#4

ITALIAN

1. Sara: Giovanna hai per caso visto i miei occhiali? Li lascio sempre in giro...
2. Giovanna: Quelli piccoli e dorati? No mi dispiace. Sai, dovresti usare una catenella.
3. Sara: Hai ragione. Me li devo mettere al collo. Ogni due per tre, li perdo!
4. Giovanna: Ti porto in un negozio dove fanno degli accessori molto carini, incluse delle catenelle per occhiali simpatiche e colorate.
5. Sara: Dovrei anche decidermi a comprare un portaocchiali.
6. Giovanna: Ma non te l'ha regalato Lucia a Natale?
7. Sara: Era nero e così ho perso pure quello.
8. Giovanna: Al tuo compleanno te lo regalo arancio!
9. Sara: Spiritosa!
10. James: Scusate, qualcuna ha portato lo spartito delle musiche di Morricone da provare oggi? Lo volevo prestare a Sandro, ma credo di averlo lasciato a casa. Glielo avevo promesso!

ENGLISH

1. Sara: Giovanna, have you seen my glasses by any chance? I always leave them around...
2. Giovanna: The small, golden ones? No, I'm sorry. You should use a glasses chain.

CONT'D OVER

3. Sara: You're right. I should put them around my neck. I lose them every so often.
4. Giovanna: I'll take you to a shop where they make some really nice accessories, including some cute and colorful glasses chains.
5. Sara: I should also finally buy a case for my glasses.
6. Giovanna: Lucia gave one to you for Christmas, didn't she?
7. Sara: Yes, but it was black, and I lost that too.
8. Giovanna: For your birthday, I'll give you an orange one.
9. Sara: Very funny.
10. James: Excuse me, has anyone brought the score of Morricone's music that we're going to rehearse today? I wanted to lend it to Sandro, but I think I left it at home. I had promised it to him!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
provare	to rehearse	verb	
spartito	score	noun	masculine
catenella	chain	modified noun	feminine
dorato	golden	adjective	masculine
ogni due per tre	every so often	numeral locution	
per caso	by chance	adverbial locution	
spiritoso	funny, hilarious, witty	adjective	

in giro	around	adverbial locution	
portaocchiali	glasses case	noun	masculine
simpatico	cute	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Stiamo provando per il concerto di domani "We're rehearsing for tomorrow's concert."	Dovresti imparare a suonare possibilmente senza spartito. "You should learn to play without the score, if possible."
Mi servirebbe una catenella per gli occhiali: così non li perdo.. "I need a chain for my glasses: so I don't lose them."	Mi piace questa borsa dorata. "I like this golden purse."
Ogni due su tre mi dimentico la patente a casa! "Every so often, I forget my driver's licence at home!"	Hai visto per caso la mia carta di identità? "Have you by chance seen my ID card?"
Tuo cugino è spiritoso! "Your cousin is funny!"	Siamo stati in giro tutta la notte. "We've been hanging around all night long."
Il gallo canta mentre si dà un'occhiata in giro. "The rooster crows while it glances around."	Questo portaocchiali è troppo ingombrante per la mia borsetta. "This glasses case is too bulky for my bag."
Abbiamo regalato un simpatico peluche a nostro nipote. "We gave a cute stuffed animal to our grandson."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

IN GIRO. Together with different verbs, it acquires different meanings. *Lasciare in giro* means "to leave (stuff) lying around." *Raccontare/dire in giro* generally means "to spread some news around," "to divulge," but also "to snitch." A bit different is *prendere in giro*, which means "to make fun of somebody/something."

CATENELLA. This is a diminutive of the word *catena*, meaning "chain." In Italian, it is possible to form diminutive words by adding *-ino/a* or *-etto/a*. *Catenella* can be "a short chain" or "a thin chain." Do not confuse it with *catenina*, which means "necklace."

PROVARE. We can translate this verb in English both as "to try" or "to rehearse." If in doubt, you can use *fare le prove* (*le prove* means "rehearsal") to replace *provare* for "to practice."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the *Pronomi Combinati*.

Me li devo mettere al collo.

"I have to put them around my neck."

The *pronomi combinati* are couples of pronouns, formed by an indirect pronoun and the direct pronouns. This pair substitutes for a noun that has the function of an indirect object and a noun that has the function of a direct complement.

Let's briefly review the indirect pronouns.

Person	Singular	Plural
First	<i>mi</i> ("to me")	<i>ci</i> ("to us")
Second	<i>ti</i> ("to you")	<i>vi</i> ("to you")
Third	<i>gli</i> ("to him," masculine) <i>le</i> ("to her," feminine)	<i>loro</i> ("to them," feminine and masculine) <i>gli</i> ("to them," feminine and masculine)

Let's review the direct pronouns.

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" or "it," masculine)	<i>li</i> ("them," masculine)
	<i>la</i> ("her" or "it," feminine)	<i>le</i> ("them," feminine)

Here is a sentence from the dialogue with the *pronomi combinati*.

For Example:

1. *Al tuo compleanno **te lo** regalo arancio!*
"For your birthday, I'll give you an orange one."

In the dialogue above, the direct pronoun **lo** refers to "the glasses case" (*il portaocchiali*), a singular masculine noun. The indirect pronoun **te** means "to you." The verb *regalare* in Italian, as it does in English, requires the preposition *a* ("to").

For Example:

1. *Sandro ci porta delle brioche per la colazione. **Ce le** porta ogni sabato mattina.*
"Sandro brings croissants to (for) us for breakfast. He brings them (to us) every Saturday morning."
2. *La signora Ruggeri vi manda spesso delle cartoline. **Ve le** manda ogni volta che va in vacanza.*
"Mrs. Ruggeri often sends you postcards. She sends them (to you) every time she goes on vacation."

There are three rules to follow with the combined pronouns:

- 1) The position: the indirect pronoun always comes first.

For Example:

1. *Ma non **te l'**ha regalato Lucia a Natale? (l' = lo: il portaocchiali)*
"Lucia gave one to you for Christmas, didn't she?"

- 2) The form: the indirect pronoun changes *i* to *e*.

For Example:

1. *Mi piace quel libro. Me lo presti? (lo: "the book")*
"I like that book. Can you lend it to me?"

The indirect pronoun *mi* ("to me") changes to *me*.

3) In combination with *gli* ("to them"), the indirect pronoun and the direct pronoun that follows become a single word, and we add the letter *e* between the two pronouns.

For Example:

1. *Glielo volevo prestare. (lo: spartito/gli: "to Sandro")*
"I wanted to lend it to him."

When combined with a direct pronoun, it is not possible to use *le* as an indirect pronoun for *lei*. *Gli* substitutes for *le*.

For Example:

1. *Hai ricordato a Claudia l' appuntamento dal dentista? Sì, **gliel'**ho ricordato stamattina.*
"Did you remind Claudia about our dentist appointment? Yes, I reminded her about it this morning."

Please notice that the indirect pronoun for the third person singular and plural is the same. There is also the form *loro* for the third person plural, but it is out of fashion, especially in the spoken language.

For Example:

1. *Ho un regalo per Sara e Giovanna. Lo porto loro domani. (not common)*
"I have a present for Sara and Giovanna. I'll bring it to them tomorrow."
2. *Ho un regalo per Sara e Giovanna. Glielo porto domani.*
"I have a present for Sara and Giovanna. I'll bring it to them tomorrow."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Ennio Morricone

Ennio Morricone is a famous Italian composer whose career spans fifty years. Born in Rome in 1928, he studied trumpet at the conservatory and in the 1950s he started to compose music for his former school friend, the movie director Sergio Leone. One of the most famous movies he wrote music for is Leone's version of the western *A Fistful of Dollars* (1964). Since then, he has composed music for movies like Tornatore's *Nuovo Cinema Paradiso*, for which he won the BAFTA award, and John Carpenter's science fiction/horror movie *The Thing*. Recently, even Quentin Tarantino wanted Morricone to compose the soundtrack for his film *Inglourious Basterds*. Morricone did not accept the job, but in the soundtrack, Tarantino still used several Morricone tracks from previous films. Morricone has composed music for more than 500 movies or television series, and he has received two Grammy Awards and two Golden Globes, among other prestigious prizes.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #5

Sitting Down to a Delicious Italian Meal

CONTENTS

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

5

ITALIAN

1. Sandro: Erano mesi che cercavamo di organizzare questa cenetta. Era proprio ora. Quindi Sara che ci consigli? Tu sei una cliente affezionata di questo locale.
2. Sara: Allora decisamente raccomando i casoncelli alla bergamasca come primo.
3. Sandro: Con tutto quel burro fuso però...
4. James: Dai Sandro, domani ti metti a dieta. Per stasera ce li possiamo permettere no?
5. Sandro: Non è una questione di dieta. Preferisco un risotto con pere e pecorino.
6. Sara: I secondi di carne qui sono tutti deliziosi. Io andrei per un coniglio alla cacciatora. Va bene anche per te Giovanna?
7. Giovanna: Sì me ne hai parlato così tanto che lo voglio proprio assaggiare. Ovviamente accompagnato da polenta.
8. James: Io invece vorrei provare questa faraona. Non l'ho mai assaggiata.
9. (mezz'ora più tardi...)
10. Giovanna: Questi casoncelli sono speciali, anche se a me piacciono con tanto parmigiano. Sara, me ne passi un po'?
11. Sara: Eccolo... Questi casoncelli sono una favola. Ce ne facciamo portare un'altra porzione? O preferite del dolce?

CONT'D OVER

12. James: Per me basta così. Anche questo Barbera d'Asti è perfetto! Scusa, Sandro, me ne verseresti un po'? Tanto io non devo guidare.
13. Sandro: Eh però vacci piano con quello! Ha 13 gradi!
14. Cameriere: Signori, tutto bene? Se gradite un dessert, abbiamo un tiramisù della casa... Gliene porto quattro porzioni?
15. Sara: Sì, grazie. E poi quattro caffè.

ENGLISH

1. Sandro: We've been trying to organize this dinner for months! It was about time! So, Sara, what do you recommend? You're a regular customer at this place.
2. Sara: Well, I warmly recommend the "casoncelli" from Bergamo as a first course.
3. Sandro: But with all that melted butter...
4. James: Come on, Sandro, tomorrow you can go on a diet. For tonight, we can treat ourselves to some, right?
5. Sandro: It's not a matter of dieting. I prefer a risotto with pears and pecorino.
6. Sara: The meat dishes here are all delicious. I would go for the rabbit "alla cacciatora," (stewed in a tomato, wine, and herb sauce). Is that okay for you, too, Giovanna?

CONT'D OVER

7. Giovanna: Yes, you talked about it so much that I really want to try it. Of course, served with polenta.
8. James: I'd rather try this guineafowl. I've never tasted it.
9. (half an hour later...)
10. Giovanna: These "casoncelli" are special, although I like them with a lot of parmesan. Sara, can you pass me some more parmesan?
11. Sara: Here you are... You're right, they're amazing. Shall we get another portion? Or would you rather have dessert?
12. James: For me it's enough. This wine, "Barbera d'Asti," is perfect! Excuse me, Sandro, can you pour me some? I don't have to drive tonight!
13. Sandro: Hey, now, easy with that! It has thirteen percent alcohol!
14. Waiter: Is everything okay? How was dinner? If you would like dessert, we have a "tiramisu" of the house. Shall I bring you four portions of it?
15. Sara: Yes, please. And then four coffees.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
andarci piano	(to go) easy	verbal expression	
essere una favola	to be special	verbal expression	
faraona	guinea fowl	noun	

cenetta	dinner/nice dinner	noun	
questione di...	a matter of...	nominal expression	
mettersi a dieta	to go on a diet	verbal expression	
essere ora	to be about time	verbal expression	
cliente affezionato	regular customer	noun+adjective	
coniglio	rabbit	noun	masculine
passare	stop by, pass by, drop in	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Vacci piano con la birra. Ricorda che stasera guidi tu! "Easy with the beer! Remember that tonight you're driving!"	Questo risotto alla milanese è una favola! Ne mangiamo ancora? "This Milano risotto is special. Shall we have some more?"
L'arrosto di faraona è un piatto prelibato nel nord Italia. "Roast guinea-fowl is a delicious dish in north Italy."	Abbiamo organizzato una cenetta per il compleanno di Luca. "We organized a nice dinner for Luca's birthday."
Non è questione di vita o di morte! Non preoccuparti tanto! "It isn't a matter of life and death. Don't worry so much! "	Dalla prossima settimana mi metterò a dieta sul serio. "From next week I'll seriously go on a diet."

E' ora che ti decida. Vuoi andare in spiaggia o fare una passeggiata in montagna questa domenica? "It's about time you choose. Do you want to go to the beach or go for a hike in the mountains this Sunday? "	Da parecchi anni è un nostro cliente affezionato. "For many years he has been a regular customer of ours."
Il coniglio di cioccolato è un dolce pasquale. "The chocolate rabbit is an Easter sweet."	Il coniglio marrone sta mangiando delle foglie in giardino. "The brown rabbit is eating leaves in the garden."
Mi puoi passare una forchetta? "Could you hand me a fork?"	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

CENETTA. This is a *vezzeggiativo* of *cena*; it therefore expresses the same meaning as the word *cena*, but it sounds like "a nice dinner." We make a *vezzeggiativo* in Italian by adding suffixes like *-etto/-etta* to the noun it modifies. It expresses affection or liking.

METTERSI A DIETA. A number of other expressions talk about dieting. For example, *seguire una dieta* means "to follow a diet," *essere a dieta* means "to be on a diet," and *fare una dieta* means "to do a diet." In Italian, *dieta* is only a noun, and there is no verb form of it.

ESSERE UNA FAVOLA. A *favola* is "a fairy tale" or "something beautiful or wonderful." We can use it to compliment somebody or simply to say that something is great. It can describe people's looks, food and beverages, or a place.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the *Pronomi Combinati* ("Combined Pronouns").
Scusa, Sandro, me ne verseresti un po'?

"Excuse me, Sandro, can you pour me some?"

As we studied in Lesson 4, the *pronomi combinati* are couples of pronouns, formed by an indirect pronoun and the direct pronouns *lo*, *la*, *li*, and *le*. This pair substitutes for a noun that has the function of an indirect object and a noun that has the function of a direct complement.

For Example:

1. *I tuoi occhiali sono proprio carini! Me li fai vedere?*
"Your glasses are so cute! Can you show them to me?"
2. *Per stasera ce li possiamo permettere no?*
"For tonight, we can treat ourselves to some, right?"

We can also combine the indirect pronouns with the pronoun *ne*. *Ne* is a pronoun that substitutes for a quantity, either definite and indefinite, as well as a place or a topic. *Ne* often substitutes for a noun, which is then followed by the preposition *di*.

For Example:

1. *Vorrei delle olive. Ne vorrei 200 grammi.* (quantity)
"I'd like some olives. I'd like 200 grams."
2. *Adesso non ho tempo di parlare delle vacanze. Ne parliamo a cena.* (topic)
"I don't have time to talk about the vacation now. We can talk about it at dinner."

The verb in the second example above is *parlare*, which requires the preposition *di*.

The combined pronouns with *ne* follow the same rules as with an object pronoun regarding the following:

- 1) The position: the indirect pronoun always comes first.

For Example:

1. *A me piacciono i casoncelli con tanto parmigiano. Sara, me ne passi un po'?*
"I like the '*casoncelli*' with a lot of parmesan. Sara, can you pass me some more parmesan?"

2) The form: the indirect pronoun changes *i* to *e*.

For Example:

1. *Ce ne facciamo portare un'altra porzione?*
"Shall we get another portion?"

The indirect pronoun *ci* ("to us") changes to *ce*.

3) In combination with *gli* ("to them"), the indirect pronoun and *ne* become a single word, and we add the letter *e* in between the two pronouns.

For Example:

1. *Gliene porto quattro porzioni?*
"Shall I bring you four portions of it?"

Gli means "to them" (here, the polite form for plural), and *ne* substitutes for the word *tiramisù*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Barbera d'Asti

Barbera is a red wine, and it is one of the most popular grape varieties cultivated in Italy (third, after *San Giovese* and *Montepulciano*.) The best known *Barbera* is from Asti in the Piedmont region in northwest Italy. More than half of the production of *Barbera* is located here. Outside of Italy it is rarely found in Europe, but it is widely planted in Central Valley, California.

In Piedmont, especially in the subregion called *Langhe*, entire villages are dedicated to wine production, and the harvest festivals are lively and interesting events for locals as well as for tourists. The wine villages of Alba and Asti are two of the most well-known cities for wine

festivals, and they are definitely good choices as bases for both exploring wineries and sightseeing. Alba holds an annual truffle festival (which attracts chefs from all over the world), and Asti holds the medieval *Palio* festival, a horse race that takes place in the city.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #6

How did you Like that Italian Opera?

CONTENTS

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

6

ITALIAN

1. Nella hall di un teatro durante l'intervallo
2. Sandro: Devo dire che questo "Barbiere di Siviglia" mi sta proprio entusiasmando. Voi che ne dite?
3. James: Sì, è molto interessante. Il cast dei cantanti mi sembra ben affiatato. Mi è sempre piaciuta l'opera italiana, Verdi soprattutto, ma devo dire che questo Rossini che per me è una scoperta di stasera, è molto convincente.
4. Sandro: Una critica però bisogna farla. Non mi piace la scenografia - troppo moderna. Avrebbero dovuto mantenere i costumi dell'epoca.
5. James: A me invece non dispiace. Sei troppo tradizionalista Sandro.
6. Sara: Personalmente non mi è piaciuta Rosina - la voce è un po' incerta negli acuti e poi l'avrei preferita più spigliata. Avrebbe dovuto essere più civettuola. Secondo me avrebbero dovuto scegliere un'altra cantante.
7. Sandro: Magari te, Sara!
8. James: Peccato che non sia venuta Giovanna.
9. Sara: Sì, mi ha detto che sarebbe venuta, ha comprato il biglietto e poi invece mi ha telefonato che ha avuto un imprevisto.
10. Sandro: Veramente un peccato. Comunque, torniamo in platea. Tra poco inizia il secondo atto.

CONT'D OVER

11. James: Sandro c'è ancora un sacco di tempo. Andiamo a prenderci un drink al bar prima.

ENGLISH

1. In a theater hall, during a break.
2. Sandro: I have to say that this "Barber of Seville" is really thrilling. What do you think?
3. James: Yes, it's very interesting. The cast of singers works well together. I've always liked the Italian opera, especially Verdi, but I have to admit that this Rossini, who is a new discovery for me tonight, is very convincing.
4. Sandro: I have some criticism, though. I don't like the scenery—too modern. They should have kept the stage costumes of the time.
5. James: Well, I don't mind it. You are too traditional, Sandro.
6. Sara: Personally, I didn't like Rosina, the female character. Her voice was a bit hesitant at the high notes. I also would have preferred her to be more relaxed. She should have been more coquettish. I think another singer should have been chosen instead of her.
7. Sandro: You would have played it better, wouldn't you, Sara?
8. James: Too bad that Giovanna didn't make it.
9. Sara: Yes, she said she would have come; she bought the ticket, and then she called me up to say that something unexpected came up.

CONT'D OVER

10. Sandro: What a pity. Anyhow, let's go back to the stalls. The second act will start soon.
11. James: Sandro, there's plenty of time. Let's get a drink at the bar first.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
un sacco di	plenty of	adverb	
platea	stalls	noun	
imprevisto	unexpected	noun/adjective	
civettuolo	coquettish	noun	
spigliato	loose, relaxed	adjective	
entusiasmare	to thrill	verb	
costume	costume, fancy dress	noun	masculine
convincente	convincing	adjective	
affiatato	who works well together	adjective	
scoperta	discovery	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Alla mia festa di laurea c'era un sacco di gente. "At my graduation party there were a lot of people."	Mi son goduto il concerto seduto nelle prime file della platea. "I enjoyed the concert sitting in the first rows of the stalls."
Non è venuta a cena: forse avrà avuto un imprevisto. "She didn't come to dinner. Perhaps something unexpected has come up."	Guarda Mara con Stefano! E' proprio civettuola. "Look at Mara with Stefano! She is quite coquettish."
Quando reciti sul palco, devi essere più spigliato. "When you play on the stage, you have to be more relaxed."	Mi entusiasma l'idea di cominciare un lavoro nuovo. "I'm thrilled at the idea of starting a new job."
A Carnevale indosso un costume. "I wear a costume for Carnival."	Devi essere più convincente quando parli al tuo capo. "You have to be more convincing, when you speak to your boss."
Siamo un gruppo di musicisti ben affiatato! "We're a group of musicians who work well together."	Questa commedia di Shakespeare è una vera scoperta per me! "This play of Shakespeare is really a discovery for me."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

AFFIATATO. It is an adjective that describes a group that gets along or works well together in harmony and understanding. *Fiato* means "breath," and therefore the adjective *affiatato* expresses the close relation to some people in a group.

IMPREVISTO. It means "unexpected." In Italian, it can be an adjective as well as a noun.

UN SACCO DI. A *sacco* is a "sack," or a "big bag," and the expression *un sacco di* followed by a noun describes a big quantity of items. Similar expressions are *tanto/i* or *molto/i*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the *Condizionale Passato*.

Secondo me avrebbero dovuto scegliere un'altra cantante.

"I think another singer should have been chosen instead of her."

We use the *condizionale passato* (or "conditional perfect") to express an unfulfilled desire or one that will probably not be fulfilled. It also expresses an action that should have happened but didn't.

We often translate it in English as "would have" + past participle or "should have" + past participle.

For Example:

1. *L'avrei preferita più spigliata.*
"I also would have preferred her to be looser."
2. *Mi ha detto che sarebbe venuta.*
"She said she would have come."
3. *Avrei comprato una torta, ma non avevo abbastanza soldi con me.*
"I would have bought a cake, but I didn't have enough money on me."

The *condizionale passato* is a compound tense, which we form with the *condizionale presente* of the auxiliary verb *avere* or *essere* and the past participle of the acting verb.

For Example:

1. *Avreste potuto chiamare per avvisare che eravate in ritardo.*
"You could have called to warn us that you were late."

2. *Sarebbe stato meglio costruire una scuola invece di un supermercato.*

"It would have been better to have a school built here instead of a supermarket."

Remember that verbs conjugated with the auxiliary verb *essere* must change their endings to agree in number and gender with the subject.

For Example:

1. *Carla sarebbe andata volentieri a teatro, ma purtroppo non c'erano più biglietti.*

"Carla would have gladly gone to the theater, but unfortunately there were no more tickets left."

Carla is a feminine singular noun, and therefore the past participle must end in *-a*.

When we use the masculine, the past participle ends in *-o*.

For Example:

1. *Marco e Antonio sarebbero venuti in vacanza con noi, ma si sono ammalati.*

"Marco and Antonio would have come on vacation with us, but they got sick."

Marco and Antonio are two masculine nouns, and therefore the past participle ends in *-i*.

When the subject is feminine plural, then the past participle ends in *-e*.

Newspaper articles often use the *condizionale passato* to communicate news that is not confirmed yet.

For Example:

1. *L'uomo sarebbe andato in banca e avrebbe usato una pistola giocattolo per la rapina.*

"The man allegedly went into the bank and used a toy gun for the robbery."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Born in 1792 to a trumpeter and a singer, Gioacchino Rossini entered the music academy of Bologna when he was fourteen years old. He started to compose music when he was very young. His first opera, *Tancredi*, which he composed at the age of twenty, won the consensus of the audience in Vienna. He then moved to Naples, where he wrote for the royal theaters until 1817. There, in fewer than three weeks, he wrote the well-renowned *Barbiere di Siviglia* ("The Barber of Seville" (1816)), one of the most performed operas in Italy and in the world nowadays.

Rossini is famous mainly as a composer of *opera buffa* ("comic operas"), but he was also a conductor and accompanist. He played the violin, the horn, and the harpsichord, and he also sang to make extra money. Rossini retired as a wealthy man and gave lavish dinners attended by notable names in music during the nineteenth century. A curiosity: Rossini also loved to cook and even invented a dish called *tournedos Rossini*.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #7

Complaining about an Italian Neighbor

CONTENTS

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

#7

ITALIAN

1. Driin...
2. Vicino di casa: Buongiorno signor Cook. E' un po' di tempo che volevo parlarle, ma non ci incrociamo mai. Se non sbaglio, lei suona il violoncello, vero?
3. James: Sì, mi esercito qualche ora al giorno.
4. Vicino di casa: Non mi fraintenda. Il suono del violoncello mi piace molto. Però da un po' di tempo mi dà fastidio che lei suoni nel primo pomeriggio.
5. James: Nel primo pomeriggio? Può darsi che sia capitato qualche volta. Mi scusi, ma non pensavo di essere così di disturbo.
6. Vicino di casa: Guardi, io mi trovo tra l'incudine e il martello - da una parte lei, il violoncellista e dall'altra la signora Polloni che ha la mania di fare le pulizie nel tardo pomeriggio. Insomma non sopporto che ci sia tutto quel rumore per tutto il pomeriggio.
7. James: Le vorrei ricordare però che il regolamento condominiale dice che non si può fare rumore dopo le 21;00 di sera. Comunque, cerchiamo una soluzione al problema. Può andar bene se suonano dopo le 15;30?
8. Vicino di casa: Andrebbe meglio.. Signor Cook, guardi che io non voglio crearle ulteriori problemi. A me piace la musica, ma anche un po' di tranquillità.
9. James: Va bene. Cercherò di venirle incontro.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Driin...
2. Neighbor: Good morning, Mr. Cook. I've wanted to talk to you for some time now, but we never run into each other. If I'm not wrong, you play the cello, right?
3. James: Yes, I practice a few hours a day.
4. Neighbor: Please don't get me wrong. I love the sound of the cello. But for some time now it bothers me that you play in the early afternoon.
5. James: In the early afternoon? Probably it just happened a few times. I'm sorry, but I didn't think I was such a trouble/disturbance.
6. Neighbor: Look, I feel I'm between a rock and a hard place - on one hand, you, the cellist; and on the other, Mrs. Polloni, who has an obsession with cleaning the house in the late afternoon. I can't stand the fact that there is all that noise the entire afternoon long.
7. James: I'd like to remind you, though, that the condominium regulations say that noise is not allowed after nine P.M. Anyhow, let's find a reasonable solution to the problem. Would it be okay if I play after three-thirty P.M.?
8. Neighbor: It'd be better... Mr. Cook, I don't want to give you more trouble. I like music but also some tranquility.
9. James: Okay. I'll try to meet you halfway.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
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regolamento condominiale	condominium regulation	noun
fraintendere	to get wrong, to misunderstand	verb
incrociarsi	to run into each other	verb
esercitarsi	to practice	verb
dare fastidio	to bother	verb
capitare	to happen	verb
essere tra l'incudine e il martello	to be between a rock and a hard place	verbal expression
mania	obsession	noun
ulteriore	more	comparative adjective
venire incontro	to meet halfway	verbal expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Secondo il regolamento condominiale, i cani non possono gironzolare per il cortile interno. "According to the condo regulations, dogs cannot wander around in the inner yard."	La cena è domani sera, non questa sera: hai frainteso le mie parole. "The dinner is tomorrow night, not tonight. You misunderstood me."
Da molto tempo abitiamo vicini, ma è la prima volta che ci incrociamo. "We've been living next door for a long time, but it's the first time that we run into each other."	Quante volte al giorno ti eserciti al piano? "How often in a day do you practice the piano?"

Mi dà fastidio che, durante il pranzo, tu debba accendere sempre la televisione. "It bothers me that you always switch on the TV during lunch."	Sono cose che possono capitare. "These are things that can happen."
E' una decisione difficile. Mi sento tra l'incudine e il martello. "It's a difficult decision to make. I feel caught between a rock and a hard place."	Hai la mania di pulire tutto un po' troppo. "You have the obsession of cleaning everything a bit too much."
Per risolvere questo giallo, bisogna fare ulteriori indagini. "To solve this thriller, it's necessary to do more investigation."	Gli siamo andati incontro concedendogli un bello sconto. "We met him halfway by giving him a good discount."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

INCROCIARSI. This verb comes from the word *croce* ("cross") and means "to meet randomly." We can also use the verb *incrociare* with the same meaning. However, *incrociare* also simply means "to cross"; for example, *incrociare le braccia/le gambe* means "to cross one's arms or legs." *Incrociare le dita*, which means "to keep one's fingers crossed," is a way to wish somebody luck, as it is in English.

DARE FASTIDIO. *Fastidio* means "annoyance" or "concern" but also "pain" or "pet peeve," according to the context in which we use it. Some synonyms are *seccatura* or *irritazione* ("bother").

For Example:

1. *Che seccatura! L'ufficio era chiuso e devo tornare domani!*
"That's annoying! The office was closed, and I have to go back tomorrow!"

However, we can also use *Dare fastidio* as a polite way of asking for permission.

For Example:

1. *Le da fastidio se chiudo la finestra?*
"Do you mind if I close the window?"

VENIRE INCONTRO. It means "to meet halfway," and we can use it both literally and metaphorically, as we do in English.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Verbs *Non Sopportare* and *Dare Fastidio*.

Non sopporto che ci sia tutto quel rumore tutto il pomeriggio.

"I can't stand the fact that there is all that noise the entire afternoon long."

Mi dà fastidio che lei suoni nel primo pomeriggio.

"Now it bothers me that you play in the early afternoon."

We can use both the verbs *sopportare* and *dare fastidio* when we are complaining about something. We have to use *sopportare* in the negative form, which is *non sopportare* and means "cannot stand."

A noun can follow both verbs.

For Example:

1. *Non sopporto l'odore della vernice fresca.*
"I can't stand the smell of fresh paint."
2. *Ti dà fastidio il mio cane?*
"Does my dog bother you?"

In the first example sentence, the thing that cannot be stood, *la vernice*, is the object of the verb *sopportare*, and the subject, *io*, is the person who cannot stand something.

In the second example sentence, the subject of *dare fastidio* is the thing that causes annoyance, *il mio cane*, and we express the person who feels the annoyance as an indirect

pronoun or as a noun preceded by the preposition *a*. It's the same construction as the verb *piacere*.

We can also use both verbs as a verb in the infinitive form. *Sopportare* needs the preposition *di* before the infinitive.

For Example:

1. *Sara non sopporta di guidare in centro.*
"Sara cannot stand driving in the center."
2. *A Claudio dà molto fastidio mangiare con la Tv accesa.*
"Eating with the television on really bothers Claudio."

It is possible to use an infinitive verb when the subject of the sentence doesn't change.

A proposition introduced by *che* or *quando* can follow both verbs. In this case, the subject of the main and secondary sentences can also be different.

When *che* introduces the secondary sentence, the verb of the sentence must be in the conjunctive. When we use *quando*, we must use the indicative mood.

For Example:

1. *Non sopporto quando la gente arriva tardi.*
Non sopporto che la gente arrivi tardi.
"I cannot stand when people arrive late."
2. *A Giulia dà fastidio quando il marito fuma in camera da letto.*
A Giulia dà fastidio che il marito fumi in camera da letto.
"It bothers Giulia that her husband smokes in the bedroom."
3. *Non sopporto quando mia sorella parla al cellulare a tavola.*
Non sopporto che mia sorella parli al cellulare a tavola.
"I cannot stand when my sister talks on the phone at the table."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

In the Office I Can't Stand Those Who...

A recent questionnaire published by Aol.com considers what the most annoying behaviors among co-workers are. What do you think is on top of the list?

Forty-one percent of the interviewees claim that the most irritating behavior is when other co-workers do not do their job properly and in a timely manner. Negligence is on top of the list. Nobody likes to work on a team with a lazy colleague, especially when he or she does not like to be advised or supervised by other co-workers.

Twenty-three percent cannot stand when co-workers gossip or chat behind the backs of others. Relations in the office can be quite stressful.

In third place is the problems caused by missing deadlines (eighteen percent); being constantly late to work (twelve percent) is another source of annoyance. Lastly, five percent of the interviewees say that they get annoyed by co-workers who pass somebody else's ideas off as their own. It is dishonest and kills the meritocracy in the office.

And, what do you think? Do you agree with this ranking?

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #8

Can You Describe your House in Italian?

CONTENTS

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

8

ITALIAN

1. In front of a real estate agency

2. Sandro: Ciao James, che ci fai da queste parti?

3. James: Sto cercando una casa in questa zona. L'appartamento dove sto è al quarto piano, senza ascensore. E poi è un po' buio.

4. Sandro: E' il prezzo da pagare per uno spazio in centro, negli edifici d'epoca.

5. James: Hai ragione. Il problema è che ho avuto una discussione con il mio vicino - non sopporta che io suoni il violoncello nel primo pomeriggio. Io ho lezione la mattina e la sera in conservatorio. Quando dovrei suonare? Per me è fondamentale che io mi eserciti quotidianamente. E tu, vieni qui a sgranchirti le gambe?

6. Sandro: Sì, almeno tre volte alla settimana vengo a fare jogging visto che abito proprio dall'altra parte del parco.

7. James: Ottimo. Almeno conosco già una persona nel vicinato.

8. Sandro: Eggià! Allora per la tua casa, su che cosa sei orientato?

9. James: Beh è necessario che sia luminosa e possibilmente che abbia un balcone, anche se piccolo.

10. Sandro: La vorresti ammobiliata?

11. James: Oh sì per me è importante che sia già ben ammobiliata. Non sono proprio il tipo di ragazzo che va a fare spese ai mobilifici. Per carità! Ora provo ad entrare in agenzia e vedo cosa hanno da propormi.

CONT'D OVER

12. Sandro: In bocca al lupo! Ciao!

ENGLISH

1. In front of a real estate agency
2. Sandro: Hi, James, what do you do around here?
3. James: I'm looking for a house. My apartment now is on the fourth floor, with no elevator. And, also, it's quite dark.
4. Sandro: It's the price to pay when you live in the city center in historical buildings.
5. James: You are right. The problem is that I had a discussion with my neighbor. He can't stand that I play the cello in the early afternoon. I have lessons in the morning and in the evening at the music academy. When am I supposed to play? For me, it's essential to practice every day. And you, do you come here to stretch your legs?
6. Sandro: Yes, I come to the park to jog at least three times a week because I live on the other side of the park.
7. James: Great. At least I already know one person in the neighborhood.
8. Sandro: That's right! So, about your house, what are you thinking about?
9. James: Well, it's necessary that it is bright and possibly has a balcony, even if small.
10. Sandro: Would you like it furnished?

CONT'D OVER

11. James: Oh yes, for me it is important that it is already well furnished. I'm not the type of guy who enjoys shopping at furniture stores. For heaven's sake! Now I'll go in the agency and check what they have to offer.
12. Sandro: Good luck! Bye!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
Per carità!	For heaven's sake!	exclamation
mobilificio	furniture store	noun
ammobiliato	furnished	adjective
eggià	that's right	exclamation
vicinato	neighborhood	noun
d'epoca	old, historical	nominal phrase
visto che	since	conjunction
sgranchirsi	to stretch	verb
conservatorio	music academy	noun
quotidianamente	everyday	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Andrea, per carità, smettiti di mangiare patatine prima di cena! "Andrea, for heaven's sake, stop eating chips before dinner!"	Questa scarpiera la puoi trovare al mobilificio di Via Dante. "You can find this shoe rack at the furniture store in via Dante."
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Gli appartamenti già ammobiliati sono molto più cari di quelli non ammobiliati. "Furnished apartments are much more expensive than unfurnished ones."	Eggià! Io dovrei stare qui fuori sotto la pioggia e aspettare te per altri quindici minuti. Sei matta! "That's right! I should stay out here in the rain and wait for you another 15 minutes! No way!"
Nel mio vicinato ci sono molte famiglie con animali domestici. "In my neighborhood there are many families with pets."	Ieri sono stato a una mostra di auto d'epoca. "Yesterday I went to an exhibition of classic cars."
Visto che è il tuo compleanno, abbiamo comperato la tua torta preferita. "Since it's your birthday we bought your favorite cake."	Dopo un'intera giornata in ufficio, vado a sgranchirmi le gambe al parco. "After an entire day in the office I go to stretch my legs at the park."
Questa sera gli allievi del conservatorio danno un concerto. "Tonight the students of the music academy are giving a concert."	Faccio esercizi di yoga quotidianamente. "I do some yoga exercises every day."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

QUOTIDIANAMENTE. This is an adverb that means "every day." The suffix *-mente* often characterizes adverbs in Italian. We form adverbs by adding the suffix *-mente* to an adjective. The adjectives ending in *-o* change the last letter *o* to *a*, whereas the adjectives ending in *-e* do not change. In this case, *quotidianamente* comes from the adjective *quotidiano*.

VICINATO. Il *vicinato* defines both the houses and the people "of the neighborhood." It comes from the adjective *vicino*, which means "near" or "close." The word *vicino* is also a noun and means "the neighbor." It is also called *vicino di casa*.

AMMOBILIATO. This adjective contains the word *mobile* or *mobilio*, meaning "furniture." The verb is *ammobiliare*, and we use it as follows: *ammobiliare una stanza, una casa*. It means "to furnish a room or a house." "The furniture store," *il mobilificio*, also contains the noun *mobile*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of *è Necessario, Fondamentale, and Importante Che*.

è necessario che (la casa) sia luminosa.

"It is necessary that (the house) is bright."

We often use the present conjunctive to express the personal opinion and the position of the person who is speaking. We often use the conjunctive in secondary sentences introduced by the conjunction *che* if the subject of the secondary sentence is different from the one of the main sentence.

For Example:

1. *Anna crede che Luis **sia** un bel ragazzo.*
"Anna thinks that Luis is a good looking guy."

The most common verbs and forms used in the main sentence are:

<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>Credo che</i>	"I believe that"/"I think that"
<i>Penso che</i>	"I think that"
<i>Suppongo che</i>	"I suppose that"

All three of these verbs express personal opinions.

However, remember that we can use other expressions to explain a personal position, like the following:

<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>Secondo me</i> <i>Per me</i>	"According to me... "
<i>Sono sicuro che</i>	"I'm sure that"

The present indicative, and not the present conjunctive, follow these expressions.

For Example:

1. *Secondo Anna, Luis è un bel ragazzo.*
"According to Anna, Luis is a good looking guy."

Be aware that the negative form of *sono sicuro che* requires the conjunctive.

For Example:

1. *Mario ha abitato un anno a Tokyo, ma non sono sicuro che **parli** il giapponese.*
"Mario has lived for a year in Tokyo, but I'm not sure he speaks Japanese."

We also use the present conjunctive after the following impersonal expressions:

<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>E' necessario che</i>	"It's necessary that"
<i>E' importante che</i>	"It's important that..."
<i>E' fondamentale che</i>	"It's essential that..."

For Example:

1. *E' importante che [la casa] sia già ben ammobiliata.*
"It is important that [the house] is already well furnished."

2. *E' necessario che [la casa] sia luminosa e possibilmente che abbia un balcone, anche se piccolo.*
"It is necessary that [the house] is bright and possibly has a balcony, even if small."
3. *Per me è fondamentale che io mi eserciti quotidianamente.*
"For me, it's essential to practice every day."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Denim Chair

Italy has always been famous for creative and innovative interior designers, but recent news on a new design for a chair goes beyond any imagination. Casamania, a company founded in 1984, has created a chair that is made entirely of denim. This unique product is called *Rememberme*, and, as the name suggests, it aims to keep the past alive in the present. The jeans used to build the chair are used, old jeans. So, if you have a pair of your beloved jeans that don't fit anymore or that are too washed out to be worn, why don't you get a chair made out of your old denim?

Rememberme perfectly embodies the aim of the brand to create innovative but also more and more sustainable products. Another great product of Casamania is a bookshelf called "Bloom," also created in materials that are completely ecologically sustainable: the aluminum is 100% recyclable, and the teak wood used is certified Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #9

Pulling Strings in Italy

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

9

ITALIAN

1. Presso una liuteria di Cremona
2. Sandro: Buongiorno. Com'è interessante questa bottega! Ho visto in vetrina alcuni suoi violini: sono veramente raffinati.
3. Liutaio: La ringrazio. Beh, sono vent'anni che lavoro sui violini - costruisco violini nuovi, aggiusto quelli usati e recentemente ho anche cominciato a costruire viole. Lei è violinista, suppongo.
4. Sandro: Sì, lavoro qui al Conservatorio. Mi chiamo Sandro Perloni. Ecco questo è il mio biglietto da visita. Una mia collega, la professoressa Giovanna Manasca, mi ha raccomandato la Sua liuteria. Io sono qui da poco e a Cremona è difficile orientarsi con così tante liuterie.
5. Liutaio: Certo, la capisco. La signora Manasca è un'amica di vecchia data. Allora, come posso esserLe utile?
6. Sandro: Sarei venuto per farmi sistemare questo violino a cui sono molto affezionato. Dovrebbe cambiarmi la mentoniera e sistemarmi il ponticello perchè traballa un po'.
7. Liutaio: Eventualmente gli posso anche applicare una bella verniciatura. Venga a ritirarlo venerdì prossimo - la vernice ha bisogno di qualche giorno per essiccare bene.
8. Sandro: Va bene, allora arrivederci tra una settimana.
9. Liutaio: Bene e mi saluti la signora Manasca.
10. Sandro: Sarà fatto!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. At a liuteria ("violin-making shop") in Cremona
2. Sandro: Good morning. What an interesting shop! I've seen some of your violins in the shop window. They are really elegant.
3. Lutist: Thank you. Well, it's been twenty years since I started working on violins; I make new ones, I repair used ones, and recently I also started to make violas. You are a violin player, I suppose.
4. Sandro: Yes, I work here at the Music Academy. My name is Sandro Perloni. Here is my business card. A co-worker of mine, Ms. Giovanna Manasca, has recommended your shop to me. I've been here a short time, and in Cremona it is hard to choose where to go with so many violin shops.
5. Lutist: Sure, I understand. Ms. Manasca is an old friend. So, how can I help you?
6. Sandro: I came here to fix my violin, which I'm really attached to. I'd like to have the chin rest changed and tightened because it is a bit loose.
7. Lutist: I could also apply a coat of paint. You can pick it up next week Friday. The paint needs a few days to dry well.
8. Sandro: Okay, then, see you in a few days.
9. Lutist: Sure, and give my greetings to Ms. Manasca.
10. Sandro: Of course!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
essicare	to dry	verb	
verniciatura	coat of paint	noun	
mentoniera	chin rest	noun	
affezionato	attached	adjective	
orientarsi	to choose where to go, to orient oneself	verb	
liuteria	workshop of violins	noun	
biglietto da visita	business card	phrase	masculine
aggiustare	to mend, fix, settle, repair	verb	
bottega	shop, workshop	noun	
raffinato	elegant	adjective	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Non toccare! La vernice su questa ringhiera è ancora fresca. Deve ancora essicare almeno per un altro giorno. "Don't touch it! The paint on this hand rail is still fresh. It needs to dry for at least another day."	Il suono di un violino dipende anche dalla verniciatura. "The sound of the violin also depends on the paint coating."
La mentoniera è la parte del violino dove si appoggia il mento. "The chin rest is the part of the violin where you place your chin."	Sono molto affezionato a Birba, il mio vecchio cane. "I'm really attached to Birba, my old dog."

E' difficile orientarsi in un bosco senza una bussola. "It is difficult to orient yourself in a forest without a compass."	Sono pochissime in Italia le scuole di liuteria. "There are only very few schools for violin makers."
Mi dimentico sempre di portare i miei biglietti da visita con me. "I always forget to bring my business cards with me."	Ho dimenticato i miei biglietti da visita in ufficio. "I forgot my business cards at the office."
Questa finestra non si chiude, la devo aggiustare. "This window doesn't close; I have to fix it."	Devo aggiustare la macchina. "I have to fix the car."
Le botteghe di gioielli su Ponte Vecchio sono molto famose. "The jewellery stores on Ponte Vecchio are very famous."	Un vestito raffinato. "An elegant dress."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

BOTTEGA. We can translate this word as "shop" but also as "workshop of artisans." This meaning comes from the Middle Ages. It also refers to the world of artists. The expression *andare a bottega da qualcuno* means "to do an apprenticeship with somebody" (for example, *la bottega di Leonardo*). We now use expressions like *aprire bottega* and *chiudere bottega* to say "to set up a shop" and "to shut up a shop."

BIGLIETTO DA VISITA. This phrase translates as "business card" (literally, "visiting card"). In general, *biglietto* in Italian has two meanings. The first meaning is "card." For example, *biglietto di buon compleanno* means "happy birthday card." The second meaning is "ticket." For example, *biglietto del treno* means "train ticket."

VERNICIATURA. This word comes from the noun *vernice* ("paint") and the verb *verniciare*

("to paint" or "to varnish"). It can be used with furniture or a wall.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of Reflexive Pronouns with Transitive Verbs.

Dovrebbe cambiarmi la mentoniera e sistemarmi il ponticello perchè traballa un po'.

"I'd like to have the chin rest changed and the bridge fixed because it is a bit loose."

A verb in Italian is reflexive when the subject carries out the action on itself. Not all verbs can be reflexive. We form a reflexive verb by dropping the infinitive ending *-e* from *-are*, *-ere* and *-ire* while adding the pronoun *-si*.

Vestire ----- *vestirsi* (reflexive form)

Pettinare ----- *pettinarsi* (reflexive form)

For Example:

1. *Serena veste sua figlia.*
"Serena dresses her daughter."
2. *Serena si veste velocemente.*
"Serena gets dressed quickly."

In the first example, the object of the verb *vestire* is her daughter, while in the second sentence, the object is Serena herself (subject and object coincide).

We conjugate the reflexive pronoun *si* as follows: *mi ti si* and *ci vi si*.

We always form the *passato prossimo* of the reflexive verbs with the auxiliary verb *essere*.

For Example:

1. *Mia sorella si è laureata due anni fa.*
"My sister graduated two years ago."

We can also use reflexive verbs as reciprocal verbs. The subject is always plural, and the

reciprocity of the action that the verb expresses often translates in English as "each other."

For Example:

1. *Sara e Marco si abbracciano ogni mattina appena svegli.*
"Sara and Marco hug each other every morning after waking up."
2. *Giovanni si sposa sabato.*
"Giovanni gets married on Saturday."

The subject in the second example is singular, but the action of getting married implies two people.

For Example:

1. *I giapponesi si inchinano quando si salutano.*
"Japanese people bow when they meet."

We can also use the reflexive pronoun with transitive verbs even if the action is not reflexive or reciprocal.

For Example:

1. *Dovrebbe cambiarmi la mentoniera e sistemarmi il ponticello perchè traballa un po'.*
"I'd like to have the chin rest changed and the bridge fixed because it is a bit loose."
2. *Sarei venuto per farmi sistemare questo violino a cui sono molto affezionato.*
"I came here to have my violin fixed, which I'm really attached to."

In the spoken language, it is quite common to add the reflexive pronoun *si* to a transitive verb. It's a way for the speaker to show more emotional involvement or to highlight more expressivity.

For Example:

1. *Volevo cambiarmi la macchina.*
"I wanted to change my car."

2. *Giovanna si è comprata una bel paio di orecchini.*
"Giovanna bought herself a pair of pretty earrings."
3. *Beviamoci un caffè!*
"Let's have a coffee."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cremona, the City of Music

Cremona is located in the south of the Lombardy region on the Po River. Besides being important for its Roman-style cathedral, baptistery, and its *torrazzo* ("tower"), Cremona is known as "the city of music." Not only were musicians like Claudio Monteverdi and Amilcare Ponchielli born in this city, but Cremona also has a long violin-making tradition with its hundreds of *liuterie*. Most of the historical violins are displayed in the first floor of *Palazzo Comunale*, and the collection includes some very prestigious pieces like the 1658 violin called the *Hemmerle* by Nicolò Amati and the *Cremonese* made by Antonio Stradivari in 1715. The collection also has the oldest documented violin, which is supposed to have been constructed around 1560 by Andrea Amati for the French king Charles IX. When you visit Cremona, it is also possible to book a visit at a *liuteria*, a "violin-making store," where students from all over the world learn how to build string instruments.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #10

A Visit Home from Italy

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- 2 Italian
- 2 English
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- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

10

ITALIAN

1. On the way to the airport
2. James: Grazie per il passaggio in aereoporto. Mi dispiace però che sia un po' fuori mano per te.
3. Sandro: Figurati. Dopo che ti avrò accompagnato all'aereoporto, andrò da un vecchio amico che abita qui vicino. Ci siamo messi d'accordo proprio stamattina.
4. James: Benissimo.
5. Sandro: Che farai in vacanza? Ti riposerai?
6. James: Non direi, la passerò all'insegna della famiglia. A Natale non si puo' fare altrimenti. Non appena mi sarò riposato dal viaggio, mia madre ha organizzato di andare a trovare la nonna. Un altro viaggio di otto ore in macchina!
7. Sandro: Non ti invidio.
8. James: Appunto. Ah, posso chiederti il favore di tenere d'occhio la mia casa mentre sono via? Ho sentito che Natale è il periodo migliore per i ladri di appartamento.
9. Sandro: Non c'è problema. Però anch'io tornerò a casa appena le prove dell'orchestra saranno terminate. Io sono un grande amante delle riunioni familiari.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (On the way to the airport)
2. James: Thanks for the lift to the airport. I'm just sorry that it's a bit out of the way for you.
3. Sandro: Don't worry. After taking you to the airport, I'll visit an old friend of mine who lives nearby. We made an arrangement this morning.
4. James: Very well.
5. Sandro: What are you going to do on vacation? Relax?
6. James: I wouldn't say so. I'll spend it only with the family. At Christmas I can't do otherwise. As soon as I will have rested from the flight, my mother has planned to visit grandma. Another eight-hour trip by car!
7. Sandro: I don't envy you.
8. James: Exactly. Oh, can I ask you the favor of keeping an eye on my house while I am away? I heard that Christmas is the best time for burglars.
9. Sandro: No problem. But I will also return home as soon as the orchestra rehearsals will be over. I'm a big fan of family get-togethers myself.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
riunione	get-together	noun
amante	fan	noun
terminare	to be over	verb

prova	rehearsal	noun
ladri di appartamento	burglar	nominal expression
fuori mano	out of the way, far away, off the beaten track	adverbial phrase
andare a trovare	to visit	verb
altrimenti	otherwise	adverb
mettersi d'accordo	to make an arrangement	verbal expression
all'insegna di	only with/dedicated to	adverbial phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mi piacciono le riunioni di famiglia durante il periodo natalizio. "I like family get-togethers during the holiday season."	Sono un amante della musica jazz. "I'm a big fan of jazz music."
Peccato! E' già terminato il corso di tedesco. "What a shame! The German language course has already finished."	Ho appena terminato le prove con l'orchestra per il prossimo concerto "I've just finished rehearsals with the orchestra for the next concert."
I ladri di appartamento hanno un gran da fare soprattutto d'estate. "Burglars are quite busy especially during the summer."	La tua abitazione è un po' troppo fuori mano. "Your house is a bit too off the beaten track."
Sono andata a trovare i miei genitori tre mesi fa. "I visited my family three months ago."	Mi piace tenermi occupato altrimenti mi annoio. "I like to get busy; otherwise, I get bored."

Ricordami dell'appuntamento, altrimenti mi dimentico. "Remind me about the appointment; otherwise, I'll forget."	Devo andare, altrimenti arriverò tardi al lavoro. "I have to go; otherwise, I'll be late for work."
C'eravamo messi d'accordo d'incontrarci alle 21, ma Sara è arrivata verso le 22. "We agreed to meet at 9 pm but Sara arrived around 10."	Il teatro Colosio organizza tre serate all'insegna della musica classica. "The Colosio theatre organizes three evenings dedicated to classical music."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

FUORI MANO. This is one of the many expressions in Italian that utilizes the word *mano*. In general, *fuori mano* means "out of the way," and if we use it together with the verbs *vivere* or *abitare*, we translate it best as "off the beaten track." An expression with the opposite meaning is *a portata di mano*, meaning that something is "close," "easy to get," or "to get to."

ANDARE A TROVARE. We translate this expression with the verb "to visit someone," and we only use it when visiting people. It is not possible to use the verb *visitare* with people because that means to pay a visit to someone in hospital. We use *visitare* more often with museums, cities, and sightseeing spots.

PROVA. This word needs to be contextualized because it both means "school exam," "test," or "rehearsal."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Use the Future Perfect Tense (*Futuro Anteriore*) with Expressions Like *Non Appena, Quando, and Dopo Che*.

Dopo che ti avrò accompagnato all'aeroporto, andrò da un vecchio amico.
"After taking you to the airport, I'll visit an old friend of mine."

The *futuro anteriore* or "future perfect tense" is a compound tense that we form with the regular future-tense form of the auxiliary verb *avere* or *essere* and the past participle of the acting verb.

For Example:

1. *Quando tu arriverai, noi saremo già partiti per le vacanze in montagna.*
"When you will arrive, we will have already left for our vacation in the mountains."
2. *A giugno avrò finito gli esami all'università e potrò andare in vacanza.*
"In June, I will have finished my university exams and will be able to go on vacation."

Partire requires the auxiliary verb *essere* (like in the *passato prossimo*), and *finire* requires the auxiliary verb *avere*. The choice of the auxiliary verb follows the same rules as for the *passato prossimo*.

The *futuro anteriore* expresses a future action that happens before another action expressed in the *futuro semplice*.

For Example:

1. *Quando avrò finito questo lavoro, andrò a casa.*
"When I will have finished this job, I'll go home."

The action of finishing the job comes before the action of going home. Therefore, a compound tense (*futuro anteriore*) is required to express anteriority.

We often use the future perfect after expressions such as *appena/non appena, (solo) dopo che, and quando*.

1. *Appena/non appena*

For Example:

1. *Anch'io tornerò a casa appena le prove dell'orchestra saranno terminate.*
"I will also return home as soon as the orchestra rehearsals will be over."

2. *Non appena mi sarò riposato dal viaggio, mia madre ha organizzato di andare a trovare la nonna.*

"As soon as I will have rested from the flight, my mother has planned to visit grandma."

2. (Solo) dopo che

For Example:

1. *Dopo che ti avrò accompagnato all'aeroporto, andrò da un vecchio amico.*

"After taking you to the airport, I'll visit an old friend of mine who lives nearby."

2. *Solo dopo che avrai ottenuto il permesso di soggiorno, potrai lavorare in Italia.*

"Only after you will have obtained the permit of stay, will you be allowed to work in Italy."

3. Quando

For Example:

1. *Quando saranno arrivati tutti gli ospiti, inizieremo la cena.*

"When all the guests will have arrived, we'll start the dinner."

2. *Quando avremo finito di pitturare questa camera, ci riposeremo.*

"When we will have finished painting this room, we'll rest."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Italian Musical Traditions at Christmas time

Christmas is a very special time of the year, and it is probably the most important and celebrated festivity in Italy. Besides the beautiful Christmas illuminations, Christmas trees, and the traditional nativity scenes that decorate cities and houses in Italy, music plays an important role. One of the most popular traditions is to attend a Christmas concert (either

organized by the local community or school or performed in theaters). The repertoire of Christmas concerts is varied. Classical music and opera is often played. Christmas carols are also a must. Most traditional Christmas carols are of European origin, and the earliest carols can be traced to fourth-century Rome. Italian Christmas songs are a tribute to the first Christmas songs, which were actually sung in Latin.

Some of the most famous songs are *Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle* (composed near Naples around 1754), *Bianco Natale* (the Italian version of White Christmas), *Astro del Ciel* (the Italian version of the German *Stille Nacht*, "Silent Night") and *Caro Gesù Bambino*. In this last song a little child asks baby Jesus to come down from heaven to play with him since he is too poor to have any toys.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #11

Did you Redecorate Your Italian Home?

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ITALIAN

1. A casa di Sara.
2. Giovanna: Permesso?
3. Sara: Vieni pure, Giovanna, ti aspettavo.
4. Giovanna: Com'è cambiata casa tua dall'ultima volta che sono venuta!
5. Sara: L'ho ridecorata - ho ridipinto le pareti del soggiorno e ho risistemato il mobilio.
6. Giovanna: Adoro quei cuscini etnici sul divano - che bella fantasia! E quest'orologio viene da Parigi?
7. Sara: No. L'ho trovato al mercatino dell'usato di Via Garibaldi - ci sei mai andata?
8. Giovanna: Qualche anno fa, ma non ci sono più ritornata da allora.
9. Sara: A volte si trovano dei pezzi di antiquariato a prezzi stracciati.
10. Giovanna: Bene a sapersi. Verrò con te una volta. Ma non hai la TV?
11. Sara: No, uso il mio pc come tv. Con questo ci guardo i film e i programmi televisivi che mi interessano, ci ascolto la musica e lo uso anche come telefono di casa.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. At Sara's.
2. Giovanna: May I come in?
3. Sara: Come in, Giovanna, I was waiting for you.
4. Giovanna: Your house has changed since the last time I came.
5. Sara: I redecorated it—I repainted the walls of the living room and rearranged the furniture.
6. Giovanna: I love those ethnic-style cushions on the sofa; such a beautiful pattern. And does this clock come from Paris?
7. Sara: No! I found it at the secondhand street market of Via Garibaldi. Have you ever been there?
8. Giovanna: Some years ago, but I haven't gone back since then.
9. Sara: Sometimes it's possible to find some antiques at knockdown prices.
10. Giovanna: Good to know. I'll come with you once. You don't have a TV, do you?
11. Sara: No, I use my PC as a TV. With this, I watch movies and the TV programs I like, I listen to music, and I also use it as a telephone.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
Permesso?	May I come in?	verbal expression	

stracciato	knockdown, very cheap	adjective	
antiquariato	antique	noun	
mercato dell'usato	second-hand street market	nominal expression	
fantasia	pattern, print	noun	
etnico	ethnic	adjective	
risistemare	to rearrange	verb	
parete	wall	noun	feminine
ridecorare	to redecorate	verb	
bene a sapersi	good to know	verbal expression	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

C'è qualcuno? Permesso? "Is anyone at home? May I come in?"	Sabato dobbiamo andare al negozio di via Berri. Ci sono le scarpe a prezzi stracciati. "On Saturday we should go to the shop in via Berri. The shoes have knockdown prices."
Ho trovato questo tavolo in un negozio di antiquariato. "I found this table in an antique shop."	Tutte queste cose le puoi trovare al mercatino dell'usato. "You can find all these items at the second-hand street market."

Quest'anno sono di moda i vestiti a fantasia. "This year dresses with various prints are fashionable."	Ho preso questi tessuti etnici durante un mio viaggio in Kenia. "I bought this ethnic textile during my trip to Kenya."
Ho risistemato il mobilio della mia camera da letto e ora sembra più spaziosa. "I rearranged the furniture in my bedroom and now it looks bigger."	Lo specchio è appeso alla parete. "The mirror is hanging on the wall."
Ridecoriamo questa stanza per il nostro bebè. "We are going to redecorate this room for our baby."	Bene a sapersi. Non mi piace fare le torte, ma adoro mangiarle. Good to know. I hate baking cakes, but love eating them."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

PERMESSO. This word is the past participle of the verb *permettere*, which means "to allow." We use it as an expression of politeness when entering somebody's house. The extended sentence is *E' permesso entrare?* which literally means "Is it okay/Am I allowed to come in?"

RIDECORARE. We often use the prefix *ri-* in front of verbs with the meaning of *di nuovo*, *ancora*, which mean "one more time" or "again." It is important to remember that not all verbs starting with *ri-* have this meaning (e.g., *ricordare*).

STRACCIATO. It is the past participle of *stracciare*, which means "to tear apart." Here, the expression *prezzo stracciato* means "very cheap, low prices." Other expressions that we can use with the same meaning are *prezzi bassi* and *prezzi scontatissimi*.

GRAMMAR

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

Con questo ci guardo i film e i programmi televisivi che mi interessano.

"With this, I watch movies and the TV programs I like."

The particella pronominale *ci* has a number of functions. Let's review some:

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

When we use 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."

We can use *ci* as a reciprocal pronoun when we use reflexive verbs that express a reciprocal action.

For Example:

1. *Prima di partire ci salutiamo a lungo. (SALUTARSI)*
"Before a departure, we greet each other for a while."

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

For Example:

1. *Sofia e Andrea ci verranno a trovare domenica.*
"Sofia and Andrea will visit us on Sunday."
2. *Quando va in vacanza, Mario ci scrive sempre una cartolina. (ci = a noi ("to us"))*
"When he goes on vacation, Mario always writes a postcard to us."

- **We can use *ci* to mean "here" or "there," and we usually use it once we have stated a place.**

For Example:

1. *L'ho trovato al mercatino dell'usato di Via Garibaldi: ci sei mai andata? (ci = al mercatino dell'usato ("at the secondhand market"))*
"I found it at the secondhand street market of *Via Garibaldi*. Have you ever been there?"

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

1. *pensare a*
2. *credere a*
3. *rinunciare a*
4. *giocare a*
5. *partecipare a*
6. *tenere a*
7. *provare a*
8. *riuscire a*

For Example:

1.

A: *Giochi a tennis durante la settimana?*

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

A: "Do you play tennis during the week?"

B: "No, I play it on Saturdays."

Here is another function that we haven't studied yet:

- **We can also use *ci*** to substitute for a word or a sentence introduced by the preposition *con*. (For example, *con qualcosa* ("with something") or *con qualcuno* ("with someone").)

For Example:

1. *Uso il mio pc come tv. Con questo ci guardo i film e i programmi televisivi che mi interessano, ci ascolto la musica e lo uso anche come telefono di casa. (ci = con il mio pc ("with my PC")).*
"I use my PC as a TV. With this, I watch movies and the TV programs I like, I listen to music, and I also use it as a telephone."
2. *E' una persona interessante e ci parlo sempre volentieri. (ci = con lei ("to her"))*
"She's an interesting person, and I always like talking to her."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Il Fai-da-te

Fai da te literally means "do it yourself." It generally refers to everything that can be self-made without the help of experts. In Italian, expressions like *inglese fai-da-te* ("learn English on your own"), *vacanza fai-da-te* ("a holiday for which you book transportation or a hotel without the help of a travel agency"), or *dieta fai-da-te* ("a diet you do without consulting a nutritionist") are quite common. Besides, the *fai-da-te* specifically refers to a business that sells products used for redecorating houses, gardening, and remodeling. Shops *fai-da-te*, also called *negozi di bricolage*, sell tools, raw materials, basic items, and books on the topic. The first store *fai-da-te* in Italy was Bricolarge, which was founded in the 1980s, but it is mainly in the past ten years that Italians have gotten more interested in the *fai-da-te*, maybe also because of the economic crisis. Nowadays, there are a number of *fai-da-te* stores or online stores that advertise and sell products as well as give ideas on how to redecorate your house. One of the most popular websites is selfitalia.it.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #12

Be Careful in Italian Traffic!

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ITALIAN

1. James: Giovanna, che ti è successo? Perché porti.. come si chiama?
2. Giovanna: Il collare ortopedico. Ho avuto un incidente stradale ieri mentre tornavo dal lavoro.
3. James: Mi dispiace. Com'è avvenuto?
4. Giovanna: Ero in macchina ferma in mezzo alla strada. Stavo girando a sinistra in una piazzetta quando un veicolo ha tamponato la mia macchina.
5. James: Avevi messo la freccia?
6. Giovanna: Certo! Il conducente ha detto che si è distratto e non ha visto la freccia. Io sono scesa subito dalla macchina e vedendo il danno alla mia macchina, mi sono quasi messa a piangere. Poi abbiamo chiamato i carabinieri e firmato la constatazione amichevole. Ora ho appena telefonato all'assicurazione.
7. James: Sei stata all'ospedale ieri sera?
8. Giovanna: Sì, al pronto soccorso. Ho fatto una radiografia e non ho nulla di rotto, solo delle botte. Camminando per il reparto, ho incontrato un mio vecchio compagno di classe, che ora è infermiere. Per tirarmi su, mi ha pagato la cena.

ENGLISH

1. James: Giovanna, what happened? Why are you wearing a...what's that called?

CONT'D OVER

2. **Giovanna:** A neck brace. I had a road accident yesterday while going home from work.
3. **James:** I'm sorry to hear that. How did it happen?
4. **Giovanna:** I was in my car in the middle of the road. I was about to turn left into a little square when a vehicle ran into my car.
5. **James:** Did you use your blinker?
6. **Giovanna:** Sure! The driver said that he got distracted and didn't notice the blinker. I got out of the car immediately, and when I saw the damage to my car, I almost cried. Then we called the police and signed the accident report. I just called the insurance company now.
7. **James:** Did you go to the hospital last night?
8. **Giovanna:** Yes, to the emergency ward. I did an X-ray and nothing is broken; I just have some bruises. While walking in the ward, I met an old classmate of mine, who is now a nurse. To cheer me up, he paid for my dinner.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
collare	neck brace, collar	noun	
radiografia	x-ray	noun	feminine
assicurazione	insurance company	nominal expression	
costatazione amichevole	accident report	nominal expression	

carabiniere	police	noun
danno	damage	noun
conducente	driver	noun
mettere la freccia	to indicate, to signal	verb
ortopedico	orthopedic	adjective
tirarsi su	to cheer up	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Devo portare il collare ortopedico per 15 giorni. "I have to wear the neck brace for 15 days."	Mi fa male la schiena: dovrei fare una radiografia alla colonna vertebrale. "I have a backache. I should get an x-ray of my spine."
La mia assicurazione mi ha pagato una parte della ristrutturazione del bagno. "My insurance company partially paid for the restructuring of the bathroom."	Mi raccomando, Maria, tieni sempre in macchina il modulo della constatazione amichevole! "Mary, don't forget to always keep the accident report in your car."
Ieri sera sono stato fermato dai carabinieri per un test alcolico. "Yesterday I was stopped by the police for an alcohol test."	La mia macchina ha avuto un bel danno a causa della grandine. "My car suffered great damage because of the hail."
E' proibito parlare con il conducente dell'autobus. "Talking to the bus driver is forbidden."	Ero distratto: volevo girare a destra, ma ho messo la freccia a sinistra. "I was inattentive: I wanted to turn right, but I signalled a left turn."

Tom ha bisogno delle scarpe ortopediche perchè ha i piedi piatti. "Tom needs orthopedic shoes because he has flat feet."	Cercate di tirarmi su, perchè oggi è stata proprio una giornataccia. "Try to cheer me up because today has been awful."
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VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

COLLARE. It generally means "collar" and both the Italian and English words come from *collo*, "neck." It is usually used for pets. With the adjective *ortopedico*, it refers to the neck brace. From the word *collo* the word *collana* is formed, meaning "necklace." *Collarino* refers to decorative neckbands, often used in gothic or punk styles.

ORTOPEDICO. It can be both an adjective and a noun. As an adjective it means "orthopedic" while as a noun it refers to the "orthopedist." In a hospital *ortopedìa* is the ward for patients that have problems with bones and junctions.

TIRARSI SU. Besides the meaning of "cheer up" this verbal expression has different meanings according to the context. It can simply mean to rise or to draw oneself up or to get up (a synonym is *alzarsi*). Other meanings are: "to sit upright" (*sedersi dritto*); "to pull up (something)" like a skirt, pants or socks; and "to pin up hair" (like *raccogliere i capelli*). Also the name of *tiramisù*, the famous dessert, comes from this verb and literally means "cheer me up".

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Usage of the *gerundio presente*.

Camminando per il reparto, ho incontrato un mio vecchio compagno di classe.

"While walking in the ward, I met an old classmate of mine."

The *gerundio presente* is equivalent to the -ing verb form in English.

Let's review the formation of the *gerundio*:

Add the suffix **-ando** to the stem of *-are* verbs

-endo to the stem of the *-ere* and *-ire* verbs.

cantare --- *cantando*

correre ---- *correndo*

dormire ---- *dormendo*

There are also some **irregular** verbs.

condurre ---- *conducendo*

porre ----- *ponendo*

trarre ----- *traendo*

The *gerundio presente* is used in secondary sentences and can have different meanings.

- *Stare* + *gerundio* is used to create the present/past continuous tense.

For example:

1. *Ora non posso venire. Sto lavorando.*
"Now I cannot come. I'm working."
2. *Stavo girando a sinistra in una piazzetta quando un veicolo ha tamponato la mia macchina.*
"I was about to turn left in a little square when a vehicle piled up into my car."

- The *gerundio presente* is used to suggest a cause, a reason.

For example:

1. *Vedendo il danno alla mia macchina, mi son quasi messa a piangere.*
"As I saw the damage to my car I almost started to cry."

2. *Conoscendo le tue idee non ho detto niente.*
"Since I knew your ideas, I didn't say anything."

- It is also used to suggest the meaning of contemporaneity and it is often translated with 'while'.

For example:

1. *Camminando per il reparto, ho incontrato un mio vecchio compagno di classe.*
"While walking in the ward, I met an old classmate of mine."
2. *Ceno guardando la televisione.*
"I have dinner while watching TV."

Here the *gerundio presente* can be substituted by *mentre*+ sentence:

*Ceno **guardando** la televisione.*

*Ceno **mentre guardo** la televisione.*

"I have dinner while watching TV."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Italian Police (*Le forze dell'ordine*)

There are different groups that are responsible for keeping the order and the law respected in Italy. The following three are the ones that you are more likely to see when travelling in Italy.

The *VIGILI URBANI* are responsible for supervising the road traffic and reporting traffic offences within the territory of a city or a town. They usually wear a white helmet and light blue shirt as uniform. They always have a whistle.

The *CARABINIERI* have a black uniform with red stripes on the sides. This group is a Gendarmerie-like military corps with police duties that span from house searches to criminal

investigations as well as performing intoxication tests on the road. They also serve as military police.

The *POLIZIOTTI* belong to the Polizia di Stato ("State Police") which is the civil national police of Italy. Their uniform is dark blue and gray. Like the Carabinieri they always carry a gun. Along with patrolling, investigative and law enforcement duties, it patrols the *autostrada* (Italy's Express Highway network), and oversees the security of railways, bridges and waterways.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #13

Getting Used to Your New Italian Job

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13

ITALIAN

1. Al lavoro, vicino alla macchinetta del caffè
2. Sofia: Wendy, il caffè lo vuoi macchiato?
3. Wendy: Sì, macchiato caldo grazie, ma senza zucchero.
4. Sofia: Allora, ti sei abituata a questo tuo nuovo lavoro?
5. Wendy: Sì, è bello lavorare in questa agenzia di viaggio. Ma il ritmo è sempre così incalzante?
6. Sofia: Eh, sì. Questo è il periodo più frenetico perchè siamo all'inizio delle vacanze estive. Le prenotazioni sono molte e varie. Ci si stanca facilmente dopo tre ore consecutive a stretto contatto con i clienti .
7. Wendy: Eh sì questa pausa caffè ci vuole proprio! Ma per fortuna, nonostante la crisi economica, molta gente viaggia ancora.
8. Sofia: Comunque, se hai bisogno di aiuto, io sono sempre disponibile. Ora sei qui da 3 settimane, ma a poco a poco ci si abitua a questo lavoro.
9. Wendy: A Chicago ero sempre in ufficio e gestivo le prenotazioni online. Non incontravo mai clienti e soprattutto non dovevo parlare italiano! Devo ammettere però che qui mi piace molto di più!

ENGLISH

1. At work, by the coffee maker

CONT'D OVER

2. Sofia: Wendy, would you like coffee with milk?
3. Wendy: Yes, with warm milk, thanks, but no sugar.
4. Sofia: So, have you gotten used to this job?
5. Wendy: Yes, it's nice to work in this travel agency, but is the rhythm always so pressing?
6. Sofia: This is the most hectic period because it's the beginning of the summer vacation. There are many bookings, and they are all varied. We can easily get tired after three consecutive hours working closely with the clients.
7. Wendy: Yes, this coffee break is really necessary. But luckily, despite the economic crisis, many people still travel.
8. Sofia: Anyhow, if you need help, I'm always available. You've been here for three weeks now, but you get used to this job little by little.
9. Wendy: In Chicago, I was always in the office, and I managed the online bookings. I never used to meet clients, and above all, I didn't have to speak Italian all the time! I have to admit, though, that I like it much more here!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
crisi	crisis	noun
macchiato caldo	coffee with warm milk	adjective
incalzante	pressing	adjective

frenetico	hectic, frenzied	adjective
prenotazione	booking, reservation	noun
consecutivo	consecutive	adjective
a stretto contatto con	in close contact with	prepositional phrase
nonostante	despite	preposition
gente	people	noun
gestire	to manage	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

La crisi economica rende la vita difficile a molte famiglie monoreddito. "The economic crisis makes life difficult for many families with only one income."	Di solito a colazione prendo un caffè macchiato caldo con una brioche. "For breakfast I usually have coffee with warm milk and a croissant."
Il ragazzo non sapeva più come rispondere alle incalzanti domande del poliziotto. "The boy didn't know how to reply to the pressing questions of the policeman."	Non puoi fare una vita così frenetica. Ti ammalerai. "You can't live such a hectic life. You'll get sick."
Sara, hai ricevuto la conferma della prenotazione dell'albergo a Toronto? "Sara have you received the confirmation of the hotel booking in Toronto?"	Hai fatto la prenotazione? "Did you book?"
Dopo quattro ore consecutive di lavoro al PC, mi bruciano gli occhi. "After four consecutive hours of work at the pc, my eyes burn."	Lavorare a stretto contatto con il capo è stressante. "Working closely with my boss is stressful."

Nonostante la forte pioggia abbiamo visitato la città di Bologna senza grandi problemi.

"Despite the heavy rain we visited the city of Bologna without major problems."

C'è tanta gente stasera.

"There are a lot of people tonight."

Sono necessarie più risorse per gestire questo progetto.

"More resources are necessary to manage this project."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

MACCHIATO CALDO. *Macchiato* literally means "stained." *Un caffè macchiato caldo* is one of the many types of coffee you can order in Italy. It's an espresso with a drop of milk. You can order it *macchiato caldo* ("with steamed milk"), *macchiato freddo* ("with cold milk") or *macchiato con schiuma di latte* ("with frothed milk"). You can also use *macchiato* as a noun.

PRENOTAZIONE. It is a feminine noun, and it derives from the verb *prenotare*. We also translate "to book" as *fare una prenotazione*. We can use it for booking seats on the train or airplanes, tables at restaurants, and hotel rooms. We do not use it for booking appointments (*prendere appuntamento*).

GENTE. It is a feminine noun, and it is always singular. The definite article is *la*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Use of the Impersonal Construction with Reflexive Verbs.

Ora sei qui da 3 settimane, ma a poco a poco ci si abitua a questo lavoro.

"Now you've been here for three weeks, but little by little one gets used to this job."

The impersonal construction is often:

The verb *essere* in third person singular + *aggettivo* + *verbo infinito*, which is "to be" + adjective + infinitive verb.

For Example:

1. ***E' bello*** *lavorare in questa agenzia di viaggio.*
"It's nice to work in a travel agency."
2. *A Venezia non è necessario* ***avere una macchina.***
"In Venice it is not necessary to have a car."

We can construct all the tenses in the impersonal form using *si* + verb in third person singular or plural.

For Example:

1. *In Giappone si beve molto* ***te' verde.***
"In Japan people drink a lot of green tea."
2. *In Italia si mangiano gli spaghetti due volte a settimana.*
"In Italy we eat spaghetti twice a week."

If the noun that follows the verb is singular, we decline the verb in the third person singular (*tè* + ***beve***). If the noun is plural, we decline the verb in the third person plural (*spaghetti* + ***mangiano***).

The impersonal form, especially the *si impersonale*, corresponds to the English "one," though we use it much more frequently in Italian than we do in English where we use "you," "we," "people," and other expressions to translate the same idea.

For Example:

1. *Come si dice "grazie" in tedesco?*
"How does one say "thank you" in German?"/"How do you say "thank you" in German?"

When to use the impersonal *si*:

- With a generic subject

For Example:

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

- With a subject that is not expressed

For Example:

1. *Si dice che Maria sia ammalata.*
"It is said/they said that Maria is sick."

- To describe customs and traditions of a country

- To describe regulations or for instructions

If you use the impersonal construction with a reflexive or reciprocal verb, *si si* becomes *ci si*. Otherwise, because it is cacophonous, it sounds ugly and it is difficult to pronounce.

For Example:

1. *Ci si stanca facilmente dopo tre ore consecutive a stretto contatto con i clienti.*
"We can easily get tired after three consecutive hours working closely with the clients."
2. *Ora sei qui da 3 settimane, ma a poco a poco ci si abitua a questo lavoro.*
"Now you've been here for three weeks, but little by little one gets used to this job."
3. *Non ci si dimentica mai del primo amore.*
"One can never forget their first love."

In compound tenses, the reflexive verbs always require the auxiliary verb *essere*, and they require *essere* also with the impersonal construction. Be aware that the past participle ends in *-i* or *-e*, even if the noun that follows the verb is singular:

For Example:

1. *A Natale ci si è scambiati un bel regalo.*
"For Christmas we exchanged a nice present."
2. *Ci si è alzati presto stamattina.*
"We got up early this morning."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Il Caffè

Coffee is one of the favorite drinks in Italy, and it is consumed throughout the day. *Espresso* is what comes to one's mind when thinking about coffee, and it's what you are served if you order *un caffè* in an Italian bar.

However, there are a number of our ways you can enjoy coffee in Italy:

- *Caffè americano*: an espresso to which hot water has been added to make it weaker
- *Caffè doppio*: two espressos served in one cup
- *Caffè ristretto*: a condensed version of espresso of about twenty milliliters
- *Caffè lungo*: when twice the amount of water is used to brew the coffee
- *Caffè corretto*: an espresso where some liqueur is added (*grappa*, Cognac, Sambuca)

- *Caffè decaffeinato*, also called *deca* from the word *decaffeinato*, is decaffeinated coffee
- *Caffè shakerato* is similar to *caffè freddo* ("iced coffee") has sugar already added to it and a soft foam on the top.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #14

A Weekend Getaway in Italy

CONTENTS

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

14

ITALIAN

1. Simone: Che afa oggi!
2. Sofia: Le previsioni meteo dicono che sarà caldo e le temperature saranno in rialzo nel weekend.
3. Simone: Io soffro tanto il caldo. Che ne dite di trascorrere sabato e domenica in un posto più fresco?
4. Wendy: Per me va bene. L'altra sera tu Simone avevi lanciato l'idea che saremmo andati sul lago di Como.
5. Simone: Sì, ho degli amici che ci potrebbero ospitare per una o due notti.
6. Wendy: Meglio di così! Tra l'altro io non sono mai stata da quelle parti. E tu Sofia sei libera?
7. Sofia: Credo proprio di sì. Mia sorella mi aveva detto che saremmo andate alle Cinque Terre, ma non mi ha più fatto sapere niente.
8. Simone: Prova a fare un colpo di telefono a tua sorella e, se lei è impegnata questo fine settimana, unisciti a noi.
9. Sofia: La chiamo tra poco e poi ci risentiamo in serata per organizzare la gita di domani.

ENGLISH

1. Simone: It's muggy today!

CONT'D OVER

2. Sofia: The weather forecast says it will be hot and the temperatures will rise over the weekend.
3. Simone: I can't stand the heat. What do you think if we spend Saturday and Sunday in a cooler place?
4. Wendy: That's fine with me. The other night you had suggested going to Lake Como.
5. Simone: Yes, I have some friends who could put us up for one or two nights.
6. Wendy: Nothing better! Besides I've never been around there. And you, Sofia, are you free?
7. Sofia: Yes, I think so. My sister had told me that we would go to the Cinque Terre, but she hasn't gotten back to me since.
8. Simone: Maybe give your sister a call, and if she is busy this weekend, join us.
9. Sofia: I'll call her in a bit, and then I'll call you back later tonight to organize the trip for tomorrow.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
meglio di così	nothing better	exclamation
afa	muggy weather	noun
lanciare l'idea	to suggest/to throw out the idea of	verbal expression
fare un colpo di telefono	to give a call	verbal expression

previsioni meteo	weather forecast	nominal expression
in rialzo	to rise (verb)	adverbial phrase
far sapere	to let know	verb
ospitare	to put somebody up	verb
soffrire	not be able to stand	verb
risentirsi	to call back	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Aria fresca, sole caldo, acqua limpida: meglio di così! "Fresh air, hot sun, clear water - nothing better than this!"	Oggi è afoso. Vorrei andare in spiaggia. "Today it's muggy. I'd like to go to the beach."
Io ho lanciato l'idea: tocca a voi adesso decidere. "I made a suggestion - now it's your turn to decide."	Hai fatto un colpo di telefono a tua cugina per il suo compleanno? "Did you give your cousin a call for her birthday?"
Hai guardato le previsioni del tempo della settimana prossima? "Did you see the weather forecast for next week?"	Le temperature sono in rialzo in tutta Italia. "The temperatures are rising everywhere in Italy."
Fammi sapere a che ora arrivi per la cena. "Let me know at what time you'll arrive for dinner."	Ci possono ospitare i nostri amici per un paio di notti. "Our friends can put us up for one or two nights."

Vado in montagna perché non soffro il caldo afoso. "I go to the mountains because I can't stand the heat."	Risentiamoci dopo le otto. "Call me back after eight o' clock."
---	--

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

OSPITARE. We can also translate this verb as "to host."

For Example:

1. *I musei vaticani ospitano una mostra di Leonardo da Vinci fino al 20 gennaio.*
"The Vatican museums host an exhibition of Leonardo da Vinci until January twentieth."

The nouns derived from this verb are *ospite* ("guest") and *ospitalità* ("hospitality"). The adjective is *ospitale* ("hospitable").

FARE UN COLPO DI TELEFONO. We can use this expression to say *telefonare* ("to telephone") or *fare una telefonata* ("to make a phone call"). We can also shorten it as *fare un colpo*, meaning "to give a call" in colloquial Italian. For example, *Fai un colpo alla zia per ricordarle della festa di stasera* ("Give auntie a call to remind her of tonight's party").

RISENTIRSI. *Sentire* usually means "to hear," but we often use the reflexive verb *sentirsi* as a synonym of "to get in contact" or "to contact each other." The prefix *ri* means "one more time" or "again."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Tense Agreement Between a Main and Subordinate Sentence in Italian.

Mia sorella mi aveva detto che saremmo andate a fare un giro alle Cinque Terre.
"My sister had told me that we would have gone to the Cinque Terre."

Rules that establish the usage of tenses and moods between the main and subordinate clause regulate tense agreement. These rules usually correspond to the *consecutio temporum* of Latin grammar, and it's important to follow these rules to express the concepts of anteriority, contemporaneity, and future in Italian.

In order to choose the tense in the subordinate clause, it's important to look at the tense and mood of the main clause and to decide what the time relation is between the two. In simple words, you need to ask yourself questions like, Which of the two actions (verbs) come first? Are these two actions happening at the same time?

In this lesson, we'll focus on the tense agreement of the *indicative* mood.

If the verb of the main clause is in the present tense:

Main Clause	Subordinate Clause	Time Relation
<i>presente</i> ("present")	<i>passato prossimo</i> ("present perfect"/"simple past")	<i>anteriorità</i> ("before")
<i>presente</i> ("present")	<i>presente</i> ("present")	<i>contemporaneità</i> ("at the same time")
<i>presente</i> ("present")	<i>futuro semplice</i> ("simple future")	<i>posteriorità</i> ("after")

Main Clause	Subordinate Clause	Time Relation
So che ("I know that")	Sara è andata a Roma ("Sara went to Rome")	<i>Ieri o in passato</i> ("yesterday or some time in the past")
So che ("I know that")	Sara va a Roma ("Sara goes to Rome")	<i>Oggi o ora</i> ("today or now")
So che ("I know that")	Sara andrà a Roma ("Sara will go to Rome")	<i>Domani o in futuro</i> ("tomorrow or in the future")

If the verb of the main clause is in the past tense:

Main Clause	Subordinate Clause	Time Relation
<i>passato</i> ("past")	<i>trapassato prossimo</i> ("past perfect")	<i>anteriorità</i> ("before")
<i>passato</i> ("past")	<i>imperfetto</i> ("imperfect/continuous tense")	<i>contemporaneità</i> ("at the same time")
<i>passato</i> ("past")	<i>condizionale composto</i> ("past conditional")	<i>posteriorità</i> ("after")

Main Clause	Subordinate Clause	Time Relation
<i>Ho saputo/ sapevo/avevo saputo</i> <i>che</i> ("I knew that"/"I had known that")	<i>Sara era tornata da Siena</i> ("Sara had come back from Siena")	<i>Il giorno prima o in passato</i> ("the day before or some time in the past")
<i>Ho saputo/ sapevo/avevo saputo</i> <i>che</i> ("I knew that"/"I had known that")	<i>Sara tornava da Siena</i> ("Sara was coming back from Siena")	<i>Quel giorno o quel momento</i> ("that day or at that time")
<i>Ho saputo/ sapevo/avevo saputo</i> <i>che</i> ("I knew that"/"I had known that")	<i>Sara sarebbe tornata da Siena</i> ("Sara would have come back from Siena")	<i>Il giorno dopo o in futuro</i> ("the day after or in the future")

For Example:

1. *Mia sorella mi **aveva detto** che **saremmo andate** alle Cinque terre.*
"My sister had told me that we would have gone to the Cinque terre."
2. *Simone, **avevi lanciato** l'idea che **saremmo andate** sul lago di Como.*
"Simone, you had suggested/threw out the idea of going to lake Como."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The **Cinque Terre**, literally "The Five Lands," is a portion of coast in Liguria, and it is composed of five villages: Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore. They are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The *Cinque Terre* are famous for their stunning views, their pastel colored houses, and romantic secret beaches.

To fully understand the beauty of this stretch of land, tourists should start their visit of Cinque Terre from a little pink church called Santuario della Madonna di Montenero. Here visitors can size up the region's entire eleven-mile coastline from 1,100 feet above sea level. A famous trail is called *la Via dell'Amore*, or "the Lover's Path," and it is part of the more challenging *Sentiero blu*, or the "Blue Trail." *La Via dell'Amore* connects Riomaggiore with Manarola, and it's a flat coastal path rich in stunning views and romantic nooks.

And, after the hiking, why not try some of the amazing local cuisine or taste some wine? Cinque Terre white wine, a dry, tangy blend of three different grapes, and *sciacchetrà*, a "very sweet dessert wine," are a must.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #15

You May See George Clooney at this Italian Lake

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

15

ITALIAN

1. Simone: Mi son dimenticato la crema solare!
2. Sofia: Te la posso prestare io.
3. Simone: Beh, usandola poche volte all'anno è facile dimenticarsene.
4. Sofia: Si vede che non ami abbronzarti - sei bianco come una mozzarella.
5. Wendy: Oggi pomeriggio ci rifacciamo delle giornate passate chiusi in ufficio.
6. Sofia: Esatto! Alla faccia del nostro capo che ci farebbe lavorare anche nei fine settimana.
7. Simone: Conoscendolo bene però il Signor Crezzi non è così esigente come capo. E' solo un po' troppo dedito al lavoro.
8. Wendy: Sarà.. comunque, devo dire che Como mi ha piacevolmente colpita. Il centro storico è incantevole e il lungolago molto romantico.
9. Sofia: Ed è anche una cittadina molto pulita.
10. Simone: Secondo me però vivendoci per qualche tempo sarebbe un po' noioso. Meglio abitare a Milano e venire qui di quanto in quanto per il weekend.

ENGLISH

1. Simone: I forgot my sunblock!

CONT'D OVER

2. Sofia: I can lend you some.
3. Simone: Well, since I hardly ever use it, it's easy to forget it.
4. Sofia: You don't like to get tan, do you? You're as pale as a ghost.
5. Wendy: This afternoon we'll make up for all those days spent closed in the office.
6. Sofia: Exactly! In spite of our boss, who would also make us work on the weekends.
7. Simone: When you get to know him well, Mr. Crezzi is not very demanding as a boss. He's just a bit too devoted to his job.
8. Wendy: Maybe... Anyway, I have to say that Como has positively struck me. The historical city center is charming, and the lakeside is very romantic.
9. Sofia: And it's also a very clean town.
10. Simone: If you live here for some time, though, I think it'd be a bit boring. It's better to live in Milan and come here every now and then for a weekend.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
dedito	devoted, dedicated	adjective
crema solare	sunblock, sun cream	nominal expression
di tanto in tanto	now and then	adverbial expression

alla faccia di	in spite of	adverbial expression
rifarsi	to make up	verb
abbronzarsi	to sunbathe, to get a tan	verb
essere bianco come una mozzarella	to be as pale as a ghost	verbal expression
fine settimana	weekend	noun
colpire	to strike	verb
lungolago	lakeside, promenade	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mia sorella è completamente dedita allo studio della musica. "My sister is completely devoted to studying music."	Dove hai comprato questa crema solare? "Where did you buy this sun cream?"
Tre volte alla settimana faccio jogging, ma di tanto in tanto vado in piscina. "Three times a week I go jogging, but now and then I go to the swimming pool."	Oggi mangerò anche il dolce alla faccia della dieta. "Today I'll have also a dessert in spite of my diet."
Voleva rifarsi del denaro perduto, ma non ci riuscì. "He wanted to make up for the money he had lost, but he didn't manage to."	Laura si sdraia in spiaggia e si abbronzava per ore. "Laura lies on the beach and sunbathes for hours."
Sei bianca come una mozzarella anche in estate. "Even in summer you are as pale as a ghost."	Il fine settimana vado al cinema. "Il fine settimana vado al cinema."

Cosa fai questo fine settimana? "What are you doing this weekend?"	I fine settimana lavoro. "I work on weekends."
Mi ha davvero colpito lo spettacolo di pattinaggio sul ghiaccio che ho visto ieri sera. "The ice-skating show that I saw last night really struck me."	Ieri sera ho percorso il lungolago al chiaro di luna. Meraviglioso! "Yesterday evening I walked at the lakeside under the moonlight. It was wonderful!"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

ESSERE BIANCO COME UNA MOZZARELLA. Other common expressions to say that someone is pale are *essere bianco come un cencio* or *essere bianco come un panno lavato*. A *cencio* is a "piece of cloth" that we use to clean the house, while a *panno lavato* is similar to a "white sheet."

RIFARSI. Besides the meaning of "make up for," we often use *rifarsi* as a synonym of *vendicarsi* as well as of *ritornare* or *ridiventare*. (*Il tempo si è rifatto bello* means "The weather turned nice again.") In colloquial language, we use *rifarsi* to talk about "plastic surgery."

For Example:

1. *Sara si è rifatta il seno.*
"Sara had her breast redone."

FINE SETTIMANA. Despite that the word *settimana* is feminine, the compound noun *fine settimana* is masculine, and its article is *il*. It's masculine because it is a direct translation from the English "weekend," and therefore, like most foreign words, it is masculine. As a plural noun, it stays unchanged.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Use of *Gerundio Presente* with Atonic Pronouns.
Usandola poche volte all'anno è facile dimenticarsene.

"Since I hardly ever use it, it's easy to forget it."

Let's first focus on the difference the *pronomi atoni* ("atonic pronouns") and the *pronomi tonici* ("tonic pronouns").

- *Pronomi tonici* or *forti* ("strong") are those that have a strong emphasis in the sentence.

For Example:

1. *Voglio incontrare **te** e non tua sorella.*
"I want to meet you and not your sister."

- *Pronomi atoni* or *deboli* ("weak") are those that do not have particular significance and are usually unstressed.

For Example:

1. *Ti telefono alle 8.*
"I'll call (you) at eight."

Like with the tenses of infinitive and imperative, and with the adverb *ecco*, with the *gerundio*, we always attach the pronoun to the end of the verb.

Infinito + pronome ("To" infinitive + pronoun)

For Example:

1. *Puoi **farmi** una fotografia?*
"Can you take a picture of me?"

(*fare + a me = farmi*)*

Remember that the last -e of the infinitive drops when a pronoun is added.

Imperativo + pronome (Imperative + pronoun)

(TU)

For Example:

1. ***Passami il sale per favore.***
"Pass me the salt, please."

(passa! + a me)

(VOI)

For Example:

1. ***Scriveteci presto.***
"Write to us soon."

(scrivete! + a noi)

Remember that the formal imperative or *imperativo formale* (with *Lei*) does not follow the same rule. The pronoun precedes the verb.

For Example:

1. *Questa è la medicina. La prenda due volte al giorno prima dei pasti.*
"This is your medicine. Take it twice a day before meals."

Ecco + pronome (*Ecco + pronoun*)

For Example:

1. *Anche Giulia viene a questa festa. Ah, **eccola** che arriva!*
"Also, Giulia is coming to this party. Ah, here she is coming!"

Ecco + la (*Giulia*)

For Example:

1. **Eccoti** il document che mi avevi richiesto.

"Here is the document you asked me for."

Ecco + a te

Gerundio + pronome (gerund + pronoun)

For Example:

1. **Conoscendolo** bene però il Signor Crezzi non è così esigente come capo.

"When you get to know him well, Mr. Crezzi is not so demanding as a boss."

Conoscendo + lo (il signor Crezzi)

For Example:

1. Secondo me però **vivendoci** per qualche tempo sarebbe un po' noioso.

"In my opinion, however, living there for some time would be a bit boring."

Vivendo + ci (a Como)

For Example:

1. **Rivedendola** ho capito di essere ancora innamorato di lei.

"When I saw her, I understood that I was still in love with her."

Rivedendo + la (la ragazza)

For Example:

1. Luisa e' uscita senza soldi e **accorgendosi**, e' andata subito al bancomat.

"Luisa went out with no money, so when she realized it, she went right away to an ATM."

Accorgendosi + ne (del fatto che non aveva soldi, "that she had no money")

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Lake Como, or *Lago di Como*, is Italy's most popular lake, and it's been this famous long before Mr. George Clooney bought his villa on the banks of this lake. It is easily identified on maps of Italy by its shape: an upside-down "Y." It's in Lombardia in the north of Italy in the region of the lakes. It's the third-largest lake in the country, behind Lago di Garda and Lago Maggiore, and although it's narrow enough that you can see across it easily, it is one of Europe's deepest lakes. Every year tourists from North Europe spend their vacations here together with many Italians, and specifically those who live in Milan, who can go to the lake over the weekend. Why is Lago di Como so famous? Stunning views, gorgeous water, and picturesque towns are the reasons behind its popularity. Bellagio is a charming town at the intersection of the branches of the lake, and it's a good point from which to explore the lake. Como is the biggest town (80,000 people) and has a beautiful duomo, the last gothic church built in Italy. Tremezzo is located across from Bellagio, and its most famous sightseeing spot is Villa Carlotta, which was built in the seventeenth century and boasts an elaborate and beautiful Italian garden.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #16

A Killjoy Goes on Holiday in Italy

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16

ITALIAN

1. Antonio: Ma quante borse hai?! Torniamo stasera. Cos'hai lì dentro?
2. Sofia: Beh degli abiti e scarpe di ricambio. In campagna non si sa mai...
3. Antonio: E in questa sacca?
4. Sofia: Qui ho qualche pomata—lo sai che sono allergica al polline dei salici. E ho portato qualche antistaminico. Avendo avuto una brutta esperienza 5 anni fa quando mi ha punto una vespa, non voglio correre rischi.
5. Antonio: Sì mi ricordo. Va bene, metti tutto nel baule. Vedrai, sarà una bella giornata! E' un peccato che non avendo trovato camere libere per stanotte non ci possiamo fermare la notte. E' davvero un agriturismo carino. Ti piacerà molto.
6. Sofia: Speriamo, sai che io non amo molto la campagna. Avendo abitato sempre in città qui a Milano, non sono molto abituata agli odori della campagna.
7. Antonio: Non cominciare... E poi si mangia benissimo. Tutto biologico come piace a te. All'agriturismo 'Gallo' hanno una produzione propria di formaggi, ma anche di marmellate e sughi biologici. Inoltre da due anni a questa parte hanno un'apicoltura e vendono anche del miele squisito.
8. Sofia: Allora ci saranno tante api? Oh no, io ne ho paura!
9. Antonio: Dai Sofia, non fare la guastafeste. Ti divertirai! Partiamo!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Antonio: How many bags do you have? We come back tonight. What's in there?
2. Sofia: Well, some spare clothes and shoes. You never know in the countryside...
3. Antonio: And in this knapsack?
4. Sofia: Here I've got some ointments...you know that I'm allergic to willow-tree pollen. And I also brought some antihistamine medicines. Since I had that bad experience five years ago when a wasp stung me, I don't want to take any risks.
5. Antonio: Yes, I remember. Oh well, put everything in the trunk. It's going to be a nice day! It's a pity that because there were no more rooms available, we can't stay overnight. It's a really nice "agriturismo," "a holiday farm center." You'll love it.
6. Sofia: I hope so. You know that I don't like the countryside that much. Having always lived here in the city in Milan, I'm not really used to all those smells of the countryside...
7. Antonio: Don't start again... And besides, the food is really good. Everything organic, just as you like it. At the vacation farm center Gallo, they produce their own cheese and also organic jams and sauces. Besides, since a couple of years ago, there is also apiculture, and they sell some delicious honey.
8. Sofia: So there are a lot of bees, right? Oh no, I'm quite scared of them.
9. Antonio: Come on, Sofia, don't be a killjoy. You'll have fun! Let's go!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
guastafeste	killjoy	noun	
apicoltura	apiculture	noun	
baule	trunk	noun	
di ricambio	spare	adverbial expression	
salice	willow tree	noun	masculine
polline	pollen	noun	
sacca	knapsack	noun	
pomata	ointment	noun	
correre rischi	to take some risks	nominal expression	
biologico	organic	adjective	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Siamo appena arrivati e già vuoi andare via?! Non fare il guastafeste "We've just arrived and you already want to leave. Don't be such a killjoy."	L'apicoltura e' diffusa nelle zone alpine dell'Italia settentrionale. "Apiculture is spread in the alpine areas of northern Italy."
Il baule e' pieno: metti la tua valigia sul sedile posteriore. "The trunk is full—put your suitcase in the back seat."	Ho dimenticato i vestiti di ricambio a casa. "I forgot my spare clothes at home."

C'e' un'aria fresca qui all'ombra dei salici. "There is a fresh breeze here in the shade of the willow trees."	In primavera tante persone sono allergiche al polline. "In spring many people are allergic to pollen."
Hai messo tutto l'occorrente nella sacca per la nostra gita in montagna? "Did you put everything in the knapsack for our trip to the mountains?"	Ti sei scottato il dito? Meglio mettere subito la pomata. "You burnt your finger? Better put some ointment on it right away."
Hai investito tutti questi soldi? Spero tu conosca bene il rischio che corri. "You invested all that money? I hope you know well the risk that you're taking."	E' cibo biologico? "Is it organic food?"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

BIOLOGICO. *Cibo biologico* ("organic food"), which we also say as *cibo bio*, has become quite popular recently, and you can find it both in specialized shops as well as in regular supermarkets. *I prodotti biologici* ("organic products") usually have a logo: a green leaf made of little white stars. Items with this logo are ones that the EU certifies as organic food.

APICOLTURA. Two words compose this compound noun: *api*, or "bees," and *coltura*, or "cultivation" or "growing." It is a feminine noun.

GUASTAFESTE. This is a compound noun. The first word is *GUASTA* from the verb *guastare*, which means *rovinare*, "to ruin" or "to spoil." The second word is *FESTE*, the plural of *festa*, or "party." It can be either feminine or masculine, depending on whether it refers to a boy or a girl: *Sei un guastafeste* or *Sei una guastafeste*, meaning "You are a killjoy."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Use of the *Gerundio Composto*, or "Past Gerund."

Non avendo trovato camere libere per stanotte non ci possiamo fermare la notte.

"Because there were no more rooms available, we cannot stay overnight."

We form the *gerundio composto*, or "compound gerund," with the gerund form of either *avere* or *essere* + the past participle of the action verb.

<i>Gerundio Presente</i>	<i>Gerundio Composto</i>
<i>Correndo</i>	<i>Avendo corso</i>
<i>andando</i>	<i>Essendo andato</i>

The choice of the auxiliary verb for the *gerundio composto* follows the rules for the choice of the auxiliary of the *passato prossimo*.

For Example:

1. *Avendo corso 10 km, ora sono molto stanco.*
"Having run over 10 kilometers, now I am very tired."
2. *Non essendo andati al corso, la volta dopo Claudia e Ivano ebbero delle difficoltà.*
"Since they didn't go to the course, the following time Claudia and Ivano had some difficulties."

In the first example, *correre* requires *avere*, while in the second sentence *andare* requires *essere*. The past participle of the verbs that require *essere* must agree in gender and number with the subject.

Let's now look at the usage of the *gerundio composto*.

The compound gerund replaces a subordinate clause, specifically a causative clause.

For Example:

1. *Non avendo trovato camere libere per stanotte, non ci possiamo fermare la notte.*
"Because there were no rooms available, we cannot stay overnight."

Non avendo trovato camere libere ("Because there were no rooms available") is the reason why *non ci possiamo fermare la notte* ("we cannot stay overnight").

We can also translate the compound gerund as a subordinate clause starting with "since" or "because" in English.

We use the *gerundio composto* when the action of the verb of the main sentence happens later than that of the subordinate clause.

For Example:

1. *Avendo avuto una brutta esperienza 5 anni fa quando mi ha punto una vespa* (before), *non voglio correre rischi* (now).
"Since I had that bad experience five years ago when a wasp stung me, I don't want to take any risk."
2. *Avendo abitato sempre in città qui a Milano, non sono molto abituata agli odori della campagna.*
"Having always lived in the city here in Milan, I'm not really used to all those smells of the countryside."

Position of the Atonic Pronouns with *Gerundio Composto*

We always attach the pronouns to the end of the auxiliary verb. We never attach them to the past participle.

For Example:

1. **Avendolo** visto con un'altra ragazza, Elena decise di rompere con il suo ragazzo.
"Having seen him with another girl, Elena decided to break up with her boyfriend."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Agriturismo

Across Italian rural areas, about 2,000 places offer accommodation to visitors eager to discover more about wine production, agriculture, and animal breeding. This type of accommodation is called *agriturismo*, from the two words *agricoltura* ("agriculture") and *turismo* ("tourism"), and we can roughly explain it as a "farm vacation center." It is a self-catering accommodation in which guests enjoy hospitality on farms, wine producing properties, and mountain chalets, and it has become incredibly popular in recent years.

On working farms, guests can actively contribute and take part in the life of the farm by picking fruit and vegetables, helping with animals, and accomplishing other farming tasks. An *agritourismo* often offers its locally produced products, such as fruit, vegetables, and hams, but also honey and oil. Some farms also have a restaurant with typical cuisine or sell their products in a shop. Often these products are organic and produced by traditional devices and methods.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #17

How Can you Complain on an Italian Holiday Like This?

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ITALIAN

1. Antonio: Eccoci arrivati. Che bell'aria fresca da queste parti.
2. Sofia: Sì molto carino qui - avevi ragione. Però che puzza ...
3. Antonio: Ah guarda il maneggio - dovremmo fare una cavalcata. Che ne dici?
4. Sofia: Parli come se fossi un fantino esperto! Comunque non ho nessuna intenzione di montare un cavallo. Magari se restassimo qui il weekend potrei iscrivermi a un breve corso di equitazione.
5. Antonio: Facendo qualche lezione secondo me ti passerebbe la paura e poi ti divertiresti. Comunque, io ho un certo languorino. Meglio affrettarsi verso il ristorante altrimenti non troveremo più un tavolo libero.
6. Sofia: Ma non hai prenotato?!
7. Antonio: Non c'ho pensato e poi possiamo sempre aspettare un pochino. Non sarebbe la fine del mondo.
8. Sofia: Se sapessi che fame ho io... stamattina non ho neanche fatto colazione.
9. Antonio: Dai Sofia non comportarti come se fossi una bambina. Guarda c'è un tavolo libero vicino al laghetto. Prendiamo posto.

ENGLISH

1. Antonio: Here we are. The air is fresh around here.

CONT'D OVER

2. Sofia: Yes, it's very nice here...you were right. But what a smell!
3. Antonio: Ah, look, the riding school...we should go for a ride. What do you think?
4. Sofia: You speak as if you were an expert jockey! Anyhow, I have no intention of riding a horse. Maybe if we stayed here for the weekend I would join a short riding course.
5. Antonio: If you took some lessons, I think that your fears would disappear and you'd have fun. Anyhow, I have some pangs of hunger. We better hurry toward the restaurant, otherwise we won't find a free table anymore.
6. Sofia: You didn't book it?
7. Antonio: No, I didn't think about it, and we can always wait a little bit. It wouldn't be the end of the world.
8. Sofia: If you knew how hungry I was... I didn't even have breakfast this morning.
9. Antonio: Sofia, don't behave like a child. Look, there's a free table by the pond. Let's sit down.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
la fine del mondo	the end of the world	nominal expression	
equitazione	horse-riding	noun	feminine

puzza	bad smell	noun	
avere intenzione di	to have the intention of	verbal expression	
fantino	jockey	noun	masculine
maneggio	riding school	noun	
cavalcata	ride	noun	
montare	to ride	verb	
languorino	pangs of hunger	noun	
affrettarsi	to hurry up, to make haste, to hurry	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Non preoccuparti se non hai superato l'esame: non è la fine del mondo! Don't worry if you didn't pass the test. It's not the end of the world.	Ho fatto equitazione quando avevo nove anni. "I went horse-back riding when I was nine years old."
Che cosa c'è nel frigorifero? Esce una puzza strana. What's in the fridge? A strange bad smell is coming out.	Non ho nessuna intenzione di fare il bagno in quest'acqua gelata. I have no intention of taking a bath in this freezing cold water.
Mi piacerebbe fare il fantino. "I would like to be a jockey."	Mio zio ha ereditato questo maneggio dai suoi genitori. My uncle has inherited this riding school from his parents.

Ieri Sara ha fatto una cavalcata di 2 ore. Yesterday Sara had a two-hour ride.	Non aver paura a montare su questo cavallo: è molto docile. Don't be afraid of riding this horse - it's very tractable.
Incomincio ad avere un certo languorino. Spero che questa riunione finisca presto. I'm starting to have some pangs of hunger. I hope this meeting ends soon.	Devi affrettarti a fare domanda per questo lavoro. La scadenza è tra due giorni. You should hurry to apply for this job. The deadline is in two days.

Luca ci aspetta al bar, faremmo meglio ad affrettarci.

"Luca's waiting for us at the bar, we'd better hurry up."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

PUZZA. This is the noun that comes from the verb *puzzare*, which means "to stink" or "to smell." *Puzza* is always "a bad smell." The words *odore* and *odorare* also mean "to smell" but don't necessarily mean a bad smell. It has a neutral connotation. In Italian, there are also the noun *profumo* and the verb *profumare* to talk about "a good smell."

AVERE INTENZIONE. This phrasal verb is very common and means "to want" or "to have the intention of." It is followed by the preposition *di* and the verb in the infinitive mood.

EQUITAZIONE. It's the sport of riding a horse. It comes from the Latin word *equus* ("horse"), and the Latin root is used to build adjective *equino* (*carne equina*, *macelleria equina*, *femmina equina*, *piede equino*). The word *cavallo* ("horse") derives from the late Greek *caballes*, and in Italian it is in words like *cavalcare* ("to ride"), *cavalcata* ("a ride"), and *cavaliere* ("knight").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Use of the *Congiuntivo Imperfetto*.

Parli come se fossi un fantino esperto.

"You speak as if you were an expert jockey."

Let's start with a quick review of the declination of the *congiuntivo imperfetto*.

Person	Verbs in -Are	Verbs in -Ere	Verbs in- Ire
<i>Io</i>	<i>Abitassi</i>	<i>Credessi</i>	<i>Dormissi</i>
<i>Tu</i>	<i>Abitassi</i>	<i>Credessi</i>	<i>Dormissi</i>
<i>Lui, lei</i>	<i>Abitasse</i>	<i>Credesse</i>	<i>Dormisse</i>
<i>Noi</i>	<i>Abitassimo</i>	<i>Credessimo</i>	<i>Dormissimo</i>
<i>Voi</i>	<i>Abitaste</i>	<i>Credeste</i>	<i>Dormiste</i>
<i>loro</i>	<i>Abitassero</i>	<i>Credessero</i>	<i>Dormissero</i>

Some verbs can be irregular, such as the following:

- *Bere: bevessi, bevessi, bevesse, bevessimo, beveste, bevessero*
- *Dare: dessi, dessi, desse, dessimo, deste, dessero*
- *Essere: fossi, fossi, fosse, fossimo, foste, fossero*
- *Fare: facessi, facessi, facesse, facessimo, faceste, facessero*
- *Stare: stessi, stessi, stesse, stessimo, steste, stessero*

The first two persons of the declination are the same, and therefore it is important to explicitly state the personal pronouns *io* and *tu* ("I" and "you").

For Example:

1. *Se io facessi più vacanze, sarei più rilassato.*
"If I went on vacation more, I would be more relaxed."
2. *Se tu facessi più vacanze, saresti più rilassato.*
"If you went on vacation more, you would be more relaxed."

Let's now look at some uses of the *congiuntivo imperfetto*:

- With an "if" clause (second type):

To express a wish or a possibility, the verb of the subordinate clause is in the *congiuntivo imperfetto*, while the verb in the main clause is the *condizionale presente*.

For Example:

1. *Magari se **restassimo** qui il weekend potrei iscrivermi a un breve corso di equitazione.*
"Maybe if we stayed here for the weekend, I would join a short riding course."
2. *Se **avessi** molti soldi, comprerei una casa a Venezia.*
"If I had a lot of money, I would buy a house in Venice."

We can shorten "if" clauses (second type): only the subordinate clause is explicit while the main clause remains implicit. In this case we also use the *congiuntivo imperfetto*.

For Example:

1. *Se sapessi che fame ho io...*
"If you knew how hungry I am..."

Sometimes we use the *gerundio presente* with the same function, and we can use it to replace an "if" clause of the second type.

For Example:

1. **Facendo** qualche lezione secondo me ti passerebbe la paura e poi ti divertiresti.
"If you took some lessons, I think that your fears would disappear, and you'd have fun."
Facendo qualche lezione= se facessi qualche lezione
 2. **Togliendo** qualche mobile, la stanza sembrerebbe più grande.
"If we took some furniture away, the room would look bigger."
- *Come se ("as if ...") + congiuntivo imperfetto*

After the adverbial expression *come se*, the verb must be in the *congiuntivo imperfetto*.

For Example:

1. *Parli come se fossi un fantino esperto.*
"You speak as if you were an expert jockey."
2. *Non comportarti come se fossi una bambina.*
"Don't behave like a child."/"Don't behave as if you were a child."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Il Palio

The *palio* is a traditional horse race that takes place in many cities in Italy throughout the year. *Il palio* probably dates back to the Middle Ages, and it is often a competition between the *contrade* ("town districts") or neighboring towns. Some of the most popular *palii* are *il palio di Asti* (in Piedmont), *il palio di Feltre*, *il palio di Siena*, and *palio del Niballo*. The *palio di Siena* is very popular also among the tourists who visit Tuscany during summer, as it takes place every year on July 2 and August 16. The first modern *palio* was run on August 16, 1656 to celebrate the miraculous apparition of the Virgin Mary who protects Siena. Originally, there were fifty-seven *contrade*. Nowadays, only ten take part in the horse race. Four days before the day of the *palio*, the main square, *Piazza del Campo*, is turned into a race track. A thick

layer of earth is spread on the ground and mattresses are placed in the most dangerous corners to protect jockeys in case they fall. The horse race is thrilling and exciting, but the *palio* is not just that. There is also a lively historical parade of flag bearers, trumpeters, musicians, and representatives of the city of Siena all dressed in colorful costumes that date back to the fifteenth century.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #18

What did your Italian Client Say?

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18

ITALIAN

1. Simone: Ah Wendy, sei tornata. Ha telefonato un cliente per te, il signor Capondi. Ti ho lasciato un post-it sulla scrivania col suo messaggio.
2. Wendy: Vuole che lo richiami?
3. Simone: Non è in casa fino alle 18 per cui ha lasciato detto a me e ha chiesto se puoi cominciare a cercargli qualche pacchetto vacanza. Poi domani mattina passa lui dall'agenzia.
4. Wendy: Sì, ho visto il tuo appunto. Ma... pensavo volesse fare una crociera. Qui invece parla di una camera matrimoniale d'albergo al mare.
5. Simone: Sì, ha accennato che inizialmente pensavano a una piccola crociera, ma poi ha aggiunto che la moglie non era molto convinta e hanno preferito optare per una vacanza al mare, possibilmente in Sardegna.
6. Wendy: Inizio subito a guardare qualche villaggio turistico.
7. Simone: Ha specificato che preferiva evitare un villaggio perchè la moglie non si era trovata bene l'anno prima.
8. Wendy: Va bene. E il periodo della vacanza è rimasto invariato?
9. Simone: Sì, ha però spiegato che le loro date erano comunque flessibili. Sono disposti a variarle di qualche giorno, se trovi un'offerta migliore.
10. Wendy: Ho capito. Ora mi metto al lavoro.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Simone: Ah, Wendy, you're back. A client called for you, Mr. Capondi. I left a post-it on your desk with his message.
2. Wendy: Does he want me to call him back?
3. Simone: He won't be home until six p.m., so he left a message with me, and he asked whether you could start looking for some vacation packages. Then tomorrow, he'll come by the agency.
4. Wendy: Yes, I saw your note. But...I thought he wanted to go on a cruise. This is about a hotel double room at the sea.
5. Simone: Yes, he mentioned that at first we were thinking of a cruise, but then he added that his wife was not very convinced and they preferred to opt for a vacation at the sea, possibly in Sardinia.
6. Wendy: I'll start checking some vacation villages right away.
7. Simone: He specified that he preferred to avoid a village because his wife didn't feel comfortable there the year before.
8. Wendy: Okay. And has the time frame of their vacation remained unchanged?
9. Simone: Yes, but he explained that their dates were flexible. They are also willing to change them a few days, if you find a better offer.
10. Wendy: I see. I'll get to work.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
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essere disposto	to be willing to	verb
specificare	to specify, to make clear	verb
villaggio turistico	vacation village	noun
optare	to opt	verb
pacchetto vacanza	vacation package	noun
accennare	to mention	verb
crociera	cruise	noun
passare	to come by, to go by	verb
appunto	note	noun
aggiungere	to add	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Siete disposti a fare i turni al lavoro? Are you willing to do shifts at work?	Quando telefoni all'albergo, specifica bene che vogliamo una stanza non fumatori. When you call the hotel, please specify that we want a non-smoking room.
Il villaggio vacanze è il luogo ideale per le famiglie con bambini. The vacation village is the ideal place for families with kids.	Volevo comprare un BMW, ma alla fine ho optato per una macchina più economica. I wanted to buy a BMW, but in the end I opted for a cheaper car.

Talvolta si possono trovare all'ultimo minuto pacchetti vacanze molto convenienti. It is sometimes possible to find some very cheap vacation packages at the last minute.	Durante il suo discorso, il signor Razzi non ha accennato a nessuno dei problemi che l'azienda ha avuto quest'anno. During his speech, Mr. Razzi has not mentioned any of the problems that the company has had this year.
Dopo l'incidente all'isola del Giglio, molte persone hanno cancellato le loro vacanze in crociera. "After the accident by Giglio Island, many people have cancelled their vacation on a cruise."	Questa sera passo da casa tua a portarti quei documenti. Tonight I'll come by your house to drop off those documents.
Ho scritto un appunto per ricordarti del tuo appuntamento dal dentista. I wrote down a note to remind you of your dentist appointment.	Aggiungi dei posti a tavola. "Add some seats at the table."
Aggiungi un pò di sale. "Add a bit of salt."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

PASSARE. It usually means "to go" or "come by," and the preposition *da* always follows it. The noun that follows can be a person or a place. *Passo dal fiorista alle 8* means "I come by the florist at eight." *Passa dalla scuola a prendere Sara* means "Go by the school and pick up Sara." If the meaning is "to pass through," the preposition *per* follows it. *Passo sempre per piazza Navona per andare al lavoro* means "I always go through piazza Navona on my way to work." Another meaning it might have is "to spend".

VILLAGGIO TURISTICO. In Italy it's usually popular to choose vacation destinations near the

sea. Such destinations are popular with families with children because babysitting services and activities for children are often available. *Animazione* (sports lessons and karaoke or dancing at night) is also popular. The tendency is to opt for a *villaggio turistico* if tourists are going to an area for the first time.

ESSERE DISPOSTO. *Essere disponibile* is a synonym. Both expressions require the preposition *a* plus the verb in the infinitive form.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Use of the *Discorso Indiretto*, or "Reported Speech."

Ha chiesto se puoi cominciare a cercargli qualche pacchetto vacanza.

"He asked whether you can start looking for some vacation packages."

We use verbs such as the following to introduce reported speech in Italian:

<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>dire</i>	"to say"
<i>affermare</i>	"to claim"
<i>accennare</i>	"to mention"
<i>aggiungere</i>	"to add"
<i>specificare</i>	"to specify"
<i>raccontare</i>	"to tell"

Reported speech is very common in Italian, and it differs if the verb in the main clause is in the present tense or in the past tense. The subordinate clause is always introduced by *che* ("that").

Let's focus on how reported speech works when the verb in the main clause is in the present tense.

When the verb in the main clause is in the present tense, the verb in the subordinate does not change.

<i>Italian</i>	"English"
Pietro: <i>Maurizio non si sente bene.</i> <i>Pietro dice che Maurizio non si sente bene.</i>	Pietro: "Maurizio doesn't feel well." "Pietro says that Maurizio doesn't feel well."
Pietro: <i>Mio fratello è uscito.</i> <i>Pietro dice che suo fratello è uscito.</i>	Pietro: "My brother went out." "Pietro says that his brother went out."

Remember that in the *discorso indiretto*, the person might change; if so, also the possessive adjectives and pronouns will change.

If we use a verb in the *passato prossimo* with function of present to introduce the main sentence, the verb in the subordinate clause remains unchanged.

<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>Il signor Capondi: Inizialmente pensavamo a una piccola crociera.</i> <i>Il signor Capondi ha accennato che inizialmente pensavano a una piccola crociera.</i>	Mr. Capondi: "At first they were thinking of a cruise." "Mr. Capondi mentioned that at first they were thinking of a cruise."

Let's now focus on the reported speech when the verb of the main sentence is in the past tense. If the verb in the direct speech is in the present tense, then the verb changes to *imperfetto* in the subordinate clause of the reported speech.

For Example:

1. *Sig. Capondi: "Mia moglie non è molto convinta." (presente)*
*Il Signor Capondi ha aggiunto che la moglie non **era** molto convinta. (imperfetto)*
"Mr. Capondi added that his wife was not very convinced."
2. *Sig. Capondi: "Preferisco evitare il villaggio." (presente)*
Ha specificato che preferiva evitare un villaggio. (imperfetto)
"He specified that he preferred to avoid a village."

When the subordinate clause in the reported speech is a question, we use *se* ("if"/"whether") to introduce the subordinate. The verbs that introduce a question-like subordinate are verbs like *chiedere*, *domandare*, and *interrogare* ("to ask") and *interrogarsi* ("to wonder"). The rules that regulate the choice of the verb tenses in the subordinate clause are the same as in the regular reported speech.

Main Subordinate

Presente -----unchanged

Passato-----*imperfetto*

For Example:

1. *Sig. Capondi: Puo' cominciare a cercarmi qualche pacchetto vacanza?*
Ha chiesto se puoi cominciare a cercargli qualche pacchetto vacanza.
"He asked whether you can start looking for some vacation packages."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What Are the Trends for Summer Vacation This Year?

Where will Italians likely be spending their holiday this year? Starting from Italy, art cities like *Roma*, *Napoli*, *Firenze*, and *Venezia* are still very fashionable destinations, especially for city breaks. For those seeking a vacation on the beach, *Puglia* and *Sicilia* are popular destinations, possibly because they are very well connected to the rest of the peninsula.

However, more and more, Italians choose foreign countries to spend their days by the sea. In particular, areas such as Greece and Egypt, where the all-inclusive packages can cost less than half of a holiday in a vacation village in Sardinia, are top destinations.

Egypt is great on the Red Sea side, but recently its Mediterranean beaches, such as Mathrou Marsa, have gained popularity.

Apparently, however, the means of transportation highly influences the choice of destination. It seems that many do not take into consideration certain destinations because they are difficult to reach or very expensive. This explains why vacationers often discard Sardinia and its *il caro traghetto* ("expensive ferry fares") in favor of other destinations such as Croatia.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #19

A Change of Italian Travel Plans

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

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ITALIAN

1. Sig. Capondi: Buongiorno. Ho telefonato ieri per alcune opzioni di vacanza al mare.
2. Wendy: Sì, ho selezionato alcune proposte con le indicazioni che ha lasciato al mio collega. Le destinazioni scelte sono Sardegna, Sicilia e l'Adriatico.
3. Sig. Capondi: Guardi, lascerei perdere da subito la Sicilia perchè mia moglie è terrorizzata al solo pensiero di volare.
4. Wendy: Peccato perchè avevo trovato delle offerte strabilianti per la Sicilia. Passiamo alla Sardegna che è raggiungibile comodamente in traghetto da Genova.
5. Sig. Capondi: Benissimo, io adoro la cucina sarda e le loro antiche tradizioni che sono un patrimonio da promuovere e salvaguardare.
6. Wendy: Queste sono alcune offerte per la Sardegna per due persone...
7. Sig. Capondi: Ci sarebbe un cambiamento di programma. Pensavo che saremmo andati solo noi due, ma ieri sera nostra figlia ha detto che ci avrebbe raggiunto con il piccolo per qualche giorno. Ovviamente mia moglie le ha risposto che andava bene e di stare anche per una intera settimana.
8. Wendy: Capisco. Ricapitolando, lei vuole prenotare una camera matrimoniale per due settimane e poi una camera doppia per una settimana.
9. Sig. Capondi: Esatto.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Mr. Capondi: Good morning. I called yesterday for some vacation options at the sea.
2. Wendy: Yes, I have selected some proposals with the suggestions you left with my co-worker. The chosen destinations are Sardinia, Sicily, and the Adriatic Sea.
3. Mr. Capondi: Well, I would forget Sicily right away since my wife is terrified even at the thought of flying.
4. Wendy: That's too bad, because I found some amazing offers for Sicily. Let's look at Sardinia, which can be reached easily by ferry.
5. Mr. Capondi: Very well, I adore the Sardinian cuisine and their old traditions that are a legacy to be promoted and protected.
6. Wendy: Here are some offers for Sardinia for two people...
7. Mr. Capondi: There has been a change in plans. I thought just the two of us would go, but last night our daughter said she would join us with the little one for a few days. Of course, my wife answered that it was fine and that they could also stay for an entire week.
8. Wendy: I see. To sum up, you would like to book a double room for two weeks and a twin room for a week.
9. Mr. Capondi: Exactly.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
ricapitolare	to sum up	verb
salvaguardare	to protect	verb
promuovere	to promote	verb

sardo	Sardinian	adjective
raggiungibile	can be reached, reachable	adjective
strabiliante	amazing	adjective
al solo pensiero	even at the thought	adverbial phrase
lasciar perdere	to forget	verb
selezionare	to select	verb
indicazione	instruction, suggestion	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ricapitoliamo un po' la lezione che abbiamo fatto la settimana scorsa. Let's sum up a bit the lesson that we did last week.	Sfortunatamente l'Italia non sempre salvaguarda i propri siti archeologici. Unfortunately Italy doesn't always protect its archaeological sites.
Ogni regione deve promuovere le proprie tradizioni culturali "Every region has to promote its cultural traditions."	In genere il formaggio sardo è fatto con latte di pecora. Usually Sardinian cheese is made of sheep's milk.
Volevo sapere se quel rifugio di montagna è raggiungibile in un paio di ore. I wanted to know if that mountain chalet can be reached within a couple of hours.	In tutta la Sardegna ci sono delle spiagge strabilianti All around Sardinia there are amazing beaches.
Al solo pensiero di volare, sto male. I feel sick at the thought of flying.	Che serata noiosa è stata! Lasciamo perdere! "What a boring night it was! Let's forget it!"

L'azienda ha selezionato i migliori candidati. The company selected the best candidates.	Le indicazioni che ho ricevuto per raggiungere la casa di Pietro erano errate. The instructions I received to reach Pietro's house were wrong.
---	---

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

RAGGIUNGIBILE. This adjective ends in *-bile* and has the meaning of "can be reached." Most adjectives ending in *-bile* carry the meaning of possibility, "can be ...," as in *E' un progetto fattibile* ("this project can be done"). Or the meaning of passive, as in *Questa storia è credibile* ("this story can be believed/ is believable").

SALVAGUARDARE. This is a compound word created by the words *salvare* ("to save," "to keep," or "to protect") and *guardare* ("to watch" or "to watch over").

RICAPITOLARE. Some similar verbs could be *riassumere* and *sintetizzare*. This verb has no relation to the verbs starting with the prefix *ri-*. *Capitolare* has a totally different meaning: "to surrender" or "to give in."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Use of the *Discorso Indiretto*, or "Reported Speech."
Ieri sera nostra figlia ha detto che ci avrebbe raggiunto con il piccolo per qualche giorno.
"Last night our daughter said that she would join us with the little one for a few days."

Let's now focus on the reported speech when the verb of the main sentence is in the past tense. In the previous lesson, we learned that if the verb in the direct speech is in the present tense, then the verb changes to the *imperfetto* in the subordinate clause of the reported speech.

For Example:

- Sara disse: "Qui c'è bel tempo." (presente)*
*Sara disse che lì il tempo **era** bello. (imperfetto)*
"Sara said that the weather was good."

Direct Speech

Reported Speech: Subordinate Clause

Presente
È

Imperfetto
era

Now we look at how the tense of the subordinate clause in the reported speech changes when the verb of sentence in the direct speech is not in the present tense, but in the *passato prossimo*. If the verb in the direct speech is in the *passato prossimo*, then the verb changes to the *trapassato prossimo* in the subordinate clause of the reported speech.

For Example:

1. *Giulia disse: "**Sei stato** bravo!"*
Giulia disse che ero stato bravo.
"Giulia said that I did well."

Direct Speech	Reported Speech: Subordinate Clause
<i>Passato prossimo</i> <i>Sei stato</i>	<i>Trapassato prossimo</i> <i>Ero stato</i>

If the verb in the direct speech is in the *futuro semplice*, then the verb changes to the *condizionale passato* in the subordinate clause of the reported speech.

For Example:

1. *Nostra figlia ha detto: " Vi **raggiungerò** con il piccolo per qualche giorno."*
*Ieri sera nostra figlia ha detto che ci **avrebbe raggiunto** con il piccolo per qualche giorno.*
"Last night, our daughter said that she would join us with the little one for a few days."

Direct Speech	Reported Speech: Subordinate Clause
<i>Futuro semplice</i> <i>Raggiungerò</i>	<i>Condizionale passato</i> <i>avrebbe raggiunto</i>

If the verb in the direct speech is in the *condizionale presente*, then the verb changes to the *condizionale passato* in the subordinate clause of the reported speech.

For Example:

1. *Marco disse alla moglie: "**Postresti ordinare** una pizza per cena."*
*Marco disse alla moglie che **avrebbe potuto ordinare** una pizza per cena.*
 "Marco said to his wife that she could have ordered a pizza for dinner."

Direct Speech	Reported Speech: Subordinate Clause
Condizionale presente <i>Potresti ordinare</i>	Condizionale passato <i>avrebbe potuto ordinare</i>

If the verb in the direct speech is in the *imperativo*, then the verb changes to *di + infinito* or *che + congiuntivo imperfetto* in the subordinate clause of the reported speech.

For Example:

1. *Mia moglie (a mia figlia): "**Stai** pure per una intera settimana!"*
*Mia moglie ha risposto **di stare** anche per un'intera settimana.*
*Mia moglie ha risposto **che stesse** anche per un'intera settimana.*
 "My wife answered to stay for an entire week."

Direct Speech	Reported Speech: Subordinate Clause
Imperativo <i>Stai</i>	<i>Di+infinito/Che+ congiuntivo imperfetto</i> <i>Di stare/che stesse</i>

The rules that regulate the choice of the verb tenses in the subordinate clause are the same as in the regular reported speech. The subordinate clause is introduced by *se*.

Remember that when changing from direct speech to reported speech a number also time and place expressions must change: *qui/qua*---*lì/là* ; *questo*---- *quello*; *fra due giorni*----*dopo due giorni*; *ieri*--- *il giorno prima*; *oggi*----*quel giorno*; *domani*--- *il giorno dopo*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Secondi Piatti Sardi

Sardinian cuisine is characterized by the insularity of this region and its pastoral customs. The dishes are simple and aromatized with local herbs like *ginepro* ("juniper"), *mirto* ("myrtle") and *lavanda* ("lavender").

The "main dishes" or *secondi piatti* are one of the strong points of the Sardinian cuisine. Roasts are particularly popular, and men usually are in charge of their time-consuming cooking process. *Il porchetto* is pork meat on the spit. Only salt, bacon fat, and herbs (like rosemary, bay leaves, and myrtle) are added. Another typical dish is the *carraxiu*: pork or boar is placed in a hole in the earth with lots of myrtle and fragrant woods. Then some burning embers placed on top will slowly cook the meat. *Pillonis de t'accula* is a delicious dish: black birds and robins are boiled with salt and myrtle.

Although Sardinia is an island, there are no particularly famous *secondi piatti* of fish because the people of Sardinia are not fishermen but mainly work in agriculture and sheep farming. Some traditional dishes are *la burrida*, boiled *gattuccio di mare* ("dogfish") covered in nuts and oil; *la cassula*, "a fish soup"; and a number of dishes made with roasted or grilled *muggine* ("mullet fish").

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #20

Looking for a Rock in Italy

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

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ITALIAN

1. Antonio: Vorrei vedere alcuni anelli di fidanzamento.
2. Gioielliere: Certo. Gliene mostro alcuni. Poi se preferisce può anche scegliere la pietra e la montatura separatamente. Sa già che pietra?
3. Antonio: Andrei sul classico. Beh, dicono che il diamante significhi 'per sempre' giusto?
4. Gioielliere: Non si sbaglia mai con un diamante. Ecco alcuni solitari. Questi sono vari tagli: a brillante, il più tradizionale, principessa, a goccia o a cuore. Uno poi si regola in base al gusto della propria fidanzata.
5. Antonio: Capisco. La scelta è difficile... Che cosa piacerà a Sofia? Sicuramente però la montatura sarà in oro bianco o platino.
6. Gioielliere: Poi deve anche considerare il suo budget. La purezza e la dimensione della pietra incidono sul costo dell'anello.
7. Antonio: Beh dicono che l'anello deve costare due mensilità del proprio stipendio. Certo che di questi tempi...
8. Gioielliere: Ora guardi un po' di modelli e poi le consiglierai di venire con la mamma o un'amica della Sua fidanzata. Oppure, se vuole andare sul sicuro, venga pure con la Sua fidanzata.

ENGLISH

1. Antonio: I'd like to see some engagement rings.

CONT'D OVER

2. **Jeweler:** Sure. I'll show you some. Then if you prefer, you could choose the stone and the setting separately. Do you already know which stone you want?
3. **Antonio:** I would stick to something classic. A diamond is said to mean "forever," right?
4. **Jeweler:** You can never go wrong with a diamond. Here are some solitaires. These are different cuts...round, the most traditional; princess; pear; or heart. Then, people usually choose according to the fiancée's taste.
5. **Antonio:** I see. It's a difficult choice. What will Sofia like? The setting will be white gold or platinum, for sure.
6. **Jeweler:** Then you need to consider your budget. The clarity and the size affect the price of the ring.
7. **Antonio:** Well, it is said that the ring should cost like two months' salary. Although these days...
8. **Jeweler:** Now have a look at some models, and then I would advise you to come with your fiancée's mother or one of her friends. Otherwise, if you want to play it safe, come with your fiancée.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
andare sul sicuro	to play it safe	verb	
classico	classic	verb	

regolarsi	to choose, to act, to behave	verb	
stipendio	pay	noun	
pietra	stone	noun	
montatura	setting	noun	
diamante	diamond	noun	
platino	platinum	noun	
incidere	to affect, to carve	verb	
modello	model	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Se vuoi andare sul sicuro, scegli una Volkswagen. "If you want to play safe, buy a Volkswagen."	Se prendi un abito di taglio classico non sbagli mai. "If you buy a classic cut suit, you can never go wrong."
Non so come regolarsi in questa situazione. "I don't know how to act in this situation."	Lo stipendio è di millecinquecento euro. "The pay is one thousand five hundred Euros."
La pietra miliare. "The milestone."	Lanciare la pietra e nascondere la mano. "To attack from under cover."
Per questo anello preferirei una montatura più semplice. "For this ring, I'd like a more simple setting."	Il Congo è ricco di giacimenti di diamanti. "The Congo is rich in diamond mines."

Il platino è il metallo più prezioso e il più caro. "Platinum is the most precious and most expensive metal."	L'acquisto della nuova cucina ha inciso sulle spese di questo mese. "The purchase of the new kitchen has affected this month's expenses."
Questo è il modello nuovo. "This is the new model."	Hai bisogno di scarpe? Scegli un modello elegante. "Do you need shoes? Choose an elegant model."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

CLASSICO. We often use this adjective to describe something that is "traditional" or "transcends time."

INCIDERE. In the dialogue above, *incidere* has the meaning of "affect" or "influence" (*influenzare*). Generally speaking, *incidere* is "the act of carving" or "engraving." *L'artista incide sul legno* means "The artist is carving the wood." *Incidere* also means "to record music." *Ho inciso un album con la mia band* means "I recorded an album with my band."

ANDARE SUL SICURO. This expression means "to play (it) safe," or literally, "to go safe." Expressions in Italian that use the adjective *sicuro* in the meaning of "safe" or "safety" are: *essere al sicuro* ("to be in safety"), *mettere al sicuro* ("to put something in a safe place"), and *in mani sicure* ("in safe hands").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Use of the Impersonal Form (*Dicono, Uno*).

Dicono che il diamante significhi 'per sempre' giusto?

"A diamond is said to mean 'forever,' right?"

We can express the impersonal construction in different ways.

1. The Verb *Essere* in the Third Person Singular + *Aggettivo* + *Verbo Infinito*

"To be" + "adjective" + "infinitive verb"

For Example:

1. *E' importante fare una buona colazione la mattina.*
"It's important to have a good breakfast in the morning."

2. *Si* + Verb in the Third Person Singular or Plural

For Example:

1. *Non si sbaglia mai con un diamante.*
"You can never go wrong with a diamond."
2. *Si spendono molti soldi in regali a Natale.*
"Much money is spent on presents at Christmas."

3. Third Person Plural of Some Verbs

We often use the verb *dire* in the third person plural to build the third person plural. We usually translate it in English as "It is said that..." or with a passive construction.

For Example:

1. *Dicono che l'anello deve costare due mensilità del proprio stipendio.*
"It is said that the ring should cost like two months' salary."
2. *Dicono che domani pioverà.*
"Tomorrow is meant to rain."
3. *Hanno aperto un nuovo centro commerciale.*
"A new shopping center has opened."

4. *Che film danno stasera?*
"What films are on tonight?"

4. The Indefinite Pronoun *Uno* + Verb in the Third Person Singular

For Example:

1. *Uno si regola in base al gusto della propria fidanzata.*
"One chooses according to his fiancée's taste."
2. *Uno si abitua facilmente a tutte le comodità.*
"One gets easily used to all these comforts."

5. A Passive Construction

For Example:

1. *Qui verrà costruita una nuova scuola.*
"Here a new school will be built."
2. *A febbraio viene fatto un nuovo sondaggio di mercato su questo prodotto.*
"In February, a new market survey is done on this product."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Engagement Ring

The tradition of giving an engagement ring to the future wife is an old and long-lasting one. The future groom can give a family ring, which has a family value. It is often his grandmother's ring. Otherwise, he purchases a new ring.

According to the tradition, the man is supposed to spend a minimum of two months' salary, but many believe jewelers created this rule. Recently, a famous commercial has made diamonds very popular stones for engagement rings: *Un diamante è per sempre* ("A diamond is forever."). Other stones can be used for engagement rings: *lo zaffiro* ("sapphire"), which is a symbol of faithfulness; *il rubino* ("ruby"), which means burning love, and *lo smeraldo* ("emerald"), which is a symbol of hope.

According to tradition, the engagement was announced during a family dinner or party organized by the mother of the future bride; the future bride's father made the actual announcement. On this occasion, the future groom would donate the ring to his fiancée. The girl would give her fiancé a gift of equal value, like a golden watch.

However, nowadays, very few men decide to give the engagement ring to their future wife during a family gathering.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #21

A Romantic Italian Proposal

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

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ITALIAN

1. Sofia: Buon appetito! Ho una fame...
2. Wendy: Scusa un attimo, ma quello che porti all'anulare è un anello di fidanzamento o sbaglio?
3. Sofia: Sì, volevo dirvelo stamattina, ma c'erano così tanti clienti. Antonio si è fatto coraggio e dopo 6 anni insieme mi ha chiesto di sposarlo.
4. Simone: Bravo Antonio! E che anello favoloso!
5. Wendy: Oltre ad avere una montatura originale, ha un taglio molto luminoso. E' uno degli anelli più belli che abbia mai visto.
6. Sofia: Non esagerare! Però devo dire che è certamente il regalo più azzeccato che Antonio mi abbia mai dato. Mi ha sorpreso.
7. Simone: Che sia andato in gioielleria con una tua amica?
8. Sofia: Può darsi. Credo che sia andato con Giovanna. E' l'unica amica che mi conosca come le sue tasche. In effetti li ho sentiti al telefono che confabulavano la settimana scorsa, ma non potevo immaginare che...
9. Wendy: Che romanticone...
10. Simone: E la proposta di matrimonio?
11. Sofia: Al lago, proprio dove ci eravamo conosciuti sei anni fa.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Sofia: "Buon appetito!" I'm so hungry...
2. Wendy: Wait a sec, is what you're wearing on your ring finger an engagement ring, or am I wrong?
3. Sofia: Yes, I wanted to tell you this morning, but there were so many clients. Antonio mustered up the courage, and after six years together, he asked me to marry him.
4. Simone: Well done, Antonio! And what a fabulous ring!
5. Wendy: Besides a very original setting, it has a very bright cut. It's one of the most beautiful rings I've ever seen.
6. Sofia: Don't exaggerate! But I have to say that it is the best present Antonio has ever given me. He surprised me.
7. Simone: Maybe he went to the jeweler with one of your female friends.
8. Sofia: Could be. I think he went with Giovanna. She is the only friend who knows me like the back of her hand. Actually, last week I heard them talking on the phone, and they were chatting, but I couldn't imagine that...
9. Wendy: Such a romantic!
10. Simone: And how about the wedding proposal?
11. Sofia: At the lake, exactly where we met six years ago.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
conoscere qualcuno come le proprie tasche	to know someone like the back of one's hands	verbal expression	
portare	to wear	verb	
proposta	proposal, offer, suggestion	noun	
taglio	cut	noun	masculine
favoloso	fabulous, fantastic, wonderful	adjective	
anulare	ring finger	noun	masculine
farsi coraggio	to muster up courage	verbal expression	
azzeccato	guessed, fitting, spot on	adjective	
confabulare	to talk secretly	verb	
romanticone	very romantic	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Conosco i miei alunni uno ad uno proprio come le mie tasche. "I know my pupils one by one like the back of my hand."	Perché porti sempre quelle scarpe bianche? "Why do you always wear those white shoes?"
Diana ha accettato la proposta di matrimonio di Giovanni. "Diana accepted Giovanni's wedding proposal."	Ho ricevuto una proposta di lavoro. "I received a work proposal."

Quel vestito ha un bel taglio. "That dress has a nice cut."	Abbiamo fatto un'esperienza favolosa. "We had a fabulous experience."
Mi sono schiacciato il dito anulare dietro la porta. "I crushed my ring finger behind the door."	Fatti coraggio e comincia il tuo discorso. "Muster up your courage and start your speech."
All'esame Sara ha azzeccato tutte le risposte. "Sara got all the answers on the exam."	Ieri sera Maria e Anna stavano confabulando in un angolo della strada. "Yesterday evening, Mary and Anne were chatting on the street corner."
Il suo ragazzo è un romanticone. Le dona sempre delle rose rosse. "Her boyfriend is so romantic. He always gives her red roses."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

PORTARE. It means "to wear." We use it with clothes, jewels, shoes, and glasses. We only use it to describe what people are wearing, but in Italian we never use it in the progressive form. *Sara porta il cappotto rosso e il cappello giallo* means "Sara is wearing a red coat and a yellow hat" (not *sta portando*!). To express the action of putting something on, the verb is *mettere*, not *portare*. *Metti la sciarpa* means "put your scarf on" or "wear your scarf."

AZZECCATO. It's the past participle of *azzeccare*, which means "to guess." A synonym is *indovinare* or *fare la cosa giusta* ("to do the right thing").

CONOSCERE qualcuno COME LE PROPRIE TASCHE. This expression uses the word *tasca*, "pocket," as something personal. Another expression is *averne le tasche piene* ("to be fed up with something"). *Tasca* also carries the meaning of "money" in expressions like *avere le tasche vuote* ("to have no money") and *mettere mano alla tasca* ("to be ready to pay").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the *Congiuntivo Passato* and the Usage of the *Congiuntivo* in

Main Clauses.

E' uno degli anelli più belli che abbia mai visto.

"It's one of the most beautiful rings I have ever seen."

We form the *congiuntivo passato* with the *congiuntivo presente* of the auxiliary verbs *essere* and *avere* plus the past participle of the main verb.

The choice of the auxiliary verb follows the rules that apply for the *passato prossimo*.

For Example:

1. *Penso che abbia già venduto la sua macchina.*

"I think he has already sold his car."

2. *Credi che Luigi sia già partito?*

"Do you think that Luigi has already left?"

The subordinate clauses in the examples above require the usage of the conjunctive because in the main sentences there are verbs like *pensare* and *credere*.

The verb in the main clause is in the present tense (*penso, credi*). In the subordinate clause the verbs are in the *congiuntivo passato* because the actions of *vendere* (*abbia venduto*) and *partire* (*sia partito*) happen before those of the main clause. Therefore, to express anteriority, the verb of the subordinate clause is in the *congiuntivo passato*.

We also use the *congiuntivo passato* in the relative clauses if:

- In the main clause there is a *superlativo relativo* ("superlative")

For Example:

1. *E' uno degli anelli più belli che abbia mai visto.*

"It's one of the most beautiful rings I have ever seen."

2. *E' certamente il regalo più azzecato che Antonio mi abbia mai dato.*

"It is the best present Antonio has ever given me."

3. *E' una delle più belle storie d'amore che abbia mai letto.*
"It is one of the most beautiful love stories that I have ever read."

● In the main clause there is the adjective *unico* or *solo*

For Example:

1. *E' la sola/l'unica donna di cui sia diventato davvero amico.*
"She's the only woman I really became friends with."

According to the context and the time relation between verbs, it is possible to also use the *congiuntivo presente*.

For Example:

1. *E' l'unica amica che mi **conosca come le sue tasche**.*
"She is the only friend who knows me like the back of her hand."

Now let's focus on the usage of *congiuntivo* in the main clauses.

We can use the *congiuntivo*, in all its four tenses, in the main clause in interrogative sentences that express a doubt.

For Example:

1. *Che sia andato in gioielleria con una tua amica?*
= *Forse è andato in gioielleria con una tua amica.*
"Maybe he went to the jewelry store with one of your female friends."
2. *Tommaso è molto in ritardo. Che abbia perso il treno?*
= *Tommaso è molto in ritardo. Forse ha perso il treno.*
"Tommaso is very late. Maybe he missed the train."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Modern Italian jewelry design draws from traditions in fine craftsmanship that date back centuries. Gold is one of the most highly used metals, probably because of its affinity with the color of the sun. Another metal that is highly appreciated in Italy is sterling silver, which is often used together with diamonds or other precious gemstones.

The history of jewelry design dates back to the ancient Etruscan period. The Etruscans were famous for their golden jewelry. Some of the jewelry that has arrived to us shows highly advanced metalworking skills. They often decorated their earrings and necklaces with the time-consuming technique of granulation, in which many hundreds of tiny gold beads are soldered together.

What are some of the most famous Italian jewelry brands nowadays? Names like Bulgari, Buccellati, and Di Modolo are some of the brands famous worldwide. Also, Damiani has to be included in the list: this company won eighteen Diamond Awards, the Oscar of the world of jewelry. And if you are looking for something in gold, then Favero and Unoaerre should be on your list of stores to go to.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #22

Commuting in Italy

CONTENTS

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

22

ITALIAN

1. Wendy: Ciao Simone. Non riuscivi a scendere dal letto stamane?
2. Simone: Guarda, sono nero! Ho impiegato il doppio del tempo per arrivare in ufficio. Se l'avessi saputo...
3. Wendy: Che è successo?
4. Simone: Lavori in corso. Ogni mattina ascolto le notizie sul traffico alla radio mentre faccio colazione. Se l'avessero detto, avrei fatto un altro percorso, oppure sarei venuto in autobus.
5. Wendy: Infatti non capisco perchè tu ti ostini a venire in macchina. Non sarebbe più comodo venire coi mezzi pubblici? Inoltre qui il parcheggio è un incubo...
6. Simone: Lo so ma l'autobus è strapieno e non mi va di stare schiacciato come una sardina per 30 minuti.
7. Wendy: Se prendessi l'autobus almeno diminuirebbe lo smog e...
8. Simone: Wendy, io non sono come te. Tu sei un'ecologista nata e ti fai 15 chilometri in bicicletta. E poi la mia macchina non fa la differenza.
9. Wendy: Se tutti la pensassero come te, sicuramente non risolveremmo mai il problema dello smog in città.

ENGLISH

1. Wendy: Hi, Simone. You couldn't get out of bed this morning?

CONT'D OVER

2. Simone: Look, I'm furious. It took me twice the time to get to the office. If I had known...
3. Wendy: What happened?
4. Simone: Road construction. Every morning, I listen to the traffic report on the radio while having breakfast. If they had announced it, I would have taken a different route, or I would have come by bus.
5. Wendy: Right, I don't understand why you insist on coming by car. Wouldn't it be more convenient to come by public transportation? Besides, parking here is a nightmare...
6. Simone: I know, but the bus is overcrowded, and I'm not going to be packed in like a sardine for thirty minutes.
7. Wendy: If you took the bus, the smog would decrease and...
8. Simone: Wendy, I'm not like you. You are a born environmentalist and go fifteen kilometers by bike. And moreover, my car doesn't make a difference...
9. Wendy: If everybody thought like you, we would never solve the problem of the smog in the cities for sure.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
stamane	this morning	noun
ecologista	environmentalist	noun

schiacciato come una sardina	packed like sardines	verbal expression
strapieno	overcrowded	adjective
incubo	nightmare	noun
ostinarsi	to insist	verb
percorso	route	noun
lavori in corso	road construction	noun
nero	angry, furious	adjective
fare la differenza	to make a difference	verbal expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Come mai sei in ritardo stamane? Why are you late this morning?	Molti ecologisti lavorano per Legambiente. Many environmentalists work for Legambiente.
Nell'ora di punta sulla metro di Tokyo ti trovi schiacciato come una sardina. At rush hour in the Tokyo subways, people are squashed like sardines.	Tutte le mattine il treno dei pendolari delle 7.00 è strapieno. Every morning the commuter train at 7:00 is overcrowded.
Il traffico di Roma è un incubo. The traffic in Rome is a nightmare.	Claudio abita a 5 minuti dalla scuola, ma si ostina a venire in macchina. Claudio lives 5 minutes from the school, but he insists on coming by car.

Ho finalmente trovato un percorso più corto per venire al lavoro. I finally found a shorter route to come to work.	A Roma le strade sono spesso chiuse o per i lavori in corso o per le manifestazioni. In Rome, roads are often closed either for road construction or for demonstrations.
Sono nero. Ho perso il treno per un soffio. I'm furious. I just missed the train.	Partire oggi o domani per me non fa differenza. It makes no difference to me whether we leave today or tomorrow.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

OSTINARSI. It means "to keep on" or "to insist on." The verb is a reflexive verb followed by the preposition *a* and the infinitive verb. The adjective is *ostinato*, and it means "stubborn."

STRAPIENO. In colloquial language (especially used by young people), the prefix *stra-* shows that something is "more than usual." We often translate it in English as "over-" or "very." For example, *stralungo* means "very long," and *stravecchio* means "very old."

FARE LA DIFFERENZA. It means "to make a difference." There are expressions using the word *differenza*, which are also very common but change the meaning. *Fare differenza/Non fare nessuna differenza* ("to make no difference").

For Example:

1. *Partire di mattina o di sera non fa differenza per me.*
"Leaving in the morning or in the evening makes no difference for me."

Fare differenze ("to treat someone in a different way").

For Example:

1. *Non fare differenze tra i bambini.*
"Don't treat the kids differently."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Use of the *Congiuntivo Trapassato*.

Se l'avessi Saputo...

"If I had known..."

We form the *congiuntivo passato* with the *congiuntivo imperfetto* of the auxiliary verbs *essere* and *avere* plus the past participle of the main verb.

The choice of the auxiliary verb follows the rules that apply for the *passato prossimo*.

For Example:

1. *Pensavo che quel libro l'avessi già letto.*
"I thought you already read that book."
2. *Credevo che Maria fosse già partita.*
"I thought that Maria had already left."

The subordinate clauses in the examples above require the usage of the conjunctive because in the main sentences there are verbs like *pensare* and *credere*.

The verbs in the main clause in the examples above are in the past tense (*pensavo* and *credevo*). In the subordinate clause, the verbs are in the *congiuntivo trapassato* because the actions of *leggere* (*avessi letto*) and *partire* (*fosse partita*) happen before those of the main clause. Therefore, to express anteriority, the verb of the subordinate clause is in the *congiuntivo trapassato*.

Of course, if the auxiliary verb is the verb *essere*, the past participle needs to agree in number and gender with the subject.

For Example:

1. *Credevo che Maria fosse già partita.*
"I thought that Maria had already left."

Maria is a feminine and singular noun: *partita*.

We often use the *congiuntivo trapassato* in the "if" clause (third type): *periodo ipotetico*

dell'irrealtà. This type of "if" clause expresses a chance that can no longer be taken or an unfulfilled wish.

For Example:

1. *Se l'avessero detto, avrei fatto un altro percorso, oppure sarei venuto in autobus.*
Se l'avessero detto (congiuntivo trapassato), avrei fatto (condizionale passato) un altro percorso, oppure sarei venuto in autobus.
"If they had announced it, I would have taken a different route, or I would have come by bus."
2. *Se avessi studiato di più, avrei passato l'esame.*
"If I had studied more, I would have passed the exam."

We can also leave certain "if" clauses uncompleted:

For Example:

1. *Se l'avessi saputo...*
"If I had known..."

We can also use the *congiuntivo trapassato* in the main clause in sentences that express a wish that can no longer be fulfilled. These sentences always start with the conjunction *magari* ("if only").

For Example:

1. *Magari fosse venuto a trovarmi!*
"If only he had come to visit me!"
2. *Magari mi fosse venuto in mente prima!*
"If only I'd thought of it before!"

We can also use the *congiuntivo imperfetto* to express a wish that has not been fulfilled yet.

For Example:

1. *Magari ci fosse il sole! (oggi)*
"If only it was sunny (today)!"
2. *Magari ci fosse stato il sole (passato)!*
"If only it had been sunny (in the past)!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Legambiente

Legambiente is a very active organization that was founded in Italy at the end of the 1970s and was born within the anti-nuclear movements. First the name was *Lega per l'ambiente*, "League for the Environment." Its symbol is a green swan.

In thirty years of existence, *Legambiente* organized campaigns of environmental monitoring in Italy like *Treno Verde* ("Green Train") and activities for volunteers like *Spiagge pulite* and *Puliamo il Mondo* ("*Clean Beaches*" and "*Clean Up the World*").

Il treno verde is a train that goes to different cities in Italy, stops for three days in the same city, and monitors the level of smog in the air as well as the acoustic pollution. In those three days, conferences, workshops, and educational activities for adults and children are organized.

Legambiente promoted and increased the mobilization against smog and the referenda of 1987 and 2011 against nuclear power; fought against illegal building, especially along the coasts of South Italy; and lifted the veil on the illegal dumping of waste. The association promotes, among other things, the use of alternative energy and renewable energy, energy conservation , and the preservation of some protected areas.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #23

Make Sure you see a Soccer Game in Italy!

CONTENTS

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

23

ITALIAN

1. Simone: Che leggi? Non pensavo ti interessassi di calcio.
2. Wendy: Beh, un po'. Ho seguito il campionato italiano di serie A lo scorso anno quando ero negli States. Mi facevo certe notti in bianco pur di guardare le partite.
3. Simone: Per che squadra tifi?
4. Wendy: In realtà non ho una squadra del cuore, ma credo che mi sia affezionata alla Roma.
5. Simone: Io invece sono milanese DOC e tengo all'Inter. Ma sei già stata allo stadio?
6. Wendy: Purtroppo no. Domenica la Roma viene in trasferta a Torino, ma credo che i biglietti siano già esauriti.
7. Simone: Possiamo fare un tentativo, ma temo che sia troppo tardi. Se non sbaglio però la Roma giocherà qui a San Siro tra 5 settimane. Perchè non ci andiamo insieme?
8. Wendy: Fantastico!
9. Simone: Cerco i biglietti per il secondo anello nella sezione arancione, va bene?
10. Wendy: Se non ti dispiace preferirei che andassimo nel primo anello, anche se i biglietti saranno più salati.

CONT'D OVER

11. Simone: Non c'è problema. Anch'io vado allo stadio saltuariamente e tanto vale approfittare dell'occasione. Cerco subito i biglietti su internet altrimenti li prendiamo al botteghino allo stadio.

ENGLISH

1. Simone: What are you reading? I didn't know you were interested in soccer.
2. Wendy: Well, I am a little. I followed the Italian Serie A championship last year while I was in the States. I had some sleepless nights watching the games.
3. Simone: Which team are you a fan of?
4. Wendy: Actually, I don't have a favorite team, but I think I've come to like Roma the best. And you?
5. Simone: I'm from Milan, and I support Inter Milan. Have you been to the stadium yet?
6. Wendy: Unfortunately not. On Sunday Roma plays away in Turin, but I think the tickets are already sold out.
7. Simone: We could give it a try, but I'm afraid it might be too late. If I'm not wrong, though, Roma will play here in San Siro in five weeks. Why don't we go together?
8. Wendy: Great!
9. Simone: I'm going to look for the tickets in the second ring of the orange section of the stadium; is that okay?

CONT'D OVER

10. Wendy: If you don't mind, I would rather go to the first ring, even if the tickets will be more expensive.
11. Simone: No problem. I also go occasionally to the stadium, so it's worth taking advantage of this opportunity. I'm going to look for the tickets online; otherwise, we can buy them at the stadium kiosk.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
botteghino	kiosk	noun	
saltuariamente	occasionally	adverb	
anello	ring	noun	masculine
notte in bianco	sleepless night	noun	
campionato	championship	noun	masculine
in trasferta	away	nominal expression	
doc	authentic	adjective	
tifare	to be a fan	verb	
squadra del cuore	favorite team	nominal expression	
esaurito	sold out, finished	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Questa è la fila per comprare il biglietto al botteghino. "This is the line to buy tickets at the kiosk."	I miei nonni abitano in America quindi li vedo solo saltuariamente. "My grandparents live in America, so I only occasionally visit them."
Che bell'anello di fidanzamento! "What a beautiful engagement ring!"	Alla vigilia di ogni esame universitario passo sempre la notte in bianco. "On the eve of every university exam, I always spend a sleepless night."
L'Italia ha vinto il campionato del mondo di calcio. "Italy won the world soccer championship."	Tutte le volte che il Torino gioca in trasferta, perde. "Every time Torino plays away, they lose."
I romani DOC si riconoscono facilmente dal loro forte accento. "People originally from Rome can be recognized from their strong accent."	Mio cugino tifa per l'Udinese da quando era piccolo. "My cousin has been a fan of Udinese since he was young."
Ogni domenica Mario segue la squadra del cuore sia quando gioca in casa che in trasferta. "Every Sunday, Mario follows his team when it plays both home and away."	La sua commedia fa il tutto esaurito ogni sera. "There is a full house every night for his play."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

TIFARE. The verb *tifare* ("to be a fan of" or "to cheer for") is always followed by the preposition *per*. There are many ways to express the same meaning: *fare il tifo per*, *tenere a*, or *essere un fan di*.

DOC. We usually use this acronym for wine, and it means *denominazione di origine*

controllata ("guaranteed quality product"); it also applies to other authentic Italian products. We can also use the acronym DOC as an adjective to mean "authentic" or "with guaranteed origin."

ESAURITO. This word has two meanings. First, it is a synonym of *finito* (from *finire*), and we often translate it as "off" or "sold out" or "finished." It can refer to tickets or copies of a book or products. Second, when we use it to refer to people, *esaurito* carries the meaning of "exhausted" or "worn out."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Tense Agreement Between a Main and a Subordinate Sentence in Italian (Conjunctive Mood).

Non pensavo ti interessassi di calcio.

"I didn't know you were interested in soccer."

In this lesson, we'll focus on the tense agreement of the "*conjunctive mood*," or *modo congiuntivo*.

The usage of the *congiuntivo* in the subordinate clause expresses the idea that the action of the subordinate clause is subjective or unsure. Verbs that express a personal opinion like *credere*, *pensare*, *è importante necessario*, etc. usually require the *congiuntivo* in the subordinate clause.

For Example:

1. *Credevo che stessi dormendo.*
"I thought you were sleeping."
2. *Per me è importante che la cucina sia luminosa.*
"For me, it's important that the kitchen is bright."

As with the *indicativo* ("indicative mood"), the tense agreement is important also in the *congiuntivo* mood, which has four tenses: *presente*, *imperfetto*, *passato*, and *trapassato*. In order to choose the tense in the subordinate clause, it's important to look at the tense and mood of the main clause and decide what the time relation is between the two.

If the verb of the main clause is in the present, future, or imperative tense of the indicative mood:

Main Clause Indicative Mood	Subordinate Clause Conjunctive Mood	Time Relation
<i>presente</i> ("present") <i>future</i> ("future") <i>imperative</i> ("imperative")	<i>passato</i> ("past")	<i>anteriorità</i> ("before")
<i>presente</i> ("present") <i>future</i> ("future") <i>imperative</i> ("imperative")	<i>presente</i> ("present")	<i>contemporaneità</i> ("at the same time")

For Example:

1. *Penso che Giovanni sia già uscito da 10 minuti.*
"I think that Giovanni has already left ten minutes ago."
2. *Penso che Giovanni stia uscendo ora.*
"I think Giovanni is going out now."
3. *Credo che i biglietti siano già esauriti.*
"I believe that the tickets are already sold out."

If the verb of the main clause is in the past tense:

Main Clause Indicative Mood	Subordinate Clause Conjunctive Mood	Time Relation
<i>passato</i> ("past")	<i>trapassato</i> ("past perfect")	<i>anteriorità</i> ("before")
<i>passato</i> ("past")	<i>imperfetto</i> ("imperfect")	<i>contemporaneità</i> ("at the same time")

For Example:

1. *Non pensavo ti interessassi di calcio.*
"I didn't know you were interested in soccer."
2. *Pensavo che Sara avesse cucinato la pasta, ma in realtà non ha fatto niente.*
"I thought that Sara had cooked pasta, but she actually didn't prepare anything."

If in the main sentence there are verbs like *preferire* or *volere* in the conditional present tense, the verb in the subordinate clause is in the *congiuntivo imperfetto* to express contemporaneity and *congiuntivo trapassato* to express anteriority.

For Example:

1. *Se non ti dispiace preferirei che andassimo nel primo anello.*
"If you don't mind, I would rather go to the first ring."
2. *Vorrei che l'inverno fosse già finito.*
"I wish winter had already ended."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Let's Watch Calcio!

As everyone knows, Italy's national sport is *calcio* ("soccer"). Kids start to play soccer when they are very young, and every town has its own *campo di calcio* ("soccer pitch"). Most Italians have their favorite team, whether they go to the stadium every Sunday or occasionally watch a match on TV. When traveling to Italy, regardless of whether you are a big fan of soccer, going to the stadium to watch a match is a thrilling experience. Even if you don't know much about the teams playing, the atmosphere alone is exciting. Being the most popular sport, *calcio* is played almost year round. Remember, though, that there are no games in June and July and seldom games in August. Imagine you planned to watch a *partita di calcio* ("soccer game") of Serie A, the top teams. Where can you get tickets? Although you can buy tickets at the stadium, it's often difficult to get tickets on the day of the game. So, you can either go to the stadium in advance or go to the team's club outlets in the city. Otherwise, you can buy your ticket online on websites like TicketOne or ListTicket, although prices sometimes are higher

than at the stadium kiosk. In any case, remember to bring your identification because your name must be printed on the ticket. And...enjoy the game!

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #24

Feeling the Pain in Italy

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

24

ITALIAN

1. Sofia: Buongiorno. Ho un dolore alla schiena in basso e faccio persino fatica a camminare.
2. Dottore: Vediamo. Mi mostri esattamente dove le fa male. Mmmh... capisco. Da quando è così dolorante?
3. Sofia: Beh da ieri pomeriggio.
4. Dottore: E' riuscita a dormire la notte scorsa?
5. Sofia: No, per niente. In qualsiasi posizione mi mettessi, sentivo un dolore acuto. Ho provato a mettere dei cuscini sotto la schiena e accanto ad entrambi i fianchi, ma alle 4 son dovuta alzarmi e bere un antidolorifico.
6. Dottore: Capisco. Vedo che fatica a camminare...
7. Sofia: Sì, appena appoggio il piede sento una fitta alla schiena.
8. Dottore: Credo si tratti di un'inflammatione al nervo sciatico. Niente di grave, ma decisamente fastidiosa. Ha sollevato pesi eccessivi nei giorni scorsi? O ha fatto movimenti insoliti?
9. Sofia: Beh ho spostato qualche mobile in casa, la libreria, ma non mi sembrava così pesante ... però poi sono andata a cavallo e ho cominciato a sentire il dolore. Non essendo mai andata a cavallo pensavo che fosse la sella scomoda..
10. Dottore: Se Lei già soffriva di mal di schiena forse queste due attività hanno peggiorato la sua situazione. Comunque ora le do una cura. Guarirà presto.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Sofia: Good morning. I have a pain in my lower back, and I even have difficulty walking.
2. Doctor: Let's see. Please show me exactly where it hurts. Hmm... I see. Since when has it been aching?
3. Sofia: Since yesterday afternoon.
4. Doctor: Did you manage to sleep last night?
5. Sofia: Not at all. In whatever position I laid down, I could feel an intense pain. I tried to put some pillows under my back and next to both my hips, but at four, I had to get up and take a painkiller.
6. Doctor: I understand. I see you can hardly walk...
7. Sofia: Yes, as soon as I put my foot down, I feel a pang in my back.
8. Doctor: I think it's an inflammation of the sciatic nerve. Nothing too bad, but surely annoying. Did you lift any excessive weights in the past few days? Or did you do any unusual movements?
9. Sofia: Well I moved some furniture at home, my bookcase, but it didn't seem so heavy... Then I went horseback riding, and I started feeling the pain. Since I had never done any horseback riding, I thought the saddle was uncomfortable...
10. Doctor: If you already suffered from back pain, these two activities might have worsened your situation. Anyway, now I'll give you a cure. You'll get better soon.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
peggiorare	to worsen, to get worse	verb
sella	saddle	noun
eccessivo	excessive	adjective
nervo	nerve	noun
fitta	pang	noun
fianco	hip	noun
dolorante	aching	adjective
appoggiare	to put, lean	verb
antidolorifico	pain killer	noun
faticare	to do something with difficulty, to hardly do something	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Dottore, dall'ultima visita, la situazione e' peggiorata. "Doctor, since my last visit, the situation has gotten worse."	Gerardo intarsia le selle di cavallo. "Gerard engraves horse saddles."
Mi sembra un regalo eccessivo per questa occasione. "This present seems excessive for this occasion."	Di solito faccio un bagno caldo per calmare i nervi. "I usually take a hot bath to soothe my nerves."

Mi stavo piegando quando avvertii una fitta al ginocchio. "I was about to bend down when I felt a pang in my knee."	Starò sempre al tuo fianco. "I'll always stand by you."
Ho la spalla così dolorante che non posso dormire. "My shoulder is aching so bad that I can't sleep."	Dove posso appoggiare la giacca? "Where can I put the jacket?"
Gli antidolorifici possono avere effetti collaterali. "Painkillers can have side effects."	Claudia ha preso delle scarpe nuove, ma fatica a camminare. "Claudia bought some new shoes, but she can hardly walk."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

FIANCO. This is a part of the body, and it's a masculine noun that remains masculine even when plural (*i fianchi*). We also use it for animals ("flank"). In addition, we also translate it as the word "side." For example, *il fianco destro della strada* is "the right side of the road." There are also expressions like *fianco a fianco* ("side by side") and *stare al fianco di qualcuno* ("to stand by someone's side").

FATICARE. The verbs *faticare* and *fare fatica* are synonymous, and we can exchange them. They are always followed by the preposition *a* and the verb in the infinitive form. The verb *stentare* is similar and shows an even greater difficulty in doing something. It is also followed by *a* and the infinitive form.

PEGGIORARE. "To get worse" or "to worsen." It is both transitive and intransitive. The noun is *peggioramento*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Indefinite Adjectives *Qualunque/Qualsiasi* and the

Adjective and Pronoun *Entrambi/Entrambe*.

In qualsiasi posizione mi metessi, sentivo un dolore acuto.

"In whatever position I laid down, I could feel an intense pain."

Indefinite adjectives indicate an uncertain quantity or uncertain quality of the noun to which they relate.

For Example:

1. *Diverse persone amano fare jogging.*

"Several people love to jog."

2. *Claudio mangia qualsiasi cosa.*

"Claudio eats anything."

In the first example, we don't know how many people love to jog, and in the second example, we don't know what kind of food Claudio eats.

Qualunque and *qualsiasi* mean *uno/a ... qualunque* and *tutti gli/ tutte le ... indistintamente*. In English, we translate it as "any."

They are invariable, and the noun that follows is always singular:

qualsiasi giorno/qualsiasi torta

qualunque giorno/qualunque torta

"any day"/"any cake"

For Example:

1. *Possiamo incontrarci qualsiasi giorno di questa settimana.*

"We can meet any day of this week."

2. *E' una bravissima pasticcera: sa fare qualunque torta.*

"She's a great pâtissier: she can make any cake."

Qualunque and *qualsiasi* require the *congiuntivo* if the verb is after the indefinite adjective.

For Example:

1. *Qualunque cosa lei facesse, lui la perdonava sempre.*
"Whatever she did, he always forgave her."
2. *In qualsiasi posizione mi metessi, sentivo un dolore acuto.*
"In whatever position I laid down, I could feel an intense pain."
3. *Qualsiasi sia il motivo, Maria non dovrebbe comportarsi così con Marco.*
"Whatever is the reason, Maria should not behave like that with Marco."

The choice of the tense depends on the context.

There are two indefinite pronouns that require the *congiuntivo*: *chiunque* ("anyone"/"whoever") and *dovunque* ("anywhere"/"wherever").

For Example:

1. *Chiunque la conoscesse, non voleva più incontrarla.*
"Whoever met her didn't want to meet her again."
2. *Dovunque andasse si faceva molti amici.*
"Wherever he went, he made lots of friends."

Entrambi/entrambe

The adjective *entrambi/e* means *tutti e due/tutte e due* ("both"), and we can use it both as an adjective and a pronoun. Between *entrambi/e* and the noun, there is always a definite article.

For Example:

1. *Uso il foglio da entrambe le parti.* (adjective)
"I use the paper on both sides."
2. *Sono arrivati entrambi.* (pronoun)
"Both have arrived."
3. *Ho provato a mettere dei cuscini sotto la schiena ed accanto a entrambi i fianchi.*
"I tried to put some pillows under my back and next to both my hips."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Proverbi sulla salute.

Proverbs are popular wisdom that cover a number of fields, including, of course, health. In Italian, *I proverbi sulla salute* are numerous and date back to the ancient Roman proverbs like *Mens sana in corpore sano* (*mente sana in corpo sano*, meaning "in a sound body, a sound mind"). Lots of proverbs warn about bad doctors, such as *Medico inesperto, cimitero aperto*, which means that seeing an inexperienced doctor is never a good idea and can be life-threatening (*cimitero aperto* means "open graveyard"). Some *proverbi* blame bad habits that can lead to diseases or health problems: for example, *La via dell'osteria porta in farmacia*, which we can roughly translate as "The road of the pub leads to a pharmacy." Most proverbs give advice on how to keep healthy. Besides the worldwide popular proverb *Una mela al giorno toglie il medico di torno*, or "An apple a day takes the doctor away," another rhyming one is *Bere l'acqua la mattina è già una mezza medicina* ("Drinking water in the morning is like a half medicine"). Another proverb teaches that to keep the body and brain healthy, it is better to skip supper now and then: *Chi ogni tanto si allena al salto della cena, mantiene vispo e snello il corpo ed il cervello*.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #25

Would You Like to see some Classic Italian Cars?

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

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ITALIAN

1. Antonio: Perchè non andiamo al salone d'esposizione delle auto d'epoca?
2. Sofia: Ma non ci siamo già stati qualche settimana fa?
3. Antonio: Perdinci! Siamo andati a marzo, più di quattro mesi fa!
4. Sofia: E bisogna proprio ritornarci? Alla fine ci sono sempre le stesse vecchie automobili.
5. Antonio: Ho capito, non è pane per i tuoi denti. Non puoi apprezzare. Bisogna che chiami Lorenzo.
6. Sofia: Meglio che tu vada con lui che ha proprio un chiodo fisso per queste cose. Non si perde nemmeno un raduno...
7. Antonio: E' un peccato però. Io pensavo di guardare con te alcuni modelli per il nostro matrimonio...
8. Sofia: Quindi io arriverei in chiesa su un'auto d'epoca?! Io pensavo più a una carrozza... dai, scherzo!
9. Antonio: Mi hai fatto prendere un colpo! Comunque bisogna anche ben capire il prezzo del noleggio e dell'assicurazione. Però sarebbe proprio fantastico poter guidare un'auto d'epoca per un giorno!
10. Sofia: Mi sembri più entusiasta per l'auto che per il matrimonio... Bisogna proprio che venga con te oggi prima che mi prosciughi tutti i nostri risparmi solo per noleggiare una vecchia quattro ruote!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Antonio: Why don't we go to the classic car showroom?
2. Sofia: Didn't we go there a few weeks ago?
3. Antonio: For goodness' sake! We went in March, more than four months ago!
4. Sofia: And we really need to go back, don't we? In the end, it's always the same old cars.
5. Antonio: I got it. It's not for you. You can't appreciate it. I need to call Lorenzo.
6. Sofia: It's better if you go with him; he's obsessed with this stuff. He doesn't miss a single meeting.
7. Antonio: That's too bad, though. I wanted to look at some models with you for our wedding...
8. Sofia: So I would arrive at the church in a classic car? I was thinking more of a carriage... come on, I'm kidding!
9. Antonio: You shocked me! In any case, we need to get a good understanding of the rent and the insurance costs. But it'd be really cool to be able to drive a classic car for a day!
10. Sofia: You seem more enthusiastic about the car than the wedding. I really need to come with you today before you go through all our savings just to hire an old four-wheeled vehicle.

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class
salone d'esposizione	car showroom	nominal expression

non e' pane per i tuoi denti	not for you	verbal expression
chiodo fisso	have something nailed in one's head; have an obsession	noun
raduno	meeting, gathering	noun
carrozza	carriage	noun
prendere un colpo	to get shocked	verbal expression
entusiasta	enthusiastic	adjective
prosciugare	to go through; drain	verb
quattro ruote	A four-wheeled vehicle	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Il salone d'esposizione delle macchine di Torino e' famoso in tutto il mondo. "The car showroom of Turin is famous all over the world."	Quella ragazza non e' pane per i tuoi denti. "That girl isn't right for you."
Sara ha il chiodo fisso per la pesca subacquea. "Sara has an obsession with underwater fishing."	Ogni anno ha luogo il raduno degli Alpini in una citta' italiana. "Every year the meeting of the Alpini takes place in an Italian town."
Le carrozze con i cavalli vengono usate per i turisti. "Carriages with horses are used for tourists."	Ho preso un colpo quando ho visto il conto. "I was shocked when I saw the bill."

Mia figlia e' entusiasta della vacanza di famiglia in Sicilia. "My daughter is enthusiastic about our family trip to Sicily."	Per comprare questa casa ho prosciugato tutti i miei risparmi. "To buy this house I went through all my savings."
Una quattro ruote è più sicura di uno scooter. "A four-wheeled vehicle is safer than a scooter."	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

NON E' PANE PER I TUOI DENTI. This expression is quite common, and we can translate it as "it's not something for you" or "you're not up to it." We use the word *pane* in many other expressions. Here are several: *si vende come il pane*, meaning that "it's something easy to sell," and *se non è zuppa, è pan bagnato*, meaning that "it's pretty much the same thing."

ENTUSIASTA. This adjective is invariable when singular: *una persona entusiasta* (feminine singular) and *un uomo entusiasta* (masculine singular). It follows the regular declination of the adjectives ending in -o when plural: *due persone entusiaste* (feminine plural) and *due uomini entusiasti* (masculine plural). Similar adjectives are those ending in -ista, like *altruista* ("altruistic"), *pessimista* ("pessimist"), *comunista* ("communist"), etc.

NOLEGGIARE. We use *noleggiare* for means of transportation (cars, bicycle, scooters, etc.) and certain clothes (tuxedos, bridal dresses, and costumes), and the noun is *noleggio*. For "houses," the correct verb is *affittare* and the noun is *affitto*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Impersonal Verbs.

E bisogna proprio ritornarci?

"And we really need to go back, don't we?"

The impersonal verbs exist only in the third person in all tenses.

There are three groups of impersonal verbs:

Verbs referring to the weather:

Far freddo/caldo = *fa freddo/fa caldo* ("it's cold"/ "it's hot")

Piovere = *piove* ("it's raining")

Nevicare = *neve* ("it's snowing")

For Example:

1. *Ieri ha piovuto tutto il tempo e non abbiamo potuto giocare a tennis.*
"Yesterday it rained all day, and we couldn't play tennis."

Impersonal expressions like the following:

E' necessario... = "it's necessary..."

E' difficile... = "it's difficult..."

E' facile... = "it's easy..."

E' bello... = "it's nice..."

E' importante... = "it's important..."

All these impersonal expressions require a verb in the infinitive mood or a subordinate clause introduced by the conjunction *che*, followed by a verb in the *congiuntivo*.

For Example:

1. *E' difficile **scrivere** una buona relazione in soli 15 minuti.*
"It's difficult to write a good report in only fifteen minutes."
2. *E' necessario che tu **chiami** il dentista prima di andare in studio.*
E' necessario chiamare il dentista prima di andare in studio.
"It's necessary that you call the dentist before going to his office."

Verbs that express need and necessity like the following:

Bisognare = bisogna

Occorrere = occorre/occorrono

Servire = serve/servono

These verbs are followed by a verb in the infinitive mood or a subordinate clause introduced by the conjunction *che*, followed by a verb in the *congiuntivo*.

For Example:

1. *Bisogna anche ben **capire** il prezzo del noleggio e dell'assicurazione.*
"We need to understand the rent and the insurance costs well."
2. *Bisogna proprio che **venga** con te oggi.*
"I really need to come with you today."

Servire and *occorrere* can also be followed by a noun. If the noun is singular, the verb is in the third person singular (*serve/occorre*); if the noun is plural, the verb is in the third person plural (*servono/occorrono*).

For Example:

1. *Il frigorifero è vuoto. Serve fare la spesa.*
"The fridge is empty. We need to go shopping."
2. *Il frigorifero è vuoto. Serve che tu faccia la spesa. Io stasera finisco tardi al lavoro.*
"The fridge is empty. You need to go shopping. Tonight I will finish work late."
3. *Serve la pasta.*
"We need pasta."
4. *Servono i pomodori.*
"We need tomatoes."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

In Italy, it was Giovanni Agnelli in 1899 who opened the first car factory and started the company FIAT. The car was at first a means of transportation for the wealthy Italians; since the 1950s, it has become a commodity for all families.

Over the last thirty years, a passion for classic cars has arisen. Models that date back a few decades or more rare cars like the Ferrari 166 or the 1952 Ferrari Barchetta 212/225 have fueled a very prosperous market.

Every year, there are not only a number of meetings for collectors and lovers of vintage cars but also historical races, which are an exciting experience. The most famous races are the *Milano-Sanremo*, *Coppa Toscana*, and the *Mille Miglia*. *La Mille Miglia* ("a thousand miles") is still particularly popular, and only cars produced before 1957 can take part in it. The route goes from Brescia to Rome, with the start and arrival line in *Piazzale Venezia*, in Brescia, and the race follows the same roads that were first driven through in 1927. The race usually takes place in May, and it's a great experience to live. Gathering along the route and looking at these vintage cars allows you to travel back in time. But if you miss the event, you can at least visit the museum, located in Brescia in the medieval convent of *Sant'Eufemia*.



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