



## Italian I Tutorial: Basic Phrases, Vocabulary and Grammar

### 1. BASIC PHRASES / FRASI SEMPLICI

**Buon giorno**

*bwon zhor-no*  
Hello / Good  
morning/afternoon

**Buona sera**

*bwoh-nah seh-rah*  
Good evening

**Buona notte**

*bwoh-nah noht-teh*  
Good night

**Ciao**

*chow*  
Hi / Hello / Bye  
(informal)

**Arrivederci**

*ah-ree-vuh-dehr-  
chee*  
Goodbye

**ArrivederLa**

*ah-ree-vuh-dehr-lah*  
Goodbye (formal)

**A più tardi**

*ah pyoo tar-dee*  
See you later

**A presto / A dopo**

*ah press-toh / ah  
doh-poh*  
See you soon

**A domani**

*ah doh-mahn-ee*  
See you tomorrow

**Per favore / Per  
piacere**

*pehr fah-voh-reh /  
pehr pee-ah-cheh-  
reh*  
Please

**Grazie (mille)**

*graht-zee-eh (mee-  
leh)*  
Thank you (very  
much)

**Prego**

*preh-goh*  
You're Welcome

**Mi dispiace**

*mee dee-spyah-  
cheh*  
Sorry

**Scusi / Scusa**

*skoo-zee / skoo-zah*  
Excuse me (formal /  
informal)

**Andiamo!**

*on-dee-ah-mo*  
Let's go!

**Come sta? / Come  
stai?**

*koh-meh stah / koh-  
meh sty*  
How are you?  
(formal / informal)

**Sto bene.**

*stoh beh-neh*  
I am fine / well.

**Non c'è male.**

*nohn cheh mah-leh*  
Not bad.

**Abbastanza bene.**

*ah-bah-stahn-tsah  
beh-neh*  
Pretty good.

**Così così.**

*koh-zee koh-zee*  
So so.

**Sì / No**

*see / noh*  
Yes / No

**Come si chiama?**  
*koh-meh see kee-ah-mah*  
 What's your name?  
 (formal)

**Come ti chiami?**  
*koh-meh tee kee-ah-mee*  
 What's your name?  
 (informal)

**Mi chiamo...**  
*mee kee-ah-mo*  
 My name is...

**Piacere / Molto lieto.**  
*pee-ah-cheh-reh / mohl-toh lee-eh-toh*  
 Pleased / Nice to meet you.

**Signore, Signora, Signorina**  
*seen-yoh-reh, seen-yoh-rah, seen-yoh-reen-ah*  
 Mister, Misses, Miss

**Di dov'è?**  
*dee doh-veh*  
 Where are you from?  
 (formal)

**Di dove sei?**  
*dee doh-veh seh-ee*  
 Where are you from?  
 (informal)

**Sono di...**  
*soh-noh dee*  
 I am from...

**Quanti anni ha?**  
*kwahn-tee ahn-nee ah*  
 How old are you?  
 (formal)

**Quanti anni hai?**  
*kwahn-tee ahn-nee ah-ee*  
 How old are you?  
 (informal)

**Ho venti anni.**  
*oh vehn-tee ahn-nee*  
 I am 20 years old.

**Parla italiano?**  
*par-lah ee-tahl-ee-ah-no*  
 Do you speak Italian?  
 (formal)

**Parli inglese?**  
*par-lee een-gleh-zeh*  
 Do you speak English?  
 (informal)

**Parlo italiano. / Non parlo inglese.**  
*par-lo ee-tahl-ee-ah-no / non par-lo een-gleh-zeh*  
 I speak Italian. / I don't speak English.

**Capisce? / Capisci?**  
*kah-pee-sheh / kah-pee-shee*  
 Do you understand?  
 (formal / informal)

**[Non] capisco.**  
*[non] kah-pees-koh*  
 I [don't] understand.

**Non so. / Lo so.**  
*non soh / low soh*  
 I don't know. / I know.

**Può aiutarmi? / Puoi aiutarmi?**  
*pwoh ah-yoo-tar-mee / pwoh-ee ah-yoo-tar-mee*  
 Can you help me?  
 (formal / informal)

**Certamente / D'accordo.**  
*cher-tah-mehn-teh / dah-kohr-doh*  
 Sure / OK.

**Come?**  
*koh-meh?*  
 What? / Pardon me?

**Desidera? / Desideri?**  
*deh-zee-deh-rah / deh-zee-deh-ree*  
 May I help you?  
 (formal / informal)

**Come si dice "house" in italiano?**  
*koh-meh see dee-cheh "house" een ee-tah-lee-ah-noh*  
 How do you say "house" in Italian?

**Dov'è / Dove sono...?**  
*doh-veh / doh-veh soh-noh*  
 Where is / Where are... ?

**Ecco / Eccoli...**  
*eh-koh / eh-koh-lee*  
 Here is / Here are...

**C'è / Ci sono...**  
*cheh / chee soh-noh*  
 There is / There are...

**Cosa c'è?**  
*koh-zah cheh*  
 What's the matter? / What's wrong?

**Non importa. / Di niente. / Di nulla.**  
*nohn eem-por-tah / dee nee-ehn-teh / dee noo-lah*  
 It doesn't matter.

**Non m'importa.**  
*nohn meem-por-tah*  
 I don't care.

**Non ti preoccupare.**  
*nohn tee preh-ohk-koo-pah-reh*  
 Don't worry.  
 (informal)

**Ho dimenticato.**  
*oh dee-men-tee-kah-toh*  
 I forgot.

**Devo andare adesso.**  
*deh-voh ahn-dah-reh ah-des-soh*  
 I have to go now.

**Ho fame. / Ho sete.**  
*oh fah-meh / oh seh-teh*  
 I'm hungry. / I'm thirsty.

**Ho freddo. / Ho caldo.**  
*oh freh-doh / oh kal-doh*  
 I'm cold. / I'm hot.

**Mi annoio.**  
*mee ahn-noh-ee-oh*  
 I'm bored.

**Salute!**  
*sah-loo-teh*  
 Bless you!

**Congratulazioni!**  
*kohn-grah-tsoo-lah-tsee-oh-nee*  
 Congratulations!

**Benvenuti!**  
*behn-veh-noo-tee*  
 Welcome!

**Buona fortuna!**  
*bwoh-nah for-too-nah*  
 Good luck!

**Tocca a me! / Tocca a te!**  
*tohk-kah ah meh / tohk-kah ah teh*  
 It's my turn! / It's your turn! (informal)

**Ti amo.**  
*tee ah-moh*  
 I love you. (informal)

**È pazzo! / Sei pazzo!**  
*eh pats-soh / seh-ee pats-soh*  
 You're crazy!  
 (formal / informal)

**Sta zitto! / Stai zitto!**  
*stah tseet-toh / sty tseet-toh*  
 Be quiet / Shut up!  
 (formal / informal)

**Va bene!**  
*vah beh-neh*  
 OK!

Notice that Italian has informal and formal ways of saying things. This is because there is more than one meaning to "you" in Italian (as well as in many other languages.) The informal you is used when talking to close friends, relatives, animals or children. The formal you is used when talking to someone you just met, do not know well, or someone for whom you would like to show respect (a professor, for example.) There is also a plural you, used when speaking to more than one person.

Also, the words pazzo and zitto refer to men. If you are talking to a woman, use pazza and zitta. If you are talking to more than one person (all men, or a group of men and women), use pazzi and zitti. If you are talking to more than one person (all women), use pazze and zitte.

## 2. PRONUNCIATION / LA PRONUNCIA

Italian is a very phonetic language, so pronunciation should be easy. Most words are pronounced exactly like they are spelled. There are only seven pure vowels, but several diphthongs and triphthongs. The English samples given are not pronounced exactly as in Italian because English vowels tend to be diphthongized (there's an extra yuh or wuh after the actual vowel). Make sure to only say the pure vowel and not the diphthong when pronouncing Italian.

| Italian Vowels     |                    | English Pronunciation |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| [i]                | vita               | ee as in meet         |
| [e]                | vedi               | ay as in bait         |
| [ɛ]                | era                | eh as in bet          |
| [a]                | cane               | ah as in father       |
| [u]                | uva                | oo as in boot         |
| [o]                | sole               | oh as in boat         |
| [ɔ]                | modo               | aw as in law          |
| <b>Semi-Vowels</b> |                    |                       |
| [w]                | quando, uomo       | wuh as in won         |
| [j]                | piano, ieri, piove | yuh as in yes         |

In spelling, the letter e is used to represent both [e] and [ɛ]; while the letter o is used to represent both [o] and [ɔ]. If the vowel is stressed, then the pronunciation is always closed [e] and [o]. If the vowel is not stressed, it is always open [ɛ] and [ɔ]. This can change according to regional dialects in Italy, of course, but this is the standard rule. Italian semi-vowels are always written **ua, ue, uo, ui** for [w] and **ia, ie, io, iu** for [j]. If another vowel precedes u or i, then it is a diphthong: **ai, ei, oi, au, eu**. The combination iu + another vowel creates a triphthong.

### Italian consonant + vowel combinations

|                              |    |                          |                                      |
|------------------------------|----|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>c + a, o, u, he, hi</b>   | k  | amica, amico, amiche     | ah-mee-kah, ah-mee-koh, ah-mee-keh   |
| <b>c + ia, io, iu, e, i</b>  | ch | bacio, celebre, cinema   | bah-cho, cheh-leh-breh, chee-neh-mah |
| <b>g + a, o, u, he, hi</b>   | g  | gara, gusto, spaghetti   | gah-rah, goo-stoh, spah-geh-tee      |
| <b>g + ia, io, iu, e, i</b>  | dj | Giotto, gelato, magico   | djoh-toh, djeh-lah-toh, mah-djee-koh |
| <b>sc + a, o, u, he, hi</b>  | sk | scala, scuola, scheda    | skah-lah, skoo-oh-la, skeh-dah       |
| <b>sc + ia, io, iu, e, i</b> | sh | sciarpa, sciupato, scemo | shar-pah, shoo-pah-toh, sheh-moh     |

The consonant **h** is always silent. Double consonants must be pronounced individually: **il nonno** (eel nohn-noh) is pronounced differently from **il nono** (eel noh-noh).

**Stress** falls on the second-to-last syllable in Italian. If stress falls on the last syllable, the vowel is written with an accent mark (la città). However, it is also possible for the stress to fall on the third-

to-last syllable (America, telefono) and even the fourth-to-last syllable (telefonano) in third person plural verb conjugations.

### 3. ALPHABET / L'ALFABETO

|          |         |                        |                               |
|----------|---------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>a</b> | ah      | <b>q</b>               | koo                           |
| <b>b</b> | bee     | <b>r</b>               | ehr-reh                       |
| <b>c</b> | chee    | <b>s</b>               | ehs-seh                       |
| <b>d</b> | dee     | <b>t</b>               | teh                           |
| <b>e</b> | eh      | <b>u</b>               | oo                            |
| <b>f</b> | eff-eh  | <b>v</b>               | voo                           |
| <b>g</b> | zhee    | <b>z</b>               | dzeh-tah                      |
| <b>h</b> | ahk-kah |                        |                               |
| <b>i</b> | ee      | <b>Foreign Letters</b> |                               |
| <b>l</b> | ehl-eh  | <b>j</b>               | ee loon-gah                   |
| <b>m</b> | ehm-eh  | <b>k</b>               | kahp-pah                      |
| <b>n</b> | ehn-eh  | <b>w</b>               | dohp-pyah voo                 |
| <b>o</b> | oh      | <b>x</b>               | eeks                          |
| <b>p</b> | pee     | <b>y</b>               | ee greh-kah (or) eep-see-lohn |

### 4. ARTICLES & DEMONSTRATIVES / ARTICOLI E DIMOSTRATIVI

All nouns in Italian have a gender (masculine or feminine) and the articles must agree with the gender. Masculine words generally end in -o and feminine words generally end in -a. Words that end in -e may be either, so you will just have to memorize the gender. Keep in mind that articles are used before nouns or before an adjective + a noun.

#### Definite Article - The

| <u>Masculine</u> |            |                                          | <u>Feminine</u> |            |                          |
|------------------|------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------------|
| <b>il</b>        | <i>ee/</i> | sing.,<br>before consonants              | <b>la</b>       | <i>lah</i> | sing., before consonants |
| <b>lo</b>        | <i>low</i> | sing., before z, gn,<br>ps, or s + cons. |                 |            |                          |
| <b>l'</b>        | <i>/</i>   | sing., before<br>vowels                  | <b>l'</b>       | <i>/</i>   | sing., before vowels     |

|            |             |                                            |           |            |                                      |
|------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>i</b>   | <b>ee</b>   | plural, before consonants                  | <b>le</b> | <b>leh</b> | plural, before consonants and vowels |
| <b>gli</b> | <b>lyee</b> | plural, before vowels, z, gn, or s + cons. |           |            |                                      |

### Indefinite Articles - A, an, some

|       | <u>Masculine</u> |                 |                                    | <u>Feminine</u> |                |                              |
|-------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| A, An | <b>un</b>        | <i>oon</i>      | before consonant or vowel          | <b>una</b>      | <i>oon-ah</i>  | before consonants            |
|       | <b>uno</b>       | <i>oon-oh</i>   | before z, gn, ps, or s + consonant | <b>un'</b>      | <i>oon</i>     | before vowels                |
| Some  | <b>dei</b>       | <i>day</i>      | before consonants                  | <b>delle</b>    | <i>dell-eh</i> | before vowels and consonants |
|       | <b>degli</b>     | <i>deh-lyee</i> | before vowels, z, gn, or s + cons. |                 |                |                              |

### Demonstratives - This, that, these, and those

#### This and these

|              | <u>This</u>   | <u>These</u>  |                    |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| <i>Masc.</i> | <b>questo</b> | <b>questi</b> | before a consonant |
|              | <b>quest'</b> | <b>questi</b> | before a vowel     |
| <i>Fem.</i>  | <b>questa</b> | <b>queste</b> | before a consonant |
|              | <b>quest'</b> | <b>queste</b> | before a vowel     |

#### That and those

|              | <u>That</u>   | <u>Those</u>  |                                |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Masc.</i> | <b>quel</b>   | <b>quei</b>   | before a consonant             |
|              | <b>quell'</b> | <b>quegli</b> | before a vowel                 |
|              | <b>quello</b> | <b>quegli</b> | before z, gn, or s + consonant |
| <i>Fem.</i>  | <b>quella</b> | <b>quelle</b> | before a consonant             |
|              | <b>quell'</b> | <b>quelle</b> | before a vowel                 |

If you use *that* and *those* as a subject, use these four forms: **quello** for masculine singular, **quella** for feminine singular, **quelli** for masculine plural, and **quelle** for feminine plural.

## 5. SUBJECT PRONOUNS / PRONOMI PERSONALI

|                 |                 |                         |             |                |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>io</b>       | <i>ee-oh</i>    | I                       | <b>noi</b>  | <i>noy</i>     | we                    |
| <b>tu</b>       | <i>too</i>      | you (informal singular) | <b>voi</b>  | <i>voy</i>     | you (informal plural) |
| <b>lui, lei</b> | <i>lwee/lay</i> | he, she                 | <b>loro</b> | <i>loh-roh</i> | they                  |
| <b>Lei</b>      | <i>lay</i>      | you (formal singular)   | <b>Loro</b> | <i>loh-roh</i> | you (formal plural)   |

The **Lei** form is generally used for you (singular), instead of tu, unless you're referring to kids or animals. Loro can also mean you, but only in very polite situations. If you need to specify an inanimate object as "it" you can use **esso** (masculine noun) and **essa** (feminine noun), but since subject pronouns are not commonly used in Italian, these words are somewhat rare.

## 6. TO BE & TO HAVE / ESSERE & AVERE

### Essere - to be

|              |             |                |          |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------|--------------|-------------------|
| I am         | <b>sono</b> | <i>soh-noh</i> | we are   | <b>siamo</b> | <i>see-ah-moh</i> |
| you are      | <b>sei</b>  | <i>say</i>     | you are  | <b>siete</b> | <i>see-eh-teh</i> |
| he/she/it is | <b>è</b>    | <i>eh</i>      | they are | <b>sono</b>  | <i>soh-noh</i>    |

You do not have to use the subject pronouns as the different conjugations imply the subject, but they are included in the recordings.

### Past & Future of Essere

|            |            |           |                |                |              |              |                |
|------------|------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| I was      | <b>ero</b> | we were   | <b>eravamo</b> | I will be      | <b>sarò</b>  | we will be   | <b>saremo</b>  |
| you were   | <b>eri</b> | you were  | <b>eravate</b> | you will be    | <b>sarai</b> | you will be  | <b>sarete</b>  |
| he/she was | <b>era</b> | they were | <b>erano</b>   | he/she will be | <b>sarà</b>  | they will be | <b>saranno</b> |

### Avere - to have

|            |            |            |           |                |                      |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------|
| I have     | <b>ho</b>  | <i>oh</i>  | We have   | <b>abbiamo</b> | <i>ahb-bee-ah-mo</i> |
| you have   | <b>hai</b> | <i>eye</i> | you have  | <b>avete</b>   | <i>ah-veh-teh</i>    |
| he/she has | <b>ha</b>  | <i>ah</i>  | they have | <b>hanno</b>   | <i>ahn-noh</i>       |

### Past & Future of Avere

|            |              |          |                |                  |              |                |                |
|------------|--------------|----------|----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| I had      | <b>avevo</b> | we had   | <b>avevamo</b> | I will have      | <b>avrò</b>  | we will have   | <b>avremo</b>  |
| you had    | <b>avevi</b> | you had  | <b>avevate</b> | you will have    | <b>avrai</b> | you will have  | <b>avrete</b>  |
| he/she had | <b>aveva</b> | they had | <b>avevano</b> | he/she will have | <b>avrà</b>  | they will have | <b>avranno</b> |

**Avere** is used with many idioms and expressions that normally use the verb "to be" in English:

**avere fame** - to be hungry  
**avere sete** - to be thirsty  
**avere caldo** - to be warm  
**avere freddo** - to be cold  
**avere fretta** - to be in a hurry  
**avere paura (di)** - to be afraid (of)  
**avere ragione** - to be right  
**avere torto** - to be wrong  
**avere sonno** - to be sleepy  
**avere bisogno di** - to need  
**avere voglia di** - to want, to feel like  
**avere 20 anni** - to be 20 years old

When avere is followed by a word beginning with a consonant, the final -e is often dropped: aver caldo, aver fretta, aver ragione, etc.

## 7. USEFUL WORDS / PAROLE UTILE

|                |                    |                          |               |                      |                              |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| and            | <b>e</b>           | <i>eh</i>                | always        | <b>sempre</b>        | <i>sehm-preh</i>             |
| or             | <b>o</b>           | <i>oh</i>                | often         | <b>spesso</b>        | <i>speh-soh</i>              |
| but            | <b>ma</b>          | <i>mah</i>               | sometimes     | <b>qualche volta</b> | <i>kwal-keh vohl-tah</i>     |
| not            | <b>non</b>         | <i>nohn</i>              | usually       | <b>usualmente</b>    | <i>oo-zoo-al-mehn-teh</i>    |
| while          | <b>mentre</b>      | <i>mehn-treh</i>         | especially    | <b>specialmente</b>  | <i>speh-chee-al-mehn-teh</i> |
| if             | <b>se</b>          | <i>seh</i>               | except        | <b>eccetto</b>       | <i>eh-cheh-toh</i>           |
| because        | <b>perché</b>      | <i>pehr-kay</i>          | book          | <b>il libro</b>      | <i>lee-broh</i>              |
| very, a lot    | <b>molto</b>       | <i>mohl-toh</i>          | pencil        | <b>la matita</b>     | <i>mah-tee-tah</i>           |
| also, too      | <b>anche</b>       | <i>ahn-keh</i>           | pen           | <b>la penna</b>      | <i>pehn-nah</i>              |
| although       | <b>benché</b>      | <i>behn-keh</i>          | paper         | <b>la carta</b>      | <i>kar-tah</i>               |
| now            | <b>adesso, ora</b> | <i>ah-deh-so, oh-rah</i> | dog           | <b>il cane</b>       | <i>kah-neh</i>               |
| perhaps, maybe | <b>forse</b>       | <i>for-seh</i>           | cat           | <b>il gatto</b>      | <i>gah-toh</i>               |
| then           | <b>allora, poi</b> | <i>ahl-loh-rah, poy</i>  | friend (fem)  | <b>l'amica</b>       | <i>ah-mee-kah</i>            |
| there is       | <b>c'è</b>         | <i>cheh</i>              | friend (masc) | <b>l'amico</b>       | <i>ah-mee-koh</i>            |
| there are      | <b>ci sono</b>     | <i>chee soh-noh</i>      | woman         | <b>la donna</b>      | <i>dohn-nah</i>              |
| there was      | <b>c'era</b>       | <i>che-rah</i>           | man           | <b>l'uomo</b>        | <i>woh-moh</i>               |
| there were     | <b>c'erano</b>     | <i>che-rah-no</i>        | girl          | <b>la ragazza</b>    | <i>rah-gat-sah</i>           |
| here is        | <b>ecco</b>        | <i>ehk-koh</i>           | boy           | <b>il ragazzo</b>    | <i>rah-gat-soh</i>           |

**C'è** can also mean *is here*, as in Nek's famous song: *Laura non c'è* - Laura's not here.

## 8. QUESTION WORDS

|          |                 |                    |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Who      | <b>Chi</b>      | <i>kee</i>         |
| Whose    | <b>Di chi</b>   | <i>dee kee</i>     |
| What     | <b>Che cosa</b> | <i>keh koh-sah</i> |
| Why      | <b>Perché</b>   | <i>pehr-keh</i>    |
| When     | <b>Quando</b>   | <i>kwahn-doh</i>   |
| Where    | <b>Dove</b>     | <i>doh-veh</i>     |
| How      | <b>Come</b>     | <i>koh-meh</i>     |
| How much | <b>Quanto</b>   | <i>kwahn-toh</i>   |
| Which    | <b>Quale</b>    | <i>kwah-leh</i>    |

When **dove**, **come**, and **quale** are followed by **è** (is), **dove** and **come** contract to **dov'è** and **com'è**; and **quale** drops its **e** to become **qual è**.

## 9. CARDINAL & ORDINAL NUMBERS

|    |                    |                            |
|----|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 0  | <b>zero</b>        | <i>dzeh-roh</i>            |
| 1  | <b>uno</b>         | <i>oo-noh</i>              |
| 2  | <b>due</b>         | <i>doo-eh</i>              |
| 3  | <b>tre</b>         | <i>treh</i>                |
| 4  | <b>quattro</b>     | <i>kwaht-troh</i>          |
| 5  | <b>cinque</b>      | <i>cheen-kweh</i>          |
| 6  | <b>sei</b>         | <i>say</i>                 |
| 7  | <b>sette</b>       | <i>seht-teh</i>            |
| 8  | <b>otto</b>        | <i>aw-toh</i>              |
| 9  | <b>nove</b>        | <i>naw-vay</i>             |
| 10 | <b>dieci</b>       | <i>dee-ay-chee</i>         |
| 11 | <b>undici</b>      | <i>oon-dee-chee</i>        |
| 12 | <b>dodici</b>      | <i>doh-dee-chee</i>        |
| 13 | <b>tredici</b>     | <i>treh-dee-chee</i>       |
| 14 | <b>quattordici</b> | <i>kwaht-tohr-dee-chee</i> |
| 15 | <b>quindici</b>    | <i>kween-dee-chee</i>      |
| 16 | <b>sedici</b>      | <i>seh-dee-chee</i>        |
| 17 | <b>diciassette</b> | <i>dee-chahs-seht-teh</i>  |
| 18 | <b>diciotto</b>    | <i>dee-choht-toh</i>       |
| 19 | <b>diciannove</b>  | <i>dee-chahn-noh-veh</i>   |
| 20 | <b>venti</b>       | <i>vehn-tee</i>            |
| 21 | <b>ventuno</b>     | <i>vehn-too-noh</i>        |

|         |                    |                              |
|---------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 22      | <b>ventidue</b>    | <i>vehn-tee-doo-eh</i>       |
| 23      | <b>ventitrè</b>    | <i>vehn-tee-treh</i>         |
| 30      | <b>trenta</b>      | <i>trehn-tah</i>             |
| 40      | <b>quaranta</b>    | <i>kwah-rahn-tah</i>         |
| 50      | <b>cinquanta</b>   | <i>cheen-kwahn-tah</i>       |
| 60      | <b>sessanta</b>    | <i>sehs-sahn-tah</i>         |
| 70      | <b>settanta</b>    | <i>seht-tahn-tah</i>         |
| 80      | <b>ottanta</b>     | <i>oh-tahn-tah</i>           |
| 90      | <b>novanta</b>     | <i>noh-vahn-tah</i>          |
| 100     | <b>cento</b>       | <i>chehn-toh</i>             |
| 101     | <b>centouno</b>    | <i>chehn-toh-oo-noh</i>      |
| 110     | <b>centodieci</b>  | <i>chehn-toh-dee-ay-chee</i> |
| 200     | <b>duecento</b>    | <i>doo-eh-chehn-toh</i>      |
| 1,000   | <b>mille</b>       | <i>mee-leh</i>               |
| 2,000   | <b>duemila</b>     | <i>doo-eh-mee-lah</i>        |
| million | <b>un milione</b>  | <i>mee-lee-oh-neh</i>        |
| billion | <b>un miliardo</b> | <i>mee-lee-ar-doh</i>        |

If a number ends in -tre, you need to add an accent: **-trè**. When you have a word that ends in a vowel, like *venti*, and another word that begins with a vowel, like *uno*; the first word loses its vowel when putting the two words together. **Venti** (20) and **uno** (1) make **ventuno** (21). One exception is *cento*; it does not lose its vowel. **Cento** (100) and **uno** (1) make **centouno** (101). Notice that **cento** does not have a plural form, but **mille** does (**mila**). And be aware that Italian switches the use of commas and decimals.

### Ordinal Numbers

|           |                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| first     | <b>primo / prima</b>           |
| second    | <b>secondo / seconda</b>       |
| third     | <b>terzo / terza</b>           |
| fourth    | <b>quarto / quarta</b>         |
| fifth     | <b>quinto / quinta</b>         |
| sixth     | <b>sesto / sesta</b>           |
| seventh   | <b>settimo / settima</b>       |
| eighth    | <b>ottavo / ottava</b>         |
| ninth     | <b>nono / nona</b>             |
| tenth     | <b>decimo / decima</b>         |
| eleventh  | <b>undicesimo / undicesima</b> |
| twentieth | <b>ventesimo / ventesima</b>   |
| hundredth | <b>centesimo / centesima</b>   |

From eleventh on, just drop the final vowel of the cardinal number and add **-esimo**. For numbers like *ventitrè*, *trentatrè*, add -esimo but do not drop the final *e*. Ordinal numbers are adjectives and must agree with the nouns they modify; -o is the masculine ending, -a is the feminine ending.

**10. DAYS OF THE WEEK / GIORNI DELLA SETTIMANA**

|                      |                        |                            |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Monday               | <b>lunedì</b>          | <i>loo-neh-dee</i>         |
| Tuesday              | <b>martedì</b>         | <i>mahr-teh-dee</i>        |
| Wednesday            | <b>mercoledì</b>       | <i>mehr-koh-leh-dee</i>    |
| Thursday             | <b>giovedì</b>         | <i>zhoh-veh-dee</i>        |
| Friday               | <b>venerdì</b>         | <i>veh-nehr-dee</i>        |
| Saturday             | <b>sabato</b>          | <i>sah-bah-toh</i>         |
| Sunday               | <b>domenica</b>        | <i>doh-men-ee-kah</i>      |
| yesterday            | <b>ieri</b>            | <i>yer-ee</i>              |
| day before yesterday | <b>l'altroieri (m)</b> |                            |
| last night           | <b>ieri sera</b>       | <i>yer-ee seh-rah</i>      |
| today                | <b>oggi</b>            | <i>ohd-jee</i>             |
| tomorrow             | <b>domani</b>          | <i>doh-mahn-ee</i>         |
| day after tomorrow   | <b>dopodomani</b>      | <i>doh-poh-doh-mahn-ee</i> |
| day                  | <b>il giorno</b>       | <i>eel zhor-noh</i>        |

To say *on Mondays, on Tuesdays*, etc., use **il** before **lunedì** through **sabato**, and **la** before **domenica**.

**11. MONTHS OF THE YEAR / MESI DELL'ANNO**

|           |                     |                            |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| January   | <b>gennaio</b>      | <i>jehn-nah-yoh</i>        |
| February  | <b>febbraio</b>     | <i>feh-brah-yoh</i>        |
| March     | <b>marzo</b>        | <i>mar-tsoh</i>            |
| April     | <b>aprile</b>       | <i>ah-pree-leh</i>         |
| May       | <b>maggio</b>       | <i>mahd-joh</i>            |
| June      | <b>giugno</b>       | <i>joo-nyoh</i>            |
| July      | <b>luglio</b>       | <i>loo-lyoh</i>            |
| August    | <b>agosto</b>       | <i>ah-goh-stoh</i>         |
| September | <b>settembre</b>    | <i>seht-tehm-breh</i>      |
| October   | <b>ottobre</b>      | <i>oht-toh-breh</i>        |
| November  | <b>novembre</b>     | <i>noh-vehm-breh</i>       |
| December  | <b>dicembre</b>     | <i>dee-chem-breh</i>       |
| week      | <b>la settimana</b> | <i>lah sett-ee-mah-nah</i> |
| month     | <b>il mese</b>      | <i>eel meh-zeh</i>         |
| year      | <b>l'anno</b>       | <i>lahn-noh</i>            |

Days and months are not capitalized. To express the date, use *È il (number) (month)*. May 5th

would be *È il 5 (or cinque) maggio*. But for the first of the month, use *primo* instead of 1 or uno. To express **ago**, as in *two days ago, a month ago*, etc., just add **fa** afterwards. To express **last**, as in *last Wednesday, last week*, etc., just add **scorso** (for masculine words) or **scorsa** (for feminine words) afterwards.

**una settimana fa** - a week ago

**la settimana scorsa** - last week

**un mese fa** - a month ago

**l'anno scorso** - last year

## 12. SEASONS / STAGIONI

|        |                     |                             |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Summer | <b>l'estate</b>     | <i>leh-stah-teh</i>         |
| Fall   | <b>l'autunno</b>    | <i>low-toon-noh</i>         |
| Spring | <b>la primavera</b> | <i>lah pree-mah-veh-rah</i> |
| Winter | <b>l'inverno</b>    | <i>leen-vehr-noh</i>        |

To say in the (season), just use *in*. **In estate** is in the summer, **in primavera** is in spring. **D'estate** and **d'inverno** can also be used instead of in estate or in inverno.

## 13. DIRECTIONS / DIREZIONI

|          |                 |                |
|----------|-----------------|----------------|
| right    | <b>destra</b>   |                |
| left     | <b>sinistra</b> |                |
| straight | <b>diritto</b>  |                |
| North    | <b>nord</b>     | <i>nohrd</i>   |
| South    | <b>sud</b>      | <i>sood</i>    |
| East     | <b>est</b>      | <i>est</i>     |
| West     | <b>ovest</b>    | <i>oh-vest</i> |

## 14. COLORS & SHAPES / COLORI E FORME

|            |                  |           |                      |
|------------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| white      | <b>bianco/a</b>  | square    | <b>il quadrato</b>   |
| yellow     | <b>giallo/a</b>  | circle    | <b>il cerchio</b>    |
| orange     | <b>arancione</b> | triangle  | <b>il triangolo</b>  |
| pink       | <b>rosa</b>      | rectangle | <b>il rettangolo</b> |
| red        | <b>rosso/a</b>   | oval      | <b>l'ovale</b>       |
| light blue | <b>azzurro/a</b> | cube      | <b>il cubo</b>       |
| dark blue  | <b>blu</b>       | sphere    | <b>la sfera</b>      |

|       |          |          |             |
|-------|----------|----------|-------------|
| green | verde    | cylinder | il cilindro |
| brown | marrone  | cone     | il cono     |
| grey  | grigio/a | octagon  | l'ottagono  |
| black | nero/a   | box      | la scatola  |

Colors are adjectives and must agree with the nouns they modify; -o is the masculine ending, -a is the feminine ending. For example, **rosso** is masculine and **rossa** is feminine. Color words always go **after** the noun they describe:

**una casa gialla** - a yellow house

**il cubo rosso** - the red cube

To ask the color of something:

**Di che colore è il cielo?** What color is the sky?

**Di che colore sono i tuoi occhi?** What color are your eyes?

## 15. TIME / IL TEMPO

|                  |                                        |                                                   |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| What time is it? | <b>Che ora è? /<br/>Che ore sono?</b>  | <i>keh oh-rah eh / keh o-reh soh-noh</i>          |
| At what time?    | <b>A che ora?</b>                      | <i>ah keh oh-rah</i>                              |
| It's 1:00        | <b>È l'una</b>                         | <i>eh loo-nah</i>                                 |
| at 1:00          | <b>all'una</b>                         | <i>ahl-loo-nah</i>                                |
| (at) noon        | <b>(a) mezzogiorno</b>                 | <i>(ah) med-zoh-zhor-noh</i>                      |
| (at) midnight    | <b>(a) mezzanotte</b>                  | <i>(ah) med-zah-noh-teh</i>                       |
| 2:00             | <b>Sono le due</b>                     | <i>soh-noh leh doo-eh</i>                         |
| 3:10             | <b>Sono le tre e dieci</b>             | <i>soh-noh leh treh eh dee-ay-chee</i>            |
| 4:50             | <b>Sono le cinque<br/>meno dieci</b>   | <i>soh-noh leh cheen-kwah meh-noh dee-ay-chee</i> |
| 8:15             | <b>Sono le otto e un<br/>quarto</b>    | <i>soh-noh leh awt-toh eh oon kwar-toh</i>        |
| 7:45             | <b>Sono le otto meno<br/>un quarto</b> | <i>soh-noh leh aw-toh meh-noh un kwar-toh</i>     |
| 1:30             | <b>È l'una e mezza</b>                 | <i>eh loo-nah eh med-zah</i>                      |
| 6:30             | <b>Sono le sei e<br/>mezzo</b>         | <i>soh-noh leh say-ee eh med-zoh</i>              |
| sharp            | <b>in punto</b>                        | <i>een poon-toh</i>                               |
| in the morning   | <b>di mattina</b>                      | <i>dee maht-teen-ah</i>                           |
| in the afternoon | <b>di pomeriggio</b>                   | <i>dee poh-mehr-ee-zhee-oh</i>                    |
| in the evening   | <b>di sera</b>                         | <i>dee seh-rah</i>                                |
| at night         | <b>di notte</b>                        | <i>dee noht-teh</i>                               |

**16. WEATHER / IL TEMPO ATMOSFERICO**

|                           |                                         |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| What's the weather today? | <b>Che tempo fa oggi?</b>               |
| It's nice                 | <b>Fa bel tempo / È bello</b>           |
| bad                       | <b>Fa brutto tempo / È brutto</b>       |
| raining                   | <b>Piove / Sta piovendo</b>             |
| thundering                | <b>Tuona</b>                            |
| snowing                   | <b>Nevica / Sta nevicando</b>           |
| hailing                   | <b>Grandina / Sta grandinando</b>       |
| cold                      | <b>Fa freddo</b>                        |
| cool                      | <b>Fa fresco</b>                        |
| hot                       | <b>Fa caldo</b>                         |
| freezing                  | <b>Fa un freddo gelido</b>              |
| foggy                     | <b>C'è nebbia</b>                       |
| sunny                     | <b>C'è sole / È assolato</b>            |
| windy                     | <b>C'è vento / È ventoso / Fa vento</b> |
| cloudy                    | <b>È nuvoloso</b>                       |
| humid                     | <b>È umido</b>                          |
| muggy                     | <b>È afoso</b>                          |
| stormy                    | <b>È burrascoso</b>                     |

**17. FAMILY & ANIMALS / FAMIGLIA E ANIMALI**

|                         |                    |                   |                        |        |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| family                  | <b>la famiglia</b> | relatives         | <b>i parenti</b>       | dog    | <b>il cane</b>     |
| parents                 | <b>i genitori</b>  | father-in-law     | <b>il suocero</b>      | cat    | <b>il gatto</b>    |
| mother                  | <b>la madre</b>    | mother-in-law     | <b>la suocera</b>      | bird   | <b>l'uccello</b>   |
| father                  | <b>il padre</b>    | son-in-law        | <b>il genero</b>       | mouse  | <b>il topo</b>     |
| son                     | <b>il figlio</b>   | daughter-in-law   | <b>la nuora</b>        | rabbit | <b>il coniglio</b> |
| daughter                | <b>la figlia</b>   | brother-in-law    | <b>il cognato</b>      | horse  | <b>il cavallo</b>  |
| brother                 | <b>il fratello</b> | sister-in-law     | <b>la cognata</b>      | cow    | <b>la mucca</b>    |
| sister                  | <b>la sorella</b>  | stepfather        | <b>il patrigno</b>     | donkey | <b>l'asino</b>     |
| grandfather             | <b>il nonno</b>    | stepmother        | <b>la matrigna</b>     | goat   | <b>la capra</b>    |
| grandmother             | <b>la nonna</b>    | step/half brother | <b>il fratellastro</b> | sheep  | <b>la pecora</b>   |
| grandson/<br>nephew     | <b>il nipote</b>   | step/half sister  | <b>la sorellastra</b>  | goose  | <b>l'oca</b>       |
| granddaughter/<br>niece | <b>la nipote</b>   | married           | <b>sposato</b>         | duck   | <b>l'anatra</b>    |
| uncle                   | <b>lo zio</b>      | divorced          | <b>divorziato</b>      | pig    | <b>il maiale</b>   |

|            |                   |                |                               |      |                   |
|------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------|
| aunt       | <b>la zia</b>     | separated      | <b>separato</b>               | hen  | <b>la gallina</b> |
| cousin (m) | <b>il cugino</b>  | single (man)   | <b>celibe</b>                 | deer | <b>il cervo</b>   |
| cousin (f) | <b>la cugina</b>  | single (woman) | <b>nubile</b>                 |      |                   |
| husband    | <b>il marito</b>  | bachelor       | <b>lo scapolo</b>             |      |                   |
| wife       | <b>la moglie</b>  | widow          | <b>la vedova</b>              |      |                   |
| man        | <b>l'uomo</b>     | widower        | <b>il vedovo</b>              |      |                   |
| woman      | <b>la donna</b>   | godfather      | <b>il padrino</b>             |      |                   |
| boy        | <b>il ragazzo</b> | godmother      | <b>la madrina</b>             |      |                   |
| girl       | <b>la ragazza</b> | twins          | <b>i gemelli / le gemelle</b> |      |                   |

## 18. TO KNOW PEOPLE & FACTS

|                                              |                   |                               |                 |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>conoscere-to know, be acquainted with</i> |                   | <i>sapere-to know (facts)</i> |                 |
| <b>conosco</b>                               | <b>conosciamo</b> | <b>so</b>                     | <b>sappiamo</b> |
| <b>conosci</b>                               | <b>conoscete</b>  | <b>sai</b>                    | <b>sapete</b>   |
| <b>conosce</b>                               | <b>conoscono</b>  | <b>sa</b>                     | <b>sanno</b>    |

**Conoscere** is used when you know people and places. It is conjugated regularly. **Sapere** is used when you know facts. **Sapere** followed by an infinitive means *to know how*. In addition, the object must be expressed in Italian when using sapere. You cannot simply say *I know* as in English, but rather *I know it*: **Lo so**.

**Io conosco Mario.** I know Mario.

**Voi conoscete la Francia.** You know (have visited) France.

**Tu sai nuotare.** You know how to swim.

**Loro sanno cantare.** They know how to sing.

## 19. FORMATION OF PLURAL NOUNS

If a word is masculine singular, change the last letter to an **i**. If a word is feminine singular, change the last letter to an **e** if it ends in **a**, or if it ends in **e**, change it to an **i**.

### Singular to Plural Nouns

#### Masculine

|    |    |
|----|----|
| -o | -i |
| -a | -i |
| -e | -i |

#### Feminine

|    |    |
|----|----|
| -a | -e |
| -e | -i |

Words ending in **-io** can either change the o to i, or just simply drop the o to form the plural. When the **-i** of **-io** is **stressed**, the plural is **-ii**; however, most words ending in **-io** do not stress the **-i**, and so their plurals are formed by dropping the o. Compare: **lo zio - gli zii** and **il figlio - i figli**.

Some nouns ending in **-co** and **-go** may or may not insert an **h** before changing the o to i. There is no general rule for it. All nouns ending in **-ca** and **-ga** insert an **h** before changing the a to e. Nouns ending in an accented vowel do not change for the plural. (**la città** (city) becomes **le città**) There are some masculine nouns that end -a, and these nouns change the -a to -i in the plural: *il programma, il poeta, il pianete, il pilota, il poema, il sistema*. The plural of **l'uomo** (man) is **gli uomini**, while the plural of **la mano** (hand) is **le mani**.

## 20. POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

|         | Masc. Sing.      | Fem. Sing.       | Masc. Pl.               | Fem. Pl.         |
|---------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| my      | <b>il mio</b>    | <b>la mia</b>    | <b>i miei</b> (myeh-ee) | <b>le mie</b>    |
| your    | <b>il tuo</b>    | <b>la tua</b>    | <b>i tuoi</b> (twoh-ee) | <b>le tue</b>    |
| his/her | <b>il suo</b>    | <b>la sua</b>    | <b>i suoi</b> (swoh-ee) | <b>le sue</b>    |
| our     | <b>il nostro</b> | <b>la nostra</b> | <b>i nostri</b>         | <b>le nostre</b> |
| your    | <b>il vostro</b> | <b>la vostra</b> | <b>i vostri</b>         | <b>le vostre</b> |
| their   | <b>il loro</b>   | <b>la loro</b>   | <b>i loro</b>           | <b>le loro</b>   |

You may leave off the definite article before family relation words in the singular. All other times, you must use them. Notice that *loro* does not change.



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