

**LEARN-
A-
LANGUAGE**

**CONVERSATIONAL
ITALIAN COURSE**

MANUAL #1

LEARN-A-LANGUAGE ITALIAN COURSE

The Learn-A-Language Course uses the *natural* method of language learning. You learn Italian the way you learned English—by hearing the language and repeating what you heard. You didn't begin by studying grammar; you first learned how to say things, how words are arranged, and only when you knew the language reasonably well did you begin to study grammar. This course teaches you Italian the same way. *Hear it, say it, absorb it* as the result of use and repetition. The only difference is that in this course the basic elements of the language have been carefully selected and condensed into short lessons. When you have finished these lessons you will have a good working knowledge of the language. If you apply yourself you can master this course and learn to speak basic Italian quickly and easily.

Keep practicing your Italian as much as possible. Once you are well along in the course try reading Italian magazines, newspapers and books. Use your Italian whenever you get a chance—with Italian speaking friends, with the waiter at the Italian restaurant, or with other students.

This course tries to make the learning of Italian as easy and pleasant as possible, but a certain amount of application is necessary. The record and book which make up this course provide you with all the material you need; the following instructions tell you exactly what to do. The rest is up to you.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Look at page 1. Note the words in bold-face type like this. These are the words you will hear on the record. There are pauses to enable you to repeat each word and phrase right after you hear it and longer pauses to enable you to skip non-recorded sections when the record is on.

2. Now read Lesson 1. In some lessons, information and instruction precede the recorded matter. Note the points to listen for when you play the record. Then turn back to the beginning and put the record . . . Side 1 on the machine. If you have an automatic machine, put it on Manual. Before you put the needle on the record, note that there are a number of bands of grooves on the record. The first band is Lesson 1, the second band is Lesson 2, and so on. When the needle comes to the end of Lesson 1, there will be a definite pause so that you can stop the machine at that point. Look at the first word Alfredo and be prepared to follow the voice on the record.

3. Play the record, listen carefully, and watch for the points mentioned. Then play it again, and this time say the words aloud. Keep repeating until you are sure you know the lesson. The longer you listen and repeat, the longer you will remember the material.

4. Now go on to the next lesson. It's always well to review rapidly the previous lesson before starting on a new one. For Lesson 2, you will put the needle at the beginning of Band 2 of the record, and so on.

5. There are two types of quizzes. One is the matching type in which you must select the English word or sentence that fits the Italian one. In the other type you fill in the blanks with the correct Italian word chosen from the three given directly below the sentence. Do these quizzes faithfully and if you make any mistakes read the section again.

6. When you can get 100% on each quiz, you can consider that you have mastered the course.

LESSON 1

(THE LETTERS AND SOUNDS I)

1. THE LETTERS AND SOUNDS

A. Many Italian sounds are similar to the English. Listen to and repeat the following Italian names, and notice which sounds are similar and which are different:

Alfredo	Alfred	Luisa	Louise
Antonio	Antonio	Emmanuele	Emanuel
Carlo	Charles	Michele	Michael
Caterina	Katherine	Maria	Mary
Enrico	Henry	Pietro	Peter
Elisabetta	Elizabeth	Paolo	Paul
Francesco	Francis	Peppino	Joe
Ferdinando	Ferdinand	Raffaele	Ralph
Isabella	Isabel	Raimondo	Raymond
Giovanni	John	Rosa	Rose
Giorgio	George	Riccardo	Richard
Giulia	Julia	Roberto	Robert
Giuseppe	Joseph	Vincenzo	Vincent
Luigi	Louis	Violetta	Violet

NOTICE:

1. that each vowel is pronounced clearly and crisply.
2. that a single consonant is pronounced with the following vowel.
3. that some vowels bear an accent mark, which sometimes shows the accentuated syllable:

la virtù the virtue

but sometimes merely serves to distinguish words:

e and è is

4. When the accent is on the letter *e*, it gives a more open pronunciation:

caffè coffee

5. The apostrophe (') is used to mark the elision of a vowel.

B. Now listen to some geographical names:

Bari	Napoli
Brindisi	Ravenna

Genova
Livorno
Londra
Messina
Milano

Sardegna
Sicilia
Taranto
Tevere
Venezia

C. Now the names of some countries:

Argentina	Inghilterra
Belgio	Messico
Cina	Norvegia
Spagna	Persia
Stati Uniti	Portogallo
India	Egitto
Francia	Venezuela
Germania	Russia

LESSON 2

(THE LETTERS AND SOUNDS II)

D. Now listen to and repeat the following words which are similar in English and Italian. Notice how Italian spelling and pronunciation differ from English:

azione	action	interessante	interesting
agente	agent	nazione	nation
attenzione	attention	necessario	necessary
caso	case	possibile	possible
centro	center	quieto	quiet
certo	certain	radio	radio
diversamente	different	ristorante	restaurant
difficile	difficult	simile	similar
esempio	example	tè	tea
gala	gala	teatro	theater
chitarra	guitar	telefono	telephone
importante	important	treno	train
	visita	visit	

2. THE ITALIAN ALPHABET

Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Letter	Name
a	a	h	acca	q	qu
b	bi	i	i	r	erre
c	ci	l	elle	s	esse
d	di	m	emme	t	ti
e	e	n	enne	u	u
f	effe	o	o	v	vi
g	gi	p	pi	z	zeta

LESSON 3

PRONUNCIATION PRACTICE I)

3. PRONUNCIATION PRACTICE

The following groups of words will give you some additional practice in Italian pronunciation and spelling:

attore	actor	umore	humor
animale	animal	locale	local
capitale	capital	materiale	material
centrale	central	originale	original
cereale	cereal	personale	personal
cioccolato	chocolate	probabile	probable
colore	color	regolare	regular
dottore	doctor	simile	similar
familiare	familiar	semplice	simple
gas	gas	totale	total
generale	general	usuale	usual

A. VOWELS

1. *a* is like *ab*, or the *a* in *father*:

a	to, at	lago	lake
amico	friend	pane	bread
la	the (<i>fem. sing.</i>)	parlare	to speak

2. *e* is like the *ay* in *day*, but cut off sharply (that is, not drawled):

era	was	carne	meat
essere	to be	treno	train
pera	pear	tre	three
padre	father	estate	summer
	se	if	

e in the middle of a word may have two different sounds when stressed:

a. open sound:	b. closed sound:
petto chest	verde green
terra earth	

Some words even have different meanings according to whether the vowel has an open or closed sound:

(open) tema composition (closed) tema fear
venti winds venti twenty

3. *i* is like the *i* in *police*, *machine*, *marine*, but not drawled:

misura	measure	oggi	today
si	yes	piccolo	small (<i>masc. sing.</i>)
amica	friend (<i>fem.</i>)	figlio	son

4. *o* is like the *o* in *no*, but not drawled:

no	no	con	with
poi	then	otto	eight
ora	hour	come	how

o in the middle of a word may have two different sounds when stressed:

a. open sound:	b. closed sound:
oro gold	forma form
corpo body	voce voice

5. *u* is like the *u* in *rule*, but not drawled:

uno	one (<i>masc.</i>)	tu	you (<i>familiar</i>)
una	one (<i>fem.</i>)	ultimo	last

6. Notice that each vowel is clearly pronounced. Vowels are not slurred as they often are in English:

Europa	Europe	idea	idea
leggere	to read	poesia	poem
dov' è	where is	creare	to create
io sono	I am	mio	my
	paese	country	

B. DIPHTHONGS

- ai*:
guai troubles
- au*:
aula room auto auto aurora dawn
- ei*:
sei six seicento six hundred
- eu*:
Europa Europe
- ia*:
Italia Italy patria country aria air
- ie*:
piede foot bietola beer tieni (you) keep
- io*:
stazione station fiore flower piove it is raining
- iu*:
fiume river piuma feather
- oi*:
poi then voi you
- ua*:
quale what quattro four quanto how much
- ue*:
questo this quello that
- ui*:
fui (I) was lui him
- uo*:
buono good tuo your (*familiar*)

C. TRIPHTHONGS

1. *iei*:
miei my (pronounce: yeh - ee)
2. *uoi*:
figliuolo son (pronounce: you - oh)
3. *uoi*:
tuoi your (*familiar*) (pronounce: woe - ee)

LESSON 4



(PRONUNCIATION PRACTICE II)

A. CONSONANTS

1. *b* is pronounced like the English *b* in *boat*:
bottiglia bottle
2. *c* has two different sounds; before *a, o, u*, it is equivalent to the English *k* in *bake*:
caso case
before *e* or *i* it is equivalent to the English *ch* in *church*:
celibe bachelor
3. *d* is like the English *d* in *dark*:
data date
4. *f* is also equivalent to the corresponding English letter:
forza force
5. *g* has two different sounds: before *a, o, u*, it is equivalent to the English *g* in *go*:
guida guide
before *e* or *i*, it is equivalent to the English *g* in *general*:
generoso generous
6. *b* is not pronounced. It is found only in exclamations:
ohl ahl
or in certain forms of the verb to have:
io ho I have
7. *l, m, n, p*, are equivalent to the corresponding letters in English:
libertà liberty notte night
memoria memory prova proof

8. *q* is used only in combination with *u* and is pronounced like the English *qu* in *quality*,

quarto quarter

9. *r* is more rolled than in English, somewhat as in Scotch pronunciation:

regione region

10. *s* has two different sounds:

a. harsh at the beginning of a word, or when used double, or preceded by another consonant:

sale salt rosso red
console consul

b. soft when occurring between two vowels:

causa cause esilio exile
poesia poetry

11. *t, v*, are equivalent to the corresponding letters in English:

tono tone vacanza vacation

12. *z* has two different sounds:

a. harsh, as in the English combination *ts*. This sound generally occurs in the group *-zione*.

azione action nazione nation
addizione addition

b. soft, as in the English combination *ds*. This sound occurs mostly in technical and classical words derived from Greek.

zona zone zeffiro zephyr
azoto azote

B. SPECIAL ITALIAN SOUNDS

Pay special attention to the following sounds, which do not have exact English equivalents:

1. *cc* when followed by *i* or *e* is pronounced like the English *ch* in *chair*:

cacciatore hunter faccia face

2. *cb* before *e* and *i* is pronounced like the English *k* in *key*:

chitarra guitar chiodo nail

3. *gb* before *e* and *i* is pronounced like the English *g* in *gate*:

ghirlanda garland ghermire (to) clutch

4. *gli* is a sound found only in Italian; the closest English approximation would be the combination *lli*, as in *million*:

<i>egli</i>	he	<i>paglia</i>	straw
<i>foglia</i>	leaf	<i>giglio</i>	lily

5. *gn* is always pronounced as one letter, somewhat like the English *nt* in *onion*, or *ny* in *canyon*:

<i>segno</i>	sign	<i>Spagna</i>	Spain
<i>montagna</i>	mountain	<i>lavagna</i>	blackboard

6. *sc* before *e* and *i* is pronounced like the English *sh* in *shoe*:

<i>scendere</i>	(to) climb	<i>sciropo</i>	syrup
<i>scimmia</i>	monkey	<i>scivolare</i>	(to) slip

7. *sc* before *a*, *o*, and *u*, is pronounced like the English *sk* in *sky*:

<i>scuola</i>	school	<i>Scozia</i>	Scotland
<i>scarpa</i>	shoe	<i>scoiattolo</i>	squirrel

4. BUILDING UP A VOCABULARY

Building up an Italian vocabulary is a rather easy matter since a great number of words are similar in English and Italian. Some words are spelled exactly the same (though they may differ considerably in pronunciation):

<i>Italian</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Italian</i>	<i>English</i>
<i>antenna</i>	antenna	<i>velocipede</i>	velocipede
<i>area</i>	area	<i>idea</i>	idea
<i>auto</i>	auto	<i>gas</i>	gas
<i>radio</i>	radio	<i>hotel</i>	hotel

There are many Italian words which you will have no difficulty in recognizing despite minor differences. Some of these differences are:

a. The Italian words add *e*

<i>annuale</i>	annual	<i>parte</i>	part
<i>commerciale</i>	commercial	<i>origine</i>	origin
<i>occasionale</i>	occasional	<i>speciale</i>	special
<i>professionale</i>	professional		

b. The Italian words add *a* or *o*,

<i>lista</i>	list	<i>costo</i>	cost
<i>problema</i>	problem	<i>liquido</i>	liquid
<i>persona</i>	person		

c. The Italian words have *a* or *o* where the English ones have *e*.

<i>causa</i>	cause	<i>favorito</i>	favorite
<i>figura</i>	figure	<i>minuto</i>	minute
<i>medicina</i>	medicine	<i>tubo</i>	tube
<i>rosa</i>	rose	<i>uso</i>	use

5. GENERAL EQUIVALENTS

1. Italian *c* (*cc*) = English *k* (*ck*):

<i>franco</i>	frank	<i>parco</i>	park
<i>sacco</i>	sack	<i>attacco</i>	attack

2. Italian *f* = English *ph*:

<i>frase</i>	phrase	<i>telegrafo</i>	telegraph
<i>fisico</i>	physical	<i>fonico</i>	phonic

3. Italian *s* (*ss*) = English *x*:

<i>esercizio</i>	exercise	<i>Messico</i>	Mexico
<i>esempio</i>	example	<i>fixxo</i>	fix

4. Italian *st* = English *xt*:

<i>estensione</i>	extension	<i>estorto</i>	extorted
	<i>estremo</i>	extreme	

5. Italian *t* = English *th*:

<i>autore</i>	author	<i>teatro</i>	theatre
<i>simpatia</i>	sympathy	<i>teoria</i>	theory

6. Italian *z* (*zz*) = English *c*:

<i>forza</i>	force	<i>razza</i>	race
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7. Italian *t* = English *y*:

<i>stile</i>	style	<i>sistema</i>	system
<i>mistero</i>	mystery	<i>ritmo</i>	rhythm

8. Italian *o* = English *ou*:

<i>corte</i>	court	<i>corso</i>	course
<i>monte</i>	mount		

9. Italian *-io* = English *-y*

<i>segretario</i>	secretary	<i>territorio</i>	territory
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10. Italian *-zione* = English *-tion*:

<i>nazione</i>	nation	<i>addizione</i>	addition
	<i>conversazione</i>	conversation	

11. Italian *-o* = English *-al*:

<i>interno</i>	internal	<i>eterno</i>	eternal
	<i>politico</i>	political	

12. Italian -oso = English -ous:

famoso	famous	prodigioso	prodigious
numeroso	numerous	religioso	religious

LESSON 5

(USEFUL WORD GROUPS)

6. USEFUL WORD GROUPS

Some Numbers

uno	one
due	two
tre	three
quattro	four
cinque	five
sei	six
sette	seven
otto	eight
nove	nine
dieci	ten

The Days of the Week¹

lunedì	Monday
martedì	Tuesday
mercoledì	Wednesday
giovedì	Thursday
venerdì	Friday
sabato	Saturday
domenica	Sunday

The Months

gennaio	January
febbraio	February
marzo	March
aprile	April
maggio	May
giugno	June
luglio	July
agosto	August
settembre	September
ottobre	October
novembre	November
dicembre	December

Some Colors

rosso	red
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blu	blue
verde	green
nero	black
bianco	white
giallo	yellow
marrone	brown (coffee-color)
castagno	brown (chestnut-color)
grigio	gray

The Seasons

primavera	spring
estate	summer
autunno	autumn
inverno	winter

North, South, East, West

nord	north
sud	south
est	east
ovest	west

Morning, Noon, and Night

mattina	morning
mezzogiorno	noon
pomeriggio	afternoon
sera	evening
notte	night

Today, Yesterday, Tomorrow

oggi	today
ieri	yesterday
domani	tomorrow

Oggi è venerdì.	Today is Friday.
Ieri era giovedì.	Yesterday was Thursday.
Domani è sabato.	Tomorrow is Saturday.

Uno più uno fa due.	One and one are two.
Uno più due fa tre.	One and two are three.
Due più due fanno quattro.	Two and two are four.

Due più tre fanno cinque.	Two and three are five.
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Tre più tre fanno sei.	Three and three are six.
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Tre più quattro fanno sette.	Three and four are seven.
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¹The names of the days of the week and of the months are never capitalized.

<i>Quattro più quattro fanno otto.</i>	Four and four are eight.
<i>Cinque più quattro fanno nove.</i>	Five and four are nine.
<i>Cinque più cinque fanno dieci.</i>	Five and five are ten.

QUIZ 1

Try matching these two columns:

1. <i>venerdì</i>	1. January
2. <i>autunno</i>	2. summer
3. <i>giovedì</i>	3. June
4. <i>primavera</i>	4. winter
5. <i>otto</i>	5. October
6. <i>gennaio</i>	6. white
7. <i>inverno</i>	7. autumn
8. <i>verde</i>	8. Sunday
9. <i>giugno</i>	9. eight
10. <i>estate</i>	10. spring
11. <i>lunedì</i>	11. west
12. <i>quattro</i>	12. Thursday
13. <i>ottobre</i>	13. four
14. <i>domenica</i>	14. ten
15. <i>ovest</i>	15. red
16. <i>rosso</i>	16. black
17. <i>nero</i>	17. green
18. <i>dieci</i>	18. Friday
19. <i>bianco</i>	19. gray
20. <i>grigio</i>	20. Monday

ANSWERS

1-18: 2-7; 3-12; 4-10; 5-9; 6-1; 7-4; 8-17; 9-3; 10-2; 11-20; 12-13; 13-5; 14-8; 15-11; 16-15; 17-16; 18-14; 19-6; 20-19.

LESSON 6

(USEFUL PHRASES I)

7. GOOD MORNING!

Nella mattina:	In the morning:
buon	good
giorno	morning (day)
Buon giorno.	Good morning.
signor	Mr.
Rossi	Rossi
Buon giorno, signor	Good morning, Mr.
Rossi.	Rossi.

come	how
sta	are you
Come sta?	How are you? How do you do?
molto	very
bene	well
Molto bene.	Very well.
grazie	thank you, thanks
Molto bene, grazie.	Very well, thank you.
E lei?	And how are you? (And you?) ¹

bene	fine
Bene, grazie.	Fine, thank you.

Nella sera: In the afternoon:

buona	good
sera	afternoon
Buona sera.	Good afternoon.
Buona sera, signora	Good afternoon, Mrs. Rossi.
Rossi.	
Buona notte.	Good night.
Buona notte, signor	Good night, Mr. Rossi.
Rossi.	

Note: The Italian word for "sir" or "Mr." is *signore*, but when it is used immediately preceding a name, the *e* is dropped.

Buon giorno, signor Rossi.

Buon giorno, signore.

QUIZ 2

1. <i>mattina</i>	1. Good afternoon.
2. <i>signora</i>	2. How are you?
3. <i>E lei?</i>	3. Miss
4. <i>molto bene</i>	4. morning
5. <i>Buon giorno.</i>	5. Thank you.
6. <i>Buona notte.</i>	6. Madam or Mrs.
7. <i>Come sta?</i>	7. nothing new
8. <i>oggi</i>	8. sir or Mr.
9. <i>Grazie.</i>	9. How?
10. <i>nulla di nuovo</i>	10. Good morning.
11. <i>signorina</i>	11. in the afternoon
12. <i>Buona sera.</i>	12. And you?
13. <i>Come?</i>	13. very well
14. <i>signore</i>	14. today
15. <i>di sera</i>	15. Good evening (good night).

¹ Words in parentheses are literal translations.

ANSWERS

1-4; 2-6; 3-12; 4-13; 5-10; 6-15; 7-2; 8-14; 9-5; 10-7; 11-3; 12-1; 13-9; 14-8; 15-11.

8. WHERE IS...?

dove	where
è	is
dov'è	where is
Dov'è un albergo?(hotel)	Where is a hotel?
buon ristorante	good restaurant
Dov'è un buon ristorante?	Where's a good restaurant?
dov'è (dove è)	where is
Dov'è?	Where is it?
Dov'è il telefono?	Where's the telephone?
Dov'è il ristorante?	Where's the restaurant?
Dov'è la stazione ferroviaria?	Where's the railroad station?
Dov'è l'ufficio postale?	Where's the post office?

LESSON 7

(USEFUL PHRASES II)

può dirmi lei	can you tell me
Può dirmi lei...?	Can you tell me...?
Può dirmi lei dov'è un albergo?	Can you tell me where is a hotel?
Può dirmi lei dov'è un buon ristorante?	Can you tell me where is a good restaurant?
Può dirmi dov'è il telefono?	Can you tell me where the telephone is?
Può dirmi dov'è la stazione ferroviaria?	Can you tell me where the station is?
Può dirmi dov'è l'ufficio postale?	Can you tell me where the post office is?

QUIZ 3

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Dov'è un albergo? | 1. Where's the telephone? |
| 2. Dov'è il telefono? | 2. Can you tell me where the station is? |
| 3. Può dirmi lei...? | 3. Can you tell me...? |
| 4. Può dirmi dov'è la stazione ferroviaria? | 4. the post office |
| 5. l'ufficio postale | 5. Where's there a hotel? |

ANSWERS

1-5; 2-1; 3-3; 4-2; 5-4.

9. DO YOU HAVE...?

Ha lei...?	Do you have...?
denaro	(any) money
sigarette	(any) cigarettes
fiammiferi	(any) matches
Ho bisogno di...	I need...
carta	(some) paper
matita	a pencil
inchiostro	ink
un francobollo	a stamp
pasta dentifricia	toothpaste
un asciugamano	a towel
Dove posso comprare...?	Where can I buy...?
un dizionario italiano	an Italian dictionary
un dizionario inglese-italiano	an English-Italian dictionary
un libro in inglese degli abiti	an English book some clothes

10. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO EAT?

prima colazione	breakfast
seconda colazione	lunch
pranzo	dinner
cena	supper
Che cosa desidera?	What will you have? (What do you wish?)
Mi dia la lista, per favore.	Give me the menu, please.
Posso avere la lista, per favore?	May I have a menu, please?
Mi porti...	Bring me...
un po' di pane	some bread
pane e burro	bread and butter
della minestra	some soup
della carne	some meat
del manzo	some beef
una bistecca	a steak
del prosciutto	some ham

del pesce	some fish
del pollo	some chicken
delle uova	some eggs
dei legumi	some vegetables
delle patate	some potatoes
dell'insalata	some salad
dell'acqua	some water
del vino	some wine
della birra	some beer
del latte	some milk
caffè e latte	coffee with milk
dello zucchero	some sugar
del sale	some salt
del pepe	some pepper
della frutta	some fruit
dei dolci	some dessert

Mi porti . . .	Bring me . . .
<i>una tazza di caffè</i>	a cup of coffee
<i>una tazza di tè</i>	a cup of tea
<i>un tovagliolo</i>	a napkin
<i>un cucchiaino</i>	a spoon
<i>un cucchiaino</i>	a teaspoon
<i>un coltello</i>	a knife
<i>un piatto</i>	a plate
<i>un bicchiere</i>	a glass

Desidero . . .	I would like . . .
<i>un po' di frutta</i>	some fruit (assorted)
<i>una bottiglia di vino</i>	a bottle of wine
<i>un' altra bottiglia di vino</i>	another bottle of wine
<i>un po' di più</i>	a little more
<i>un po' più di pane</i>	a little more bread
<i>un po' più di carne</i>	a little more meat
<i>Il conto, per favore.</i>	The check, please.

QUIZ 4

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. carne | 1. fish |
| 2. patate | 2. water |
| 3. acqua | 3. vegetables |
| 4. Che cosa desidera? | 4. I need soap. |
| 5. uova | 5. The check, please. |
| 6. pollo | 6. breakfast |
| 7. pesce | 7. a spoon |
| 8. una bottiglia di vino | 8. coffee with milk |
| 9. Ho bisogno di sapone. | 9. What will you have? |
| 10. Mi dia un po' di pane. | 10. dessert |
| 11. caffè e latte | 11. meat |

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12. zucchero | 12. a knife |
| 13. legumi | 13. eggs |
| 14. una tazza di tè | 14. Bring me some bread. |
| 15. un po' più di pane | 15. chicken |
| 16. un coltello | 16. a cup of tea |
| 17. dolci | 17. a little more bread |
| 18. colazione | 18. sugar |
| 19. un cucchiaino | 19. a bottle of wine |
| 20. Il conto, per favore. | 20. potatoes |

ANSWERS

1-11: 2-20; 3-2; 4-9; 5-13; 6-15; 7-1; 8-19; 9-4; 10-14; 11-8; 12-18; 13-3; 14-16; 15-17; 16-12; 17-10; 18-6; 19-7; 20-5.

LESSON 8

(SOME COMMON VERB FORMS)

11. SOME COMMON VERB FORMS

<i>io parlo</i>	I speak
<i>tu parli</i>	you speak (<i>familiar</i>)
<i>egli parla</i>	he speaks
<i>ella parla</i>	she speaks
<i>lei parla</i>	you speak (<i>polite</i>)
<i>noi parliamo</i>	we speak
<i>voi parlate</i>	you speak (<i>plural or formal</i>)
<i>essi parlano</i>	they speak (<i>masc.</i>)
<i>esse parlano</i>	they speak (<i>fem.</i>)
<i>loro parlano</i>	you speak (<i>polite</i>) or they speak

Notes

- These forms, which make up the present tense of the first conjugation, are also commonly used to translate the English "I am speaking" and "I do speak."
- Tu*, you, is used to address people you know very well (whom you call by their first names in English—relatives, close friends, children, pets, etc.) The plural for *tu* is *voi*. *Voi* is also used to address one or more persons as an intermediate form between the intimate *tu* and the formal *lei*.
- Notice that there are six endings which indicate the person speaking or spoken about, without need of pronoun:

Singular:

- o indicates the speaker (I)
- i indicates the person spoken to (you).
It is used only to someone you know well.
- a indicates someone or something spoken about (he, she, it) or else you (*polite*.)

Plural:

- iamo indicates several speakers (we).
- ate is the plural form for *tu*. *Voi* is also used to address one or more persons in a formal way.
- ano indicates they (both masculine and feminine) or the plural of the *polite* form.

4. Notice that the verb form with *lei*, *egli*, *ella* is the same: *parla*.

5. Notice that several forms of the pronouns differ, depending on whether men or women are speaking or are being spoken about:

<i>egli parla</i>	he is speaking
<i>ella parla</i>	she is speaking
<i>essi parlano</i>	they are speaking (men)
<i>esse parlano</i>	they are speaking (women)

6. *Lei*, *loro*, *le*, *la*, *li* (you) are sometimes capitalized to emphasize the idea of respect toward a person—for instance, when writing a formal letter or addressing someone in a respectful way.

12. THE and A

1. The

masculine

<i>il libro</i>	the book	<i>i libri</i>	the books
<i>lo studio</i>	the study	<i>gli studi</i>	the studies
<i>l'esercizio</i>	the exercise	<i>gli esercizi</i>	the exercises

feminine

<i>la donna</i>	the lady	<i>le donne</i>	the ladies
<i>l'erba</i>	the grass	<i>le erbe</i>	the grass, grasses

Notice the different forms used in Italian for the single English word "the." In Italian, words are either masculine or feminine. When they refer to males or females, you know which group of articles to use, but in the case of other nouns, you have to

learn whether the noun is masculine or feminine. The masculine article *il* and its plural form *i* is used before masculine nouns beginning with a consonant. The masculine article *lo* and its plural form *gli* is used before masculine nouns beginning with a vowel or a *z*, or *s* plus a consonant, or the consonant combination *gn*. When used before a vowel, *lo* is elided to *l'*; the plural does not elide unless the following word begins with an *i*. The feminine article *la* and its plural form *le* is used before feminine nouns; however, before vowels, it is also elided to *l'* especially in the singular.

2. A (An)

<i>un ragazzo</i>	a boy	<i>una ragazza</i>	a girl
<i>uno zero</i>	a zero	<i>un'amica</i>	a friend (<i>fem.</i>)

The indefinite article has the form *un* before vowels and most consonants. It takes the form *uno* before the consonant *z*, or *s* plus a consonant, or the combination *gn*. The feminine is *una*, eliding to *un'* before a vowel.

QUIZ 5

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <i>io</i> | 1. they speak |
| 2. <i>noi</i> | 2. she is speaking |
| 3. <i>tu parli</i> | 3. she |
| 4. <i>egli</i> | 4. you (<i>fam. plur.</i>) |
| 5. <i>essi parlano</i> | 5. I |
| 6. <i>voi</i> | 6. you speak |
| 7. <i>tu</i> | 7. he |
| 8. <i>ella</i> | 8. we speak |
| 9. <i>noi parliamo</i> | 9. you (<i>fam. sing.</i>) |
| 10. <i>ella parla</i> | 10. we |

ANSWERS

1-5; 2-10; 3-6; 4-7; 5-1; 6-4; 7-9; 8-3; 9-8; 10-2.

13. SOME COMMON CONTRACTIONS

<i>di + il</i>	= <i>del</i> (of the)	<i>a + il</i>	= <i>al</i> (to the)
<i>di + lo</i>	= <i>dello</i>	<i>a + lo</i>	= <i>allo</i>
<i>di + la</i>	= <i>della</i>	<i>a + la</i>	= <i>alla</i>
<i>di + l'</i>	= <i>dell'</i>	<i>a + l'</i>	= <i>all'</i>

<i>di + i = dei</i>	<i>a + i = ai</i>
<i>di + gli = degli</i>	<i>a + gli = agli</i>
<i>di + le = delle</i>	<i>a + le = alle</i>
<i>con + il = col (with the)</i>	<i>su + il = sul (on the)</i>
<i>con + i = coi</i>	<i>su + la = sulla</i>
	<i>su + lo = sullo</i>
	<i>su + gli = sugli</i>

14. PLURAL OF NOUNS

As a general rule, nouns ending in *o* are masculine.

As a general rule, nouns ending in *a* are feminine.

As a general rule, nouns ending in *e* can be either masculine or feminine.

All masculine nouns (ending either in *o* or *e*) form their plural in *i*.

All feminine nouns form their plural in *e* or *i* depending on whether they end in *a* or *e* in the singular.

<i>il piatto</i>	the plate	<i>i piatti</i>	the plates
<i>il cuore</i>	the heart	<i>i cuori</i>	the hearts
<i>la rosa</i>	the rose	<i>le rose</i>	the roses
<i>la valle</i>	the valley	<i>le valli</i>	the valleys

15. ADJECTIVES

There are two groups of adjectives:

1. Those which have four endings:

caro (masc. sing.), cara (fem. sing.)
carì (masc. plur.), care (fem. plur.)

2. Those which have only two endings:

gentile (masc. and fem. sing.)
gentili (masc. and fem. plur.)

Study these examples:

<i>un caro amico</i>	a dear friend (masc.)
<i>una cara amica</i>	a dear friend (fem.)
<i>dei cari amici</i>	some dear friends (masc.)
<i>delle care amiche</i>	some dear friends (fem.)
<i>un uomo gentile</i>	a kind man (masc.)
<i>una donna gentile</i>	a kind woman (fem.)
<i>degli uomini gentili</i>	some kind men (masc.)
<i>delle donne gentili</i>	some kind women (fem.)

The adjective always agrees with its noun. When an adjective is used alone, its ending usually tells you whether it refers to a singular or plural, feminine or masculine noun:

<i>È italiano.</i>	He is Italian.
<i>È italiana.</i>	She is Italian.
<i>Sono italiani.</i>	They are Italian (masc.)
<i>Sono italiane.</i>	They are Italian (fem.)

Note: Only proper names and geographical nouns are capitalized in Italian. Names of nationalities are capitalized only when used as nouns and referring to a person. When used as adjectives, or to refer to a language, they are not capitalized.

Examples:

<i>un libro italiano</i>	an Italian book
<i>Ho incontrato un italiano.</i>	I met an Italian.
<i>Essi parlano l'italiano.</i>	They speak Italian.

16. POSSESSION

English *'s* or *-s'* is translated by *di* (of):

<i>il libro di Giovanni</i>	John's book (the book of John)
<i>i libri dei ragazzi</i>	the boys' books (the books of the boys)

17. ASKING A QUESTION

To ask a question you can either put the subject after the verb:

Ha mangiato lei? Have you eaten?

or preserve the same word order and raise your voice at the end of the sentence to show that it is a question

Lei ha mangiato. You have eaten.
Lei ha mangiato? Have you eaten?

18. NOT

The word for "not" is *non*. It comes before the verb.

Non vedo I don't see

REVIEW QUIZ 1

1. *Buon* — (morning), *signora Rossi*.
 a. *domani*
 b. *giorno*
 c. *grazie*
2. *Può dirmi* — (where's) *l'ufficio postale?*
 a. *dov'è*
 b. *buono*
 c. *lì*
3. — (Bring me) *un po' di pane*.
 a. *Mangiare*
 b. *Sera*
 c. *Mi porti*
4. *caffè con* — (milk)
 a. *zucchero*
 b. *vino*
 c. *latte*
5. *un po'* — (more) *di carne*
 a. *più*
 b. *tazza*
 c. *ancora*
6. *il sette* — (January)
 a. *marzo*
 b. *gennaio*
 c. *agosto*
7. — (Wednesday), *cinque settembre*
 a. *inverno*
 b. *sabato*
 c. *mercoledì*
8. — (How) *sta?*
 a. *Grazie*
 b. *Come*
 c. *Sera*
9. *Buona* — (night), *signorina Rossi*.
 a. *fino*
 b. *notte*
 c. *io*
10. *Desidero una bottiglia di* — (wine).
 a. *latte*
 b. *vino*
 c. *acqua*

ANSWERS

1-b; 2-a; 3-c; 4-c; 5-a; 6-b; 7-c; 8-b; 9-b; 10-b

19. MAY I INTRODUCE...?

<i>Buon giorno.</i>	Good morning.
<i>Buon giorno, signore.</i>	Good morning, (sir).
<i>Come sta?</i>	How are you?
<i>Molto bene, grazie, e come sta lei? È lei americano?</i>	Very well, thanks, and how are you? Are you from the United States?
<i>Sì, signore.</i>	Yes, (sir).
<i>Parla lei italiano? - Un poco.</i>	Do you speak Italian? A little.
<i>La presento alla mia amica signorina Rossi.</i>	I present you to my friend Miss Rossi.
<i>Posso presentarlo il mio amico, signorina Rossi?</i>	May I introduce my friend, Miss Rossi?
<i>Molto piacere di conoscerla.</i>	Much pleasure in knowing you.
<i>Felice di conoscerla.</i>	I'm glad (happy) to know you.
<i>Il piacere è mio.</i>	The pleasure is mine.
<i>Il piacere è mio.</i>	The pleasure is mine.
<i>Mi permetta che mi presenti: Giovanni Rossi.</i>	Permit me to introduce myself: John Rossi.
<i>Mi permetta che mi presenti? Sono Giovanni Rossi.</i>	May I introduce myself? I am John Rossi.
<i>Paolo Ferri.</i>	Paul Ferri.
<i>Sono Paolo Ferri.</i>	I'm Paul Ferri.

20. IT'S BEEN A REAL PLEASURE.

<i>È stato un vero piacere.</i>	It's been a real pleasure.
<i>È stato un vero piacere.</i>	It's been a real pleasure.
<i>Il piacere è stato mio.</i>	The pleasure has been mine.
<i>Il piacere è stato mio.</i>	The pleasure was mine.
<i>Arrivederci ad un altro giorno.</i>	Good-by until another day.

A presto.	See you soon.
Arrivederci. A presto.	Good-by. See you soon.
a	until
più tardi	later
A più tardi.	Until later. See you soon.
Buona notte.	Good night.

LESSON 9

(SIMPLE SENTENCES I)

21. HOW ARE THINGS?

Buon giorno, Paolo	Hello, Paul!
Buon giorno, Giovanni!	Hello, John!
Come stai? Come vanno le cose?	How are you? (<i>familiar</i>) How are things?
Bene, e tu?	Fine, and how are you?
che	what
c'è	is there
di nuovo	of new
Che c'è di nuovo?	What's new?
nulla	nothing
di	of
particolare	particular
Nulla di particolare.	Nothing in particular.
che	what
mi racconti	do (you) tell me
Che mi racconti?	What's new?
poche	little
cose	things
Non molto.	Not much.

QUIZ 6

1. Come stai?	1. Nothing in particular.
2. Arrivederci.	2. Allow me to introduce my friend.
3. Buona notte.	3. See you soon.
4. Buon giorno, Giovanni.	4. Hello, John.
5. Nulla di particolare.	5. I'm very glad to know you.
6. Mi permetta di pre- sentarla al mio amico.	6. How are you?
7. A presto	7. Good night.
8. nuovo	8. to know you
9. Molto piacere di conoscerla.	9. new
10. conoscerla	10. So long.

ANSWERS

'8-01 ; 5-6 ; 6-9 ; 8-9 ; 2-2 ; 7-3 ; 6-2 ; 1-5 ; 5-4 ; 7-4 ; 3-7 ; 3-10 ; 2-10 ; 1-6 ; 1-6 ; 1-1

22. TO BE

io sono	I am
tu sei	you are
egli è	he is
noi siamo	we are
voi siete	you are
essi sono	they are
Egli è dottore.	He is a doctor.
Egli è scrittore.	He is a writer.
Egli è italiano.	He's an Italian.
Il libro è rosso.	The book is red.
Ella è giovane.	She is young.
Il ghiaccio è freddo.	Ice is cold.
Egli è intelligente.	He's intelligent.
Ella è incantevole.	She's charming.
Sono io.	It's I.
Di dov'è lei?	Where are you from?
Io sono italiano.	I'm Italian.
È fatto di legno.	It's made of wood.
È d'argento.	It's silver.
Di chi è questo?	Whose is this?
Il libro è del signor Rossi.	The book belongs to Mr. Rossi.
È l'una.	It's one o'clock.
Sono le due.	It's two o'clock.
Sono le nove e dieci.	It's ten past nine.
Sono a quindici soldi la dozzina.	They are fifteen cents a dozen.
Sono nove dollari l'uno.	They are nine dollars each.
È tardi.	It's late.
È presto.	It's early.
È necessario.	It's necessary.
È un peccato.	It's a pity.
Non è vero?	Isn't it?

QUIZ 7

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>Egli è intelligente.</i> | 1. Whose is this? |
| 2. <i>È un peccato. Peccato.</i> | 2. Where are you from? |
| 3. <i>Egli è dottore.</i> | 3. They are. |
| 4. <i>Io sono.</i> | 4. He's a doctor. |
| 5. <i>È l'una.</i> | 5. It's early. |
| 6. <i>Noi siamo.</i> | 6. He's Italian. |
| 7. <i>È fatto di legno.</i> | 7. He's intelligent. |
| 8. <i>Di dov'è lei?</i> | 8. It's a pity. Too bad. |
| 9. <i>È presto.</i> | 9. I am. |
| 10. <i>Io sono stanco.</i> | 10. It's one o'clock. |
| 11. <i>Essi sono.</i> | 11. It's made of wood. |
| 12. <i>Di chi è questo?</i> | 12. We are. |
| 13. <i>È tardi.</i> | 13. I'm tired. |
| 14. <i>Egli è italiano.</i> | 14. It's late. |

ANSWERS

1-7; 2-8; 3-4; 4-9; 5-10; 6-12; 7-11; 8-2; 9-5; 10-13;
11-3; 12-1; 13-14; 14-6.

23. IT IS

<i>È . . .</i>	It is . . .
<i>È vero</i>	It's true.
<i>Questo non è vero.</i>	That isn't true.
<i>Questo non è così.</i>	That isn't so.
<i>È così. Così è.</i>	It's so. That's the way it is.
<i>È male.</i>	It's bad.
<i>È molto male.</i>	It's very bad.
<i>È certo.</i>	It's certain.
<i>È grande.</i>	It's big.
<i>È piccolo.</i>	It's small.
<i>È caro.</i>	It's expensive.
<i>È economico.</i>	It's cheap.
<i>È vicino.</i>	It's near.
<i>È lontano.</i>	It's far.
<i>È difficile.</i>	It's difficult.
<i>È facile.</i>	It's easy.
<i>È poco. Non è molto.</i>	It's a little. It's not much.
<i>È molto poco.</i>	It's very little.
<i>È molto.</i>	It's a lot.
<i>È abbastanza.</i>	It's enough.
<i>Non è abbastanza.</i>	It's not enough.
<i>È qui.</i>	It's here.
<i>È lì.</i>	It's there.
<i>È tuo.</i>	It's yours.
<i>È mio.</i>	It's mine.

È nostro.
È per te.

It's ours.
It's for you.

QUIZ 8

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <i>È molto.</i> | 1. It's enough. |
| 2. <i>È facile.</i> | 2. That isn't true. |
| 3. <i>È vicino.</i> | 3. It's bad. |
| 4. <i>È abbastanza.</i> | 4. It's near. |
| 5. <i>Questo non è vero.</i> | 5. It's mine. |
| 6. <i>È male.</i> | 6. It's true. |
| 7. <i>È piccolo.</i> | 7. It's here. |
| 8. <i>È vero.</i> | 8. It's small. |
| 9. <i>È mio.</i> | 9. It's easy. |
| 10. <i>È qui.</i> | 10. It's a lot. |

ANSWERS

1-10; 2-9; 3-4; 4-1; 5-2; 6-3; 7-8; 8-6; 9-5; 10-7.

LESSON 10

(SIMPLE SENTENCES II)

24. TO HAVE and HAVE NOT

To have

<i>io ho</i>	I have
<i>tu hai</i>	you have
<i>egli ha</i>	he has
<i>noi abbiamo</i>	we have
<i>voi avete</i>	you have
<i>essi hanno</i>	they have

Not to have

<i>io non ho</i>	I don't have
<i>tu non hai</i>	you don't have
<i>egli non ha</i>	he doesn't have
<i>noi non abbiamo</i>	we don't have
<i>voi non avete</i>	you don't have
<i>essi non hanno</i>	they don't have

<i>Io ho tempo.</i>	I have time.
<i>Io non ho tempo.</i>	I haven't any time.
<i>Egli non ha amici.</i>	He hasn't any friends.
<i>Ha (lei) una sigaretta?</i>	Do you have a cigarette?
<i>Io ho fame.</i>	I'm hungry. (I have hunger.)
<i>Ho sete. (Io ho sete.)</i>	I'm thirsty. (I have thirst.)

Ho freddo. (Io ho freddo.) I'm cold. (I have cold.)
Ho caldo. (Io ho caldo.) I'm warm. (I have warmth.)
Ho ragione. I'm right. (I have reason.)

25. I KNOW ONLY A LITTLE ITALIAN

Parla italiano? Parla lei italiano?	Do you speak Italian?
Sì, un poco.	Yes, a little.
Molto poco.	Very little.
Non molto bene.	Not very well.
Io parlo italiano.	I speak Italian.
Lo parlo male.	I speak it poorly.
Io non lo parlo molto bene.	I don't speak it very well.
Io conosco solo poche parole.	I know only a few words.
So dire poche parole in italiano.	I know how to say a few words in Italian.
Il suo amico parla italiano?	Does your friend speak Italian?
No, il mio amico non parla italiano.	No, my friend doesn't speak Italian.
Comprende l'italiano?	Do you understand Italian?
Sì, comprendo l'italiano.	Yes, I understand Italian?
Lo comprendo ma non lo parlo.	I understand it, but I don't speak it.
Lo leggo ma non lo parlo.	I read it but I don't speak it.
No, io non comprendo l'italiano.	No, I don't understand Italian.
Io non comprendo molto bene l'italiano.	I don't understand Italian very well.
Non lo pronuncio molto bene.	I don't pronounce it very well.
Mi manca la pratica.	I lack practice.
Ho bisogno di pratica.	I need practice.
Lei mi comprende?	Do you understand me?
Io la comprendo.	I understand you.

Io non la comprendo molto bene.	I don't understand you very well.
Che cosa ha detto?	What did you say?
Lei parla troppo in fretta.	You speak too fast. (You speak in too much of a hurry.)
Lei parla troppo veloce.	You are speaking too fast.
Non parli così in fretta.	Don't speak so fast.
Parli più lentamente.	Speak more slowly.
Per favore, parli più lentamente.	Please, speak a little more slowly.
Mi scusi, ma non la capisco. Non l'ho capita.	Excuse me, but I don't understand. I didn't understand you.
Per favore, me lo ripeta.	Please, say it again (to me).
Mi comprende ora?	Do you understand me now?
Oh, ora capisco.	Oh, now I understand.
Che cosa significa in italiano?	What does that mean in Italian?
Come si dice "Thanks" in italiano?	How do you say "Thanks" in Italian?
Come si scrive questa parola?	How do you spell (write) that word?
Per favore, me la scriva.	Please, write it down for me.

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