Italian Lessons – Volume 1

Recommended Links for Learning Italian

1. Some Basic Phrases
Top

Buongiorno
bwon-zhor-no
Hello/Good day

Buona sera/notte
bwoh-nah seh-rah/noht-teh
Good evening/night

A più tardi
ah pyoo tar-dee
See you later

A domani
ah doh-mahn-ee
See you tomorrow

A presto
ah press-to
See you soon

Arrivederci
ah-ree-vuh-dehr-chee
Goodbye

Per favore
pehr fah-voh-reh
Please

Grazie
graht-zee-eh
Thank you

Prego
preh-go
You're Welcome

Mi dispiace
mee dee-spyah-cheh
Sorry

Mi scusi
mee skoo-zee
Excuse me

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

Sì/No
see/noh
Yes/No

Come si chiama?
koh-meh see kee-ah-mah
What is your name?

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

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

Dove abita?
doh-veh ah-bee-tah
Where do you live?

Di dov'è?
dee doh-veh
Where are you from?

Abito negli Stati Uniti.
ah-bee-to neh-lyee stah-tee oo-nee-tee
I live in the United States.

Vengo dagli Stati Uniti.
vehn-go dah-lyee stah-tee oo-nee-tee
I come from the United States.

Come sta?
koh-meh stah
How are you?

Sto bene.
stoh beh-neh
I am fine.

Parla italiano?
par-lah ee-tahl-ee-ah-no
Do you speak Italian?

[Non] parlo...
[non] par-lo
I [don't] speak...

inglese, francese, tedesco, russo, spagnolo
een-gleh-zeh, frahn-chez-eh, teh-des-koh, roo-soh, spahn-yoh-loh
English, French, German, Russian, Spanish

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

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

Quanti anni ha?
kwahn-tee ahn-nee ah
How old are you?

Ho _____ anni.

oh _____ ahn-nee
I am _____ years old.

Ti amo.
tee ah-moh
I love you.

2. Pronunciation
Top

Italian Letter(s) English Sound
a ah
e eh
i ee
o oh
u oo
ai eye
au ow
ei ay
ia yah
ie yeh
io yoh
iu yoo
ua wah
ue weh
uo woh
ui wee
ci *or* ce ch
gi *or* ge zh
sci sh
sch sk
aia ah-yah
aio ah-yoh
iei ee-yay
uio oo-yoh
uoi oo-oy
ch k
h silent
r trilled

Note: Italian is a very phonetic language, so pronunciation is very easy. Most words are pronounced exactly like they are spelled.

3. Alphabet
top

a ah
b bee
c chee
d dee
e eh
f eff-eh
g zhee
h ahk-kah
i ee
l ehl-eh

m ehm-eh
n ehn-eh
o oh
p pee
q koo
r ehr-reh
s ehs-seh
t the
u oo
v voo
z dzeh-tah

Foreign Letters

j ee loon-gah
k kahp-pah
y ee greh-kah (or) eep-see-lohn
w dohp-pyah voo
x eeks

4. Definite and Indefinite Articles and Demonstratives
Top

Definite Article – The

Masculine Feminine
il *eel* sing., before consonants
lo *low* sing., before z, gn, or s + cons.
la *lah* sing., before consonants
l' *l* sing., before vowels **l'** *l* sing., before vowels
i *ee* plural, before consonants
gli *lyee* plural, before vowels, z, gn, or s + cons.
le *leh* plural, before consonants and vowels

Indefinite Articles - A, an, some

Masculine Feminine
un *oon* before consonant or vowel **una** *oonah*
before consonants

A, An
uno *oon-oh* before z, gn, or s + consonant **un'** *oon* before vowels

dei *day* before consonants

Some
degli *dehlyee*
before vowels, z, gn, or s +
cons.

delle *dell-eh* before vowels and
consonants

Demonstratives - This, that, these, and those

This and these

This These
Masc. questo questi before a consonant
quest' questi before a vowel
Fem. questa queste before a consonant
quest' queste before a vowel

That and those
That Those
Masc. quel quei before a consonant
quell' quegli before a vowel
quello quegli before z, gn, or s + consonant
Fem. quella quelle before a consonant
quell' quelle before a vowel

Note: 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. Useful Words
Top

and	**e** eh
or	**o** oh
but	**ma** mah
while	**mentre** mehn-treh
if	**se** seh
because	**perché** pehr-kay
although	**benché** behn-kay
there is	**C'è** cheh
there are	**Ci sono** chee soh-noh
there was	**C'era** che-rah
there were	**C'erano** che-rah-no
now	**adesso, ora** ah-deh-so, oh-rah
perhaps, maybe	**forse** for-seh
then	**allora** ahl-loh-rah
here is	**ecco** ehk-koh

6. Subject Pronouns
Top

io *ee-oh* I **noi** *noy* we
tu *too* you (familiar singular) **voi** *voy* you (plural)
lui, lei *lwee/lay* he, she, you (polite sing.) **loro** *loh-roh* they, you (polite pl.)
Note: 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.

7. To Be and to Have
Top

Essere - to be
I am **sono** *soh-noh* We are **siamo** *see-ah-moh*
You are **sei** *say* You are **siete** *see-eh-teh*
He/she/it is **è** *eh* They are **sono** *soh-noh*

Note: You do not have to use the subject pronouns as the different conjugations imply the subject.

Past and Future of Essere
I was **ero** we were **eravamo** I will be **sarò** we will be **saremo**
you were **eri** you were **eravate** you will be **sarai** you will be **sarete**
he/she/it is **era** they were **erano** he/she/it will be **sarà** they will be **saranno**

Avere - to have
I have **ho** *oh* We have **abbiamo** *ahb-bee-ah-mo*
You have **hai** *eye* You have **avete** *ah-veh-teh*
He/she has **ha** *ah* They have **hanno** *ahn-noh*

Past and Future of Avere
I had **avevo** we had **avevamo** I will have **avrò** we will have **avremo**
you had **avevi** you had **avevate** you will have **avrai** you will have **avrete**
he/she/it had **aveva** they had **avevano** he/she/it will have **avrà** they will have **avranno**
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 - to be afraid
avere ragione - to be right
avere sonno - to be sleepy
avere bisogno di - to need
avere (number) anni - to be (number) years old

8. Question Words
Top

Who	**Chi** kee
What	**Che cosa** keh koh-sah
Why	**Perché** pehr-keh
When	**Quando** kwahn-doh
Where	**Dove** doh-veh
How	**Come** koh-meh
How much	**Quanto** kwahn-toh

Note: 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. Numbers / Ordinals
Top

0 **zero** dzeh-roh
1 **uno** oo-noh
2 **due** doo-eh
3 **tre** treh
4 **quattro** kwaht-troh
5 **cinque** cheen-kweh
6 **sei** say
7 **sette** seht-teh

8 **otto** aw-toh
9 **nove** naw-vay
10 **dieci** dee-ay-chee
11 **undici** oon-dee-chee
12 **dodici** doh-dee-chee
13 **tredici** treh-dee-chee
14 **quattordici** kwaht-tohr-dee-chee
15 **quindici** kween-dee-chee
16 **sedici** seh-dee-chee
17 **diciassette** dee-chahs-seht-teh
18 **diciotto** dee-choht-toh
19 **diciannove** dee-chahn-noh-veh
20 **venti** vehn-tee
21 **ventuno** vehn-too-noh
22 **ventidue** vehn-tee-doo-eh
30 **trenta** trehn-tah
40 **quaranta** kwah-rahn-tah
50 **cinquanta** cheen-kwahn-tah
60 **sessanta** sehs-sahn-tah
70 **settanta** seht-tahn-tah
80 **ottanta** oh-tahn-tah
90 **novanta** noh-vahn-tah
100 **cento** chehn-toh

Note: 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). And be aware that Italian switches the use of commas and decimals.

Ordinal Numbers

first	**primo (a)**
second	**secondo (a)**
third	**terzo (a)**
fourth	**quarto (a)**
fifth	**quinto (a)**
sixth	**sesto (a)**
seventh	**settimo (a)**
eighth	**ottavo (a)**
ninth	**nono (a)**
tenth	**decimo (a)**
eleventh	**undicesimo (a)**
twentieth	**ventesimo (a)**
hundredth	**centesimo (a)**

From eleventh on, just drop the final vowel of the cardinal number and add **-esimo**. For numbers like venitrè, 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
Top

Monday	**lunedì** loo-neh-dee
Tuesday	**martedì** mahr-teh-dee
Wednesday	**mercoledì** mehr-koh-leh-dee

Thursday	**giovedì** zhoh-veh-dee	
Friday	**venerdì** veh-nehr-dee	
Saturday	**sabato** sah-bah-toh	
Sunday	**domenica** doh-men-ee-kah	

Yesterday	**ieri** yer-ee
Today	**oggi** ohd-jee
Tomorrow	**domani** doh-mahn-ee
Day	**il giorno** eel zhor-noh

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

11. Months of the Year
Top

January	**gennaio** jehn-nah-yoh
February	**febbraio** fehb-brah-yoh
March	**marzo** mar-tsoh
April	**aprile** ah-pree-leh
May	**maggio** mahd-joh
June	**giugno** joo-nyoh
July	**luglio** loo-lyoh
August	**agosto** ah-goh-stoh
September	**settembre** seht-tehm-breh
October	**ottobre** oht-toh-breh
November	**novembre** noh-vehm-breh
December	**dicembre** dee-chem-breh

Week	**la settimana** lah sett-ee-mah-nah
Month	**il mese** eel meh-zeh
Year	**l'anno** lahn-noh

Note: 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.

12. Seasons
Top

Summer	**l'estate** leh-stah-teh
Fall	**l'autunno** low-toon-noh
Spring	**la primavera** lah pree-mah-veh-rah
Winter	**l'inverno** leen-vehr-noh

Note: 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
Top

North	**nord** nohrd	East	**est** est
South	**sud** sood	West	**ovest** oh-vest

14. Color

white	bianco/a
yellow	giallo/a
orange	arancione
pink	rosa
red	rosso/a
light blue	azzurro/a
dark blue	blu
green	verde
brown	marrone
grey	grigio/a
black	nero/a

Note: The first word is the masculine form and the second is the feminine. Ex: **Rosso** is masculine and **rossa** is feminine. Color words go after the noun.

15. Time

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

16. Weather

What's the weather today?	**Che tempo fa oggi?**
It's nice	**Fa bel tempo**
bad	**Fa brutto tempo**
raining	**Piove**
snowing	**Nevica**
cold	**Fa freddo**
cool	**Fa fresco**
hot	**Fa caldo**
freezing	**Fa un freddo gelido**
cloudy	**È nuvoloso**
foggy	**C'è la nebbia**
sunny	**C'è il sole**

windy	**Tira vento**		
humid	**È umido**		
muggy	**È afoso**		
stormy	**Il tempo è burrascoso**		
thundering	**Tuona**		

17. Family and Animals

Family	**la famiglia**	dog	**il cane**
Parents	**i genitori**	cat	**il gatto**
Mother	**la madre**	bird	**il uccello**
Father	**il padre**	mouse	**il topo**
Son	**il figlio**	rabbit	**il coniglio**
Daughter	**la figlia**	horse	**il cavallo**
Brother	**il fratello**	cow	**la mucca**
Sister	**la sorella**	donkey	**l'asino**
Grandfather	**il nonno**	goat	**la capra**
Grandmother	**la nonna**	sheep	**la pecora**
Grandson/nephew	**il nipote**	goose	**l'oca**
Granddaughter/niece	**la nipote**	duck	**l'anatra**
Uncle	**lo zio**	pig	**il maiale**
Aunt	**la zia**	hen	**la gallina**
Cousin (m)	**il cugino**	deer	**il cervo**
Cousin (f)	**la cugina**		
Husband	**il marito**		
Wife	**la moglie**		

18. To Know People and Facts

Conoscere-to know, be acquainted with Sapere-to know (facts)
conosco conosciamo so sappiamo
conosci conoscete sai sapete
conosce conoscono sa sanno
Note: **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.*

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

Note: Some nouns ending in **-co** and **-go** may or may not insert an **h** before changing the o to i.
There is no gerneral 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 pianeta, 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**.

19a. Possessive Adjectives
Top

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

Note: You may leave off the *il* and *la* before family relation words in the singular. All other times, you must use them. Notice that *loro* does not change.

20. To Do or Make
Top

Fare-to do / make
faccio *fah-cho* **facciamo** *fah-chah-moh*
fai *fah-ee* **fate** *fah-teh*
fa *fah* **fanno** *fahn-noh*
Idiomatic expressions used with fare:
fare una domanda - to ask a question
fare un viaggio - to take a trip
fare un bagno - to take a bath
fare una passeggiata - to take a walk
fare attenzione - to pay attention
fare un piacere - to do a favor
fare una conferenza - to give a lecture
fare (profession) - to be a (profession)

21. Work and School
Top

architect	**l'architetto**
author	**l'autore**
banker	**il banchiere**
waiter	**il cameriere**
waitress	**la cameriera**
saleswoman	**la commessa**
salesman	**il commesso**
accountant	**il contabile**
doctor (m)	**il dottore**
doctor (f)	**la dottoressa**
musician	**il/la musicista**
barber	**il barbiere**
teacher (m)	**il maestro**
teacher (f)	**la maestra**

professor (m)	**il professore**
professor (f)	**la professoressa**
hair stylist (m)	**il parrucchiere**
hair stylist (f)	**la parruchiera**
secretary (m)	**il segretario**
secretary (f)	**la segretaria**
soldier	**il soldato**
journalist	**il/la giornalista**
office worker (m)	**l'impiegato**
office worker (f)	**l'impiegata**
biology	**la biologia**
chemistry	**la chimica**
economics	**l'economia**
philosophy	**la filosofia**
physics	**la fisica**
geography	**la geografia**
foreign languages	**la lingua straniera**
mathematics	**la matematica**
medicine	**la medicina**
accounting	**la ragioneria**
history	**la storia**

22. Prepositions
[Top]

for	**per**
beside	**accanto**
ahead	**avanti**
among	**fra di**
before	**prima di**
against	**contro**
over	**sopra**
under	**sotto**
with	**con**
without	**senza**
across	**attraverso**
after	**dopo**
during	**durante**
except	**eccetto**
toward	**verso**

23. Prepositional Contractions
[Top]

il lo l' la i gli le
a *at, to* al allo all' alla ai agli alle
da *from, by* dal dallo dall' dalla dai dagli dalle
di *of* del dello dell' della dei degli delle
in *in* nel nello nell' nella nei negli nelle
su *on* sul sullo sull' sulla sui sugli sulle
con *with* col collo coll' colla coi cogli colle

Note: The only contractions for **con** that are still used nowadays are *col* and *coi*. But even these contractions are optional.

24. Countries and Nationalities

l'Australia Australia	australiano Australian
il Canada Canada	canadese Canadian
la Cina China	cinese Chinese
la Francia France	francese French
la Germania Germany	tedesco German
l'Inghilterra England	inglese English
la Gran Bretagna Great Britain	britannico British
l'Italia Italy	italiano Italian
il Giappone Japan	giapponese Japanese
il Messico Mexico	messicano Mexican
la Russia Russia	russo Russian
la Spagna Spain	spagnolo Spanish
gli Stati Uniti United States	statunitense American
la Svizzera Switzerland	svizzero Swiss
l'Austria Austria	austriaco Austrian
la Polonia Poland	polacco Polish
il Belgio Belgium	belga Belgian
la Norvegia Norway	norvegese Norwegian
la Svezia Sweden	svedese Swedish
la Danimarca Denmark	danese Danish
i Paesi Bassi Netherlands	olandese Dutch
la Finlandia Finland	finlandese Finlander

Note: The adjective **americano** usually refers to someone living anywhere in the American continent, but many people do use it to mean a person from the United States, instead of *statunitense*.

25. To and From Places

To From
Country (sing) **in da** (+ contraction)
Country (plural) **negli da** (+ contraction)
City **a da**

26. To Come and to Go

Venire-to come
vengo *vehn-goh* **veniamo** *ven-ee-ah-moh*
vieni *vee-en-ee* **venite** *ven-ee-teh*
viene *vee-en-eh* **vengono** *ven-goh-noh*
Vengo a scuola in macchina. I come to school by car. (It's *a scuola* instead of *alla scuola* because it's an idiom.)
To make a verb negative, add **non** before it: **Non vengo a scuola in macchina.** I don't come to school by car.

Andare-to go
vado *vah-doh* **andiamo** *ahn-dee-ah-moh*
vai *vah-ee* **andate** *ahn-dah-teh*
va *vah* **vanno** *vahn-noh*

Other verbs conjugated in the same pattern as *venire* are:
avvenire - to happen, to occur

convenire - to convene
divenire - to become
provenire - to come from, to proceed
sovvenire - to help
svenire - to faint

Tenere (to keep) verbs are conjuaged very similarly to *venire* too, except the voi form ends in -ete
instead of -ite:
appartenere - to belong
contenere - to contain
intrattenere - to entertain
mantenere - to maintain
ottenere - to obtain
ritenere - to retain
sostenere - to sustain, to support
trattenere - to withhold, to detain

27. Conjugating Regular Verbs

To conjugate regular verbs, take off the last three letters (-are, -ere, or -ire) and add these endings to
the stem:

Regular Verb Endings
-are -ere 1st -ire 2nd –ire

-o -iamo -o -iamo -o -iamo -isco -iamo
-i -ate -i -ete -i -ite -isci -ite
-a -ano -e -ono -e -ono -isce –iscono

Regular Verbs
-are 1st -ire
parlare to speak dormire to sleep
cantare to sing partire to leave
arrivare to arrive sentire to hear
abitare to live aprire to open
amare to love offrire to offer
ascoltare to listen (to) servire to serve
cominciare to begin
domandare to ask
giocare to play (a game/sport)
guardare to look (at)/watch
imparare to learn
insegnare to teach
lavorare to work
mangiare to eat
pensare to think
studiare to study

-ere 2nd -ire
scrivere to write finire to finish
vedere to see capire to understand
credere to believe preferire to prefer
conoscere to know/be acquainted with colpire to hit
leggere to read costruire to build
mettere to put pulire to clean
perdere to lose sparire to disappear

prendere to take
rispondere to answer
scendere to go down/get off
vendere to sell
vivere to live

Sample Regular Verb
Parlare-to speak
parl**o** parl**iamo**
parl**i** parl**ate**
parl**a** parl**ano**

Note: The present tense and the preposition **da** may be used to describe an action which began in the past and is still continuing in the present. The present perfect tense is used in English to convey this same concept.

***Da* quanto tempo Lei studia l'italiano?** How long have you been studying Italian?
Studio l'italiano *da* due anni. I've been studying Italian for two years.

28. Reflexive Verbs
Top

Reflexive verbs express actions performed by the subject on the subject. These verbs are conjugated like regular verbs, but a reflexive pronoun precedes the verb form. This pronoun always agrees with the subject. In the infinitive form, reflexive verbs have -si attached to them with the final e dropped. **Lavare** is to wash, therefore **lavarsi** is to wash oneself. (Note that some verbs are reflexive in Italian, but not in English.)

Reflexive Pronouns
mi ci
ti vi
si si
Io mi lavo. I wash myself.
Noi ci alziamo presto. We get up early.
The plural reflexive pronouns (ci, vi, si) can also be used with non-reflexive verbs to indicate a reciprocal action. These verbs are called reciprocal verbs.
Ci scriviamo ogni settimana. We write to each other every week.
Vi vedete spesso? Do you see each other often?

29. Irregularities and Regular Verbs
Top

Verbs ending in **-care** and **-gare** add an **h** before the **-i** and **-iamo** endings to keep the hard sound.
Verbs ending in **-ciare** and **-giare** do not repeat the **i** in front of the **-i** ending.
cercare - to look for cominciare - to start
cerco cerc**h**iamo comincio cominciamo
cerc**h**i cercate cominc**i** cominciate
cerca cercano comincia cominciano

30. Past Indefinite Tense
Top

To form the past tense (something happened, something has happened, or something did happen),

conjugate **avere** or sometimes **essere** and add the past participle. To form the past participle, add these endings to the appropriate stem of the infinitives:
-are **-ato**
-ere **-uto**
-ire **–ito**

Verbs that can take a direct object are generally conjugated with avere. Verbs that do not take a direct object (generally verbs of movement) are conjugated with essere and their past participle must agree in gender and number with the subject. Avere uses avere as its auxiliary verb, while essere uses essere as its auxiliary verb. Negative sentences with the past indefinite tense are formed by placing *non* in front of the auxiliary verb.

Io ho visitato Roma. I visited Rome.
Tu non hai visitato gli Stati Uniti. You didn't visit the United States.
Abbiamo consciuto due ragazze. We met two girls.
Maria è andata in Italia. Maria went to Italy. (Note the agreement of the past participle with the subject.)

31. Irregular Past Participles
Top

fare fatto
aprire (to open) aperto
bere (to drink) bevuto
chiedere (to ask) chiesto
chiudere (to close) chiuso
conoscere conosciuto
coprire (to cover) coperto
dare dato
dire detto
leggere letto
mettere (to put) messo
offrire (to offer) offerto
perdere (to lose) perso (or perduto)
prendere preso
rispondere (to answer) risposto
scrivere (to write) scritto
soffrire (to suffer) sofferto
spendere (to spend) speso
vedere (to see) visto (or veduto)
vivere (to live) vissuto
scendere (to go down) sceso
rompere (to break) rotto

Sample Avere Verb
Avere-to have
ho avuto abbiamo avuto
hai avuto avete avuto
ha avuto hanno avuto
Note: **Ho avuto** means *I have, I have had,* or *I did have.*

32. Essere Verbs
Top

arrivare arrive
andare go

uscire go out
entrare enter
costare cost
venire (venuto) come
essere (stato) be
partire leave
stare (stato) stay, be
sparire disappear
tornare come back/return

These verbs that are conjugated with essere must agree with the subject. Irregular past participles are in parentheses.

Sample Essere Verb
Andare-to go
sono andato/a siamo andati/e
sei andato/a siete andati/e
è andato/a sono andati/e

Note: **Sono andato** means *I went, I was going,* or *I did go*. Remember that -o is masculine and -a is feminine. The -i ending indicates all males or males and females; whereas the -e ending indicates only females.

33. Food and Meals
Top

breakfast	**la prima colazione**	tea	**il tè**
lunch	**la colazione**	bread	**il pane**
dinner	**il pranzo**	salt	**il sale**
fork	**la forchetta**	pepper	**il pepe**
spoon	**il cucchiaio**	steak	**la bistecca**
knife	**il coltello**	cake	**la torta**
plate	**il piatto**	chicken	**il pollo**
napkin	**la salvietta**	coffee	**il caffè**
cup	**la tazza**	fish	**il pesce**
glass	**il bicchiere**	french fries	**la patate fritte**
ice	**il ghiaccio**	soup	**il brodo**
saucer	**il piattino**	jam	**la marmellata**
dessert	**il dolce**	rice	**il riso**
ice cream	**il gelato**	salad	**l'insalata**

34. Piacere and Servire
Top

Piacere - to like and Servire - to need
piaccio piacciamo servo serviamo
piaci piacete servi servite
piace piacciono serve servono

Piacere (a) literally means "to be pleasing," so to form a sentence you have to invert the word order. You must also use the prepositional contractions with **a**.

Maria piace a Giovanni. John likes Mary. (*Literally:* Mary is pleasing to John)
Gli studenti piacciono ai professori. The teachers like the students. (*Literally:* The students are pleasing to the teachers).

The most common forms are the third person singular and plural when used with object pronouns. The

object pronouns that are used with these two verbs are somewhat similar to the reflexive pronouns:

mi I (to me) **ci** we (to us)
ti you (to you) **vi** you (to you)
gli / le he / she (to him / her) **gli** they (to them)
So to say *I like* something, use **Mi piace** if it is singular and **Mi piacciono** if it is plural.
Mi piace il calcio. I like soccer.
Mi piacciono i treni. I like trains.

Servire has the same construction as piacere. It is also used primarily in the third person singular and plural forms and takes an indirect object.

Ti servono della frutta? Do you need any fruit? (*Literally:* By you is needed some fruit?)
Il pane serve a Marco. Marco needs the bread. (*Literally:* The bread is needed by Marco.)

35. Fruits, Vegetables and Meats
Top

fruit	**la frutta**
apricot	**l'albicocca**
pineapple	**l'ananasso**
watermelon	**l'anguria (il cocomero)**
orange	**l'arancia**
banana	**la banana**
cherry	**la ciliegia**
strawberry	**la fragola**
cucumber	**il cetriolo**
onion	**la cipolla**
bean	**il fagiolo**
mushroom	**il fungo**
lettuce (salad)	**l'insalata**
eggplant	**la melanzana**
olive	**l'oliva**
potato	**la patata**
raspberry	**il lampone**
lime	**la limetta**
lemon	**il limone**
apple	**la mela**
pear	**la pera**
peach	**la pesca**
plum	**la prugna (la susina)**
grape	**l'uva**
vegetables	**i legumi**
broccoli	**i broccoli**
carrot	**la carota**
cauliflower	**il cavolfiore**
cabbage	**il cavolo**
celery	**il sedano**
spinach	**gli spinaci**
zucchini	**gli zucchini**
meat	**la carne**
lamb	**l'agnello**
goat	**il capretto**
rabbit	**il coniglio**
liver	**il fegato**
pork	**il maiale**

beef	**il manzo**
bacon	**la pancetta**
ham	**il prosciutto**
veal	**il vitello**

36. To Take, Eat or Drink
Top

Prendere - to take, eat or drink and Bere - to drink
prendo prendiamo bevo beviamo
prendi prendete bevi bevete
prende prendono beve bevono

Note: You must express some in Italian even though we leave it out in English. Use the proper contractions from the top of the page. Or you can use **un po' di**, which literally means *a little bit. Bere* is only used to mean to drink when it is used in the general sense, as is *mangiare* - to eat.

37. Commands
Top

-are -ere -ire
tu form (sing. fam.) -a -i -i/-isci
Lei form (sing. pol.) -i -a -a/-isca
voi form (pol. pl.) -ate -ete -ite
noi form (Let's ...) -iamo -iamo -iamo
Note: To make a command negative, add **non** before the command. Except for the singular familiar commands, when you use non and the infinitive.

Irregular Commands
andare venire fare dare dire essere avere stare (to be, stay)
sing. fam. va' vieni fa' da' di' sii abbi sta'
sing. pol. vada venga faccia dia dica sia abbia stia
plural andate venite fate date dite siate abbiate state
Let's andiamo veniamo facciamo diamo diciamo siamo abbiamo stiamo

38. More Negatives
Top

non...mai never
non...più no longer, no more
non...niente nothing
non...nessuno nobody
non...neanche not even
non...nè...nè neither...nor
Note: The non goes before the verb and the second part goes after. *I have nothing. Non ho niente.*

39. Holiday Phrases
Top

Buon Anno! Happy New Year!
Buona Pasqua! Happy Easter!

Buon Compleanno! Happy Birthday!
Buon Natale! Merry Christmas!
Buone Feste! Happy Holidays!

The Italian National Anthem: **Inno di Mameli**

by Goffredo Mameli
Fratelli d'Italia, l'Italia s'è desta,
Dell'elmo di Scipio s'è cinta la testa.
Dov'è la vitoria? Le porga la chioma,
Ché schiava di Roma Iddio la creò.
Stringiamci a coorte, siam pronti alla morte,
siam pronti alla morte, l'Italia chiamò. Sì!

Rough Translation-

Italian brothers, Italy has arisen,
Has put on the helmet of Scipio,
Where is victory?
Created by God
The slave of Rome,
She crowns you with glory.
Let us unite,
We are ready to die,
Italy calls.

Highly recommended resources for learning Italian
Top

Pimsleur Method – great audio CD's you can listen to in the car
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect?tag=italianlink-20&path=tg/detail/-/0743509552

501 Italian Verbs – The meat and potatoes of every language is knowing verbs
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect?tag=italianlink-20&path=tg/detail/-/0764113488/qid%3D1069611255/sr%3D1-1

Italian-English Dictionary
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect?tag=italianlink-20&path=tg/detail/-/0139536396/qid%3D1069611332/sr%3D1-1

Italy Hotels, B&B, villas, etc.

Need a hotel in Italy? Excellent site for finding the right hotel for your trip.
http://www.venere.com/cgi/ihr/vcom/country.php?ref=8528&country=Italy

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