

ITALIAN

ROMANCE LANGUAGE OF 62 MILLION

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1. Some Basic Phrases

Buongiorno

bwon-zhor-no
Hello/Good day

A più tardi

ah pyoo tar-dee
See you later

A presto

ah press-to
See you soon

Per favore

pehr fah-voh-reh
Please

Prego

preh-go
You're Welcome

Mi scusi

mee skoo-zee
Excuse me

Sì/No

see/noh
Yes/No

Come si chiama?

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

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?

Abito negli Stati Uniti.

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

Come sta?

koh-meh stah
How are you?

Parla italiano?

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

inglese, francese, tedesco, russo, spagnolo

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

Buona sera/notte

bwoh-nah seh-rah/noht-teh
Good evening/night

A domani

ah doh-mahn-ee
See you tomorrow

Arrivederci

ah-ree-vuh-dehr-chee
Goodbye

Grazie

graht-zee-eh
Thank you

Mi dispiace

mee dee-spyah-cheh
Sorry

Andiamo!

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

Mi chiamo...

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

Di dov'è?

dee doh-veh
Where are you from?

Vengo dagli Stati Uniti.

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

Sto bene.

stoh beh-neh
I am fine.

[Non] parlo...

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

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

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

Ti amo.
tee ah-moh
I love you.

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

Ho _____ anni.
oh _____ ahn-nee
I am _____ years old.

2. Pronunciation

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

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

4. Definite and Indefinite Articles and Demonstratives

Definite Article - The

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

Indefinite Articles - A, an, some

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

Demonstratives - This, that, these, and those

This and these

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

That and those

	<u>That</u>	<u>Those</u>	
<i>Masc.</i>	quel	quei	before a consonant
	quell'	quegli	before a vowel
	quello	quegli	before z, gn, or s + consonant
<i>Fem.</i>	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. Subject Pronouns

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

6. To Be and to Have

Essere - to be

I am	sono	<i>soh-noh</i>	We are	siamo	<i>see-ah-moh</i>
You are	sei	<i>say</i>	You are	siete	<i>see-eh-teh</i>
He/she/it is	è	<i>eh</i>	They are	sono	<i>soh-noh</i>

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 **avrà** 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

7. Useful Words

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	ch eh
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

8. Question Words

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

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

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

January	gennaio	jehn-nah-yoh
February	febbraio	feh-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	oh-t-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

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

North	nord	nohrd
South	sud	sood
East	est	est
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	mezzogiorno	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	Sono 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-teh

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 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	il mio	la mia	i miei (<i>myeh-ee</i>)	le mie
your	il tuo	la tua	i tuoi (<i>twoh-ee</i>)	le tue
his/her	il suo	la sua	i suoi (<i>swoh-ee</i>)	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.

21. To Do or Make

Fare-to do / make

faccio *fah-cho* **facciamo** *fah-chah-moh*

fai *fah-ee* **fate** *fah-teh*

fa *fah* **fanno** *fahn-noh*

Idomatic 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)

22. Work and School

architect	l'architetto	teacher (m)	il maestro
author	l'autore	teacher (f)	la maestra
banker	il banchiere	professor (m)	il professore
waiter	il cameriere	professor (f)	la professoressa
waitress	la cameriera	hair stylist (m)	il parrucchiere
saleswoman	la commessa	hair stylist (f)	la parruchiera
salesman	il commesso	secretary (m)	il segretario
accountant	il contabile	secretary (f)	la segretaria
doctor (m)	il dottore	soldier	il soldato
doctor (f)	la dottoressa	journalist	il/la giornalista
musician	il/la musicista	office worker (m)	l'impiegato
barber	il barbiere	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

23. Prepositions

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

24. Prepositional Contractions

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

25. 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*.

26. To and From Places

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

27. 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 conjugated 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

28. 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

scrivere	to write
vedere	to see
credere	to believe
conoscere	to know/be acquainted with
leggere	to read
mettere	to put
perdere	to lose
prendere	to take
rispondere	to answer
scendere	to go down/get off
vendere	to sell
vivere	to live

2nd -ire

finire	to finish
capire	to understand
preferire	to prefer
colpire	to hit
costruire	to build
pulire	to clean
sparire	to disappear

Sample Regular Verb

Parlare-to speak

parlo	parliamo
parli	parlate
parla	parlano

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.

29. Reflexive Verbs

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?

30. Irregularities in Regular Verbs

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	cerchiamo	comincio	cominciamo
cerchi	cercate	cominci	cominciate
cerca	cercano	comincia	cominciano

31. Past Indefinite Tense

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 conosciuto 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.)

32. Irregular Past Participles

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.*

33. Essere Verbs

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.

34. Food and Meals

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

35. Piacere and Servire

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.)

36. Fruits, Vegetables and Meats

fruit	la frutta	cucumber	il cetriolo
apricot	l'albicocca	onion	la cipolla
pineapple	l'ananasso	bean	il fagiolo
watermelon	l'anguria (il cocomero)	mushroom	il fungo
orange	l'arancia	lettuce (salad)	l'insalata
banana	la banana	eggplant	la melanzana
cherry	la ciliegia	olive	l'oliva
strawberry	la fragola	potato	la patata

raspberry	il lampone	celery	il sedano
lime	la limetta	spinach	gli spinaci
lemon	il limone	zucchini	gli zucchini
apple	la mela	meat	la carne
pear	la pera	lamb	l'agnello
peach	la pesca	goat	il capretto
plum	la prugna (la susina)	rabbit	il coniglio
grape	l'uva	liver	il fegato
vegetables	i legumi	pork	il maiale
broccoli	i broccoli	beef	il manzo
carrot	la carota	bacon	la pancetta
cauliflower	il cavolfiore	ham	il prosciutto
cabbage	il cavolo	veal	il vitello

37. To Take, Eat or Drink

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.

38. Commands

	-are	-ere	-ire
<i>tu</i> form (sing. fam.)	-a	-i	-i/-isci
<i>Lei</i> form (sing. pol.)	-i	-a	-a/-isca
<i>voi</i> form (pol. pl.)	-ate	-ete	-ite
<i>noi</i> 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

	<u>andare</u>	<u>venire</u>	<u>fare</u>	<u>dare</u>	<u>dire</u>	<u>essere</u>	<u>avere</u>	<u>stare</u> (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

39. More Negatives

non...mai	never
non...più	no longer, no more
non...niente	nothing
non...nessuno	nobody
non...neanche	not even
non...né...né	neither...nor

Note: The non goes before the verb and the second part goes after. *I have nothing. Non ho niente.*

40. Holiday Phrases

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 vittoria? 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!

*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.*

ITALIAN

ROMANCE LANGUAGE OF 62 MILLION

41. Stare

Stare-to stay, be
sto stiamo
stai state
sta stanno

Stare means *to be* when used in progressive tense. If you use it with a present participle, it translates to something is happening, not something happens as with the present indicative.

Stare is also used in many health expressions, such as **Come stai?** How are you? **Sto bene.** I'm fine.

And *stare per* plus an infinitive means "to be about to" do something. **Stavo per uscire.** I was about to go out. **Stiamo per mangiare.** We're about to eat.

42. Present Participles

Present participles are formed by dropping the ending of the verb, and adding the following endings to the stem:

Present Participles
-are **-ando**
-ere **-endo**
-ire **-endo**

Conjugate stare and form the present participle, and you have a progressive action. **Sto parlando italiano** is *I am speaking Italian*. (As opposed to **Parlo italiano** *I speak Italian*.) There are only a few irregular present participles: fare-**facendo** (doing), dare-**dando** (giving), dire-**dicendo** (say/telling), and bere-**bevendo** (drinking).

43. Imperfect Tense

The imperfect tense is also called the past descriptive tense and corresponds to *was doing* or *used to do* in English. The imperfect is used to describe a continued or habitual action in the past, or to describe an action that was occurring in the past, while something else happened. Time, age, weather conditions as well as mental and physical conditions are all expressed in the imperfect rather the past indefinite tense.

The imperfect in Italian has the same ending for all three verb groups. It is formed by dropping the -re of the infinitive and adding the following endings:

-vo -vamo

-vi -vate

-va -vano

Avere is regular in the imperfect, but essere, bere, dire and fare are irregular. The stem of essere becomes **er-** for the singular endings, and it does not take the **v**, while the stem for the plural endings is **era-** and it does take the **v**. The stems for bere, dire and fare are derived from the old Latin infinitives, and are **beve-**, **dice-**, and **face-** and they take the regular endings of the imperfect.

Avevo fame. I was hungry.

Era tardi. It was late.

Non diceva niente. He wasn't saying anything.

Aspettavamo in fila. We were waiting in line.

Prendevo sempre l'autobus. I always take the bus.

44. Places

market	il mercato
restaurant	il ristorante
hotel	l'albergo
square	la piazza
store	il negozio
library	la biblioteca
stadium	il stadio
movie theater	il cinema
church	la chiesa
museum	il museo
beach	la spiaggia
park	il parco
hospital	l'ospedale
post office	l'ufficio postale
bakery	il panificio
pharmacy	la farmacia

45. Transportation

bus	l'autobus
automobile	l'automobile
car	la macchina
train	il treno
ship	la nave

airplane	l'aeroplano
boat	la barca
motorcycle	la motocicletta
on foot	a piedi

Note: To say *by* bus, car, etc., use **in** and leave off the *il, la, and l'*.

46. To Want, to Be Able to, to Have to

volere-to want	potere-to be able to, can	dovere-to have to, must
voglio vogliamo	posso possiamo	devo (debbo) dobbiamo
vuoi volete	puoi potete	devi dovete
vuole vogliono	può possono	deve devono (debbono)

47. Asking Questions

The easiest way to ask a question is to simply add a question mark to the end of the statement.

You can also put the subject at the end of the sentence. **Il ragazzo mangia la pizza** becomes **Mangia la pizza, il ragazzo?**

Or, if you're speaking to a Sardinian, you can put the verb at the end of the sentence. **Parla francese?** can become **Francese parla?** *Does he/she speak French?*

48. House and Furniture

house	la casa
roof	il tetto
kitchen	la cucina
room	la stanza
bathroom	il bagno
dining room	la sala da pranzo
terrace	la terrazza
balcony	il balcone
table	la tavola
wall	la parete/il muro
door	la porta
chair	la sedia
telephone	il telefono
television	la televisione
window	la finestra

sofa	il divano
living room	il soggiorno
hallway	il corridoio
garden	il giardino
bedroom	la camera
bed	il letto
closet	l'armadio
bathtub	la vasca da bagno
sink	l'acquiao
staircase	la scala
toilet	il bagno
refrigerator	il frigorifero
curtains	le tende
clock	l'orologio
bookshelf	lo scaffale
lamp	la lampada
armchair	la poltrona
bathroom sink	il lavandino
wastebasket	il cestino
mirror	lo specchio
nightstand	il comodino
vase	il vaso
dresser	il cassettone
rug	lo scendiletto

49. Comparative and Superlative

Comparisons are expressed as follows:

più... di / che	more... than
meno... di / che	less... than
così... come	as... as
tanto... quanto	as... as

Più and meno can be used with di or che. Di is used when comparing two different things, while che is used when the comparison is between two qualities of the same thing.

Le ciliege sono più buone delle fragole. Cherries are better than strawberries.

La mela è più verde che rossa. The apple is more green than red.

Franco è così alto come me. Frank is as tall as me.

The *Relative Superlative* compares two or more things and expresses the greatest or the least degree. It is formed by placing the article before the comparative form of the adjective, or in front of the noun. And instead of the preposition in, **di** (and its contractions) is always used with the superlative.

Le mele sono la frutta meno costosa del mondo. Apples are the least expensive fruit in the world.
L'oro è il più prezioso dei metalli. Gold is the most precious metal.
Questo è il palazzo più alto di Napoli. This is the tallest building in Naples.

The *Absolute Superlative* expresses an extreme degree or absolute state of something without comparison. This can be expressed in several ways in Italian.

Drop the last vowel of the adjective and add -issimo, -issima, -issimi, or -issime.
Le fragole sono dolcissime. Strawberries are very sweet.

Place the words molto, troppo, or assai before the adjective.
Questa arancia è molto buona. This orange is very good.

Repeat the adjective or adverb.
Lei parla piano piano. She speaks very softly.

50. Irregular Forms

Some adverbs have irregular comparative, relative superlative, and absolute superlative forms. The most common are:

Adverb	Comparative	Relative Superlative	Absolute Superlative
bene well	meglio better	(il) meglio (the) best	ottimamente very well
male badly	peggio worse	(il) peggio (the) worst	peccatamente very badly
molto much	più more	(il) più (the) most	moltissimo very much
poco little	meno less	(il) meno (the) least	pochissimo very little

51. Clothing

jacket	la giacca
belt	la cintura
earrings	gli orecchini
necklace	la collana
scarf	la sciarpa
dress	il vestito
swimsuit	il costume da bagno
blouse	la camicetta
raincoat	l'impermeabile
sock	il calzino
sandals	i sandali
purse	la borsa
shirt	la camicia
shoe	la scarpa
skirt	la gonna
umbrella	l'ombrello

tie	la cravatta
pants	i pantaloni
hat	il capello
stocking	la colza
sweater	la maglia
glove	il guanto
coat	il cappotto

*Note: **Portare** means to wear, but it also means to bring. So use **mettersi** for to wear or put on clothing.*

52. To Wear

Mettersi-to wear, put on (clothing)

mi metto	ci mettiamo
ti metti	vi mettete
si mette	si mettono

*Note: You don't use possessive pronouns when referring to parts of the body or clothing, but you do use the definite article. **Mi metto la maglia** is *I'm wearing my sweater*.*

53. Future Tense

The future of regular verbs is formed by dropping the final -e of the infinitive and adding the following endings. For -are verbs, the a is changed to an e.

-ò -emo
-ai -ete
-à -anno

Verbs ending in -care and -gare add an h after the c and g in the in order to retain the hard sounds.
 Verbs ending in -ciare and -giare drop the i from their stems in the future.

Many verbs use irregular stems in the future tense, but they still use the regular endings from above:

avere	avr-
essere	sar-
dare	dar-
fare	far-
stare	star-
andare	andr-
dovere	dovr-
vedere	vedr-
sapere	sapr-
potere	potr-
bere	berr-

venire **verr-**
volere **vorr-**

54. Preceding Adjectives

Only a few adjectives go before the noun, the rest are placed right after it. **Bello-beautiful, buono-good, grande-large**, and **brutto-ugly** are the most common preceding adjectives, even though they don't have to go before the noun. Bello and buono have alternate forms when they precede a noun.

Buono e Bello

Singular Plural Before a:

Masculine

buono buoni z, s + consonant
buon vowel or consonant

Feminine

buona buone consonant
buon' vowel

Masculine

bello begli z, s + consonant
bell' vowel
bel bei consonant

Feminine

bella belle consonant
bell' vowel

If they go after the noun, then they can be formed in the usual way. The above forms are only for when they go *before* the noun. Be aware that **grande** can have alternate forms before nouns too. **Grande** can become **gran** before masculine or feminine nouns beginning with a consonant. Or it could contract to **grand'** before masculine or feminine nouns beginning with a vowel. But you do not have to use the alternate forms, whether or not you place the adjective before or after the noun.

55. Adjectives: Feminine and Plural

Masculine to Feminine and Singular to Plural

Masc. Fem.

-o **-a**

-e **-e**

Sing. Pl.

-o, -e **-i**

-a **-e**

Some adjectives have two forms, others have four. Francese (*french*) has two: francese and francesi. Nuovo (*new*) has four: nuovo, nuova, nuovi, and nuove.

56. More Adjectives

facile	easy
difficile	difficult
semplice	simple
complicato	complicated
interessante	interesting
noioso	boring
lungo	long
corto	short
giusto	correct
sbagliato	mistaken/wrong
caro	expensive/dear
economico	economical/cheap
moderno	modern
antico	old/ancient
aperto	open
chiuso	closed
alto	tall
basso	short
felice	happy
triste	sad
simpatico	nice
antipatico	unpleasant
buono	good
cattivo	bad
grande	big/large
piccolo	small
giovane	young
vecchio	old
intelligente	intelligent
stupido	stupid
elegante	elegant
inelegante	inelegant
ricco	rich
povero	poor
magro	skinny/thin
grosso	fat
sincero	sincere
timido	shy
forte	strong
gentile	gentle/kind

generoso	generous
pigro	lazy

57. Position of Sempre and Anche

The adverb *sempre* (always) usually follows the verb. *Anche* (also, too) always precedes the noun, pronoun or infinitive to which it refers. When it precedes *io*, it becomes *anch'*.

Noi studiamo sempre. We always study.

Vuole anche questo libro. He wants that book, too.

Anch'io devo studiare. I have to study too.

58. Sports

golf	il golf
soccer	il calcio
volleyball	la palla a volo
football	il foot-ball americano
basketball	la pallacanestro
baseball	il base-ball
bowling	il birilli
swimming	il nuoto
tennis	il tennis
bicycling	il ciclismo
boxing	il pugilato
skating	il pattinaggio
skiing	lo sci
car racing	l'automobilismo

59. To Play

Giocare-to play

gioco joh-koh **giochiamo** joh-kee-ah-moh

giochi joh-kee **giocate** joh-kah-teh

gioca joh-kah **giocano** joh-kahn-oh

*Note: Most sports use *giocare a (sport)* to mean *to play a sport*. They play basketball would be **Giocano a pallacanestro**.*

60. Nature

fields	i campi
flowers	i fiori
forests	le foreste
hills	le colline
meadows	i prati
mountains	le montagne
plants	le piante
waterfalls	le cascate
woods	i boschi
farms	le fattorie
villages	i villaggi
vineyards	le vigne
beach	la spiaggia
bridge	un ponte
castle	un castello
lake	un lago
pond	uno stagno
river	un fiume

61. Object Pronouns

Subject	Direct	Indirect	Object of Prepositions
io I	mi me	mi to me	me me
tu you (s.i.)	ti you	ti to you	te you
lui he/it	lo him/it	gli to him/it	lui him/it
lei she/it/you (s.p.)	la her/it/you	le to her/it/you	lei her/it/you
noi we	ci us	ci to us	noi us
voi you (p.i.)	vi you	vi to you	voi you
loro they/you (p.p.)	li/le them/you	loro to them/you	loro them/you

1. S.i. means singular informal, s.p. means singular polite, p.i. means plural informal, and p.p. means plural polite. For you (s.p.) and you (p.p.) they are capitalized to set them apart from the other meaning. (Lei instead of lei and Loro instead of loro.)
2. Direct and Indirect pronouns go directly in front of the verb, except loro, which always follows the verb.
3. With infinitives or participles, the pronoun (except loro) follows it and is written as one word. This also is true of commands, except for Lei or Loro.
4. When you have more than one pronoun, the indirect comes before the direct.
 5. The i of mi, ti, ci, and vi changes to an e before lo, la, li and le.
6. Gli and le become glie before lo, la, li, and le; and are written as one word connected with the other pronoun (glielo, gliela, glieli, gliele).

If you use **lo, la, li, le**; the past participle must agree with them.

Hai mangiato **il** panino? Did you eat the bun?

Lo ho mangiato. I ate it.

Hai mangiato **la** pasta? Did you eat the pastry?
La ho mangiata. I ate it.

In negative sentences, pronouns go before the entire verb as well, but after the **non**.

I haven't eaten it. **Non lo** ho mangiato.

62. Parts of the Body

hand	la mano	mouth	la bocca
foot	il piede	finger	il dito
ear	l'orecchio	finger nail	l'unghia
eye	l'occhio	elbow	il gomito
tongue	la lingua	arm	il braccio
face	la faccia	knee	il ginocchio
hair	i capelli	leg	la gamba
nose	il naso	head	la testa
tooth	il dente	neck	il collo
lip	il labbro	shoulder	la spalla
stomach	lo stomaco	throat	la gola

You can use the expressions **Ho mal di** + body part or **Mi fa male** + definite article and the body part to say that something hurts. If the noun is plural, you have to use *mi fanno male* instead of *mi fa male*.

Ho mal di testa. My head hurts. / I have a headache.

Mi fa male il dito. My finger hurts.

Mi fanno male gli occhi. My eyes hurt.

63. Interrogative Pronouns

Most of the question words are invariable (they don't have to agree with the noun), but **quale** (which) and **quanto** (how much/many) must agree. Note that these words do not require a noun to follow them.

Before singular nouns, **quale** is used, and before plural nouns, **quali** is used.

Quale camicetta compri? Which blouse are you buying?

Quali maglioni compri? Which pullovers are you buying?

Quali compri? Which ones are you buying?

Quanto has four forms that follow the regular adjective pattern. **Quanto** is masculine singular, **quanta** is feminine singular, **quanti** is masculine plural and **quante** is feminine plural.

Quanto denaro hai? How much money do you have?

Quante camicette compri? How many blouses are you buying?

Quanto costa? How much does it cost?

64. Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns connect a dependent clause and a main clause together in a sentence. An antecedent is the noun or pronoun that the relative pronoun refers back to. The relative pronouns in English are that, what, which, whom, and whose. The relative pronouns in Italian are che, cui, il quale (and its forms), chi, quello che, quel che, and ciò che.

When the antecedent is a definite person, animal or thing, che, cui or a form of il quale is used. Che is invariable and never used with a preposition. Cui is also invariable, but it is always used with a preposition. Il quale and its forms can be used with articles or articles plus prepositions. It is mainly used in formal speech, writing and for clarity, and rarely in casual conversation.

La ragazza che vedi è mia sorella. The girl whom you see is my sister.

Per le pillole di cui has bisogno ci vuole la ricetta. The pills (of) which you need require a prescription.

Lei è la sola persona nella quale (or in cui) io abia fudicia. You are the only person whom I trust.

È una medicina la quale (or che) non fa male allo stomaco. It's medicine that doesn't upset your stomach.

When the antecedent is unknown or indefinite, chi is used when referring to people. It is invariable and means "he/she who," "whoever," "the one who" and takes a verb in the third person singular form.

Quello che, quel che, and ciò che are all invariable and interchangeable. They refer to things only and mean "what" or "that which."

Chi sta bene non va dal dottore. He who feels well doesn't go to the doctor.

Chi trova un amico, trova un tesoro. One who finds a friend, finds a treasure.

Non capisco quello che dice. I don't understand what he's saying.

Ciò che scrivi è sbagliato. What you're writing is wrong.

65. To Read, to Say/Tell, to Laugh

leggere - to read	dire - to say/tell	ridere - to laugh
leggo leggiamo	dico diciamo	rido ridiamo
leggi leggete	dici dite	ridi ridete
legge leggono	dice dicono	ride ridono

66. Disjunctive Pronouns

Disjunctive pronouns are used independently of the verb. They are the pronouns which follow prepositions, or show emphasis. They can also be found in exclamations.

me noi
te voi
lui / lei loro

Vengo con te. I'll come with you.
Amo te, non lui. I love you, not him.
Fortunati voi! Lucky you!

67. Ci and Ne

Ci (there, it, about it, of it) and **ne** (some, of them, of it) are both pronouns that go before the verb and they replace prepositional phrases. **Ci** will replace phrases that begin with *in, on, to, at, under*, etc. and **ne** will replace phrases that begin with *some* or a *number*.

Example Sentences

I live <u>in</u> Paris.	Vivo a Parigi.
I live there.	Ci vivo.
I have <u>some</u> apples.	Ho delle mele.
I have some (of them).	Ne ho.
I have <u>five</u> sisters.	Ho cinque sorelle.
I have five (of them).	Ne ho cinque.

Quante caramelle hai mangiato? How many candies did you eat?
Ne ho mangiate quattro. I ate four of them.

68. Animals

giraffe	la giraffa
elephant	l'elefante
zebra	la zebra
lion	il leone
leopard	il gattopardo
parrot	il pappagallo
rhinoceros	il rinoceronte
koala	il koala
snake	il serpente

chimpanzee	lo scimpanzé
polar bear	l'orso bianco
tiger	la tigre
bull	il toro
fox	la volpe
monkey	la scimmia
wolf	il lupo
turtle	la tartaruga

69. Pluperfect Tense

The pluperfect or past perfect tense corresponds to the English "had + past participle." It indicates an event that happened prior to another event in the past. It consists of the imperfect of *avere* or *essere* (whichever auxiliary verb the main verb takes in the past indefinite tense) and a past participle.

L'avevo già notato. I had already noticed it.

Ero andato ad un suo concerto. I had been to one of his concerts.

Non avevo avuto ancora occasione. I hadn't had the opportunity yet.

Erano già stati a Sanremo. They had already been in Sanremo.

70. Suffixes

Suffixes may be attached to nouns, adjectives or adverbs. The final vowel of the word should be dropped before adding the suffixes. The endings -ino, -ina, -ello, -ella, -etta, -etto, -uccio, and -uccia are diminutives that express smallness. The endings -one and -ona are augmentatives and express largeness. The endings -ino and -uccio also express endearment. The endings -accio, -accia, -astro, -astra, -azzo, and -azza imply ugliness or poor quality.

letter **lettera** small letter **letterina**

parcel **pacco** large parcel **paccone**

boy **ragazzo** bad boy **ragazzaccio**

Tesorino mio! My sweetheart!

Amoruccio mio! My sweet love!

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71. Adverbs

Most adverbs are formed by adding *-mente* to the feminine singular form of the adjective. Adjectives ending in *-le* or *-re* drop the final *-e* before adding *-mente*, if the *l* or *r* is preceded by a vowel.

Adjective	Adverb	
recente	recentemente	recently
comoda	comodamente	comfortably
finale	finalmente	finally
regolare	regolarmente	regularly

Note that the adverbial form of *buono* (good) is **bene**, and *cattivo* (bad) is **male**.

72. Passive Voice

In passive sentences, the subject receives the action of the verb. In active sentences, the subject does the action. However, the meaning of both sentences is the same. The passive form is only possible with transitive verbs and is much more common in English than in Italian. The passive form consists of the verb **essere** plus the past participle of the main verb followed by **da** (by) and its contractions. *Essere* should be in the same tense as the verb in its corresponding active sentence. The past participle agrees in gender and number with the subject.

Active **I miei genitori pagano l'affitto.** My parents pay the rent.

Passive **L'affitto è pagato dai miei genitori.** The rent is paid by my parents.

I contratti sono firmati dalle ragazze. The contracts are signed by the girls.

La stanza è stata arredata da Carlo. The room was decorated by Carlo.

L'affitto sarà pagato dai miei genitori. The rent will be paid by my parents.

73. The Impersonal "Si"

Si can be used as a reflexive pronoun, but it can also be used as an impersonal pronoun. It corresponds to "one, you, we, the people in general, or they" in English and always use the third person form of the verb (either singular or plural depending on the object).

Qui si vende carta da lettere. We sell writing paper here./Writing paper is sold here.

Si vendono anche matite? Do you also sell pencils?

Qui non si parla francese. We don't speak French here./French is not spoken here.

74. Post Office and Bank

post office	la posta	bank	la banca
mailbox	la cassetta delle lettere	file cabinet	la schedario
mail carrier	il postino	guard	il custode
mailbag	il sacco della posta	safe	la cassaforte
price	il prezzo	safety deposit box	la cassetta di sicurezza
scale	la bilancia	checkbook	il libretto degli assegni
package	il pacchetto	credit card	la carta di credito
stamp	il francobollo	bills	i biglietti
letter	la lettera	coins	le monete
address	l'indirizzo	deposit slip	il modulo per i depositi
postal worker	l'impiegata postale	pen	la penna
newspaper	il giornale	check	l'assegno
magazine	la rivista	bank teller	il cassiere

75. To Give and to Receive

dare - to give		ricevere - to receive	
do	diamo	ricevo	riceviamo
dai	date	ricevi	ricevete
dà	danno	riceve	ricevono

76. Infinitives followed by Prepositions

The following verbs require **a** or **di** when followed by another infinitive, although the preposition is not always translated into English.

Verb + a + another infinitive		Verb + di + another infinitive	
aiutare	to help	aspettare	to wait for
andare	to go	cercare	to look for
cominciare	to begin	cessare	to cease
continuare	to continue	chiedere	to ask
correre	to run	comandare	to command
imparare	to learn	credere	to believe
insegnare	to teach	decidere	to decide
invitare	to invite	dimenticare	to forget
mandare	to send	dire	to say, tell
passare	to stop by	domandare	to ask
pensare	to think of	finire	to finish
preparare	to prepare	offrire	to offer
provare	to try	permettere	to permit
risuscire	to succeed	promettere	to promise
servire	to be good for	sapere	to know
stare	to stay, stand	sognare	to dream
tornare	to return	sperare	to hope
venire	to come	tentare	to try, attempt

77. The Beach

beach	la spiaggia	clam	l'ostrica
island	l'isola	sand castle	il castello di sabbia
lighthouse	il faro	fins	le pinne
pier	il molo	goggles	la maschera subacquea
lifeguard	il bagnino	palm tree	la palma
coconut	il cocco	beach towel	l'asciugamano
seashore	il litorale	oar	il remo
surfboard	la tavoletta da surf	rowboat	la barca a remo
sand	la sabbia	sea gull	il gabbiano
lounge chair	la sedia a sdraio	seal	la foca
beach umbrella	l'ombrellone	sea lion	l'otaria
picnic	il picnic	wave	l'onda
suntan lotion	la crema abbronzante	sailboat	la barca a vela
beach ball	il pallone	waterskiing	lo sci nautico
sea shell	la conchiglia	ocean liner	la nave
seaweed	l'alga marina	hut	la capanna

78. To Follow

seguire - to follow

sèguo	seguiamo
sègui	seguite
sègue	seguono

79. Fare Causative

The verb **fare** can be followed by an infinitive to express the idea of having someone do something or having something done. If the object is a noun, it follows the infinitive; but if the object is a pronoun, it precedes the verb **fare**. (Unless the object pronoun is *loro*, then it always follows the infinitive.) Note that *farsi* can also be used in a causative construction when one is having something done to oneself.

Abbiamo fatto fare quelle sedia. We had that chair made.

Faccio studiare i ragazzi. I make the boys study.

Li faccio studiare. I make them study.

Mi faccio tagliare i capelli. I'm having my hair cut.

When a causative sentence has two objects, the person being made to do something becomes the indirect object. In Italian, the indirect object is introduced by **a**.

Il maestro fa leggere lo studente. The teacher makes the student read.

Il maestro fa leggere la lettura allo studente. The teacher makes the student read the passage.

To avoid ambiguity with the indirect object, the preposition **da** instead of **a** can be used. The sentence **Abbiamo fatto mandare il pacco a Maria** can mean two things: 1) We had Mary send the package or 2) We had the package sent to Mary. If the first meaning is intended, then **da** can replace **a**.

80. Office / School Supplies

chalkboard	la lavagna
eraser	il cancellino
chalk	il gesso
desk	il banco
pencil	la matita
book	il libro
notebook	il quaderno
paper	la carta
page	la pagina
pen	la penna
backpack	lo zaino
mistake	lo sbaglio
exam	l'esame (m)
clock	l'orologio
student (m)	lo studente
dictionary	il dizionario

81. Conditional Tenses

The conditional tense expresses "would" and is used with requests and doubts. It is also used in hypothetical situations with "if" clauses or with events or actions that may occur in the future, but probably won't.

To form the present conditional, use the future stem and these endings for the three types of verbs. (The verbs that have irregular future forms are also irregular in the conditional tense.)

-ei -emmo
-esti -este
-ebbe -ebbero

Gli parlerei, ma non è a casa. I would talk to him, but he's not at home.

Prendereste un caffè? Would you like some coffee?

Sarei più contenta. I would be happier.

As in the future tense, verbs ending in -care and -gare add an h after the c or g for pronunciation. Verbs endings in -ciare and -giare drop the final i in all forms of the present conditional.

Dovere, potere, and volere all have irregular forms in the present conditional:

dovere		potere		volere	
dovrei	dovremmo	potrei	potremmo	vorrei	vorremmo
dovresti	dovreste	potresti	potreste	vorresti	vorreste
dovrebbe	dovrebbero	potrebbe	potrebbero	vorrebbe	vorrebbero

The past conditional expresses the same basic idea as the present conditional. It is used to express unfulfilled requests, situations that did not occur, or events which had the possibility to fulfill themselves, but didn't. It is formed by using the present conditional of avere or essere and the past participle of the main verb. One difference between English and Italian usage of the past conditional is

that when expressing a future action from the viewpoint of the past, Italian uses the past conditional whereas English uses the present conditional.

Ha detto che sarebbe venuto. He said that he would come.

82. Parts of a Car / Gas Station

gas pump	la pompa di benzina
gas cap	il coperchio del serbatoio
gas can	il bidone per la benzina
trunk	il bagagliaio
roof	il tetto
seat	il sedile
door	lo sportello
tire	la gomma
license plate	la targa
bumper	il paraurti
headlight	il fanale
hood	il cofano
windshield wiper	il tergicristallo
steering wheel	il volante
oil can	il oliatore
radiator	il radiatore
battery	la batteria
jumper cables	i cavi per l'avviamento
screwdriver	il cacciavite
hammer	il martello
wrench	la chiave
nut	il dado
screw	la vite
wheel	la ruota
tires	le gomme
air pump	la pompa pneumatica
flat tire	la gomma a terra

83. To Drive

condurre - to drive

conduco conduciamo
conduci conducete
conduce condúcono

84. Travelling / Airport

Where is...	Dov'è...	doh-veh
the bank?	la banca?	lah bahn-kah
the bathroom?	la toilette?	lah twah-let-tah
an automatic cash machine?	un bancomat?	oon bahn-koh-maht
the car rental?	l'autonoleggio?	low-toh-no-led-joh

the taxi stand?	il posteggio dei taxi?	eel poh-stehd-joh day taks-see
the phone?	il telefono?	eel teh-leh-foh-noh
the ticket office?	la biglietteria?	lah bee-lyeht-teh-ree-ah
the train station?	la stazione?	lah stah-zee-oh-neh
the bus stop?	la fermata dell'autobus?	la fair-mah-tah dell ow-toh-boos
the subway?	la metropolitana?	lah meh-tro-poh-lee-tah-nah
the airport?	l'aeroporto?	lah-eh-roh-por-toh
the currency exchange?	l'ufficio cambio?	loo-fee-choh kahm-byoh
the information booth?	l'ufficio informazioni?	loo-fee-choh een-for-maht-zee-ohn-ee
the lost baggage office?	l'ufficio oggetti smarriti?	loo-fee-choh ohd-jeht-tee smahr-ree-tee
the entrance?	l'entrata?	lehn-trah-tah
the exit?	l'uscita?	loo-shee-tah

ticket	il biglietto
flight	il volo
reservation	la prenotazione
round-trip ticket	il biglietto di andata e ritorno
smoking	fumatori
non smoking	non fumatori
baggage	il bagaglio
suitcase	la valigia
passport	il passaporto
gate	l'uscita
boarding pass	la carta d'imbarco
Lira	lire

85. Directional Words

straight ahead	sempre diritto
to the right	a destra
to the left	a sinistra
down there	laggiù
behind	dietro
in front of	davanti a
next to	accanto a
across from	dirimpetto a
after	dopo
near	vicino a
far from	lontano da

86. Use of the Infinitive

The infinitive can be used after certain prepositions, such as **per**, **prima di** and **senza**; whereas in English, the gerund form is usually used.

Siamo pronto per uscire. We are ready to go out.

Prima di partire. Before leaving.

Senza dire niente. Without saying anything.

The past infinitive may be used after **senza** and **dopo**. It is formed with the auxiliaries *essere* or *avere* and the past participle of the verb. The final -e of the auxiliary verb is commonly dropped.

Sono venuti senza aver telefonato. They came without having telephoned.

È ritornata dopo aver comprato i biglietti. She returned after having bought the tickets.

The infinitive may also function as a noun. In this case, the English translation is also the gerund form.

Viaggiare stanca. Travelling is tiring.

Letting, seeing or hearing someone do something is expressed by the forms of *lasciare*, *vedere* and *sentire* plus the infinitive.

Ho sentito cantare Teresa. I heard Teresa sing.

Ho veduto dormire i bambini. I saw the children sleep.

87. Subjunctive Mood

The Subjunctive mood expresses doubt, uncertainty, hope, fear, possibility, opinions, etc. and is used much more frequently in Italian. It is mainly used in dependent clauses (sentences introduced by a conjunction that do not have a complete meaning) that are introduced by *che*.

The present subjunctive of regular verbs is formed by dropping the normal endings, and adding these new endings:

	-are	-ere	1st -ire	2nd -ire
-i	-iamo	-a -iamo	-a -iamo	-isca -iamo
-i	-iate	-a -iate	-a -iate	-isca -iate
-i	-ino	-a -ano	-a -ano	-isca -iscano

Verbs ending in *-care* and *-gare* add an *h* before all endings of the present subjunctive. Verbs ending in *-ciare* and *-giare* drop the *i* from their stems.

Many common verbs have irregular present subjunctive forms:

avere	essere	andare	bere	dare	dire
abbia abbiamo	sia siamo	vada andiamo	beva beviamo	dia diamo	dica diciamo
abbia abbiate	sia siate	vada andiate	beva beviate	dia diate	dica diciate
abbia abbiano	sia siano	vada vadano	beva bevano	dia diano	dica dicano

88. Uses of the Subjunctive Mood

The subjunctive is used after verbs expressing hope, wish, desire, command or doubt such as **sperare** - to hope, **desiderare** - to desire, **volere** - to want, and **dubitare** - to doubt. But verbs that express certainty or fact used in the affirmative sense (and not negative) require the indicative, such as **essere sicuro** - to be sure, **essere certo** - to be certain, and **sapere** - to know. And if the subject of both verbs in the sentence is the same, use **di** with the infinitive instead of the subjunctive.

Dubito che loro vengano. I doubt that they'll come.

Spero che lei vinca. I hope that she wins.

Non so se i musei siano aperti. I don't know if the museums are open.

So che i musei sono aperti. I know that the museums are open.

Non credo di averlo perso. I don't think that I lost it.

The subjunctive is also used after impersonal expressions, usually **essere** and an adjective or adverb, unless they state a fact. Some common expressions are **è necessario** - it's necessary, **è meglio** - it's better, **è possibile** - it's possible, and **è probabile** - it's probable.

The indicative is used after these expressions of certainty: **è certo** - it's certain, **è sicuro** - it's sure, and **è vero** - it's true.

Certain conjunctions require the subjunctive as well, such as **sebbene** - even though, **benché** - although, **affinché** - so that, **prima che** - before, **purché** - provided that, as long as and **nel caso che** - in the event that. The subjunctive is also used after a relative superlative **che**, and after **il primo.. che**, **l'ultimo..che**, and **il solo...che**.

89. Possessive Pronouns

The possessive pronouns replace a noun, and they have the same forms as the possessive adjectives. They always require an article, unless the possessive pronoun follows the verb **essere**, in which case it is omitted.

Non parlo a tua madre. Parlo alla mia. I'm not talking to your mother. I'm talking to mine.

Questa macchina è mia. This car is mine.

90. The Farm

farm	la fattoria
windmill	il mulino a vento
barn	il granaio
cottage	il villino
hay	il fieno
corral	il recinto
stable	la stalla
barrel	il barile
lasso	il laccio
saddle	la sella
stool	lo sgabello
hoe	la zappa
rake	il rastrello
pitchfork	il forcone
shovel	la pala
tractor	il trattore
silo	il silo
loft	il fienile
chicken coop	il pollaio
farmhouse	la cascina

91. Historical Past

The historical past or past absolute is used to indicate a completed action, and is used mainly in writing and rarely in speech. It is not a compound tense, and is formed by dropping the regular stems of the verbs and adding these endings:

-are		-ere		-ire	
-ai	-ammo	-ei	-emmo	-ii	-immo
-asti	-aste	-esti	-este	-isti	-iste

-ò -arono -è -erono -ì -irono

Avere and essere and many other verbs are irregular in the historical past:

avere	essere	fare	dire				
ebbi	avemmo	fui	fummo	feci	facemmo	dissi	dicemmo
avesti	aveste	fosti	foste	facesti	faceste	dicesti	diceste
ebbe	ebbero	fu	furono	fece	fecero	disse	dissero
dare	bere	stare					
diedi	demmo	bevvi	bevemmo	stetti	stemmo		
desti	deste	bevesti	beveste	stesti	steste		
diede	diedero	bevve	bevvero	stette	stettero		

The following verbs are irregular only in the io, lui/lei and loro forms. The verbs are all either -ere or -ire verbs, so use the irregular stem for these three forms and add these endings: -i, -e, -ero. Use the regular stem and regular endings for the other three forms.

infinitive	irregular stem	infinitive	irregular stem
chiedere	chies-	rispondere	rispos-
chiudere	chius-	sapere	sepp-
conoscere	conobb-	scegliere	scels-
decidere	decis-	scrivere	scriss-
leggere	less-	vedere	vid-
mettere	mis-	venire	venn-
nascere	nacqu-	vivere	viss-
prendere	pres-	volere	voll-

The past perfect of the historical past is formed the same way as the past perfect of the indicative. Just add the past participle to the historical past of avere or essere.

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