

STARTING OUT IN

ITALIAN

Welcome to Living Language's *Starting Out in Italian*, an introductory course teaching you the basics of the Italian language. This all-audio course is designed to be used without any printed material, but should you decide you want to read along as you listen to the lessons, visit www.livinglanguage.com for a free downloadable transcript and other resources.



Prima Lezione: Saluti, presentazioni e espressioni di cortesia

Lesson 1: Greetings, introductions, and expressions of politeness

Ciao! Hello! In this lesson, you'll learn how to greet people and introduce yourself. You'll also learn some very useful polite expressions for making a good first impression. First, let's get started with some vocabulary. You'll hear the English first, and then you'll hear the Italian. Repeat each new word or phrase every time you hear it. Ready?

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

<i>hi, hello, good-bye</i>	ciao
<i>hello</i>	salve
<i>good morning</i>	buon giorno
<i>good afternoon</i>	buon pomeriggio
<i>good evening</i>	buona sera
<i>good night</i>	buona notte
<i>have a good day</i>	buona giornata
<i>have a good evening</i>	buona serata
<i>good-bye (infml.)</i>	arrivederci
<i>good-bye (fml.)</i>	arrivederLa
<i>see you soon</i>	a presto
<i>see you later</i>	a dopo

TAKE A BREAK 1

Okay, let's stop for a moment. You just learned how to say *hello* (**ciao**, **salve**), *good morning* (**buon giorno**), *good afternoon* (**buon pomeriggio**), *good evening* (**buona sera**), *good night* (**buona notte**), *have a good day* (**buona giornata**), *have a good evening* (**buona serata**), *see you soon* (**a presto**), and *see you later* (**a dopo**). Did you notice that there are two expressions for *good-bye*, either **arrivederci** or **arrivederLa**? That's because the first (**arrivederci**) is informal and the second (**arrivederLa**) is formal. You'll use **arrivederci** with family and friends, and **arrivederLa** in any other context. However, very often people tend to use **arrivederci** in formal contexts, too. Also keep in mind that another informal—and very common—way to say good-bye is **ciao**, better if repeated twice: **ciao ciao!** (*bye-bye!*)

Now that you know how to greet people, let's move on to some vocabulary and expressions you can use to introduce yourself and make someone's acquaintance.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

<i>My name is . . .</i>	Mi chiamo . . .
<i>I am from . . .</i>	Sono di . . .
<i>. . . and you (infml.)?</i>	. . . e tu?
<i>. . . and you (fml.)?</i>	. . . e Lei?

<i>Pleased to meet you.</i>	Piacere.
<i>Pleased to meet you, too.</i>	Piacere mio.
<i>How are you doing (informal)?</i>	Come stai?
<i>How are you doing (formal)?</i>	Come sta?
<i>Very well, thanks.</i>	Molto bene, grazie.
<i>(I am) Fine, thanks.</i>	(Sto) Bene, grazie.
<i>So-so, not bad.</i>	Così così.
<i>Thank you. Thanks.</i>	Grazie.
<i>Thanks a lot.</i>	Grazie mille.
<i>You're welcome.</i>	Prego.
<i>Don't mention it.</i>	Non c'è di che.

TAKE A BREAK 2

Let's pause there for a moment and focus on a very important distinction. In Italian, there is a formal and an informal way to introduce yourself and make someone's acquaintance. If you're meeting someone in a casual context you'll say: **ciao, mi chiamo . . . e tu?** (*hi, my name is . . . , and you?*), while in a more formal context you'll say: **salve** (or **buon giorno/buona sera/ . . .**), **mi chiamo . . . e Lei?** (*hello, my name is . . . , and you?*). Again, you have two options to ask someone how he or she is doing: **come stai?** (if speaking informally) and **come sta?** (when speaking formally). Keep in mind that the formal *you* (**Lei**) is always capitalized in writing to avoid confusion with the feminine pronoun **lei**, meaning *she*.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's put everything you've learned so far together in a short comprehension exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the Italian, which you should repeat for practice.

	<i>My name is Mario, and you?</i>
M:	Mi chiamo Mario, e tu?
	<i>Good evening Mario, my name is Carla. How are you?</i>
F:	Buona sera Mario, mi chiamo Carla. Come stai?
	<i>Very well, thanks.</i>
M:	Molto bene, grazie.
	<i>Pleased to meet you!</i>
F:	Piacere!

Pleased to meet you, too!
M: **Piacere mio!**

Have a good day.
F: **Buona giornata.**

See you later.
M: **A dopo.**

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

Good morning, my name is Paul Bennet. I am from Boston, and you (fml.)?
M: **Buon giorno, mi chiamo Paul Bennet. Io sono di Boston, e Lei?**

My name is Carla Betti and I'm from Milan. Very pleased to meet you!
F: **Mi chiamo Carla Betti e io sono di Milano. Molto piacere!**

Pleased to meet you, too.
M: **Piacere mio.**

How's it going, Mr. Bennet?
F: **Come va, signor Bennet?**

Fine, thanks. And how are you doing?
M: **Bene, grazie. E Lei come sta?**

So-so.
F: **Così così.**

Good-bye, Mr. Bennet.
F: **ArrivederLa, signor Bennet.**

Have a good day!
M: **Buona giornata!**

Okay, let's focus on a couple new words and expressions you just heard in the dialogue. Did you notice that **io sono di** means *I am from*? This is a very useful expression to use when you want to say what city you come from: **sono di Milano, sono di Boston, sono di New York.**

You already know how to ask someone how he or she is doing using the informal **come stai?** and the formal **come sta?** You just learned a new expression that you can use in both formal and informal contexts: **come va?**, which literally means *how's it going?*

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, you'll hear a phrase in Italian, and you should translate it into English. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause.

Ciao!	<i>Hi!</i>
A presto.	<i>See you soon.</i>
Come stai?	<i>How are you? (infml.)</i>
Bene grazie. E Lei?	<i>Fine, thanks. And you? (fml.)</i>
Prego!	<i>You're welcome!</i>

Great! Now do the opposite, translating the phrase from English into Italian. After a pause, you'll hear the right answer, which you should repeat for practice.

<i>Good evening, Mr. Federici.</i>	Buona sera, signor Federici.
<i>See you later.</i>	A dopo.
<i>I'm from Milan.</i>	Sono di Milano.
<i>How's it going?</i>	Come va?
<i>Thanks a lot.</i>	Grazie mille.

PARTING WORDS

Molto bene! Well done! You just finished your first lesson, in which you learned the basic vocabulary you need to greet people and introduce yourself. If you want to extend your vocabulary a little bit more, you can add a couple of words to your list of greetings: **buon pomeriggio** (*good afternoon*) and **buona notte** (*good night*). As in English, the first one is used to greet people between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. **Buona notte**, on the other hand, is only used when parting late at night or before going to bed. Here's one more: **A presto!** (*See you soon!*)



Seconda Lezione: Le persone e la famiglia

Lesson 2: People and the family

Benvenuto! *Welcome!* In this lesson, you'll learn how to talk about people and your family, and at the same time you'll learn the basics of Italian grammar to get you speaking right away. First, let's get started with some vocabulary. You'll hear the English first, and then you'll hear the Italian. Repeat each new word or phrase every time you hear it. Ready?

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

<i>a person</i>	una persona
<i>a woman</i>	una donna
<i>Here is . . .</i>	Ecco . . .
<i>Here is a woman.</i>	Ecco una donna.
<i>a man</i>	un uomo
<i>a girl</i>	una ragazza
<i>a boy</i>	un ragazzo
<i>a child (boy)</i>	un bambino
<i>a child (girl)</i>	una bambina

TAKE A BREAK 1

Okay, let's stop there. You learned how to say *a person* (**una persona**), *a woman* (**una donna**), *a man* (**un uomo**), *a girl* (**una ragazza**), *a boy* (**un ragazzo**), and *a child* (**un bambino/una bambina**). Did you notice that there are two words for *a*, either **un** or **una**? That's because all Italian nouns are either masculine or feminine. The feminine form of *a* or *an*, also known as the indefinite article, is **una: una donna, una ragazza, una bambina**. The masculine form of the indefinite article is **un: un uomo, un ragazzo, un bambino**.

It's easy to remember the gender of nouns like *man*, *woman*, *girl*, or *boy*, but in Italian, all nouns have gender. Sometimes it's illogical; the word for *a person* is feminine: **una persona**, but can refer to both male and female individuals. Sometimes it's impossible to tell—would you ever guess that *a stone* is feminine (**una pietra**) while *a river* is masculine (**un fiume**)? It's best not to overthink it! Just memorize the gender of each new noun you learn. Speaking of new nouns, let's learn some more new vocabulary.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Here is a family.

Ecco una famiglia.

There is . . .

C'è . . .

There are . . .

Ci sono . . .

There's the father.

C'è il padre.

There's the mother.

C'è la madre.

There are the father and the mother.

Ci sono il padre e la madre.

There's the son.

C'è il figlio.

There's the daughter.

C'è la figlia.

There are the son and daughter.

Ci sono il figlio e la figlia.

There's the brother.

C'è il fratello.

There's the sister.

C'è la sorella.

There are the brother and sister.

Ci sono il fratello e la sorella.

TAKE A BREAK 2

Let's pause there for a moment. You just learned a few important things. First you learned how to say *there is* (**c'è**) and *there are* (**ci sono**) in Italian. These are important expressions that you're likely to use a lot, so be sure to practice them: **C'è . . . Ci sono . . .**

You also learned how to say *a* or *an* in Italian, **un** for masculine nouns, and **una** for feminine nouns. Now you just heard how to say *the*, also known as the definite article. Again, gender is important. The masculine form is **il**, and the feminine form is **la**. So far you've learned a few feminine nouns: **la famiglia** (*the family*), **la madre** (*the mother*), **la figlia** (*the daughter*), **la sorella** (*the sister*) and **la persona** (*the person*). And you've learned a few masculine nouns, too: **il padre** (*the father*), **il figlio** (*the son*), **il ragazzo** (*the boy*), **il fratello** (*the brother*), **il bambino** (*the child*). In Italian you always have to repeat the article before each noun (**ci sono il padre e la madre, il fratello e la sorella, il figlio e la figlia**).

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's put everything you've learned so far together in a short comprehension exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the Italian, and then you should repeat for practice.

Here is the Belli family.

Ecco la famiglia Belli.

Mrs. Belli is a woman.

La signora Belli è una donna.

Mr. Belli is a man.

Francesco is a boy.

Maria is a girl.

Mrs. Belli is the mother.

Mr. Belli is the father.

Maria is the daughter.

Francesco is the son.

Il signor Belli è un uomo.

Francesco è un ragazzo.

Maria è una ragazza.

La signora Belli è la madre.

Il signor Belli è il padre.

Maria è la figlia.

Francesco è il figlio.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together in a brief monologue, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

I'm Francesco.

I'm Italian.

I have a small family.

I have a father.

He's a policeman.

And I have a mother.

She's a teacher.

And I have a sister.

She's a student.

And me, too, I'm a student.

Io sono Francesco.

Sono italiano.

Io ho una famiglia piccola.

Ho un padre.

Lui è un poliziotto.

E ho una madre.

Lei è una professoressa.

E ho una sorella.

Lei è una studentessa.

E anche io sono uno studente.

You probably knew already that **italiano** means *Italian*. Did you remember that **io sono** means *I am*? **Io** is the pronoun *I*, and **sono** is the form of the verb **essere** (*to be*), which you'll learn more about later. Francesco drops the pronoun **io** when he says **sono italiano** because the pronoun isn't always necessary; you can tell the subject of the sentence by the verb form. You heard two other pronouns, **lui** (*he*), and **lei** (*she*), used with **essere**: **lui è** means *he is*, and **lei è** means *she is*. Francesco used another useful verb: **io ho . . .**, meaning *I have*, as in **io ho una famiglia piccola**, or *I have a small family*. Finally, you heard Francesco say that his father is **un poliziotto**, or *a policeman*, his mother is **una professoressa**, or *a teacher*, and both he and his sister are students, **studentessa** in the feminine, and **studente** in the masculine. Did you notice that the article before **studente** is **uno** and not **un**? That's because **uno** is the form of the indefinite article that comes before masculine nouns beginning with the letter **s** followed by a consonant, as in **uno studente**, or before the letter **z**, as in **uno zio** (*an uncle*). We'll come back to that later.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, you'll hear a phrase in Italian, and you should translate it into English. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause.

una persona	<i>a person</i>
un bambino	<i>a child (boy)</i>
la famiglia	<i>the family</i>
Ecco una donna.	<i>Here is a woman.</i>
Francesco è un uomo.	<i>Francesco is a man.</i>

Now translate the following phrases into Italian, and then form sentences beginning with the expression **io ho**, or *I have*. For example, if you hear *a small family*, you'd respond by saying **io ho una famiglia piccola**. Use the pronoun **io** for practice, but keep in mind that it's not always necessary to use it. Repeat the correct answers for practice.

<i>a small family</i>	Io ho una famiglia piccola.
<i>a mother</i>	Io ho una madre.
<i>a father</i>	Io ho un padre.
<i>a sister</i>	Io ho una sorella.
<i>a brother</i>	Io ho un fratello.

Just keep in mind that pronouns in Italian like **io** or **tu** are usually dropped, so it's more common to hear **ho una sorella** or **ho un fratello**.

PARTING WORDS

Complimenti! *Congratulations!* You just finished your second lesson, in which you learned the basic vocabulary you need to talk about your family. You may of course want to extend the discussion a bit, and talk about your **zio** (*uncle*), your **zia** (*aunt*), your **cugina** (*female cousin*), or your **cugino** (*male cousin*). And what family reunion would be complete without your **nonna** (*grandmother*) and **nonno** (*grandfather*)? If you're **uno zio** or **una zia**, that means you must have at least **un nipote** (*a nephew*) or **una nipote** (*a niece*). One last note: although it may sound a bit strange to you, keep in mind that in Italian **il nipote/la nipote** means both *the nephew or the niece* and *the grandson or the granddaughter*.



Terza Lezione: I numeri e i plurali

Lesson 3: Numbers and plurals

Bentornato! *Welcome back!* In this lesson, you'll study numbers, and you'll learn how to form the plural of nouns. You'll also learn a very useful verb, the verb **avere** (*to have*), together with the many idiomatic expressions you can form with it. As usual, let's start with some vocabulary. You'll hear the English first, and then you'll hear the Italian. Repeat each new phrase every time you hear it. Ready?

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

there is one student

c'è uno studente

there are two students

ci sono due studenti

there are three sisters and four brothers

ci sono tre sorelle e quattro fratelli

there are five boys and six girls

ci sono cinque ragazzi e sei ragazze

here are seven families

ecco sette famiglie

here are eight children (boys)

ecco otto bambini

here are nine children (girls)

ecco nove bambine

here are ten men and eleven women

ecco dieci uomini e undici donne

here are twelve people

ecco dodici persone

TAKE A BREAK 1

Okay, let's take a short break. You just learned how to say *one, two, three* (**uno, due, tre**), *four, five, six* (**quattro, cinque, sei**), *seven, eight, nine* (**sette, otto, nove**), *ten, eleven, and twelve* (**dieci, undici, dodici**). You also heard some of the same words from lesson two used with them, only this time they had a different ending, and that ending changes them from singular nouns into plural nouns. Words ending in **-o** or **-e** in the singular, like **bambino** and **studente**, become plural by changing their ending to **-i** (**un bambino, otto bambini; uno studente, due studenti**). Words ending in **-a** in the singular, like **bambina**, become plural by changing their ending to **-e** (**una bambina, sei bambine**).

There are a few exceptions. The plural **uomini** (*men*) is irregular: you say **uomo** (*man*) in the singular and **uomini** in the plural. There are more words with irregular plurals, but you will learn them as they come up in your vocabulary.

Now let's move on to a different topic, the verb **avere** (*to have*).

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

<i>to have</i>	avere
<i>I have</i>	io ho
<i>you have (sg., infml.)</i>	tu hai
<i>you have (sg., fml.)</i>	Lei ha
<i>he has</i>	lui ha
<i>she has</i>	lei ha
<i>we have</i>	noi abbiamo
<i>you have (pl.)</i>	voi avete
<i>they have</i>	loro hanno
<i>I am hungry</i>	(io) ho fame
<i>you (sg.) are thirsty</i>	(tu) hai sete
<i>he is sleepy</i>	(lui) ha sonno
<i>we are cold</i>	(noi) abbiamo freddo
<i>they are in a hurry</i>	(loro) hanno fretta

TAKE A BREAK 2

Let's pause for a moment and make a few comments on the verb **avere**. Have you seen how many useful expressions you can form with **avere** by combining it with the words **fame** (*hunger*), **sete** (*thirst*), **sonno** (*sleep*), **caldo** (*heat*), **freddo** (*cold*), **paura** (*fear*), **ragione** (*reason*), and **fretta** (*hurry*)?

All these expressions are translated in English using the verb *to be* followed by an adjective. In Italian, on the other hand, you will use the verb **avere** (*to have*) followed by a noun to create these expressions: **avere fame** (*to be hungry*), **avere sete** (*to be thirsty*), **avere sonno** (*to be sleepy*), **avere caldo** (*to be hot*), **avere freddo** (*to be cold*), **avere paura** (*to be afraid*), **avere ragione** (*to be right*), and **avere fretta** (*to be in a hurry*).

While repeating the conjugation of the verb **avere**, you also had the opportunity to learn the Italian subject pronouns: **io** (*I*), **tu** (*you, sg., infml.*), **Lei** (*you, sg., fml.*), **lui** (*he*), **lei** (*she*), **noi** (*we*), **voi** (*you, pl.*), **loro** (*they*). Don't forget that the formal *you* (the **Lei** form) is always capitalized in writing to distinguish it from the third person singular **lei** (*she*). Also remember that subject pronouns are usually omitted in Italian. They're usually used only when you want to give more emphasis to your statements. Compare: **ho bisogno di un caffè** (*I need a coffee*) with **io ho bisogno di un caffè** (*I do need a coffee*).

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's now review everything you've learned so far. You'll hear the English first, and then the Italian, which you should repeat for practice.

Here are three families.

There are ten men and nine women.

You (sg., infml.) have two sisters and five brothers.

She has eight uncles and six cousins.

We have four grandparents and seven nephews.

They have nine aunts and ten nieces.

Mario is hungry.

Carla is thirsty.

You (pl.) are in a hurry.

They are in a hurry, too.

Ecco tre famiglie.

Ci sono dieci uomini e nove donne.

Tu hai due sorelle e cinque fratelli.

Lei ha otto zii e sei cugini.

Noi abbiamo quattro nonni e sette nipoti.

Loro hanno nove zie e dieci nipoti.

Mario ha fame.

Carla ha sete.

Voi avete fretta.

Anche loro hanno fretta.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

Here are my friends.

There are three boys and five girls.

Matteo is always hungry.

He feels like having a sandwich.

Maria is always cold.

She needs a scarf.

Giorgio and Pete are always sleepy.

They feel like having a coffee.

Kate and I are always hot.

We need a fan.

Betty and Rose are always in a hurry.

I am always in a hurry, too.

Ecco i miei amici.

Ci sono quattro ragazzi e cinque ragazze.

Matteo ha sempre fame.

Lui ha voglia di un panino.

Maria ha sempre freddo.

Lei ha bisogno di una sciarpa.

Giorgio e Pete hanno sempre sonno.

Loro hanno voglia di un caffè.

Io e Kate abbiamo sempre caldo.

Noi abbiamo bisogno di un ventilatore.

Betty e Rose hanno sempre fretta.

Anche io ho sempre fretta.

Okay, let's focus for a moment on the new words you just heard: **panino** (*sandwich*), **sciarpa** (*scarf*), **caffè** (*coffee*), and **ventilatore** (*fan*). You also heard the word **amici**, or *friends*, which, in this case, includes both male and female friends. In the singular, you will make a distinction between a *male friend* (**amico**), and a *female friend* (**amica**). The same happens with many words you've already learned for describing people, such as **studente**, **studentessa** or **ragazzo**, **ragazza**. You can say **ragazzi** or **studenti** to refer either to a group of males or to a group that includes both males and females. Of course, if you want to refer to a group of female friends, students, or girls, you'll say **amiche**, **studentesse**, and **ragazze**. Finally, did you catch the new expressions **avere bisogno di** (*to need*) and **avere voglia di** (*to feel like something*)? They are two very useful expressions to remember. Keep in mind that they can be followed either by a noun, as in the many examples you've heard, or by the infinitive of a verb, as you'll see later on.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. You'll hear a sentence in the singular; your job will be to make the final noun plural using the numbers **due**, **tre**, **quattro**, **cinque**, **sei** (*two, three, four, five, six*). You'll hear the correct answer after a pause.

C'è un ragazzo. (due)

Ci sono due ragazzi.

Ecco una ragazza. (tre)

Ecco tre ragazze.

Io ho un amico. (quattro)

Io ho quattro amici.

Tu hai una sorella. (cinque)

Tu hai cinque sorelle.

C'è uno studente. (sei)

Ci sono sei studenti.

Now listen to the following sentences, and use the right form of **avere bisogno di** to say what each person needs. Again, after a pause, you'll hear the right answer. Don't forget to repeat it for practice.

Maria ha sonno. (un caffè)

Lei ha bisogno di un caffè.

Noi abbiamo freddo. (una sciarpa)

Noi abbiamo bisogno di una sciarpa.

Loro hanno caldo. (un ventilatore)

Loro hanno bisogno di un ventilatore.

Tu hai fame. (un panino)

Tu hai bisogno di un panino.

Anche io ho fame. (un panino)

Anche io ho bisogno di un panino.

PARTING WORDS

Perfetto! Great! You just finished your third lesson, in which you learned numbers from one to twelve, and the plural of nouns. You also learned the present tense of the verb **avere**, plus the many useful idiomatic expressions you can form by combining it with words like **fame**, **sete**, **caldo**, **freddo**, **sonno**,

fretta, and **paura**. At this point, maybe **tu hai bisogno di una pausa** (*you do need a break*). **Arrivederci a presto!** *Good-bye and see you soon!*



Quarta Lezione: In giro per la casa

Lesson 4: Around the home

Rieccoci! *Here we are again!* In this lesson you'll continue to improve on your vocabulary and learn how to talk about common objects you can find **in giro per la casa** (*around the house*).

You'll learn more of the present tense of verb **essere** (*to be*), as well as the plural of definite articles. Let's get started with some vocabulary. You'll hear the English first, and then you'll hear the Italian. Repeat each new phrase every time you hear it. Ready?

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

in the kitchen there is the table

in cucina c'è il tavolo

in the kitchen there are . . .

in cucina ci sono . . .

the pans

le pentole

the dishes

i piatti

in the bedroom there is . . .

in camera (da letto) c'è . . .

the bed

il letto

the closet

l'armadio

in the bedroom there are the pillows

in camera ci sono i cuscini

in the living room there is . . .

in soggiorno c'è . . .

the couch

il divano

the rug

il tappeto

in the living room there are the chairs

in soggiorno ci sono le sedie

in the bathroom there is . . .

in bagno c'è . . .

the washing machine

la lavatrice

the mirror

lo specchio

in the bathroom there are the towels

in bagno ci sono gli asciugamani

TAKE A BREAK 1

Okay, let's pause for a moment and look closer at what you just heard. You just learned how to say *kitchen* (**cucina**), *bedroom* (**camera da letto** or **camera**), *living room* (**soggiorno**), and *bathroom* (**bagno**). You also learned many names of common objects you can find in each *room* (**stanza**) of the house. You heard that **in cucina** (*in the kitchen*) you can find **il tavolo, le pentole e i piatti** (*the table, the pans, and the dishes*); **in camera (da letto)** (*in the bedroom*) you can find **il letto, l'armadio e i cuscini** (*the bed, the closet, and the pillows*); **in soggiorno** (*in the living room*) you can find **il divano, il tappeto e le sedie** (*the couch, the carpet, and the chairs*); **in bagno** (*in the bathroom*) you can find **la lavatrice, lo specchio e gli asciugamani** (*the washing machine, the mirror, and the towels*).

Did you notice how many different definite articles were used in the examples? You already learned **il** and **la** in lesson two. Let's look at some more of them, starting with the masculine. In the singular you have two options: **il**, used before most nouns beginning with a consonant (**il tavolo, il letto**), and **lo**, used before words beginning with the letter **s** followed by a consonant (**lo specchio**), with the letter **z** (**lo zio**), and before all vowels. When used before a vowel, **lo** is shortened to **l'**: **l'armadio, l'uomo, l'amico**. In the plural **il** turns into **i**: **i piatti, i cuscini**; while **lo** changes into **gli**: **gli asciugamani**.

Let's look at the two feminine forms. **La** is used in the singular (**la lavatrice**) and **le** is the plural form (**le pentole, le sedie**). When used before a vowel, **la** is shortened to **l'**: **l'amica**. The form **le**, on the contrary, is never shortened.

Next we'll learn more about the verb **essere** (*to be*).

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

to be

essere

I am

io sono

you are (sg., infml.)

tu sei

you are (sg., fml.)

Lei è

he is

lui è

she is

lei è

we are

noi siamo

you are (pl.)

voi siete

they are

loro sono

I am at home

io sono a casa

you (sg., infml.) are in the kitchen

tu sei in cucina

he is in the bathroom

lui è in bagno

we are in the bedroom

noi siamo in camera da letto

they are in the living room

loro sono in soggiorno

TAKE A BREAK 2

Let's pause for a moment and make a few comments on the verb **essere**.

You already learned in Lesson 1 that **essere di**, followed by the name of a town or city, is used to express someone's hometown: **io sono di Firenze**, **tu sei di Philadelphia**, **Paolo è di Milano**, and so on. **Essere di** followed by the name of a person is also used to express possession: **i piatti sono di Nicola** (*the dishes belong to Nicola or the dishes are Nicola's*), **la lavatrice è di Ann** (*the washing machine belongs to Ann or the washing machine is Ann's*). To ask who owns something, say **di chi è?** when referring to a single object, and **di chi sono?** when referring to more than one object. Let's listen to a few examples.

Whose washing machine is it?

Di chi è la lavatrice?

It's Ann's.

È di Ann.

Whose dishes are they?

Di chi sono i piatti?

They are Nicola's.

Sono di Nicola.

Of course, if you just want to express the possessive of a noun, you'll say **la lavatrice di Ann** (*Ann's washing machine*) or **i piatti di Nicola** (*Nicola's dishes*).

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's now put everything you've learned so far together in a short exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the Italian, which you should repeat for practice.

I am in the kitchen.

Io sono in cucina.

In the kitchen there are the cups, the dishes, and the table.

In cucina ci sono le tazze, i piatti e il tavolo.

The cups are Michael's.

Le tazze sono di Michael.

You are in the living room.

Tu sei in soggiorno.

She is in the bathroom.

Lei è in bagno.

In the bedroom there are the pillows, the closet, and the bed.

The pillows are Paolo's.

In camera da letto ci sono i cuscini, l'armadio e il letto.

I cuscini sono di Paolo.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

This is Paolo and Marta's house.

Paolo and Marta are at home.

Paolo is in the bedroom.

In the bedroom there is the double bed.

Paolo's cups are in the kitchen.

Marta is in the garden.

In the garden there are the flowers.

Marta's books are in the living room.

Paolo and Marta have a daughter: Anna.

Anna is in the bathroom.

In the bathroom there is the shower.

Anna's desk is in her room.

Questa è la casa di Paolo e Marta.

Paolo e Marta sono in casa.

Paolo è in camera da letto.

In camera (da letto) c'è il letto matrimoniale.

Le tazze di Paolo sono in cucina.

Marta è in giardino.

In giardino ci sono i fiori.

I libri di Marta sono in soggiorno.

Paolo e Marta hanno una figlia: Anna.

Anna è in bagno.

In bagno c'è la doccia.

La scrivania di Anna è in camera sua.

You probably noticed some new words: **il giardino** (*the garden*), **i fiori** (*the flowers*), **i libri** (*the books*), **il letto matrimoniale** (*the double bed*), **la doccia** (*the shower*), and **la scrivania** (*the desk*). You also heard that Paolo and Marta are **in casa** (*at home*): that's another useful expression to remember. Finally, in the sentence **la scrivania di Anna è in camera sua**, you heard one of the possessive adjectives—**sua** (*her*)—for the first time. Keep this in mind; you will be working on possessive adjectives in your next lesson.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice the new definite articles you've learned. You'll hear a list of objects in the singular; change both the article and the noun into the plural. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause, which you should repeat for practice.

il tavolo

i tavoli

lo specchio

gli specchi

la tazza

le tazze

l'asciugamano

gli asciugamani

il letto

i letti

Let's now review the different forms of the verb **essere** by translating the following sentences from English into Italian.

I'm from Milan.

Io sono di Milano. or Sono di Milano.

We're at home.

Noi siamo a casa. or Siamo a casa.

He's in the living room.

Lui è in soggiorno. or È in soggiorno.

You (pl.) are in the kitchen.

Voi siete in cucina. or Siete in cucina.

They're from Florence.

Loro sono di Firenze. or Sono di Firenze.

PARTING WORDS

Benissimo! *Great!* You just finished Lesson 4, in which you studied all the forms of the definite article, and learned how to talk about common objects you can find **in giro per la casa** (*around the house*). You also studied the present tense of the verb **essere**, and learned how to express possession and find out who's the owner of something. Finally, let's at least mention a couple of interesting idioms with **essere**: **essere d'accordo** (*to agree*), **essere in orario** or **essere puntuale** (*to be on time*), and **essere in ritardo** (*to be late*). That's enough for lesson four, **sei d'accordo** (*do you agree*)?



Quinta Lezione: Descrivere le cose

Lesson 5: Describing things

Bentornato! *Welcome back!* In this lesson you'll learn how to describe things and people using adjectives. You'll also study colors and become familiar with possessive adjectives. More importantly, you'll learn (and practice) how to match nouns and adjectives according to gender (masculine or feminine) and number (singular or plural). As always, we'll start with some vocabulary.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

the couch is new

il divano è nuovo

the house is old

la casa è vecchia

the beds are small

i letti sono piccoli

the bedrooms are beautiful

le camere da letto sono belle

the kitchen is big

la cucina è grande

the bathroom is ugly

il bagno è brutto

the rug is red

il tappeto è rosso

the pillows are yellow

i cuscini sono gialli

the table is green

il tavolo è verde

the chairs are brown

le sedie sono marroni

the washing machine is white

la lavatrice è bianca

the dishes are blue

i piatti sono blu

the pans are black

le pentole sono nere

TAKE A BREAK 1

You just heard some common adjectives: *new* and *old* (**nuovo** and **vecchio**), *small* and *big* (**piccolo** and **grande**), *beautiful* and *ugly* (**bello** and **brutto**). Did you notice how the ending of each adjective changed according to the noun accompanying it? That's because Italian adjectives take the same gender (masculine or feminine) and number (singular or plural) of the noun they refer to. An adjective like *new* has four forms: **nuovo**, **nuova**, **nuovi**, **nuove**. Therefore, we have **il divano nuovo** (the masculine singular ending in **-o**), and **la casa nuova** (the feminine singular ending in **-a**), **i letti nuovi** (the masculine plural ending in **-i**), and **le camere nuove** (the feminine plural ending in **-e**). Some adjectives, however,—like **grande**—only have two endings: singular (**-e**) and plural (**-i**), with no distinction between masculine and feminine. This usually applies to adjectives that end in **-e**. Compare **la cucina grande** and **il bagno grande**: **cucina** and **bagno** have a different gender, but the adjective form does not change.

Most colors work like other adjectives too. Some of them, like **rosso** (*red*), **giallo** (*yellow*), **bianco** (*white*), and **nero** (*black*), have four endings, while others, like **verde** (*green*) and **marrone** (*brown*), only have two. Some adjectives, like **blu** (*blue*), **arancione** (*orange*), and **rosa** (*pink*), are invariable—meaning they won't change according to the noun they are describing. Let's now move on to another family of adjectives: possessive adjectives.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

<i>my house</i>	la mia casa
<i>your apartment</i>	il tuo appartamento
<i>his/her table</i>	il suo tavolo
<i>his/her kitchen</i>	la sua cucina
<i>our bed</i>	il nostro letto
<i>your (pl.) pillow</i>	il vostro cuscino
<i>their rug</i>	il loro tappeto
<i>your father is nice</i>	tuo padre è simpatico
<i>your mom is sweet</i>	la tua mamma è dolce
<i>your sister is intelligent</i>	tua sorella è intelligente

TAKE A BREAK 2

Let's take a short break and make a few comments on what you just heard. Each possessive adjective, like other adjectives, has four forms, according to gender and number. The only exception is the invariable form **loro** (*their*). Let's look at them all together:

<i>my</i>	mio, mia, miei, mie
<i>your, singular</i>	tuo, tua, tuoi, tue
<i>his, her</i>	suo, sua, suoi, sue
<i>our</i>	nostro, nostra, nostri, nostre
<i>your, plural</i>	vostro, vostra, vostri, vostre
<i>their</i>	loro

Italian possessives always agree with the object and not with the object's owner. Therefore, *my house* is **la mia casa** (feminine singular), and *my apartment* is **il mio appartamento** (masculine singular), no matter whether the owner is male or female.

Italian possessives are always preceded by a definite article—**il vostro cuscino** (*your pillow*), **il nostro letto** (*our bed*)—unless they refer to family terms—like **padre, madre, fratello, sorella, figlio, nonna, zio, cugina, nipote**, and so on—used in the singular and not accompanied by other adjectives. However, when using possessives to refer to the words **mamma** and **papà** (*mom* and *dad*), you need to use the definite article, as **mamma** and **papà** are considered terms of endearment.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's now put everything you've learned so far together in a short exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the Italian, which you should repeat for practice.

My house is old.

Your pillows are green.

His/Her table is big.

His/Her chair is small.

Our washing machines are white.

Your (pl.) couch is red.

Their beds are small.

Their bedrooms are new.

Your (sg.) dishes are yellow.

Her kitchen is beautiful.

La mia casa è vecchia.

I tuoi cuscini sono verdi.

Il suo tavolo è grande.

La sua sedia è piccola.

Le nostre lavatrici sono bianche.

Il vostro divano è rosso.

I loro letti sono piccoli.

Le loro camere da letto sono nuove.

I tuoi piatti sono gialli.

La sua cucina è bella.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

My family is big.

My father, Bob, is very nice.

His car is red.

My mother, Laura, is a little stressed.

Her bike is green.

My sister, Ann, is very intelligent.

Her bedroom is always clean.

My cousins are a little stressed, too.

Their apartments are old.

My grandparents are happy.

Their garden is very big.

My garden, instead, is very small.

La mia famiglia è numerosa.

Mio padre, Bob, è molto simpatico.

La sua automobile è rossa.

Mia madre, Laura, è un po' stressata.

La sua bicicletta è verde.

Mia sorella, Ann, è molto intelligente.

La sua camera da letto è sempre pulita.

Anche i miei cugini sono un po' stressati.

I loro appartamenti sono vecchi.

I miei nonni sono felici.

Il loro giardino è molto grande.

Il mio giardino, invece, è molto piccolo.

Did you notice how the English *his* and *her* were both translated as **sua** because they referred to feminine objects (**la sua automobile, la sua bicicletta**)? In case you want to avoid ambiguities, you can use a different structure and say **di lui** for *his*, and **di lei** for *her*. You also heard a few new words: **molto** (*very*), **un po'** (*a little*), **invece** (*instead*), and **anche** (*too, also*). Use **molto** and **un po'** to modify adjectives. **Invece** and **anche**, on the other hand, are used to express differences and similarities between people and things. Note the position of **anche**: in Italian, it's usually placed at the beginning of a sentence.

WORK OUT

Now you will hear a sentence and you should add the appropriate possessive adjective, following the given suggestion. After a pause, you'll hear the right answer, which you should repeat for practice.

_____ divano è rosso. (<i>my</i>)	Il mio divano è rosso.
_____ sedia è gialla. (<i>his or her</i>)	La sua sedia è gialla.
_____ biciclette sono verdi. (<i>your, singular</i>)	Le tue biciclette sono verdi.
_____ piatti sono blu. (<i>their</i>)	I loro piatti sono blu.

Finally, translate the following sentences from English to Italian. Keep in mind the rule about possessives used with family terms. Again, after a pause, you'll hear the right answer. Don't forget to repeat it for practice.

<i>My father is a little stressed.</i>	Mio padre è un po' stressato.
<i>Your sister is very nice.</i>	Tua sorella è molto simpatica.
<i>His mom is very sweet.</i>	La sua mamma è molto dolce.
<i>Their grandparents are happy.</i>	I loro nonni sono felici.
<i>Our brother is happy, too.</i>	Anche nostro fratello è felice.

PARTING WORDS

Molto bene! *Very good!* You just finished the fifth lesson, in which you learned how to describe things and people using adjectives and colors. You also learned how to use possessive adjectives. Don't ever forget that Italian adjectives always agree in gender and number with the noun to which they refer, and always pay attention to the endings of the words in order to make the right match. Keep in mind the distinction between adjectives with four endings (**nuovo, nuova, nuovi, nuove**) and adjectives with two endings (**grande, grandi**). In the first case, you have to match both gender and number; in the second, you only need to choose between the singular and the plural form.



Sesta Lezione: In giro per la città

Lesson 6: Around town

Rieccoci! *Here we are again!* In this lesson you'll learn to ask (and give) directions and talk about the places you can find **in giro per la città** (*around town*). You'll study question words, and you'll learn how to ask and answer basic questions. Let's immediately start with some vocabulary. You'll hear the English first, and then you'll hear the Italian. Repeat each new phrase every time you hear it. Ready?

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

Is there a bank nearby?

a post office

a supermarket

Where is the train station?

the school

the hospital

There is a pharmacy in Dante Square.

There is a church on Mazzini Street.

There is a movie theater on Roma Avenue.

The museum is next to the station.

The restaurant is next to the school.

The theater is next to the church.

C'è una banca qui vicino?

un ufficio postale

un supermercato

Dov'è la stazione?

la scuola

l'ospedale

C'è una farmacia in piazza Dante.

C'è una chiesa in via Mazzini.

C'è un cinema in viale Roma.

Il museo è vicino alla stazione.

Il ristorante è vicino alla scuola.

Il teatro è vicino alla chiesa.

TAKE A BREAK 1

You just learned many names of common places you can find **in giro per la città** (*around town*): **banca** (*bank*), **ufficio postale** (*post office*), **supermercato** (*supermarket*), **stazione** (*train station*), **scuola** (*school*), **ospedale** (*hospital*), **farmacia** (*pharmacy*), **chiesa** (*church*), **cinema** (*movie theater*), **museo** (*museum*), **ristorante** (*restaurant*), and **teatro** (*theater*).

To ask directions to these places, you need to know how to ask questions. One way to form questions in Italian is with a simple change in intonation. Compare **C'è una banca qui vicino.** (*There is a bank nearby.*), and **C'è una banca qui vicino?** (*Is there a bank nearby?*): the word order doesn't change, but

in the question version, you can hear the pitch rising at the end of the sentence. Another way to form questions in Italian is to begin a sentence with a question word (the intonation, however, is always important). You also heard the question word **Dove?** (*Where?*), as in **Dov'è la stazione?** (*Where is the train station?*). You'll learn more question words later on. For now, let's add some more vocabulary and learn how to give directions.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

<i>downtown</i>	in centro
<i>straight ahead</i>	sempre dritto
<i>on the left, to the left</i>	(a) sinistra
<i>on the right, to the right</i>	(a) destra
<i>through</i>	per
<i>then</i>	poi
<i>again</i>	ancora
<i>up to</i>	fino a
<i>intersection</i>	incrocio
<i>traffic light</i>	semaforo
<i>near</i>	vicino/vicina/vicini/vicine
<i>far</i>	lontano/lontana/lontani/lontane

TAKE A BREAK 2

When asking directions, don't forget to say **scusi** (fml.) or **scusa** (infml.), meaning *excuse me*. Let's now focus a moment on the word **vicino**, and its different meanings. You can use it as an adverb meaning *next to* or in the expression **qui vicino** (*nearby*). In both cases it is invariable. **Vicino** is also an adjective meaning *near*. When used as an adjective, it will have four forms (**vicino, vicina, vicini, vicine**), and will agree with the noun it is referring to. Compare **la scuola è vicino alla chiesa** (*the school is next to the church*), **la scuola è qui vicino** (*the school is nearby*), and **la scuola è vicina** (*the school is near*).

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's now put everything you've learned so far together in a short exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the Italian, which you should repeat for practice.

This is my hometown.

Questa è la mia città natale.

The bank and the post office are downtown.

La banca e l'ufficio postale sono in centro.

The church is downtown, too.

Anche la chiesa è in centro.

The train station is next to the school.

La stazione è vicina alla scuola.

The hospital is far.

L'ospedale è lontano.

The pharmacy, instead, is near.

La farmacia, invece, è vicina.

There's a movie theater on Mazzini Street.

C'è un cinema in via Mazzini.

And there's a theater in Dante Square.

E c'è un teatro in piazza Dante.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

F: *-Excuse me, where's the Museum of Modern Art?*
-Mi scusi, dov'è il museo di arte moderna?

M: *-It's on Manzoni avenue, next to Beccaria High School.*
-È in viale Manzoni, vicino al liceo Beccaria.

F: *-Is it far?*
-È lontano?

M: *-No, it's nearby. Straight ahead through Mazzini street up to Dante square. Then left on Verdi street, and left again on Manzoni avenue. The Museum is on the right, after the second traffic light.*
-No, è qui vicino. Sempre diritto per via Mazzini fino a piazza Dante. Poi a sinistra in via Verdi e ancora a sinistra in viale Manzoni. Il museo è a destra, dopo il secondo semaforo.

F: *-One more question: is there a good restaurant nearby?*
-Ancora una domanda: c'è un buon ristorante qui vicino?

M: *-Yes, there is an excellent restaurant on Garibaldi street: the family restaurant Buon Appetito ("Enjoy your meal").*
-Sì, c'è un ristorante eccellente in via Garibaldi: la trattoria "Buon appetito".

F: *-And where is Garibaldi street?*
-E dov'è via Garibaldi?

M: *-It's right here: the first street on the right after the intersection between Mazzini Street and Cavour Avenue.*
-È proprio qui: la prima strada a destra dopo l'incrocio tra via Mazzini e corso Cavour.

- Thank you very much! You are very kind.
- F: **-Grazie mille! Lei è molto gentile.**
- No problem! Enjoy your walk and . . . enjoy your dinner!
- M: **-Non c'è di che! Buona passeggiata e . . . buona cena!**

Did you notice the new adjectives used in the dialogue? Some of them belong to the family of adjectives with two endings: **gentile/gentili** (*kind*) and **eccellente/eccellenti** (*excellent*); others belong to the family of numeral adjectives, which always have four endings: **primo/prima/primi/prime** (*first*), and **secondo/seconda/secondi/seconde** (*second*). Finally, you heard the adjective **buono/buona/buoni/buone** (*good*) used in the expression **un buon ristorante** (*a good restaurant*). Before a noun, the adjective **buono** follows the same pattern as the indefinite article—thus **un buon ristorante** and not **un buono ristorante**. The same happens in the expression **buon appetito** (*enjoy your meal*). You can use the appropriate form of **buono** followed by a noun when you want to wish someone well in their plans: **buona passeggiata** (*enjoy your walk, or have a good walk*), **buona cena** (*enjoy your dinner, or have a good dinner*), and so on.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. You'll hear a sentence in English, and you should translate it into Italian. After a pause you'll hear the correct answer, which you can repeat for practice.

<i>straight ahead</i>	sempre dritto
<i>on/to the left</i>	a sinistra
<i>on/to the right</i>	a destra
<i>far</i>	lontano/a/i/e
<i>near</i>	vicino/a/i/e

Now you'll hear a list of objects and people; it's your job to say where you might be able to find them. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause; be sure to repeat it for practice.

gli studenti	la scuola
le opere d'arte (<i>the works of art</i>)	il museo
gli spaghetti	il ristorante
il treno (<i>the train</i>)	la stazione
le medicine (<i>medication, drugs</i>)	la farmacia

PARTING WORDS

Eccellente! *Excellent!* You just finished Lesson 6, in which you learned to ask (and give) directions and talk about the places you can find **in giro per la città** (*around town*).

You improved your vocabulary and learned how to ask and answer basic questions. You also learned more about the adjective **buono** and its uses. Speaking of **buono**, let's mention a few more common expressions that use this word: **buona fortuna** (*good luck*), **buon viaggio** (*have a good trip*), **buon riposo** (*have a good rest*), **buon compleanno** (*happy birthday*), **buon anniversario** (*happy anniversary*), **buone feste** (*happy holidays*), and **buon Natale** (*merry Christmas*).



Settima Lezione: Al ristorante

Lesson 7: At the restaurant

Bentornati! *Welcome back!* In this lesson you will start to learn how to conjugate regular verbs in the simple present. You'll also study food terms and learn how to make polite requests so that you can place your order at a restaurant. As always, we'll start with some vocabulary. Are you ready? You'll hear the English first, and then you'll hear the Italian. Repeat each new phrase every time you hear it.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

<i>the restaurant</i>	il ristorante
<i>the waiter</i>	il cameriere
<i>the waitress</i>	la cameriera
<i>the menu</i>	il menù
<i>the wine list</i>	la lista dei vini
<i>the appetizer</i>	l'antipasto
<i>the first (course)</i>	il primo (piatto)
<i>the main (course)</i>	il secondo (piatto)
<i>the side dish</i>	il contorno
<i>the dessert</i>	il dolce
<i>the fresh fruit</i>	la frutta fresca

the check

the tip

I'll have the grilled fish.

I would like ravioli with meat sauce.

May I have the wine list?

Can I pay by credit card?

il conto

la mancia

Prendo il pesce alla griglia.

Vorrei i ravioli al ragù.

Posso avere la carta dei vini?

Posso pagare con la carta di credito?

TAKE A BREAK 1

In Lesson 6 you learned how to ask directions. Now let's learn how to make a polite request. A very simple and common way is to say **posso** (*can I, may I*), followed by the infinitive of a verb, just like you heard in the examples: **posso pagare con la carta di credito?** (*may I pay by credit card?*), **posso avere la carta dei vini?** (*may I have the wine list?*). Another polite way to ask for something is using the conditional form of the verb **volere** (*to want*): **vorrei** (*I would like*). You won't get as far as the conditional in this course, but if you keep in mind just the first person form (**io vorrei**), you'll make yourself understood and you'll sound very polite, which is always appreciated.

Now let's learn more about the present tense of regular verbs.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

to order

I order

you order (sg., infml.)

you order (sg., fml.)

he/she orders

to take (or, to have, as in an order)

I take, I'll have

you take, you'll have (sg., infml.)

you take, you'll have (sg., fml.)

he takes/she takes, he'll have/she'll have

ordinare

io ordino

tu ordini

Lei ordina

lui/lei ordina

prendere

io prendo

tu prendi

Lei prende

lui/lei prende

TAKE A BREAK 2

Italian verbs are divided into three groups according to their ending in the infinitive: **-are**, **-ere**, and **-ire** verbs. You just heard an example of an **-are** verb, **ordinare** (*to order*), and an **-ere** verb, **prendere** (*to take*). Let's look just at the first (**io**), second (**tu**), and third person (**lui/lei**) conjugation, to begin with. To conjugate the present tense you need to take the stem of the verb (you can do that by taking away the **-are**, **-ere**, or **-ire** endings), and attach the endings of the present tense. The endings for the **io** and **tu** forms in both **-are** and **-ere** verbs are **-o** for the first person (**io ordino**, **io prendo**), and **-i** for the second person (**tu ordini**, **tu prendi**). In the third person, the ending is **-a** for the **-are** verbs (**lui/lei ordina**), and **-e** for the **-ere** verbs (**lui/lei prende**). The **io**, **tu**, and **lui/lei** forms of **-ire** verbs are the same as **-ere** verbs (you'll practice these in the next few lessons). The verbs **pagare** (*to pay for*) and **chiedere** (*to ask for*) are two more examples of **-are** and **-ere** verbs that you might hear at a restaurant, as in **chiedere il conto** (*to ask for the check*).

The Italian present tense can translate not only as the English simple present, but also the future tense, when referring to actions and events that will take place in the near future (**prendo il pesce alla griglia**, *I'll have the grilled fish*).

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's now put everything you've learned so far together in a short exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the Italian, which you should repeat for practice.

We are at an Italian restaurant.

Siamo in un ristorante italiano.

I order ravioli with meat sauce.

Io ordino i ravioli al ragù.

You order grilled fish and mixed salad.

Tu ordini il pesce alla griglia e l'insalata mista.

Maria orders mixed appetizers.

Maria ordina l'antipasto misto.

You ask for dessert and coffee.

Tu chiedi il dolce e il caffè.

Maria asks for the bill.

Maria chiede il conto.

I pay the check by credit card.

Io pago il conto con la carta di credito.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

M: *-Well, Giulia, what are you having?*
-Allora Giulia, che cosa prendi?

F: *-I would like the bruschette of the house.*
-Vorrei le bruschette della casa.

- M: *-And what are you having as a first course?*
-E tu cosa prendi per primo?
- F: *-I'll have the ravioli: they are very good.*
-Prendo i ravioli: sono molto buoni.
- M: *-I, instead, would like the penne with tomato and basil sauce: they're delicious.*
-Io invece vorrei le penne al pomodoro e basilico: sono squisite.
- F: *-Are you having a main course, too?*
-Prendi anche il secondo?
- M: *-Yes, the meat is excellent. I'll have a beefsteak with a side of salad.*
-Sì, la carne è eccellente. Prendo una bistecca con contorno di insalata.
- F: *-Good idea! I instead would like the baked pork with a side of potatoes.*
-Buona idea! Io invece vorrei il maiale al forno con contorno di patate.
- M: *-Shall I order wine, too?*
-Ordino anche il vino?
- F: *-Yes, sure: half a liter of the red (wine) of the house. And a bottle of mineral water without gas.*
-Sì, certo: mezzo litro di (vino) rosso della casa. E una bottiglia di acqua minerale naturale.
- M: *-All right, I will immediately call the waiter.*
-Bene, chiamo subito il cameriere.

You probably noticed there were some new words and adjectives: **pomodoro e basilico** (*tomato and basil*), **la bistecca** (*the beefsteak*), **il maiale al forno** (*the baked pork*), **le patate** (*the potatoes*), **l'acqua minerale** (*the mineral water*), **squisito/squisita/squisiti/squisite** (*delicious*), and **naturale/naturali** (*natural, or non-carbonated when referring to water*). You also heard a new question word: **che cosa?** (*what?*), as in **che cosa prendi?** (*what are you having?*), which can also be shortened into **che** or **cosa** (*che prendi?/cosa prendi?*).

A very useful expression to keep in mind when reading an Italian menu is **della casa** (*of the house*), which means a dish is prepared according to a special recipe created by the chef of that restaurant. You can also have **vino della casa** (*wine of the house*), which usually means a decent-quality wine sold by the pitcher.

WORK OUT

Let's now practice some of the new verbs and vocabulary you've learned. Translate the following sentences into Italian to practice your conjugation of **-are** and **-ere** verbs. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause, which you should repeat for practice.

I order the house wine
you order mineral water
he/she orders a salad
I'll have the steak
you'll have a dessert

(io) ordino il vino della casa
(tu) ordini l'acqua minerale
lui/lei ordina un'insalata
(io) prendo la bistecca
(tu) prendi un dolce

PARTING WORDS

Molto bene! *Very good!* You just finished Lesson 7, in which you learned the regular conjugation of the simple present in the singular, and studied some basic structures to make polite requests. You also learned many food-related words and expressions.

Finally, food plays an extremely important role in Italian lifestyle and culture. Each Italian region has its own cuisine, and food is part of local identity. If you travel to Italy, try to enjoy as many **specialità regionali** (*regional specialties*) as you can: **tortellini** (*a fresh pasta with meat filling*) in Emilia Romagna, **risotto** (*a creamy rice dish*) in Lombardy and Veneto, or **mozzarella di bufala** (*mozzarella cheese made from buffalo milk*) in Campania.



Ottava Lezione: La vita quotidiana

Lesson 8: Everyday life

Ciao! Hi! In this lesson you will continue to study the conjugation of regular verbs in the simple present, and you'll learn the irregular verb **fare** (*to do, to make*). You'll improve your vocabulary and learn to talk about daily life. Finally, you'll study the basic expressions used to talk about the weather. As always, we'll start with some vocabulary. Are you ready? You'll hear the English first, and then you'll hear the Italian. Repeat each new phrase every time you hear it.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

to work
we work in the morning
you (pl.) work in the afternoon
they work in the evening

lavorare
noi lavoriamo la mattina
voi lavorate il pomeriggio
loro lavorano la sera

to live

we live in town

you (pl.) live in the suburbs

they live in the countryside

to leave

we leave by train

you (pl.) leave by bus

they leave by car

vivere

noi viviamo in città

voi vivete in periferia

loro vivono in campagna

partire

noi partiamo in treno

voi partite in autobus

loro partono in automobile

TAKE A BREAK 1

Okay, let's pause for a moment and look at some of these expressions. You just heard the plural forms of the present tense of the verbs **lavorare** (*to work*, first conjugation), **vivere** (*to live*, second conjugation), and **partire** (*to leave*, third conjugation). Did you notice that the ending for the **noi** (*we*) form is the same for all three groups? We say **lavoriamo**, **viviamo**, and **partiamo**, always adding **-iamo** to the infinitive stem. On the contrary, the ending of the **voi** (*you*, plural) form is different for each conjugation: **-ate** for the first (**lavorate**), **-ete** for the second (**vivete**), and **-ite** for the third conjugation (**partite**). The ending for the **loro** (*they*) form is **-ano** for the **-are** verbs (**lavorano**), and **-ono** for both **-ere** and **-ire** verbs (**vivono**, **partono**).

Next, let's learn the present tense of the irregular verb **fare** (*to do, to make*).

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

to make, to do

I do the shopping at the mall

you exercise outdoors

you have breakfast (sg., fml.) at the café

he/she takes a walk

we pay attention

you (pl.) make a good impression

they make friends

What's the weather like?

today, it's nice (weather)

fare

io faccio la spesa al centro commerciale

tu fai ginnastica all'aperto

Lei fa colazione al bar

lui/lei fa un giro a piedi

noi facciamo attenzione

voi fate bella figura

loro fanno amicizia

Che tempo fa?

oggi fa bello

today, it's bad (weather)

oggi fa brutto

it's hot

fa caldo

it's cold

fa freddo

TAKE A BREAK 2

Let's take a short break and focus on the verb **fare** (*to do, to make*). This verb is irregular—it's not conjugated like the regular **-are** verbs. Let's look at how it's conjugated again: **io faccio, tu fai, lui/lei fa, noi facciamo, voi fate, loro fanno**. You may have noticed in the Vocabulary Building section that this verb has several different meanings. In fact, the verb **fare** translates into English as *to do* and *to make*—consider for instance **fare la spesa** (*to do the shopping*, usually referring to grocery shopping)—but **fare** is also used in a number of other expressions: **fare ginnastica** (*to exercise*), **fare colazione** (*to have breakfast*), **fare un giro a piedi** (*to go for a walk*), **fare attenzione** (*to pay attention*), **fare bella figura** (*to make a good impression*), **fare amicizia** (*to make friends*), and many more.

The third person singular of the verb **fare** is also used to make comments about the weather: **fa bello** (*it's nice*), **fa brutto** (*it's bad*), **fa caldo** (*it's hot*), **fa freddo** (*it's cold*). Finally, if you want to ask what the weather is like, simply say **che tempo fa?**

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's now put everything you've learned so far together in a short exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the Italian, which you should repeat for practice.

Today, it's nice.

Oggi fa bello.

We live in town.

Noi viviamo in città.

We take a walk.

Facciamo un giro a piedi.

Today, it's bad.

Oggi fa brutto.

You (pl.) live in the suburbs.

Voi vivete in periferia.

You do the shopping at the mall.

Fate la spesa al centro commerciale.

Today, it's hot.

Oggi fa caldo.

They live in the countryside.

Loro vivono in campagna.

They exercise outdoors.

Fanno ginnastica all'aperto.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

Mario and I live in Milan.

We work in a boutique on Montenapoleone Street.

We always make a good impression on our customers.

You and Valeria live in New York City.

You (pl.) read the Corriere della Sera every day.

Lucio and Nicolina live and work in Rome.

In the morning they often have breakfast at a café.

In the afternoon Lucio usually does the shopping and Nicolina exercises.

In the evening they often take a walk downtown.

Sometimes they make friends with the foreign tourists.

Io e Mario viviamo a Milano.

Lavoriamo in una boutique in via Montenapoleone.

Facciamo sempre bella figura con i nostri clienti.

Tu e Valeria vivete a New York.

Leggete il Corriere della Sera tutti i giorni.

Lucio e Nicolina vivono e lavorano a Roma.

Spesso la mattina fanno colazione al bar.

Di solito il pomeriggio Lucio fa la spesa e Nicolina fa ginnastica.

Spesso la sera fanno un giro a piedi in centro.

A volte fanno amicizia con turisti stranieri.

As usual, in the passage you just heard there were some new words like **clienti** (*customers*), **turisti** (*tourists*), and the **voi** form of the regular **-ere** verb **leggere** (*to read*): **leggete**. You probably noticed there were some frequency adverbs and expressions, too: **sempre** (*always*), **tutti i giorni** (*every day*), **spesso** (*often*), **di solito** (*usually*), **a volte** (*sometimes*). Try to memorize at least some of them and you'll be able to express your thoughts more accurately.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of the new verbs and vocabulary you've learned. You'll hear a list of sentences in English; translate them into Italian. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause, which you should repeat for practice.

we work in the afternoon

you (pl.) work in a bank

you (pl.) live in the countryside

you (pl.) leave by train

they work in the morning

they live in the suburbs

What's the weather like?

lavoriamo il pomeriggio

lavorate in una banca

vivete in campagna

partite in treno

lavorano la mattina

vivono in periferia

Che tempo fa?

it's nice (weather) and (it's) hot

fa bello e fa caldo

it's bad and (it's) cold

fa brutto e fa freddo

Now you'll hear two parts of a sentence. All that's missing is the correct form of **fare**. Answer in a complete sentence to bring all the parts together. Listen first to the example.

Lei, amicizia con i turisti.

Lei fa amicizia con i turisti.

Now you try!

Io e Susy, la spesa.

Io e Susy facciamo la spesa.

Tu e Becky, un giro a piedi.

Tu e Becky fate un giro a piedi.

Tu, spesso colazione al bar.

Tu fai spesso colazione al bar.

Mario e Anna, ginnastica all'aperto tutti i giorni.

Mario e Anna fanno ginnastica all'aperto tutti i giorni.

Io, sempre bella figura.

Io faccio sempre bella figura.

PARTING WORDS

Benissimo! *Wonderful!* You just finished Lesson 8, in which you studied the regular conjugation of the simple present in the plural, and learned how to talk about daily life.

You also studied the simple present of the irregular verb **fare**, and learned some of its many meanings. Finally, you learned some basic expressions used to talk about the weather.

You'll keep practicing the simple present conjugation in the last two lessons.



Nona Lezione: Al lavoro

Lesson 9: At work

Bentornati! *Welcome back!* In this lesson, you'll keep practicing the present tense, you'll learn the simple present of the irregular verb **andare** (*to go*), and you'll study the negative form. You'll also study the days of the week, and you'll learn how to tell time in Italian. Finally, you'll study and practice the basic words and expressions to talk about jobs and professions. Are you ready to start right now with some new

vocabulary? You'll hear the English first, and then you'll hear the Italian. Repeat each new phrase every time you hear it.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

to work from Monday to Friday

lavorare dal lunedì al venerdì

I work on Mondays and Thursdays

io lavoro il lunedì e il giovedì

you work on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

tu lavori il martedì, il mercoledì, e il venerdì

he/she doesn't work on Saturdays and Sundays

lui/lei non lavora il sabato e la domenica

What's the time?

Che ora è? Che ore sono?

it's noon

è mezzogiorno

it's midnight

è mezzanotte

it's 1:00 a.m.

è l'una di notte

it's 11:15 a.m.

sono le undici e un quarto di mattina

TAKE A BREAK 1

In the example sentences, you heard the days of the week in Italian (which, by the way, are not capitalized): **lunedì, martedì, mercoledì** (*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday*), **giovedì, venerdì** (*Thursday, Friday*), **sabato, domenica** (*Saturday, Sunday*). The Italian week begins with **lunedì** (*Monday*) and ends with **domenica** (*Sunday*). To say *on Mondays* or *on Tuesdays*, you need to say the day of the week in the singular accompanied by the definite article: **il lunedì, il martedì**.

Finally, you heard how to ask and tell the time. Let's quickly review that. To ask the time, say **Che ora è?** or **Che ore sono?**, using either the singular or the plural form. In the answer, instead, you'll use the singular form only in the expressions **è mezzogiorno** (*it's noon*), **è mezzanotte** (*it's midnight*), and **è l'una** (*it's one o'clock*). In every other case you'll say **sono le** (*lit., they are the*) followed by the number indicating the hour of the day: **sono le due, sono le tre, sono le quattro** (*it's two, it's three, it's four*). Also keep in mind that instead of *p.m.* and *a.m.*, in Italian you'll say **di mattina** (*in the morning, from 4 to 11 a.m.*), **di pomeriggio** (*in the afternoon, from 1 to 5 p.m.*), **di sera** (*in the evening, from 6 to 11 p.m.*), or **di notte** (*in the night, from midnight to 3 a.m.*). Finally, **un quarto** means *a quarter*, and **mezza** (when used with **ora**) or **mezzo** (when used with a specific time) mean *a half (hour)*.

Il viaggio è durato due ore e mezza.

The trip lasted two and a half hours.

Ci vediamo alle sette e mezzo.

Let's meet at 7:30.

Finally, it's important to know that in Italy, like in many other European countries, in official time-schedules the day is divided into 24 hours. Therefore, if you hear someone say: **Prendiamo l'aereo alle 21:00 (ventuno)**, that means they are taking the 9:00 p.m. flight. In lesson 3, you studied the numbers from one to twelve; here is a list of the numbers from thirteen to twenty: **tredici** (*thirteen*), **quattordici** (*fourteen*), **quindici** (*fifteen*), **sedici** (*sixteen*), **diciassette** (*seventeen*), **diciotto** (*eighteen*), **diciannove** (*nineteen*), and **venti** (*twenty*). From twenty on you'll just combine **venti** with **uno, due**, etc., to form **ventuno, ventidue, ventitré, ventiquattro**, and so on.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

<i>the teacher (male or female)</i>	l'insegnante
<i>the artist (male or female)</i>	l'artista
<i>the vendor (male)</i>	il commerciante
<i>the vendor (female)</i>	la commerciante
<i>the clerk (male)</i>	l'impiegato
<i>the clerk (female)</i>	l'impiegata
<i>the worker (male)</i>	l'operaio
<i>the worker (female)</i>	l'operaia
<i>the businessman</i>	l'imprenditore
<i>the businesswoman</i>	l'imprenditrice
<i>I am a professor (male)</i>	sono un professore
<i>I am a professor (female)</i>	sono una professoressa
<i>you are a doctor (male)</i>	sei un dottore
<i>you are a doctor</i>	sei una dottoressa
<i>he is a medical doctor</i>	lui fa il medico
<i>she is a medical doctor</i>	lei fa il medico
<i>I am a lawyer</i>	faccio l'avvocato
<i>you are an engineer (male or female)</i>	fai l'ingegnere
<i>he is an architect</i>	lui fa l'architetto
<i>she is an architect</i>	lei fa l'architetto

TAKE A BREAK 2

Okay, let's pause for a moment and make some comments. You just heard several new words related to jobs and professions. Did you pay attention to the gender? Some of them, like **insegnante** (*teacher*), **artista** (*artist*), or **commerciante** (*vendor*), can be used for both masculine and feminine (but don't ever forget to use the correct article). In most cases, you'll have one form for the masculine and one for the feminine: **impiegato** and **impiegata** (*male and female clerk*), **operaio** and **operaia** (*male and female worker*), **imprenditore** and **imprenditrice** (*businessman and businesswoman*), **professore** and **professoressa** (*male and female professor*), **dottore** and **dottoressa** (*male and female doctor*). However, for some professions (like **medico**, **avvocato**, **ingegnere**, and **architetto**), which used to be traditionally considered "masculine professions," you'll use the masculine form even if you are talking about a woman: **Maria fa l'architetto** (*Maria is an architect*).

By the way, did you notice that the English *I am + profession* can be translated into Italian with the verb **essere** followed by the indefinite article (**sono un medico**), or with the verb **fare** followed by the definite article (**faccio il medico**)? The meaning is exactly the same, so you can choose (and use) the form you like better.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's now put everything you've learned so far together in a short exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the Italian, which you should repeat for practice.

My name is Mike.

Mi chiamo Mike.

I am an architect.

Sono un architetto.

I work from Monday to Friday.

Lavoro dal lunedì al venerdì.

Sometimes I work on Saturdays.

A volte lavoro il sabato.

I don't usually work on Sundays.

Di solito non lavoro la domenica.

My wife is a (medical) doctor.

Mia moglie fa il medico.

She works at 7:30 a.m.

Lavora alle sette e mezza di mattina.

Our children don't go to work.

I nostri figli non vanno a lavorare.

They don't work because they are students.

Non lavorano perché sono studenti.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

M: *-Good morning Laura, where are you going?*
-Buon giorno Laura, dove vai?

- I'm going to work.
- F: **-Vado al lavoro.**
- At 10:30 a.m.!? You are really lucky.
- M: **-Alle dieci e mezza di mattina!? Sei proprio fortunata.**
- Actually, I usually work from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. But on Tuesdays I have shorter working hours, from 10:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. And you? What time are you going to work today?
- F: **-Veramente di solito lavoro dalle otto e un quarto di mattina alle cinque di pomeriggio. Però il martedì faccio orario ridotto: dalle undici meno un quarto alle tre. E tu? A che ora vai al lavoro oggi?**
- Well, this week I am not working. I am on vacation.
- M: **-Beh, questa settimana non lavoro. Sono in ferie.**
- And what are you doing still here? Aren't you going out of town?
- F: **-E che ci fai ancora qui? Non vai fuori città?**
- Unfortunately my wife is working until Thursday. She is a lawyer and is always very busy.
- M: **-Puttrotto mia moglie lavora fino a giovedì. Lei fa l'avvocato ed è sempre molto impegnata.**
- Then you are leaving on Friday . . .
- F: **-Allora partite venerdì . . .**
- Actually we are leaving on Thursday evening. We'll take the plane at 9:00 p.m. and go to Paris for the weekend.
- M: **-Veramente partiamo giovedì sera. Prendiamo l'aereo alle 21:00 e andiamo a Parigi per il fine settimana.**
- Lucky you (good for you): Paris is such a romantic city!
- F: **-Beati voi: Parigi è una città così romantica!**

You just heard a new verb: the irregular verb **andare** (to go). This verb has an irregular conjugation: **io vado, tu vai, lui/lei va, noi andiamo, voi andate, loro vanno**. Basically, the endings are regular, but the stem is not. In fact, you have **vad-** for the first person singular (**io vado**), **and-** for the first and second person plural (**noi andiamo, voi andate**), and **va-** for the other forms (**tu vai, lui/lei va, loro vanno**).

You also heard some new expressions: **l'orario ridotto** (the shorter working hours), **in ferie** (on vacation), and **fuori città** (out of town).

You also heard the expression **dalle . . . alle . . .** (from . . . to . . .): **Di solito lavoro dalle otto e un quarto di mattina alle cinque di pomeriggio.** (I usually work from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). This is a useful expression when talking about time periods.

Did you pay attention to the many examples of negative forms in the dialogue you just listened to, as well as in the rest of the lesson? It's very easy to make an Italian sentence negative: just put **non** (not) before

the verb: **questa settimana non lavoro** (*I am not working this week*). The same happens if you want to make a negative question: **Non vai fuori città?** (*Aren't you going out of town?*).

WORK OUT

Let's now practice some of the new verbs and vocabulary you've learned. You'll hear a list of sentences in English, and you should say their Italian equivalent using **fare** in the present tense. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause, which you should repeat for practice.

I am a medical doctor

(io) faccio il medico

you (sg.) are a lawyer

(tu) fai l'avvocato

he/she is an artist

(lui/lei) fa l'artista

we are engineers

(noi) facciamo gli ingegneri

you (pl.) are professors

(voi) fate i professori

they are clerks

(loro) fanno gli impiegati

Now complete the following sentences with the negative form of **andare** in the simple present. After a pause you'll hear the right answer. Don't forget to repeat that for practice.

Lei _____ al lavoro in autobus.

Lei non va al lavoro in autobus.

Io e Jeff _____ al lavoro alle otto di mattina.

Io e Jeff non andiamo al lavoro alle otto di mattina.

Tu e Suzy _____ al lavoro il sabato pomeriggio.

Tu e Suzy non andate al lavoro il sabato pomeriggio.

Di solito tu _____ al lavoro in treno.

Di solito tu non vai al lavoro in treno.

Maria e Paolo _____ al lavoro alle otto meno un quarto.

Maria e Paolo non vanno al lavoro alle otto meno un quarto.

Io _____ al lavoro a piedi.

Io non vado al lavoro a piedi.

PARTING WORDS

Perfetto! Great! You just finished Lesson 9, in which you studied the simple present of the irregular verb **andare** (*to go*), and learned the negative form. You also learned how to ask and tell the time, and the days of the week. Finally, you enriched your vocabulary with words related to jobs and professions. By the way, in Italy, it's very common to address someone by his or her professional or academic title (often followed by someone's last name): **Buona sera, architetto!**, **Buon giorno, avvocato Boccagna!**, **ArrivederLa,**

dottoressa Valoroso! The most frequently used titles are **dottore** and **dottoressa**: in fact, they can be used for anyone who has earned a university degree.



Decima Lezione: La vita sociale

Lesson 10: Socializing

Benvenuti alla decima e ultima lezione! Welcome to the tenth and final lesson! In this lesson you'll learn how to talk about your likes and dislikes using indirect object pronouns and the verb **piacere** (*to like*). You'll also study the conjugation of **-ire** verbs, such as **preferire** (*to prefer*). You'll also learn plenty of the vocabulary related to sports and entertainment.

Let's immediately start with the verb **piacere**. You'll hear the English first, and then you'll hear the Italian. Repeat each new phrase every time you hear it.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

I like the movies

mi piace il cinema

I don't like love stories

non mi piacciono le storie d'amore

you (sg., infml.) like theater

ti piace il teatro

you (sg., fml.) don't like classical music concerts

non Le piacciono i concerti di musica classica

he likes pop music

gli piace la musica pop

she likes British bands

le piacciono i gruppi inglesi

we like traveling

ci piace viaggiare

we don't like expensive hotels

non ci piacciono gli alberghi costosi

you (pl.) like dancing

vi piace ballare

you (pl.) like Latin American dancing

vi piacciono i balli latinoamericani

they like reading

gli piace leggere

they like contemporary novels

gli piacciono i romanzi contemporanei

TAKE A BREAK 1

Before we learn how to use **piacere**, let's quickly review the forms of the indirect pronouns: **mi** (*to me*), **ti** (*to you, informal*), **Le** (*to you, formal*), **gli** (*to him*), **le** (*to her*), **ci** (*to us*), **vi** (*to you, plural*), **gli** (*to them*). Note that **gli** can translate as both *to him* and *to them*. Indirect pronouns are always placed before the verb.

The structure of the verb **piacere** (*to like*) is similar to the English *to be pleasing to*. Whoever or whatever is being liked is the subject of the sentence, and the person who is doing the liking is the indirect object. When the indirect object is expressed by a noun, it is always preceded by the preposition **a**: **a Maria piace il libro** (*the book is pleasing to Maria/Maria likes the book*). If you are using indirect object pronouns, like in the example you just heard, the preposition is not needed: **le piace il libro** (*the book is pleasing to her/she likes the book*). **Piacere** always agrees with the subject—the object of affection—so you have **ci piace la musica** (*we like music*), but **ci piacciono i concerti** (*we like concerts*). When **piacere** is followed by an infinitive, it is always in the third person singular: **ti piace leggere** (*you like reading*). To express dislikes, just add **non** (*not*) before the indirect pronoun: **non ci piacciono gli alberghi costosi** (*we don't like expensive hotels*). When using a noun or proper name, place **non** right before the verb: **a Maria non piace il cinema** (*Maria doesn't like movies*).

Finally, the subject in this construction is always preceded by the definite article: **le piace il teatro** (*she likes theater*), **ci piacciono i romanzi contemporanei** (*we like contemporary novels*). However, when the subject is a verb in the infinitive, the article isn't necessary: **vi piace ballare** (*you, plural, like dancing*).

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

to prefer

I prefer to run

to swim

to play tennis

to ride a bike

to watch sports on TV

basketball

soccer

to understand

I don't understand American football

to finish

the game ends at midnight

preferire

(io) preferisco correre

nuotare

giocare a tennis

andare in bicicletta

guardare lo sport in televisione

la pallacanestro (il basket)

il calcio

capire

(io) non capisco il football americano

finire

la partita finisce a mezzanotte

TAKE A BREAK 2

Okay, let's pause for a moment. You just heard the conjugation of **preferire** (*to prefer*). **Preferire** is not exactly irregular, but its conjugation is somewhat different from the **-ire** verbs you studied in lessons 7 and 8, like **partire**. The endings are the same as for **partire**, but the stem is modified in all forms, except in the first and second person plural, by adding **-isc-** before the regular endings. Let's review all the forms: **io preferisco, tu preferisci, lui/lei preferisce, noi preferiamo, voi preferite, loro preferiscono**.

Preferire is usually followed either by a noun: **preferisco il calcio** (*I prefer soccer*), or by a verb in the infinitive: **preferisci correre** (*you prefer to run*).

Three more verbs that are conjugated like **preferire** are **capire** (*to understand*), **finire** (*to end, to finish*), and **pulire** (*to clean*).

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's now put everything you've learned so far together in a short exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the Italian, which you should repeat for practice.

I like sports.

Mi piace lo sport.

I prefer soccer.

Preferisco il calcio.

But I like tennis and basketball, too.

Ma mi piacciono anche il tennis e la pallacanestro.

I don't understand American football.

Non capisco il football americano.

You, instead, prefer to watch sports on TV.

Tu, invece, preferisci guardare lo sport alla televisione.

But you don't like soccer games.

Ma non ti piacciono le partite di calcio.

You like theater.

Ti piace il teatro.

And you like concerts of classical music.

E ti piacciono i concerti di musica classica.

I, instead, prefer pop music.

Io, invece, preferisco la musica pop.

I like British bands.

Mi piacciono i gruppi inglesi.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

My family and I have many interests.

Io e i miei familiari abbiamo molti interessi.

My son Michael loves winter sports.

Mio figlio Michael ama gli sport invernali.

He likes skiing a lot.

He prefers cross-country skiing, but he likes alpine skiing, too.

Snow is his passion.

My daughter Jane doesn't like snow; she prefers the sea.

She likes swimming and sailing.

My husband and I, instead, are not athletic people.

We prefer to watch sports on TV.

We like movies a lot.

I prefer comedies and my husband prefers action movies.

But we share (lit., have in common) a passion for Roberto Benigni's movies.

Gli piace molto sciare.

Preferisce lo sci di fondo, ma gli piace anche lo sci alpino.

La neve è la sua passione.

A mia figlia Jane non piace la neve, preferisce il mare.

Le piace nuotare e andare in barca a vela.

Io e mio marito, invece, non siamo persone sportive.

Preferiamo guardare lo sport alla televisione.

Ci piace molto il cinema.

Io preferisco le commedie e mio marito preferisce i film d'azione.

Però abbiamo in comune la passione per i film di Roberto Benigni.

You just heard some new words and expressions: **interessi** (*interests*), **la passione per** (*a passion for*), **avere in comune** (*to share*), **sci di fondo** (*cross-country skiing*), **sci alpino** (*alpine skiing*), and **andare in barca a vela** (*to sail*).

Amare (*to love*) is used similarly to **preferire**: it can be followed either by a noun (**mio figlio ama gli sport invernali**/*my son loves winter sports*) or by a verb in the infinitive (**mia figlia ama nuotare**/*my daughter loves swimming*).

Finally, remember you can formulate your likes (and dislikes) in a more nuanced way by adding adverbs like **molto** (*a lot*), **un poco** (*a little*), **abbastanza** (*fairly*), or **così così** (*so-so*) right after **piacere**: **mi piace molto/mi piace un poco/mi piace abbastanza/mi piace così così**.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of the new verbs and vocabulary you've learned. Translate the following sentences into Italian using **piacere**. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause, which you should repeat for practice.

You like swimming.

We like soccer games.

I like music.

Ti piace nuotare.

Ci piacciono le partite di calcio.

Mi piace la musica.

I don't like British bands.

She likes novels.

They don't like dancing.

You (fml.) like theater.

You (pl.) don't like comedies.

Non mi piacciono i gruppi inglesi.

Le piacciono i romanzi.

Non gli piace ballare.

Le piace il teatro.

Non vi piacciono le commedie.

Form a complete sentence using the appropriate form of **preferire**, **capire**, or **finire** in the simple present (you'll use each verb more than once). Listen first to the example.

La partita di calcio, alle cinque.

La partita di calcio finisce alle cinque.

Now you try.

Io e Martin, gli sport invernali.

Io e Martin preferiamo gli sport invernali.

Tu, il teatro contemporaneo.

Tu capisci il teatro contemporaneo.

Tu e Mara, il nuoto e la barca a vela.

Tu e Mara preferite il nuoto e la barca a vela.

Gli americani non, il calcio!

Gli americani non capiscono il calcio!

Io, il lavoro e vado al cinema con Kate.

Io finisco il lavoro e vado al cinema con Kate.

PARTING WORDS

Molto bene! Wonderful! You finished the last lesson. In this lesson, you studied the structure of **piacere** (*to like*), and learned the indirect pronouns. You also learned how to express your likes and dislikes, and studied the simple present of **-isc-** verbs, such as **capire** (*to understand*). Finally, you enriched your vocabulary with words related to sports and entertainment.

Most importantly, by completing this lesson you've also completed this audio course. Be sure to go back and review the lessons as many times as you want; the more you practice, the better you'll get. Until then, **complimenti . . . e arrivederci in Italia!** *Congratulations . . . and see you in Italy!*



Dialogues

Benvenuto! *Welcome!* Here's your chance to practice all the vocabulary and grammar you've mastered in ten lessons of *Starting Out in Italian* with these five dialogues.

You'll hear the dialogue first in Italian at a conversational pace. Listen carefully for meaning. Can you get the gist of the conversation? Next, you'll hear each sentence individually, first in Italian and then in English. This should help fill in any gaps in understanding you had the first time. Finally, you'll do some role-play by taking part in the same conversation. You'll first hear the native speaker say a line from the dialogue, then you'll respond appropriately in the pause provided.

Have fun!

DIALOGUE 1: INTRODUCTIONS

- Maria: **Ciao, mi chiamo Maria, e tu?**
Hi, my name's Maria, and you?
- Steven: **Mi chiamo Steven. Molto piacere!**
My name's Steven. Nice to meet you!
- Maria: **Piacere mio.**
Nice to meet you, too.
- Steven: **Come stai, Maria?**
How are you, Maria?
- Maria: **Molto bene, grazie. E tu come stai?**
Very well, thank you. And how are you?
- Steven: **Così così.**
So-so.
- Maria: **Io sono italiana. Sono di Milano, e tu?**
I'm Italian. I'm from Milan, and you?
- Steven: **Io sono di New York, ma ho una madre italiana. Lei è di Venezia.**
I'm from New York, but I have an Italian mother. She's from Venice.
- Maria: **Hai un fratello o una sorella?**
Do you have a brother or a sister?
- Steven: **Ho una sorella: Margaux. Lei è una dottoressa.**
I have a sister: Margaux. She's a doctor.

- Maria: **Hai una famiglia piccola!**
You have a small family!
- Steven: **E tu hai una sorella o un fratello?**
And do you have a sister or a brother?
- Maria: **Io ho una sorella, Elena, e un fratello, Marco. Marco è un poliziotto e Elena è una studentessa.**
I have a sister, Elena, and a brother, Marco. Marco is a police officer and Elena is a student.
- Steven: **Anche io sono uno studente. E tu?**
I'm a student too. And you?
- Maria: **Io sono una professoressa e ho una figlia piccola: Martina.**
I'm a professor and I have a little girl: Martina.
- Steven: **Hai anche un nipote o una nipote?**
Do you also have a nephew or a niece?
- Maria: **Ho un nipote, Giorgio, il figlio di Marco. E tu?**
I have a nephew, Giorgio. He's Marco's son. And you?
- Steven: **No, ma ho una nonna, uno zio, un cugino e una cugina.**
No, but I have a grandmother, an uncle, (and) a male and a female cousin.
- Maria: **Arrivederci, Steven.**
Good-bye, Steven.
- Steven: **Ciao ciao, Maria. Buona serata!**
Bye-bye, Maria. Be well!
- Maria: **Grazie mille. A presto.**
Thank you very much. See you later.

DIALOGUE 2: A BUSY FAMILY

- Greta: **Sei solo in casa oggi? Dov'è Marco?**
Are you alone at home today? Where is Marco?
- Peter: **È in camera sua con Marina e Franco, due amici di scuola.**
He is in his room with Marina and Franco, two friends from school.
- Greta: **E Marisa dov'è? È in giardino?**
And where's Marisa? Is she in the garden?
- Peter: **No, è in camera da letto. Ha sonno e ha bisogno di fare un pisolino.**
No, she is in the bedroom. She is sleepy and needs a nap.
- Greta: **Anche io ho sonno . . .**
I am sleepy, too . . .

- Peter: **Hai voglia di un caffè?**
Do you feel like having a coffee?
- Greta: **Sì, grazie. Ho proprio bisogno di un caffè.**
Yes, please. I really need a coffee.
- Peter: **Ecco le tazze e il caffè. Ma dov'è lo zucchero?**
Here are the cups and coffee. But where's the sugar?
- Greta: **Forse è in cucina.**
Maybe it's in the kitchen.
- Peter: **Hai ragione. Ecco lo zucchero.**
You're right. Here is the sugar.
- Greta: **I libri in soggiorno sono di Marco vero?**
The books in the living room belong to Marco (are Marco's), right?
- Peter: **Veramente sono di Marina, l'amica di Marco.**
Actually, they belong to Marina, Marco's friend.
- Greta: **La madre di Marina si chiama Teresa vero?**
The name of Marina's mother is Teresa, right?
- Peter: **Sì, hai ragione, si chiama proprio Teresa.**
Yes, you're right: her name is actually Teresa.
- Greta: **Lei è amica di mio cugino Paolo.**
She is friends with my cousin Paolo.
- Peter: **Hai voglia di un altro caffè?**
Do you feel like having one more coffee?
- Greta: **Grazie mille, ma ho fretta. Ho bisogno di essere a casa per le sette e sono già in ritardo.**
Thanks a lot, but I am in a hurry. I have to be home by seven and I am already late.
- Peter: **Ma tu sei sempre in ritardo!**
Well, you are always late!
- Greta: **Non sono d'accordo. Purtroppo quando io sono puntuale tutti gli altri sono in ritardo!!!**
I don't agree! Unfortunately, when I'm on time, everyone else is late!!!

DIALOGUE 3: A VISIT WITH A FRIEND

- Marco: **Il tuo nuovo soggiorno è proprio bello: un divano rosso, un tavolo grande e quattro sedie verdi!**
Your new living room is really nice: a red couch, a big table, and four green chairs!

- Gina: **Veramente soltanto il divano è nuovo, le sedie e il tavolo sono vecchi.**
Actually, only the couch is new; the chairs and table are old.
- Marco: **Vecchi?**
Old?
- Gina: **Sì, sono di mia nonna Maria. Lei ha un nuovo appartamento ma è un po' piccolo per tutti i suoi mobili.**
Yes, they belong to my grandmother Maria. She has a new apartment, but it's a little small for all her furniture.
- Marco: **Tua nonna è molto simpatica! Mia nonna, invece, è un po' stressata.**
Your grandma is very nice! My grandmother, instead, is a little stressed.
- Gina: **Anche io sono un po' stressata!**
I am a little stressed, too!
- Marco: **Forse hai bisogno di una piccola pausa. Hai voglia di fare una passeggiata in centro?**
Maybe you need a little break. Do you feel like taking a walk downtown?
- Gina: **È una buona idea. C'è una bella mostra al museo di arte moderna.**
Good idea. There's a beautiful exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art.
- Marco: **Ma dov'è il museo? In viale Roma?**
But where's the museum? (Is it) On Roma Avenue?
- Gina: **No, in viale Roma c'è la biblioteca. Il museo è in piazza Verdi, vicino all'ufficio postale.**
No, on Roma Avenue there's the library. The museum is in Verdi Square, by the post office.
- Marco: **È un po' lontano per una passeggiata. C'è un autobus per piazza Verdi?**
It's a little far for a walk. Is there a bus to Verdi Square?
- Gina: **No, ma c'è un autobus per via Giulio Cesare.**
No, but there's a bus to Giulio Cesare Street.
- Marco: **E poi?**
And then?
- Gina: **Beh, via Giulio Cesare è molto vicina a piazza Verdi. È una passeggiata piacevole.**
Well, Giulio Cesare Street is very close to Verdi Square. It's a pleasant walk.
- Marco: **È vero! Sempre dritto e poi a destra per via Mazzini.**
That's right! Straight ahead and then left through Mazzini Street.
- Gina: **A proposito, in via Mazzini c'è una eccellente caffetteria. Anche il loro gelato è molto buono.**
By the way, on Mazzini Street there's an excellent coffee shop. Their ice cream is very good, too.

Marco: **Molto bene. Ecco il nostro programma antistress per il pomeriggio: prima un buon gelato e poi il museo.**
Very well. Here is our anti-stress afternoon program: first a good ice cream and then the museum.

DIALOGUE 4: DINING OUT

Jeff: **Allora Vera, sei pronta per ordinare?**
Well, Vera, are you ready to order?

Vera: **Veramente sono un po' indecisa. Tu cosa prendi?**
Actually I'm a bit undecided. What are you having?

Jeff: **Prendo l'antipasto della casa e le fettuccine al pomodoro.**
I'll have the appetizer of the house and the fettuccine with tomato sauce.

Vera: **Prendi anche il secondo?**
Are you having a main course, as well?

Jeff: **Forse prendo il pesce alla griglia: è delizioso!**
Maybe I'll have the grilled fish: it's delicious.

Vera: **Buona idea! Prendo anch'io il pesce alla griglia.**
Good idea! I'll have the grilled fish, too.

Jeff: **E per primo?**
And as a first course?

Vera: **No, io non prendo il primo. Ordino solo una bella insalata verde per contorno.**
No, I am not having a first course. I'll just have a nice green salad as a side dish.

Jeff: **Ordiniamo anche del vino bianco?**
Shall we order some white wine, too?

Vera: **Sì certo, ma solo un po'. Questa sera lavoro fino a tardi perché domani io e Mike partiamo per la Toscana.**
Yes, sure, but just a little bit. This evening, I am working late because tomorrow, Mike and I are leaving for Tuscany.

Jeff: **Fate una vacanza?**
Are you going on vacation?

Vera: **Sì, ma solo per pochi giorni.**
Yes, but just for a few days.

Jeff: **Che bello! Io e Suzy invece lavoriamo domani e sabato. Però domenica, se fa bello, facciamo una gita a Rimini.**
How nice! Suzy and I, instead, are working tomorrow and Saturday. But on Sunday, if it's nice, we'll take a trip to Rimini.

- Vera: **Ho molti parenti a Rimini. I miei cugini vivono in centro e la sorella di mia madre vive al porto, vicino al famoso ristorante “Il capitano”.**
I have many relatives in Rimini. My cousins live downtown, and my mother's sister lives at the harbor, next to the famous restaurant Il Capitano.
- Jeff: **A proposito, è ora di ordinare la nostra cena.**
By the way, it's time to order our dinner.
- Vera: **Hai ragione. Ecco la cameriera!**
You're right. Here comes the waitress!

DIALOGUE 5: A NIGHT AT THE THEATER

- Avvocato Santi: **Buona sera professoressa Marini!**
Good evening, Professor Marini!
- Dottoressa Marini: **Buona sera avvocato Santi, anche Lei a teatro!**
Good evening, Counselor Santi, you're at the theater too!
- Avvocato Santi: **Sì, il teatro è la mia passione. Di solito vado a teatro il giovedì sera, ma questa settimana ho un appuntamento di lavoro fuori città e quindi sono qui di martedì.**
Yes, theater is my passion. I usually go to the theater on Thursdays, but this week I will be out of town for a meeting, and so I am here on a Tuesday.
- Dottoressa Marini: **Capisco. Io invece preferisco il martedì perché il mercoledì faccio orario ridotto: dalle due alle sei di pomeriggio.**
I see. I prefer Tuesdays, instead, since on Wednesdays, I have a shorter working shift: from two to six p.m.
- Avvocato Santi: **Le piace lo spettacolo di questa sera?**
How do you like tonight's show?
- Dottoressa Marini: **Francamente non mi piace molto. Amo Shakespeare, ma preferisco le versioni tradizionali, non mi piacciono le ambientazioni moderne.**
Frankly, I don't like it very much. I love Shakespeare, but I prefer traditional versions; I don't like modern settings.
- Avvocato Santi: **Sì, sono d'accordo, però gli attori sono molto bravi. Romeo e Mercuzio mi piacciono molto.**
Yes, I agree, however, the actors are very talented. I really like Romeo and Mercutio.
- Dottoressa Marini: **Le piace anche Giulietta?**
Do you like Juliet, too?
- Avvocato Santi: **No, lei non mi piace. Parla troppo veloce.**
No, I don't like her. She speaks too fast.

Dottoressa Marini: **Beh, l'intervallo finisce tra cinque minuti. Forse abbiamo tempo di prendere qualcosa da bere.**

Well, the intermission is up in five minutes. Maybe we have time for a drink.

Avvocato Santi: **Buona idea! A proposito, a che ora finisce la seconda parte dello spettacolo?**

Good idea! By the way, when does the second act finish?

Dottoressa Marini: **Intorno a mezzanotte.**

Around midnight.

Avvocato Santi: **Ma adesso sono le dieci meno un quarto!**

But it's (only) a quarter to ten right now!

Dottoressa Marini: **Adesso forse anche Lei capisce perché io preferisco le messinscene tradizionali!**

Maybe now you too understand why I prefer traditional stagings!

You've come to the end of *Starting Out in Italian*. We hope you've enjoyed your experience and plan to take your study of Italian even further. For more information on other Living Language Italian courses, visit www.livinglanguage.com