

Collins

Learn Italian

WITH —

Paul Noble



Review booklet

Collins Learn Italian with Paul Noble

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The Paul Noble Method

Over the years, I have taught many, many people. Curiously, they have each had much the same story to tell regarding their previous experiences of language learning. As a result, these days, when I first start a teaching session, I ask my students to raise their hands if they have had any of the following experiences.

Raise your hand, I say:

- **If you studied a language for several years at school but came out unable to really say anything.**
- **If you have ever bought a language course and given up around page thirty, somewhere around chapter two.**
- **If you have ever felt more confused by a teacher's explanation of the language than by the language itself.**
- **If you have ever been amazed by just how closely grammar books resemble furniture assembly instructions.**
- **If you have ever felt that you may in fact be more or less incapable of learning a foreign language.**

Invariably, all the students soon have at least one hand in the air – and they laugh. They laugh because for some reason our language-learning experiences tend to be very similar and, sadly, these similar experiences tend not to be very good ones.

My own initial experiences of language learning were also uncannily similar to those described above. In fact, when I ask my students these questions, my own hand is the first to go up – and it stays up until we have gone through them all.

However, these less than positive experiences have had an upside both for myself and for those individuals I have taught because they, along with a number of other factors, have helped inform and shape the method that will be used during this course.

Using this method, you will learn how to communicate in Italian and how to formulate your own ideas and thoughts using Italian.

The Paul Noble Method

As you learn with it, you will quickly discover that I do not use complicated grammatical explanations *at all*, and I will not ask you to memorise long lists of vocabulary – the way the course is structured will by itself ensure that you remember what you are taught. Instead, through your interaction with the CDs, I will lead you through the Italian language, enabling you to build up complex sentences by yourself, step by step, so that you are actually speaking independently in Italian by the end of the course. And this is regardless of how little, or how much, you know when you begin.

You will also discover that the language I teach is designed to be adaptable, so that you will be able to use it just as easily for holidaying in Italy as for living or working there; it will be just as easy to use it to order a coffee as to hold a conversation with the waiter who brings it to you. And, again, all of this regardless of how little, or how much, you know when you begin.

At the time of writing, this method has already proved extremely successful with a very great many students, including hundreds of so-called “no-hopers”. Interestingly, not one of these students failed to learn using this method. It is these many success cases, letters of thank you – and even the occasional hug – that have made teaching languages so very worthwhile for me and it is this which has persuaded me to publish my courses here, for the first time.

I anticipate and hope that they will be as effective for you as they have been for so many of my other students.

Paul Noble

Paul Noble
Head of the Paul Noble Language Institute

How to use this booklet

This booklet has been designed to provide you with a quick and easy way to review and reinforce the key vocabulary, structures and contents of your Paul Noble Method, Easy Learning Italian course.

Although the core part of your learning will take place via your use of the accompanying course CDs, we have also included this booklet in order to provide you with a quick reference guide to the language, as well as a way to begin to get to grips with both reading and writing Italian, should you wish to do so.

It is worth noting that this booklet should be used **after** you have begun working through the accompanying CDs. It will serve as excellent reinforcement, guidance and review material but is not designed to teach you Italian by itself. This is what the CDs will do – and very rapidly too. After you have begun working through the CDs, you will find this booklet to be an extremely useful review and reference resource but you must start by listening to the CDs first.

So, if you haven't done so already, go and unwrap CD 1 and get started. You're about to find out just how good a course this is!

Creating Italian words

Use these conversion techniques to create several thousand Italian words out of English.

Words ending in... in English	become... in Italian	Examples
ation	<i>azione</i>	decorazione preparazione transformazione
ous	<i>oso</i>	curioso furioso dubbioso
ade	<i>ata</i>	barricata parata cascata
ude	<i>udine</i>	gratitudine solitudine altitudine
ure	<i>ura</i>	natura cultura caricatura
ible	<i>ibile</i>	terribile possibile visibile
able	<i>abile</i>	abile usable probabile
ant	<i>ante</i>	importante elegante galante

Words ending in... in English	become... in Italian	Examples
ent	ente	presidente cliente recente
ary	ario	primario salario volontario
ic/ical	ico	politico tipico drammatico
id	ido	vivido rapido timido
sm	smo	pessimismo pacifismo sarcasmo
ty	tà	università atrocità agilità
or	ore	pastore aviatore curatore
ist	ista	artista pianista fascista
al	ale	brutale canale vitale
ive	ivo	creativo evasivo corrosivo

Core course review

The best way to use this part of your booklet is to start by reading through a page, looking at both the English and Italian. Then go back to the beginning of that same page and, while covering the Italian side of the text, translate the English into Italian – just as you did when you listened to the course CDs.

Once you can get 90% of a page's content correct, move on to the next page and follow the process again. By doing this, you will quickly recall and reinforce what you learnt with the CDs.

The past (using “have”)

I have

Ho

To say “visited” in Italian, simply take the English word “visit” and then add the “ato” from “tomato” onto the end of it.

visited

visitato

I have visited

Ho visitato

Rome

Roma

I have visited Rome.

Ho visitato Roma.

Milan

Milano

I have visited Milan.

Ho visitato Milano.

You have

Ha

You have visited Milan.

Ha visitato Milano.

You have visited Rome.

Ha visitato Roma.

Have you visited Rome?

Ha visitato Roma?

Have you visited Milan?

Ha visitato Milano?

prepared

preparato

I have prepared

Ho preparato

the coffee

il caffè

I have prepared the coffee.

Ho preparato il caffè.

I have prepared the coffee.

Io ho preparato il caffè.

NOTE! In Italian, the words for “I”, “he”, “she”, “you”, “we” and “they” do not always need to be included in a sentence in the way they would be in English. In fact, they tend to be left out. If you do include one of these words, however, such as the word for “I”, which is **io**, it simply makes the sentence far more emphatic. The above two sentences demonstrate this, with the first stating simply that “I have prepared the coffee”, the second, by contrast, emphasises **who** made it. So, normally, you will not include the words for “I”, “he”, “she”, “you”, “we” or “they” **unless** you either want to make the sentence more emphatic or because you feel it might not be clear who you are referring to.

The Past (using "have")

I have not

I have not prepared the coffee.

I have not prepared the coffee.

You have

You have prepared the coffee.

You have prepared the coffee.

You have not

You have not prepared the coffee.

You have not prepared the coffee.

the risotto

I have prepared the risotto.

for you

I have prepared the risotto for you.

for me

You haven't prepared the coffee for me.

Haven't you prepared the coffee for me?

I have prepared the risotto for you.

You have

He has

She has

He has prepared the coffee for me.

He has

He has prepared the coffee for me

He has visited Rome.

He has visited Rome.

She has

She has

She has visited Rome.

She has prepared the coffee for me

She has prepared the coffee for me

She hasn't prepared (the) coffee for me.

She hasn't prepared (the) coffee for me.

Non ho

Non ho preparato il caffè.

Io non ho preparato il caffè.

Ha

Ha preparato il caffè.

Lei ha preparato il caffè.

Non ha

Non ha preparato il caffè.

Lei non ha preparato il caffè.

il risotto

Ho preparato il risotto.

per Lei

Ho preparato il risotto per Lei.

per me

Non ha preparato il caffè per me.

Non ha preparato il caffè per me?

Ho preparato il risotto per Lei.

Ha

Ha

Ha

Ha preparato il caffè per me.

Lui ha

Lui ha preparato il caffè per me.

Lui ha visitato Roma.

Ha visitato Roma.

Ha

Lei ha

Lei ha visitato Roma.

Lei ha preparato il caffè per me.

Ha preparato il caffè per me.

Non ha preparato il caffè per me.

Lei non ha preparato il caffè

per me.

NOTE! Again, keep in mind that the Italian words for “I”, “he”, “she”, “you” etc will not normally be included by Italians when they speak. Try to use them sparingly yourself, including them only when you want to make the sentence more emphatic or because you feel it might not be clear who you are referring to.

father

padre

your father

suo padre

Your father hasn’t prepared
the coffee for me.

**Suo padre non ha preparato
il caffè per me.**

mother

madre

your mother

sua madre

Your mother has prepared
(the) coffee for me.

**Sua madre ha preparato
il caffè per me.**

Words that end in “ion”

English words that end in “ion” came into English via Latin languages. There are 1250 words that end in “ion” in English. With only a minor spelling change, you will find that you can use most of these words in Italian as well.

preparation

preparazione

decoration

decorazione

presentation

presentazione

formation

formazione

Gaining an instant thousand words or so in Italian is, of course, very helpful but these words can be even more useful than that.

For instance, if you take an “ion” word, such as “preparation”, cut off the “ation” from the end of it, and in its place add the “ato” from “tomato”, you’ll end up with a word like **preparato**, which means *prepared*. Doing this, you can say *I have prepared* and using the same technique you will also be able to say *I have decorated*, *I have presented* etc. Try this with the examples below:

preparation

preparazione

Now, cut off the “ation”, which leaves you with “prepar” and then add the “ato” from “tomato” on the end. You’ll end up with **preparato**, which means *prepared*.

prepared

preparato

I have prepared

Ho preparato

Let’s try doing the same with the word “formation”. Cut off the “ation” from the end and replace it with the “ato” from “tomato”, which will give us *formed* – which will be:

formed

formato

I have formed

Ho formato

In English, we have the word “visitation”. Let's try doing the same with this. Cut off the “ation” from the end and replace it with the “ato” from “tomato”, which will give us *visited* – which will be:

visited
 I have visited Rome.
 the villa
 I have visited the villa.
 the piazza
 I have visited the piazza.
 You have visited the piazza.
 He has visited the piazza.
 She has visited the piazza.
 They have visited the piazza.
 We have visited the piazza.
We have visited the piazza.
 decoration
 decorated
 I have decorated
 the cake (the tart)
 I have decorated the cake.
 You have decorate the cake.
 Have you decorated the cake?
 I have decorated the cake.
 I decorated the cake.
 I did decorate the cake.

visitato
Ho visitato Roma.
la villa
Ho visitato la villa.
la piazza
Ho visitato la piazza.
Ha visitato la piazza.
Ha visitato la piazza.
Ha visitato la piazza.
Hanno visitato la piazza.
Abbiamo visitato la piazza.
Noi abbiamo visitato la piazza.
decorazione
decorato
Ho decorato
la torta
Ho decorato la torta.
Ha decorato la torta.
Ha decorato la torta?
Ho decorato la torta.
Ho decorato la torta.
Ho decorato la torta.

NOTE! One of the best things about Italian, and one way in which it is easier than English, is that in order to talk about the past, you don't need to use as many different tenses as you would in English.

For instance, take the following sentences in English: *I have decorated the cake, I decorated the cake, I did decorate the cake*. In Italian, these are all expressed in the same way, simply as: “I have decorated the cake”, which in Italian is: **Ho decorato la torta**. The above three sentences can therefore be served by the same single tense in Italian.

The Past (using “have”)

presentation	presentazione
presented	presentato
I have presented	Ho presentato
I have presented a petition.	Ho presentato una petizione.
I presented a petition.	Ho presentato una petizione.
I did present a petition.	Ho presentato una petizione.
I decorated the cake.	Ho decorato la torta.
You have decorated the cake. (<i>formal</i>)	Ha decorato la torta.
You have decorated the cake. (<i>formal</i>)	Lei ha decorato la torta.
You have decorated the cake. (<i>informal</i>)	Hai decorato la torta.
You have decorated the cake. (<i>informal</i>)	Tu hai decorato la torta.
You have decorated the cake. (<i>plural</i>)	Avete decorato la torta.
You have decorated the cake. (<i>plural</i>)	Voi avete decorato la torta.

NOTE! As you may have noticed above, there are several words that mean “you” in Italian.

Lei means “you” when you are talking to just one person. It is the *formal* word for “you”, meaning that it is polite and is what you will use when you first meet someone; it is the most important one to learn.

Tu is also used for talking to just one person but it is for use with family, close friends and for talking to children. It is the *informal* word for “you”. English speakers often do not know when it is appropriate to start using **tu** with Italian speakers. The rule-of-thumb is: don’t use it first! Wait until a native speaker initiates it with you and then it should be all right to use it back.

Voi means “you” when you are talking to more than one person – it is the *plural* → 1 “you”. You can use this with any group of people, whether you know them well or not.

From this point on in the booklet, any sentences involving “you” will mention whether you need to use the *formal*, *informal* or *plural* you.

→ **JARGON BUSTER 1**

Plural means more than one of something.

invited	invitato
I have invited	Ho invitato
I have invited Paul	Ho invitato Paul.
to Rome	a Roma
I have invited Paul to Rome.	Ho invitato Paul a Roma.
I have invited Paul to Rome.	Io ho invitato Paul a Roma.
He has invited Paul to Rome.	Ha invitato Paul a Roma.
He has invited your father to Rome.	Ha invitato suo padre a Roma.
He has invited your father to Rome.	Lui ha invitato suo padre a Roma.
She has invited your mother to Rome.	Ha invitato sua madre a Roma.
She has invited your mother to Rome.	Lei ha invitato sua madre a Roma.
reservation / pre-nota	prenotazione
reserved / pre-noted	prenotato
I have reserved / pre-noted a room	Ho prenotato una camera
a table	un tavolo
I have reserved a table.	Ho prenotato un tavolo.
You have reserved a table. (<i>formal</i>)	Ha prenotato un tavolo.
You have reserved a table. (<i>formal</i>)	Lei ha prenotato un tavolo.
You have reserved a table. (<i>informal</i>)	Hai prenotato un tavolo.
You have reserved a table. (<i>informal</i>)	Tu hai prenotato un tavolo.
You have reserved a table. (<i>plural</i>)	Avete prenotato un tavolo.
You have reserved a table. (<i>plural</i>)	Voi avete prenotato un tavolo.

NOTE! It is important to note that all of the verbs → 2 we have looked at so far are verbs that end in “**are**”: (*to visit*) **visitare**, (*to prepare*) **preparare**, (*to invite*) **invitare**. In the past tense, they have all become “**ato**”: **visitato**, **preparato**, **invitato**.

90% of all verbs in Italian end in “**are**” and work in this way. The 10% that do not end in “**are**” work equally simply, however.

For instance, verbs that end in “**ire**” in Italian become “**ito**” in the past tense. So, whereas for verbs that end in “**are**”, we replace the “**are**” on the end with the “**ato**” from “tomato”, for verbs that end in “**ire**” we instead simply replace their endings with the “**ito**” from “mosquito”.

→ JARGON BUSTER 2

What is a verb? An easy way to identify a verb is to see if you can put “I”, “he” or “we” directly in front of it. If you can, it is a verb. For example: I go, he eats, we fly, I buy, he thinks, we leave. All the underlined words are verbs; you know this because you can put either “I”, “he” or “we” **directly in front of them**.

Let's have a practice with both types in order to better understand how they work. We will begin with those that end in “**are**”:

to prepare
prepared
I have prepared
to speak
spoken
We have spoken
to buy
We have bought
It
We have bought it.

preparare
preparato
ho preparato
parlare
parlato
Abbiamo parlato
comprare
Abbiamo comprato
Lo
Lo abbiamo comprato.

NOTE! The word for “it” used in the sentence above is **Lo**. So, *We have bought it* is

Lo abbiamo comprato. However, before any word meaning “have” or “has”, you will find that the **Lo** is frequently contracted to a single, lone “L” by itself. So instead of **Lo abbiamo comprato** you will frequently find it pronounced and written as **L'abbiamo comprato**. Don’t worry too much about this, as both forms are equally acceptable.

We haven’t bought it.
They haven’t bought it.
I bought it.

Non l'abbiamo comprato.
Non l'hanno comprato.
L'ho comprato.

Now let’s switch to those verbs that end in “**ire**”:

to understand
understood

capiere
capito

NOTE! **Capiere** (*to understand*) does not end in “**are**” and so, as stated above, we have not replaced the ending with the “ato” from “tomato” but rather with the “ito” from “mosquito”. Again, verbs ending in “**are**” in Italian replace the “**are**” at the end with the “ato” from “tomato” but those that end in “**ire**”, such as **capiere**, replace their endings instead with the “ito” from “mosquito”.

They have understood.
They haven’t understood.
They haven’t understood it.
They haven’t understood it.
They haven’t understood me.
Haven’t they understood me?

Hanno capito.
Non hanno capito.
Non l'hanno capito.
Loro non l'hanno capito.
Non mi hanno capito.
Non mi hanno capito?

The Past (using "have")

NOTE! Verbs that end in “**ere**” work differently still in the past tense. Whereas, for verbs that end in “**are**”, we replace the “are” with the “ato” from “tomato”, for verbs that end in “**ere**” we replace their endings with the “uto” from “Pluto”.

to sell

vendere

sold

venduto

We have sold

Abbiamo venduto

We have sold it.

L'abbiamo venduto.

We haven't sold it.

Non l'abbiamo venduto.

We haven't sold it.

Noi non l'abbiamo venduto.

They haven't sold it.

Non l'hanno venduto.

Haven't they sold it?

Non l'hanno venduto?

The past (using “to be”)

Sometimes in Italian, you cannot use “have” for the past tense. Instead, you need to use a form of “to be” (*am*, *is* or *are*). This occurs when you use a verb → 2 in the past that involves going or coming **in any sense**.

So, when you are talking about going, coming, arriving, departing, going out, going up, coming down, being born (coming into the world) or dying (going out of it), you will use “to be” to form the past tense – **not** “have”.

Therefore, to say in Italian that *he has gone / he went* you will literally say *he is gone*. To say *she has arrived / she arrived* you will say *she is arrived*. To say *I have arrived / I arrived* you will say *I am arrived*. This is, however, **only** for verbs that involve going or coming in some sense. Let's look at an example:

I am	Sono
to arrive	arrivare
arrived	arrivato / arrivata / arrivati / arrivate
I have arrived.	Sono arrivato / arrivata.
We are	Siamo
We have arrived.	Siamo arrivati / arrivate.

Before moving on, it's probably worth explaining why “arrived” is spelt in four different ways above – and sometimes in two different ways in a single sentence!

Having worked your way through the course, understanding this will not actually be very difficult because these changes in spelling work according to ***The Mario-Maria rule***, which we used a great deal during the recorded part of the course. Let us remind ourselves of how this works for a moment.

The Mario-Maria rule

The Mario-Maria rule states that male or masculine things in Italian tend to end with an “**o**” – like the name **Mario** – but that female or feminine things tend to end with an “**a**” – like the name **Maria**.

In Italian, however, this affects more than just people’s names. For instance, it will affect the spelling of the word “arrived”, as it has in the examples above.

Let’s look at how a man would say *I have arrived*:

I have arrived. (*said by a man*)

Sono arrivato.

Following **The Mario-Maria rule**, the word meaning “arrived”, when said by a man, ends with an “**o**”, just like the name **Mario**.

But what do you think would happen if a woman tried to say the same thing, a **Maria** rather than a **Mario**? How would she say *I have arrived*?

I have arrived. (*said by a woman*)

Sono arrivata.

As you can see, following **The Mario-Maria rule**, the word meaning “arrived”, when said by a woman, ends with an “**a**”, just as the name **Maria** does.

Let’s try another example.

to go

andare

I have gone. (*said by a man*)

Sono andato.

I have gone. (*said by a woman*)

Sono andata.

As you can see, **The Mario-Maria rule** works in exactly the same way here as well. The female / feminine version ends with an “**a**” – like the name **Maria** – whereas the male / masculine version ends with an “**o**” – like the name **Mario**.

As stated above, however, this *only* applies to “going and coming” verbs, because these use “to be” to make the past tense. Normal verbs, which use “have” to form the past tense, are the same no matter who they refer to. The ends of the words will not change no matter who is saying them. Take a look:

I have prepared. (*said by a man*)

Ho preparato.

I have prepared. (*said by a woman*)

Ho preparato.

As you can see, they are the same – and they never change! It is only the small number of verbs, which involve going or coming, and so which use “to be” to make the past tense, that will change their spelling. Let’s look at these spelling changes, which work according to ***The Mario-Maria rule***, one more time:

I have gone. (*said by a man*)

Sono andato.

I have gone. (*said by a woman*)

Sono andata.

I have arrived. (*said by a man*)

Sono arrivato.

I have arrived. (*said by a woman*)

Sono arrivata.

The paparazzi rule

So far we have looked at two different words that mean arrived – **arrivato** and **arrivata**. However, you may recall that, at the beginning of this section, there were originally four words used that each meant “arrived”. Let’s remind ourselves of these:

arrived

**arrivato / arrivata / arrivati /
arrivate**

So far we have looked at two of them, which work according to ***The Mario-Maria rule***. Let us remind ourselves again of one of these examples:

I have arrived. (*said by a man*)

Sono arrivato.

We therefore know how one man would say *I have arrived*. But what would the word for “arrived” be if there were more than one man? To answer this, we need to go back to ***The paparazzi rule*** that we used during the recorded part of the course.

The paparazzi rule states that, when there is a masculine word that ends in an “o”, that “o” becomes an “i” when there is more than one of that thing. Let’s look at an example:

a risotto
two risottos

**un risotto
due risotti**

So, we have a single **risotto** but two **risotti** – and we see this pattern repeated again and again in Italian:

a paparazzi
two paparazzi
a biscotti
two biscotti
a panini
two paninis

**un paparazzo
due paparazzi
un biscotto
due biscotti
un panino
due panini**

This also applies to “arrived”. When one man has arrived, it will end with an “**o**” but when two have arrived it will end with an “**i**”.

I have arrived. (*said by one man*)

Sono arrivato.

We have arrived. (*said by two men*)

Siamo arrivati.

Let's try another example:

I have gone. (*said by one man*)

Sono andato.

We have gone. (*said by two men*)

Siamo andati.

The same will happen with all verbs involving going and coming in Italian, when they are used in the past tense.

The A&E rule

We now need to look at what two women will say in the same situation and for this we must go to **The A&E rule**.

The A&E rule states that, when there is a feminine word that ends in an “**a**”, that “**a**” on the end will become an “**e**” when there is more than one of that thing. Let’s look at an example:

a pizza
two pizzas

una pizza
due pizze

So, we have a single **pizza** but two **pizze** – and we will see this pattern repeated again and again in Italian:

a villa
two villas
a piazza
two piazze

una villa
due ville
una piazza
due piazze

This also applies to “arrived”. When one woman has arrived, it will end with an “**a**” but when two have arrived it will end with an “**e**”.

I have arrived. (*said by a woman*)
We have arrived. (*said by two women*)

Sono arrivata.
Siamo arrivate.

Let’s try another example:

I have gone. (*said by a woman*)
We have gone. (*said by two women*)

Sono andata.
Siamo andate.

The Mario-Maria, Paparazzi and A&E rules put together

We can now put these all together, safe in the knowledge that the past tense with “to be” works in a very similar way to how one **risotto** becomes two **risotti** and how one **pizza** becomes two **pizze**.

I have arrived. (*said by a man*)

We have arrived. (*said by two men*)

I have arrived. (*said by a woman*)

We have arrived. (*said by two women*)

I have gone. (*said by a man*)

We have gone. (*said by two men*)

I have gone. (*said by a woman*)

We have gone. (*said by two women*)

to leave

left

I have left. (*said by a man*)

We have left. (*said by two men*)

I have left. (*said by a woman*)

We have left. (*said by two women*)

Sono arrivato.

Siamo arrivati.

Sono arrivata.

Siamo arrivate.

Sono andato.

Siamo andati.

Sono andata.

Siamo andate.

partire

partito / partita / partiti / partite

Sono partito.

Siamo partiti.

Sono partita.

Siamo partite.

NOTE! These changes are always dependent on who it is that has “arrived”, “gone”, “left” etc. Take a look at the examples below to understand this better.

You are (*formal*)

You have arrived. (*said to a man*)

You have arrived. (*said to a woman*)

You have gone. (*said to a man*)

You have gone. (*said to a woman*)

They are

They have arrived. (*said about two men*)

They have arrived. (*said about two women*)

They have gone. (*said about two men*)

They have gone. (*said about two women*)

È

È arrivato.

È arrivata.

È andato.

È andata.

Sono

Sono arrivati.

Sono arrivate.

Sono andati.

Sono andate.

The present

Using “It is”

Words ending in “-ic” and “-ical” in English end in “-**ico**” in Italian.

typical	tipico
exotic	esotico
political	politico
It is	È
It is typical!	È tipico!
It is exotic!	È esotico!
It is political!	È politico!
It is romantic!	È romantico!
dramatic	drammatico
It is dramatic!	È drammatico!
fantastic	fantastico
It is fantastic!	È fantastico!
It is drastic!	È drastico!
democratic	democratico
It is democratic!	È democratico!
problematic	problematico
It is problematic!	È problematico!

Talking about what you would like to, want to, can and must do

"would like to..."

I would like

I would like to visit Rome.

I would like to invite Paul.

to Rome

I would like to invite Paul to Rome.

I would like to prepare the coffee.

I would like to prepare the pizza.

I would like to decorate the cake.

I would like to reserve a table.

I would like to reserve a room.

two nights

I would like to reserve (pre-note) a room
for two nights.

I would like a room for two nights.

two people

I would like a room for two people for
two nights.

I would like a room for three people
for three nights.

because

I would like to reserve a table because
it's romantic.

to see

to know

I would like to know

if

I would like to know if it's typical.

I would like to know if it's romantic.

but

I would like to reserve a table but I would
like to know if it's romantic.

Vorrei

Vorrei visitare Roma.

Vorrei invitare Paul.

a Roma

Vorrei invitare Paul a Roma.

Vorrei preparare il caffè.

Vorrei preparare la pizza.

Vorrei decorare la torta.

Vorrei prenotare un tavolo.

Vorrei prenotare una camera.

due notti

**Vorrei prenotare una camera
per due notti.**

Vorrei una camera per due notti.

due persone

**Vorrei una camera per due persone
per due notti.**

**Vorrei una camera per tre persone
per tre notti.**

perché

**Vorrei prenotare un tavolo perché
è romantico.**

vedere

sapere

Vorrei sapere

se

Vorrei sapere se è tipico.

Vorrei sapere se è romantico.

ma

Vorrei prenotare un tavolo ma

vorrei sapere se è romantico.

It is
It is not
It's not romantic
I would like to know if it's not romantic.
why
I would like to know why it's
not romantic.
You have (*formal*)
You have not (*formal*)
I would like to know why you have not
prepared the coffee.
I would like to know why you haven't
reserved a room.

È
Non è
Non è romantico.
Vorrei sapere se non è romantico.
perché
Vorrei sapere perché
non è romantico.
Ha
Non ha
Vorrei sapere perché non ha
preparato il caffè.
Vorrei sapere perché non ha
prenotato una camera.

“want”

I want
to see
I want to see the room.
I don't want to see the room.
to go
I want to go
there
I want to go there.
I want to go there.
I want to go there with you.
I don't want to go there with you.
They want
They don't want to go there with you.
later
They don't want to go there later.
to go out
They don't want to go out later.
now
They don't want to go out now.
They don't want to go out now.

Voglio
vedere
Voglio vedere la camera.
Non voglio vedere la camera.
andare
Voglio andare
lì
Voglio andare lì.
Io voglio andare lì.
Voglio andare lì con Lei.
Non voglio andare lì con Lei.
Vogliono
Non vogliono andare lì con Lei.
più tardi
Non vogliono andare lì più tardi.
uscire
Non vogliono uscire più tardi.
adesso
Non vogliono uscire adesso.
Loro non vogliono uscire adesso.

We want

We want to go out now.

We want to go out now.
today

We want to go out today
to leave

We want to leave today.

He wants

He wants to leave today.

He wants to go there today.
this evening

He wants to leave this evening.

She wants

She wants to leave this evening.

She wants to leave this evening.

You want (*formal*)
to eat

You want to eat (*formal*)

You want to eat (*formal*)

You want (*informal*)

You want to eat. (*informal*)

You want to eat. (*informal*)
to eat it

You want (*plural*)

You want to eat it. (*plural*)

You want to eat it. (*plural*)

You don't want to eat it. (*plural*)

They want to know why you don't want
to eat it.

They want to know why you don't want
to eat it.

Vogliamo

Vogliamo uscire adesso.

Noi vogliamo uscire adesso.
oggi

Noi vogliamo uscire oggi.
partire

Noi vogliamo partire oggi.

Vuole

Vuole partire oggi.

Lui vuole partire oggi.

questa sera

Lui vuole partire questa sera.

Vuole

Vuole partire questa sera.

Lei vuole partire questa sera.

Vuole

mangiare

Vuole mangiare.

Lei vuole mangiare.

Vuoi

Vuoi mangiare.

Tu vuoi mangiare.

mangiarlo

Volete

Volete mangiarlo.

Voi volete mangiarlo.

Non volete mangiarlo.

Vogliono sapere perché non
volete mangiarlo.

Loro vogliono sapere perché voi
non volete mangiarlo.

“can”

I can

I can go there with you.

I can go there this evening.

I cannot go there this evening.

They can

They cannot

They cannot go there this evening.

to do

to do it

They cannot do it this evening.

We can

We cannot

We cannot go do it this evening.

tomorrow

We cannot do it tomorrow.

He can

He cannot

He cannot go do it tomorrow.

to have

to have it

He cannot have it tomorrow.

She can

She cannot

She cannot have it tomorrow.

You can (*formal*)

You can have it this evening. (*formal*)

this morning

You can have it this morning. (*formal*)

to come

You cannot come this morning. (*formal*)

to repeat

You can repeat (*formal*)

Can you repeat, please? (*formal*)

to take

Posso

Posso andare lì con Lei.

Posso andare lì questa sera.

Non posso andare lì questa sera.

Possono

Non possono

Non possono andare lì questa sera.

fare

farlo

Non possono farlo questa sera.

Possiamo

Non possiamo

Non possiamo farlo questa sera.

domani

Non possiamo farlo domani.

Può

Non può

Non può farlo domani.

avere

averlo

Non può averlo domani.

Può

Non può

Non può averlo domani.

Può

Può averlo questa sera.

questa mattina

Può averlo questa mattina.

venire

Non può venire questa mattina.

ripetere

Può ripetere

Può ripetere, per favore?

prendere

to take it

Can you take it? (*formal*)

You cannot take it. (*formal*)

to take them

You cannot take them. (*formal*)

You can (*informal*)

You cannot take them. (*informal*)

You cannot take them now. (*informal*)

this afternoon

You cannot take them this afternoon. (*informal*)

I want to know why you cannot take them this afternoon. (*informal*)

to understand

You cannot understand it. (*informal*)

to understand me

You cannot understand me. (*informal*)

to sell

You cannot sell it. (*informal*)

You cannot sell it. (*plural*)

to wait

to wait for me

You cannot wait for me. (*plural*)

prenderlo

Può prenderlo?

Non può prenderlo.

prenderli

Non può prenderli.

Puoi

Non puoi prenderli.

Non puoi prenderli adesso.

questo pomeriggio

Non puoi prenderli

questo pomeriggio.

Voglio sapere perché non puoi prenderli questo pomeriggio.

capiре

Non puoi capirlo.

capirmi

Non puoi capirmi.

vendere

Non puoi venderlo.

Non potete venderlo.

aspettare

aspettarmi

Non potete aspettarmi.

“must”

I must

I must go there with you.

to prepare the risotto

I must prepare the risotto.

to prepare it

I must prepare it.

They must

They must prepare it.

to find

They must find it.

He must

Devo

Devo andare lì con Lei.

preparare il risotto

Devo preparare il risotto.

prepararlo

Devo prepararlo.

Devono

Devono prepararlo.

trovare

Devono trovarlo.

Deve

The Present

She must	Deve
You must (<i>formal</i>)	Deve
You must find it. (<i>formal</i>)	Deve trovarlo.
We must	Dobbiamo
We must find it.	Dobbiamo trovarlo.
You must (<i>informal</i>)	Devi
You must find it. (<i>informal</i>)	Devi trovarlo.
You must (<i>plural</i>)	Dovete
You must buy it. (<i>plural</i>)	Dovete comprarlo.

The present tense without “want”, “can”, “must” etc

We will now take a look at the more general present tense in Italian – the present tense without “want”, “can”, “must” etc. By the end of this quick run-through, you will be able to use the vast majority of verbs in Italian, in the present tense, with almost no difficulty whatsoever.

Verbs ending in “are”

90% of all verbs in Italian end in “**are**”. If you can use the verbs below correctly, then you will find that you can use 90% of all verbs in Italian correctly! To do this, we will take as our first example, the Italian verb “to speak”.

to speak

parlare

If you know the word **parlare** in Italian you can also work out how to say */ speak / I am speaking, he speaks / he is speaking, she speaks / she is speaking, you speak / you are speaking, we speak / we are speaking and they speak / they are speaking* fairly easily.

Saying “you speak / you are speaking” (plural)

Let's begin with *you speak / you are speaking* (plural). To say this in Italian, you simply change the “r” in the Italian word meaning “to speak” (**parlare**) into a “t” and you will get *you speak / you are speaking* (plural). Let's try this:

to speak

parlare

You speak / You are speaking (plural)

Parlate

And this will work with more or less any verb in Italian:

to buy

comprare

You buy / You are buying (*plural*)

Comprate

to eat

mangiare

You eat / You are eating (*plural*)

Mangiate

to wait

aspettare

You wait / You are waiting (*plural*)

Aspettate

Saying “you speak / you are speaking” (informal)

To say *you speak / you are speaking* (informal), you simply take the Italian word meaning “to speak” (**parlare**) and chop off the “**are**” from the end – leaving you with “**parl**”.

Once you have done this, you simply add the “**i**” from “**informal**” onto the end.

to speak **parlare**

You speak / You are speaking (*informal*) **Parli**

So, for *you speak / you are speaking* (informal) we have cut off the “**are**” from **parlare** and replaced it with the “**i**” from “**informal**”. And this is what will happen with more or less any verb in Italian!

to buy **comprare**

You buy / You are buying (*informal*) **Compri**

to eat **mangiare**

You eat / You are eating (*informal*) **Mangi**

to wait **aspettare**

You wait / You are waiting (*informal*) **Aspetti**

Saying “I speak / I am speaking”

Just like before, to say *I speak / I am speaking*, you simply take the Italian word meaning “to speak” (**parlare**) and chop off the “**are**” from the end – leaving you with “**parl**”.

Once you have done this, you simply add an “**o**” the end

to speak **parlare**

I speak / I am speaking **Parlo**

So, for *I speak / I am speaking* we have cut off the “**are**” from **parlare** and replaced it with an “**o**” – think of it as an “**o**” for one’s self. And this is what will happen with more or less any verb in Italian!

to buy
I buy / I am buying
to eat
I eat / I am eating
to wait
I wait / I am waiting

comprare
Compro
mangiare
Mangio
aspettare
Aspetto

Saying “he”, “she”, “you” (formal) speak / are speaking

Just like before, to say “he”, “she”, “you” (formal) *speak / are speaking*, you simply take the Italian word meaning “to speak” (**parlare**) and chop off the “**are**” from the end – leaving you with “**parl**”.

Once you have done this, you simply add an “**a**” on the end.

to speak
He speaks / He is speaking
She speaks / She is speaking
You speak / You are speaking (*formal*)

parlare
Parla
Parla
Parla

So, for “he”, “she”, “you” (formal) *speak / are speaking*, we have cut off the “**are**” from **parlare** and replaced it with an “**a**”. And this is what will happen with more or less any verb in Italian!

to buy
He buys / He is buying
to eat
She eats / She is eating
to wait
You wait / You are waiting (*formal*)

comprare
Compra
mangiare
Mangia
aspettare
Aspetta

Saying “they speak / they are speaking”

To say *they speak / they are speaking*, you simply take the Italian word meaning “to speak” (**parlare**) and chop off the “**are**” from the end – leaving you with “**parl**”.

Once you have done this, you simply add “**ano**” onto the end

The Present

to speak
They speak / They are speaking

parlare
Parlano

So, for *they speak / they are speaking* we have cut off the “**are**” from **parlare** and replaced it with “**ano**”. And this is what will happen with more or less any verb in Italian!

to buy	comprare
They buy / They are buying	Comprano
to eat	mangiare
They eat / They are eating	Mangiano
to wait	aspettare
They wait / They are waiting	Aspettano

Saying “we speak / we are speaking”

To say *we speak / we are speaking*, you simply take the Italian word meaning “to speak” (**parlare**) and chop off the “**are**” from the end – leaving you with “**parl**”.

Once you have done this, you simply add “**iamo**” onto the end

to speak	parlare
We speak / We are speaking	Parliamo

So, for *we speak / we are speaking* we have cut off the “**are**” from **parlare** and replaced it with “**iamo**”. And this is what will happen with more or less any verb in Italian!

to buy	comprare
We buy / We are buying	Compriamo
to eat	mangiare
We eat / We are eating	Mangiamo
to wait	aspettare
We wait / We are waiting	Aspettiamo

Let's practise all of this now!

Italian

I speak Italian.

He speaks Italian.

She speaks Italian.

English

You speak English. (*formal*)

They speak English.

We speak English.

You speak English. (*informal*)

You speak English. (*plural*)

italiano

Parlo italiano.

Parla italiano.

Parla italiano.

inglese

Parla inglese.

Parlano inglese.

Parliamo inglese.

Parli inglese.

Parlate inglese.

Now try it with some additional ingredients included:

We don't speak English.

They don't speak Italian.

Don't they speak Italian?

Don't you speak Italian? (*plural*)

Don't you speak English? (*informal*)

You don't speak English. (*informal*)

She doesn't speak Italian.

Do you speak English? (*formal*)

Non parlamo inglese.

Non parlano italiano.

Non parlano italiano?

Non parlate italiano?

Non parli inglese?

Non parli inglese.

Non parla italiano.

Parla inglese?

The future

Step 1: finding the future tense by spinning the “are”

The key to using the future tense in Italian lies in two simple steps. The first step is to spin the “**are**” round at the end of the verb. Let’s take a look at an example of what I mean by this:

to speak

parlare

As with 90% of all verbs in Italian, “to speak” ends in **A-R-E**. If you want to use the future tense in Italian, all you need to do is to put your finger on top of the **A** at the beginning of **A-R-E** and then spin it round, so that it ends up facing the other way. It will then read **E-R-À**. You will notice that, after spinning it round, you can still see the finger you used to do the spinning, still hovering above the **À**.

So, via this simple step of spinning the **A-R-E** round so that it now reads **E-R-À** (again, notice the finger that spun it is still hovering over the **À**) you have in fact found the future tense → 2 in Italian. Let’s look at this in practice:

→ JARGON BUSTER 3

You can think of the future tense in Italian as the “**will tense**” if you like, as we often use the word “**will**” in English when we talk about the future. For example, “I **will** speak to him later”, “we **will** do it tomorrow”, “I **will** see you next week” etc.

to speak

parlare

Now, use your finger to spin the **A-R-E** round so that it now reads **E-R-À**. You will get the future tense as a result:

He will speak

Parlerà

She will speak

Parlerà

You will speak (*formal*)

Parlerà

As you can see, with this first simple step, you have found out how to say *he will...*, *she will...* and *you will...* (*formal*). Let's try this again with some more examples:

to buy

comprare

Now all you need to do is to spin this **A-R-E** round, so that it's facing the other way and instead reads **E-R-À**. Doing this will allow you to say *he will buy*, *she will buy*, *you will buy*. Try it now!

He will buy

Comprerà

She will buy

Comprerà

You will buy (*formal*)

Comprerà

Let's try the same with "to wait":

to wait

aspettare

He will wait

Aspetterà

She will wait

Aspetterà

You will wait (*formal*)

Aspetterà

So, simply by spinning the **A-R-E** around, so that it reads **E-R-À**, you have now found out how to say *he will...*, *she will...* and *you will...* (*formal*) in Italian.

To say *I will...*, *you will...* (*informal*), *you will...* (*plural*), *they will...* and *we will...*, we will need to go on to step 2.

Step 2: swapping the “à” in e-r-à

Having already taken the first step – spinning the **A-R-E** round to become **E-R-A** – we are now ready to take the second step.

This second step involves us swapping the “**À**” at the end of **E-R-À** for something else. By doing so, you will find you are able to say *I will..., you will... (informal), you will... (plural), they will... and we will...*

We'll begin with *I will*....

Swap “à” for (part of) “have”

Of course, knowing you need to swap the “A” is one thing, remembering what you need to swap it for is another. Here you will learn an easy way to remember what you should swap it for and, to do this, you will only need to know how to say “have” in Italian.

To say *I will*... in Italian, you will swap the “**A**” from the end of **E-R-A** for (part of) the word that means *I have* in Italian. Let’s take a look at an example of this to see what I mean in practice:

I have **Ho**

So, I have in Italian is **ho** and now we need to swap *part of this* for the “**A**” at the end of **E-R-À**.

Swap everything after the “h”!

As the title above says, we now need to swap the “A” with everything after the “h” in **ho** – which, in this case, is just a solitary, lone “O”.

Doing this, **E-R-À** will become **E-R-Ò**, giving us *I will....*

Let's now look at some examples with this:

I will speak

Parlerò

As you can see, using this E-R-**O** at the end gives us *I will....* We can now use it to say *I will buy* and *I will wait*:

I will buy	Comprerò
I will wait	Aspetterò

And the same will work with 90% of all verbs in Italian!

“You will...” (informal)

Now, we can use this exact same technique of swapping the “**A**” at the end of **E-R-À** with “have” in order to say *you will...* (informal), *you will...* (plural), *they will...* etc.

Let’s try this first with *you will...* (informal):

You have (<i>informal</i>)	Hai
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Once more, we now need to swap the “**A**” in **E-R-À** for everything after the “h” in **hai** – which, in this case, is “**A-I**”.

Doing this, **E-R-À** will become **E-R-A-I**, giving us *you will...* (informal):

You will speak (<i>informal</i>)	Parlerai
You will buy (<i>informal</i>)	Comprerai
You will wait (<i>informal</i>)	Aspetterai

“They will...”

They have	Hanno
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Once more, we now need to swap the “**A**” in **E-R-À** for everything after the “h” in **hanno** – which, in this case, is “**anno**”.

Doing this, **erà** will become **eranno**, giving us *they will...*:

They will speak	Parleranno
They will buy	Compreranno
They will wait	Aspetteranno

“**You will...**” (**plural**)

You have (*plural*)

Avete

There is no “h” in **avete**, so you will simply swap the **À** in **E-R-À** for the final three letters in **avete** – which, in this case, are “**ete**”.

Doing this, **erà** will become **erete**, giving us *you will... (plural)*:

You will speak (*plural*)

Parlerete

You will buy (*plural*)

Comprerete

You will wait (*plural*)

Aspetterete

“**We will...**”

We have

Abbiamo

Unfortunately, *we will...* breaks the rules and is an exception. In the case of *we will...*, we need to swap the **À** in **E-R-À** for “**emo**”.

Doing this, **erà** will become **eremo**, giving us *we will...:*

We will speak

Parleremo

We will buy

Compreremo

We will wait

Aspetteremo

Practise with these final examples:

to buy

comprare

He will buy it.

Lo comprerà.

She will buy it.

Lo comprerà.

You will buy it. (*formal*)

Lo comprerà.

I will buy it.

Lo comprerò.

You will buy it. (*informal*)

Lo comprerai.

They will buy it.

Lo compreranno.

You will buy it. (*plural*)

Lo comprerete.

We will buy it.

Lo compreremo.

to visit

He will visit Rome tomorrow.

She will visit Rome later.

I will visit Rome tomorrow.

We will visit Rome tomorrow.

to eat

She will eat with us later.

You will eat with us later. (*formal*)

You will eat with us later. (*informal*)

to book

You will book it later. (*informal*)

They will book it later.

They won't book it.

You won't book it later. (*plural*)

We won't book it later.

visitare

Visiterà Roma domani.

Visiterà Roma più tardi.

Visiterò Roma domani.

Visiteremo Roma domani.

mangiare

Mangerà con noi più tardi.

Mangerà con noi più tardi.

Mangerai con noi più tardi.

prenotare

Lo prenoterai più tardi.

Lo prenoteranno più tardi.

Non lo prenoteranno.

Non lo prenoterete più tardi.

Non lo prenoteremo più tardi.

Travelling in Italy

You now have a chance to use what you have learnt, to deal with those everyday situations you are likely to come across when travelling in Italy.

You will be familiar with the scenarios below from their use on the CDs. The best way to use them here is in the same way as the core course review: first read through a scenario, looking at both the English and Italian, and then go back to the beginning of that same scenario and, while covering the Italian side of the text, translate the English into Italian – just as you did when you listened to the CDs.

At the hotel

<i>Traveller</i>	I would like a room for two people for two nights.	Vorrei una camera per due persone per due notti.
<i>Receptionist</i>	I have a room for two people with bath.	Ho una camera per due persone con bagno.
<i>Traveller</i>	How much is it?	Quant'è?
<i>Receptionist</i>	For two nights... 100 euros.	Per due notti... cento euro.
<i>Traveller</i>	Can I see the room?	Posso vedere la camera?
<i>Receptionist</i>	Yes.	Sì.

You are taken up to see the room; it's not bad.

<i>Traveller</i>	Ah yes, it's perfect!	Ah sì, è perfetta!
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You go back downstairs to the reception.

<i>Receptionist</i>	Your name, please?	Il suo nome, per favore.
<i>Traveller</i>	Moon, M-O-O-N.	Moon, M-O-O-N.
<i>Traveller</i>	Can I pay by (with) credit card?	Posso pagare con la carta di credito?
<i>Receptionist</i>	Yes.	Sì.

The receptionist then takes your card, you enter your PIN and she gives it back to you.

<i>Traveller</i>	Thank you.	Grazie.
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Finding a campsite

Traveller	Where is the campsite?	Dov'è il campeggio?
Passerby	The campsite's over there.	Il campeggio è lì.

You walk over to someone who appears to be a farmer / campsite owner.

Traveller	Can I camp here?	Posso campeggiare qui?
Farmer	Yes, you can camp here.	Sì, può campeggiare qui.
Traveller	For two nights, how much is it?	Per due notti, quant'è?
Farmer	For a tent ten euros.	Per una tenda, dieci euro.

You think about it for a moment and then decide to stay there for the two nights.

Traveller	Yes, one tent for two nights, please.	Sì, una tenda per due notti, per favore.
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Taking a taxi to the piazza

<i>Traveller</i>	To the piazza, please.	Alla piazza, per favore!
<i>Traveller</i>	It's how much?	Quant'è?
<i>Driver</i>	Eight euros.	Otto euro.

At the piazza café

<i>Waiter</i>	You desire?	Desidera?
<i>Traveller</i>	A coffee, please.	Un caffè, per favore.
<i>Traveller 2</i>	For me, a white wine and a sandwich, please.	Per me, un vino bianco e un sandwich, per favore.
<i>Traveller</i>	How much is it ?	Quant'è?
<i>Waiter</i>	Sixteen euros.	Sedici euro.