

# Present Tense

In Italian, present tense verbs are formed by removing the infinitive ending (-are, -ere, or -ire) and adding specific endings that correspond to the subject pronoun (io, tu, lui/lei, noi, voi, loro). Examples include parlo (I speak), mangi (you eat), and vanno (they go).

Here's a breakdown:

1. Identify the Verb Group: Italian verbs are broadly categorised into three groups based on their infinitive ending: -are, -ere, and -ire.

2. Remove the Infinitive Ending: Take off the -are, -ere, or -ire from the verb's infinitive form.

3. Add the Present Tense Endings: Add the appropriate endings based on the subject pronoun:

- **-are verbs:** -o, -i, -a, -iamo, -ate, -ano
- **-ere verbs:** -o, -i, -e, -iamo, -ete, -ono
- **-ire verbs:** -o, -i, -e, -iamo, -ite, -ono

Example:

- **parlare (to speak) - -are verb:**
  - io parlo (I speak)
  - tu parli (you speak)
  - lui/lei parla (he/she speaks)
  - noi parliamo (we speak)
  - voi parlate (you all speak)
  - loro parlano (they speak)
- **credere (to believe) - -ere verb:**
  - io credo (I believe)
  - tu credi (you believe)
  - lui/lei crede (he/she believes)
  - noi crediamo (we believe)
  - voi credete (you all believe)
  - loro credono (they believe)
- **dormire (to sleep) - -ire verb:**
  - io dormo (I sleep)

- tu dormi (you sleep)
- lui/lei dorme (he/she sleeps)
- noi dormiamo (we sleep)
- voi dormite (you all sleep)
- loro dormono (they sleep)

More examples of Present Tense Verbs:

- **Essere (to be):** Sono italiano (I am Italian), Siete felici? (Are you happy?)
- **Avere (to have):** Ho una macchina (I have a car), Hanno fame (They are hungry)
- **Parlare (to speak):** Parlo italiano (I speak Italian), Parli inglese? (Do you speak English?)
- **Mangiare (to eat):** Mangio la pasta (I eat pasta), Mangiamo la pizza (We eat pizza)
- **Vivere (to live):** Vivo a Roma (I live in Rome), Vivono in Francia (They live in France)
- **Dormire (to sleep):** Dormo adesso (I am sleeping now), Dormono tardi (They sleep late)
- **Lavorare (to work):** Lavoro in ufficio (I work in an office), Lavorano molto (They work a lot)
- **Leggere (to read):** Leggo un libro (I am reading a book), Leggono il giornale (They read the newspaper)
- **Fare (to do/make):** Faccio i compiti (I am doing the homework), Fanno una passeggiata (They are taking a walk)
- **Andare (to go):** Vado al mercato (I am going to the market), Andiamo al cinema (We are going to the cinema)
- **Potere (to be able to):** Posso aiutarti (I can help you), Puoi venire? (Can you come?)
- **Volere (to want):** Voglio mangiare (I want to eat), Vogliono giocare (They want to play)
- **Dovere (to have to/must):** Devo studiare (I have to study), Dobbiamo lavorare (We have to work)

### Negative Sentences:

To make a sentence negative, simply add "non" before the verb.

- Non parlo francese (I don't speak French)
- Non abito qui (I don't live here)
- Non mangiano carne (They don't eat meat)

### Key Points:

- The present tense in Italian can express both simple present and present continuous actions.
- Italian verbs carry information about the subject, tense, and mood within the verb form itself, making it less reliant on pronouns.
- Many verbs are regular, following these patterns, but some verbs have irregular conjugations.