Basic Italian Grammar (Complete for Beginner-Speaking)

Lesson 1

We learn the basic constructs of Italian. Italian is a **positional** language, so positions of words in a sentence matter. Most basic sentence construction is **SVO** : Subject + Verb + Object, where **Subject** : (Definite/Indefinite)Article + Noun + Adjective, and adverbs fit on the verb.

Nouns have suffixes that indicate their gender and their number:

Gender	Number	Noun
Masculine	Singular	Ragazzo
Feminine	Singular	Ragazza
Masculine	Plural	Ragazzi
Feminine	Plural	Ragazze

Basic verbs are essere (to be), avere (to have), mangiare (to eat). Conjugations of essere and avere are:

Verb	Person	Example
Essere	Io (I)	sono (am)
Essere	Tu (You)	sei (are)
Essere	Lui/Lei (He/She)	è (is)
Essere	Noi (We)	siamo (are)
Essere	Voi (Y'all)	siete (are)
Essere	Loro (They)	sono (are)

Verb	Person	Example
Avere	Io (I)	ho (have)
Avere	Tu (You)	hai (have)
Avere	Lui/Lei (He/She)	ha (has)
Avere	Noi (We)	abbiamo (have)
Avere	Voi (Y'all)	avete (have)
Avere	Loro (They)	hanno (have)

Lesson 2 (Definite Articles)

The general pattern for modifying a noun for marking gender/number. This is called conjugation Ask Martina that this is indeed called conjugation.

Gender	Singular	Plural
Masculine (il gatto)	-o	-i
Feminine (la Mente)	-e	-i
Feminine (la Mano)	-o	-i
Feminine (la citta)	-a	-a

Definite articles / Articolo Determinativi (the)

We learn the definite articles, which are used to refer to specific nouns. The consstruction depends on gender as well as the first letter of the noun.

Gender	Number	1st Letter	Example Definite Article
Maschile	Singolare	vocale	**l'** albero
Maschile	Plurale	vocale	**gli** alberi
Maschile	Singolare	consonant (normal)	**il** cane
Maschile	Plurale	consonant (normal)	**i** cani
Maschile	Singolare	s+cons / z / p + cons / y / x	**lo** zucchero, lo spazio
Maschile	Plurale	s+consonant/ z/ p+ cons/ x/ y	**gli** studenti
Femminile	Singolare	consonant (normal)	**le** chiesa
Femminile	Plurale	consonant (normal)	**le** chiese
Femminile	Singolare	vocale	**l'** amica
Femminile	Singolare	vocale	**le** amiche

Lesson 3 (Indefinite Articles)

We learn Indefinite articles (a, an, some) are used to refer to non-specific nouns. Note that in English, we can only say "a dog", we cannot say "a dogs". It's the same as in Italian, where we only have indefinite articles for the singular nouns. Thus, the indefinite article depends on the gender of the noun and the first letter of the noun.

Gender	1st Letter	Example Indefinite Article
Maschile	vocale	**un** albero
Maschile	consonant (normal)	**un** cane
Maschile	s+cons / z / p + cons / y / x	**uno** zucchero, **uno** spazio
Femminile	vocale	**un'** amica
Femminile	consonant (normal)	**una** chiesa

Lesson 4 (Conjugation for Regular Verb Forms)

We learn the conjugation for regular verb forms for `-are`, `-ere` and `-ire`.

Pronoun	Parl-`are`	Cred-`ere`	Dorm-`ire`
(Meaning)	(to speak)	(to believe)	(to sleep)
Io	parl-o	cred-o	dorm-o
Tu	parl-i	cred-i	dorm-i
Lui/Lei	parl- a	cred- e	dorm- e
Noi	parl-iamo	cred-iamo	dorm-iamo
Voi	parl- ate	cred- ete	dorm- ite
Loro	parl-ono	cred-ono	dorm-ono

Lesson 5 (Modal Verbs)

A modal verb is a verb that is used with another verb to express ability, necessity, permission, or possibility. The most common modal verbs in Italian are volere (to want),   potere (can/to be able to), and dovere (must/to have to).   what makes it a modality?

Pronoun	Vol-ere	Pot-ere	Dov-ere
(Meaning)	(to want)	(to be able to)	(to have to)
Io	voglio	posso	devo
Tu	vuoi	puoi	devi
Lui/Lei	vuole	puo	deve
Noi	vogliamo	possiamo	dobbiamo
Voi	volete	potete	dovete
Loro	vogiono	possono	devono

New Words

 andare (to go),   venire (to come),   dare (to give),   fare (to do/make)

Lesson 6 (Pronouns) Ask Martina

In this lesson, we will learn about pronouns. When we think about pronouns, we need to know: (a) direct / indirect objects, (b) reflexive pronouns, (c) transitive verbs and (d) intransitive verbs.

Reflexive Pronouns

A reflexive pronoun is a pronoun that refers back to the subject of the sentence. See that the reflexive pronoun must occur with a subject pronoun (e.g. I eat myself).

Subject Pronoun	Object Pronoun	Reflexive Variant
I	Me	Myself
I eat an apple	bear eats me	I eat myself
you	you	yourself
you eat an apple	bear eats you	you eat yourself
he	him	himself
he eats an apple	bear eats him	he eats himself
it	it	itself
it eats an apple	bear eats it	it eats itself
they	them	themselves
they eat an apple	bear eats them	they eat themselves

Example Use of Reflexive Verb With Reflexive Pronoun Svegliarsi (to wake oneself up):

Pronoun	Conjugation
Io	mi sveglio
Tu	ti svegli
Lui/Lei	si sveglia
Noi	ci svegliamo

Pronoun	Conjugation
Voi	vi svegliate
Loro	si svegliano

Direct and Indirect Objects get a precise defn.

Note that an indirect object is always preceded by a preposition (e.g. to, for).

1. I (subject) read a book (direct object).
2. I (subject) read a book (direct object) to luisa (indirect object).

Direct Object Pronouns Table

table.header[][**Subject Pronoun**][**Object Direct Pronoun**], [I], [I], [Me], [I], [Io], [Mi], [You], [Tu], [Ti], [He], [Lui], [Lo], [She], [Lei], [La], [We], [Noi], [Ci], [Y'all], [Voi], [Vi] [They], [Loro], [Li/Le])

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

1. Intransitive verb is a verb that does not take a direct object.
2. A Transitive verb is a verb that does take a direct object.

Both transitive and intransitive verbs can sometimes
 (is it sometimes? is it always? if it is not always, what is an example of such a verb?) take an indirect object.

Big Table

	Subject Pronoun	Object Direct Pronoun	Reflexive Pronoun	Indirect Strong	Indirect Weak
I	I	I	Myself	Me	To Me
I	Io	Mi	Mi	Mi	(a) me
You	You	You	Yourself	You	To You
You	Tu	Ti	Ti	Ti	(a) te
He	He	Him	Himself	Him	To Him
He	Lui	Lo	Si	Si	(a) lui
She	Lei	La	Si	Si	(a) lei
We	Noi	Ci	Ci	Ci	(a) noi
Y'all	Voi	Vi	Vi	Vi	(a) voi
They	Loro	Li	Si	Si	(a) loro

In normal convo, always use the weak form of indirect object pronouns.

Lesson 7 (Question Words)

English	Italian	Example Sentence
When	Quando	sentence
Where	Dove	sentence
Who	Chi	sentence
How	Come	sentence
Why	Perche	sentence

English	Italian	Example Sentence
What	Che cosa	`sentence`
Which	Quale	`sentence`
How Many	Quanto	`sentence`

Lesson 7.5 (Prepositions)

We will drop a big table of prepositions here. Prepositions in italian can combine with the definite articles to form contractions.

Interlude: Celebrate!

This suffices our basic grammar for beginner-speaking. At this point, it is worth it to learn vocabulary and practice speaking.

Lesson 8 (Simple Future)

Vocabulary

Italian	English
Qualcuno	Someone
Qualcosa	Something
Questo	This
Quello	That
Qui	Here
Ci	There
Adesso	Now
Quindi	Then/So
Sempre	Always
Mai	Never
Anche	Also/Too
Ma	But
Perche	Because/Why
O	Or
Oggi	Today
Domani	Tomorrow
Ieri	Yesterday
Settimana	Week
Mese	Month
Anno	Year
Tempo	Time
Primavera	Spring
Estate	Summer
Inverno	Winter
Autunno	Fall

Italian	English
Mattina	Morning
Pomeriggio	Afternoon
Sera	Evening
Notte	Night
Colazione	Breakfast
Pranzo	Lunch
Cena	Dinner
Insieme	Together
Sapere	To know (a fact)
Ricordare	To remember
Capire	To understand
Vedere	To see
Guardare	To watch/look at
Ascoltare	To listen to
Sentire	To hear/feel
Parlare	To speak/talk
Chiamare	To call
Domandare	To ask
Rispondere	To answer
Leggere	To read
Scrivere	To write
Studiare	To study
Imparare	To learn
Insegnare	To teach
Giocare	To play (a game)
Suonare	To play (an instrument)
Viaggiare	To travel
Comprare	To buy
Vendere	To sell
Pagare	To pay
Costare	To cost
Dare	To give
Ricevere	To receive
Prendere	To take
Fare	To do/make
Andare	To go
Venire	To come
Stare	To stay/be
Mettere	To put/place

Italian	English
Trovare	To find
Lasciare	To leave (something/someone)
Portare	To bring/carry
Svegliarsi	To wake oneself up
Alzarsi	To get oneself up (out of bed)
Diversi	To have fun/enjoy oneself
Chiedere	To ask (a question)
Rispondere	To answer (a question)
Come	How
Quando	When
Dove	Where
Chi	Who
Che cosa	What
Quale	Which
Perche	Why
Triste	Sad
Felice	Happy
Stanco	Tired
Malato	Sick
Dormo	Sleepy