

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 città)	-a	-a

Definite articles / Articolo Determinativi (the)

We learn the **definite articles**, which are used to refer to specific nouns. The construction 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)	la 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	vogliono	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.**

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

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

Lesson 7 (Question Words)

English	Italian	Example Sentence
When	Quando	sentence
Where	Dove	sentence
Who	Chi	sentence
How	Come	sentence
Why	Perche	sentence
What	Che cosa	sentence
Which	Quale	sentence

Lesson 8 (Simple Future)