



INTREPID ITALIAN ITALIAN TENSES



Ciao ciao!

Grazie! Thank you for downloading this Italian tenses cheat-sheet. This guide features a verb tenses chart and lots of example sentences. Crack the code and master Italian tenses with **my Intrepid Italian 30-Day tenses challenge**. For more details, visit <https://bit.ly/tenses-challenge> or go to IntrepidItalian.com

Got a trip to Italy coming up? Remember, you don't need to be fluent in Italian to have meaningful interactions with the locals and create memories that will last a lifetime, but you can be **fluent enough for travel**.

Learning to use just a few words can do wonders for enhancing your travel experiences. Plus, it's a great way to show respect and make a good first impression. This is why I not only write detailed destination guides and create informative videos, I also created a [free travel phrase guide](#) and [online language courses](#) to help smart and savvy travellers like you get the most out of their travel experiences through the power of language.



Hi! I'm Michele, an Australian travel blogger and language educator and 'guide' behind [The Intrepid Guide](#). I help my readers and students enrich their travels with beautiful and [detailed destinations guides](#), [free travel phrase guides](#), and effective [online language courses](#) that follow my 80/20 method so they can enjoy meaningful interactions with the locals and avoid being treated like a tourist. Over the past few years, I've travelled the world and learned several foreign languages using my unique building-block method which is the basis of all my language courses. Keep in touch with me via Instagram [@intrepiditalian](#) where I share daily Italian lessons.

Italian Verb Tenses Chart

The Indicative Mode			
Presente	Imperfetto	Futuro Semplice	Passato Remoto
mangio mangi mangia mangiamo mangiate mangiano	mangiavo mangiavi mangiava mangiavamo mangiavate mangiavano	mangerò mangerai mangerà mangeremo mangerete mangeranno	mangiai mangiasti mangiò mangiammo mangiaste mangiarono
Passato Prossimo	Trapassato Prossimo	Futuro anteriore	Trapassato Remoto
ho mangiato hai mangiato ha mangiato abbiamo mangiato avete mangiato hanno mangiato	avevo mangiato avevi mangiato aveva mangiato avevamo mangiato avevate mangiato avevano mangiato	avrò mangiato avrà mangiato avrà mangiato avremo mangiato avrete mangiato avranno mangiato	ebbi mangiato avesti mangiato ebbe mangiato avemmo mangiato aveste mangiato ebbero mangiato
The Subjunctive Mode			
Presente	Imperfetto	Passato	Trapassato
mangi mangi mangi mangiamo mangiate mangino	mangiassi mangiassi mangiasse mangiassimo mangiaste mangiassero	abbia mangiato abbia mangiato abbia mangiato abbiamo mangiato abbiate mangiato abbiano mangiato	avessi mangiato avessi mangiato avesse mangiato avessimo mangiato aveste mangiato avessero mangiato
The Conditional Mode		The Imperative Mode	
Presente	Passato	Presente	
mangerei mangeresti mangerebbe mangeremmo mangereste mangerebbero	avrei mangiato avresti mangiato avrebbe mangiato avremmo mangiato avreste mangiato avrebbero mangiato	- mangia! mangi! mangiamo! mangiate! mangino!	



The Indicative Mode

Tense	How and when it's used	Example
Presente	The present indicative tense describes an action or situation that is happening right now, in the present time. The present tense is also used to express facts, universal truths and repeated actions in the present, to talk about fixed plans and something that will happen in the near future.	Ogni giorno Giada va al lavoro in bicicletta. (Every day Giada goes to work by bike.)
Passato Prossimo	The passato prossimo is an Italian tense used to talk about past events. In particular, it describes events and actions that occurred at a definite time in the past and that have a beginning and an ending. It is a so-called compound tense, because it is made of two parts.	Sabato scorso per cena ho mangiato la pizza. (Last Saturday I had pizza for dinner.)
Imperfetto	The Italian imperfect tense, l'imperfetto , is also used to talk about past events, but unlike the <i>passato prossimo</i> , we use it for descriptions, repeated actions, moods and feelings, childhood and in general, to give the context, frame or background of events in the past. It translates in English to 'used to'.	Da piccoli, io e mio cugino giocavamo sempre ai videogiochi. (When we were kids, my cousin and I played video games all the time.)
Trapassato Prossimo	The past perfect tense, in Italian, trapassato prossimo , is like the English 'I had said', 'you had gone', 'we had seen', etc. It is used to describe a completed action that happened before another completed action in the past. It is a compound tense, formed by two pasts: the imperfect tense of essere or avere , and the past participle of the verb, e.g. eri uscito (you had gone out), avevo mangiato (I had eaten). It is often used in combination with other kinds of past tense.	Quando Claudio è arrivato alla fermata dell'autobus, l'autobus era già partito. (When Claudio arrived at the bus stop, the train had already left.)



Futuro Semplice	We use the future to talk about something that will happen or that will be true, however the simple future in Italian is not used as extensively as the English future with 'will' or 'going to'. In Italian, the simple future expresses the idea of a distant or uncertain future, more than a fixed plan	Da grande, Giulio farà il pilota. (When he grows up, Giulio will be a pilot.)
Futuro anteriore	As the name suggests, the compound future is a compound tense, formed by the simple future of essere or avere and the past participle of the verb. Often used in combination with the simple future, it indicates an action that happens before the action expressed by the simple future. It also translates the English 'will have + -ed'.	Dopo che avrò preparato la valigia, potrò riposarmi. (After I pack my suitcase, I can rest.)
Passato Remoto	The Italian remote past, or passato remoto , is another past tense. In writing, the remote past is mostly found in literature and narrative, to talk about historical facts and events. In speaking, it is used almost exclusively in Southern Italy, while in the North the <i>passato prossimo</i> tense is preferred.	Dante scrisse la Divina Commedia. (Dante wrote the Divina Commedia.)
Trapassato Remoto	The preterite past, or trapassato remoto in Italian, is even rarer than the remote past, as it refers to an action that took place in the past, long ago, before another action introduced by the passato remoto . In writing, it adds a more sophisticated nuance to the sequence of actions, but you will never find it in spoken Italian.	Solo dopo che ebbe scoperto il suo tradimento, decise di vendicarsi. (Only after he discovered his treachery did he decide to take revenge)
The Conditional Mode		
Presente	We use the present conditional to express a desire, a wish, to make a request in a polite way, to express uncertainty, personal opinions,	Vorrei un bicchiere d'acqua, per favore. (I would like a glass of water, please.)



	probabilities, or to give advice, in relation to the present time. Here are some examples:	
Passato	Similarly to the present conditional, the past conditional expresses desire, wish or possibility, but in the past. The only case when we can't use the past conditional is to make a polite request. The past conditional describes something that could have, might have, should have happened and that can't be changed anymore.	Giovanni sarebbe andato in palestra, ma non ha avuto tempo. (Giovanni would have gone to the gym, but he didn't have time.)
The Imperative Mode		
Presente	The imperative mode is used to give advice, orders, commands, suggestions in a direct way. Depending on the tone used and the context, imperative sentences can be interpreted as more or less rude. The imperative mode only has one tense, the present tense. Unlike other tenses, you can't use all the subjects in the imperative, but only: tu, Lei, noi and voi .	Mangia! (Eat!) Non abbia paura! (Don't be afraid! <i>f.</i>) Andiamo a fare un aperitivo! (Let's go have an aperitif!) Non dimenticare il passaporto! (Don't forget your passport!)
The Subjunctive Mode		
Presente	There are many cases where the present subjunctive needs to be used. This includes: verbs of opinion, hope, uncertainty, fear, doubt, feelings, expressions like sono felice/triste che... (I'm happy/sad that...), è necessario che.../bisogna che... (it is necessary that...), words like nonostante/benché (although), expressions like 'the more/less ... than'. The present subjunctive is used when the verb before che is in the present indicative tense.	Penso che lui dica la verità. (I think he is telling the truth.)



Passato	The past subjunctive is a compound tense, so it is formed by two words: the present subjunctive of essere or avere and the past participle of the verb. It is used in the same cases of the present tense. The past subjunctive is used to express a past action that happened <u>before</u> another action described with the present indicative tense verb in the sentence before che .	Sembra che Giorgio abbia conosciuto una ragazza alla festa. (It seems that Giorgio has met a girl at the party.)
Imperfetto	Similarly to the present subjunctive, the imperfect subjunctive is a simple tense (meaning, it has only one word). It is used with the same kind of verbs that we saw for the present subjunctive (sperare , to hope, credere/pensare , to believe) and the same grammar structures, but this time the verb before the che is in the imperfect indicative tense.	Avevamo paura che l'esame fosse andato male. (We were afraid that the exam had gone wrong.)
Trapassato	The past perfect subjunctive is a compound tense, formed by the imperfect subjunctive of essere or avere plus the past participle of the verb. Just like the past subjunctive, the past perfect subjunctive is used to express a relationship of anteriority with the verb before the che . So, the action expressed by the subjunctive occurred before the action expressed by the other verb (usually in the past conditional, imperfect indicative or <i>passato prossimo</i> tense).	Pensavamo che Roberta e Lucia si fossero già incontrate prima. (We thought Roberta and Lucia had met before.)

Grazie!



I hope you enjoyed this cheat-sheet and learned something new. Remember, don't worry about not being able to remember it all, you're learning more than most other people do so you should be very proud of yourself. I know I am!

Want more language resources? Check out my guide on top-rated [languages tools, courses, and apps here](#). If you enjoyed this compact language guide and you want to discover how I can help you boost your language skills, [check out my popular language courses here](#).

If you have any feedback on this guide or want to share any suggestions for future material you'd love me to create, feel free to get in touch at michele@theintrepidguide.com

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With all the encouragement in the world, I wish you success! Happy learning! Michele

