

A SELF-TEACHING GUIDE

ITALIAN

**THIRD
EDITION**

ILARIA
SERRA

EDOARDO A.
LÈBANO

JOSSEY-BASS
A Wiley Brand

Italian

A Self-Teaching Guide

Third Edition

Wiley Self-Teaching Guides teach practical skills from accounting to astronomy, management to mathematics. Look for them at your local bookstore.

Languages

French: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Suzanne A. Hershfield

German: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Heimy Taylor

Practical Spanish Grammar: A Self-Teaching Guide,
by Nelly Zamora-Breckenridge

Advanced Spanish Grammar: A Self-Teaching Guide, by K. Allen Davis

Business Skills

Making Successful Presentations: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Terry C. Smith

Managing Assertively: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Madelyn Burley-Allen

Managing Behavior on the Job: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Paul L. Brown

Teleselling: A Self-Teaching Guide, by James Porterfield

Successful Time Management: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Jack D. Ferner

Science

Astronomy: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Dinah Moche

Basic Physics: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Karl F. Kuhn

Chemistry: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Clifford C. Houk and Richard Post

Biology: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Steven D. Garber

Other Skills

How Grammar Works: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Patricia Osborn

Listening: The Forgotten Skill, A Self-Teaching Guide, by Madelyn Burley-Allen

Quick Vocabulary Power: A Self-Teaching Guide, by Jack S. Romine and
Henry Ehrlich

Study Skills: A Student's Guide for Survival, A Self-Teaching Guide, by
Robert A. Carman

Italian

A Self-Teaching Guide

Third Edition

**Ilaria Serra
and Edoardo A. Lèbano**

Copyright © 2025 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved, including rights for text and data mining and training of artificial intelligence technologies or similar technologies.

Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey.
Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, (978) 750-8400, fax (978) 750-4470, or on the web at www.copyright.com. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permission>.

The manufacturer's authorized representative according to the EU General Product Safety Regulation is Wiley-VCH GmbH, Boschstr. 12, 69469 Weinheim, Germany, e-mail: Product_Safety@wiley.com.

Trademarks: Wiley and the Wiley logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and other countries and may not be used without written permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: While the publisher and author have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this book and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by sales representatives or written sales materials. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a professional where appropriate. Neither the publisher nor author shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages. Further, readers should be aware that websites listed in this work may have changed or disappeared between when this work was written and when it is read. Neither the publisher nor authors shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

For general information on our other products and services or for technical support, please contact our Customer Care Department within the United States at (800) 762-2974, outside the United States at (317) 572-3993 or fax (317) 572-4002.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic formats. For more information about Wiley products, visit our web site at www.wiley.com.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is Available:

ISBN: 9781394280742 (Paperback)
ISBN: 9781394280759 (ePub)
ISBN: 9781394280766 (ePDF)

Cover Design: Paul McCarthy

To Emanuele

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<i>Pronunciation Guide</i>	xv
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xix
LESSON 1 BASIC EXPRESSIONS	1
Parole da Ricordare (Words to Remember)	2
Grammar I Gender and Number of Italian Nouns	3
Grammar II The Indefinite Article	4
Grammar III The Definite Article	5
Grammar IV Subject Pronouns	6
Grammar V Present Indicative of <i>essere</i> and <i>avere</i>	8
Grammar VI Numbers from 0 to 1,000	9
LESSON 2 IN UN RISTORANTE DEL CENTRO (In a Downtown Restaurant)	12
Parole da Ricordare (Words to Remember)	12
Dialogo Sergio e Maria mangiano in un ristorante del centro	13
Dialogue Sergio and Maria Are Eating in a Downtown Restaurant	13
Grammar I Present Indicative of <i>-are</i> , <i>-ere</i> , and <i>-ire</i> Verbs	15
Verbi da Ricordare (Verbs to Remember)	17
Grammar II Present Indicative of <i>-iare</i> , <i>-care</i> , and <i>-gare</i> Verbs	18
Grammar III The Adjective—Gender and Number	19
Grammar IV Interrogative Sentences	21
Grammar V Negative Constructions	21
Grammar VI The Days of the Week	22

LESSON 3	ALLA STAZIONE FERROVIARIA	(At the Railway Station)	24
	Parole da Ricordare	(Words to Remember)	24
	Dialogo	Alla stazione ferroviaria	25
	Dialogue	At the Railway Station	25
	Grammar I	Position of the Adjective	26
	Grammar II	Present Indicative of <i>capire</i> , <i>finire</i> , and <i>preferire</i>	31
	Grammar III	The Verbs <i>sapere</i> and <i>conoscere</i>	32
	Grammar IV	Meaning of <i>c'è</i> and <i>ci sono</i>	33
	Grammar V	How to Tell Time in Italian	33
	Grammar VI	Numbers from 1,001 to 1 Billion	35
LESSON 4	COMPLEANNO IN FAMIGLIA	(A Family Birthday)	37
	Parole da Ricordare	(Words to Remember)	37
	Dialogo	Compleanno in famiglia	38
	Dialogue	A Family Birthday	38
	Grammar I	Plural of Certain Nouns and Adjectives	39
	Grammar II	Possessive Adjectives and Possessive Pronouns	41
	Grammar III	Present Indicative of the Stem-Changing Verbs <i>dare</i> , <i>andare</i> , <i>fare</i> , <i>stare</i> , <i>uscire</i> , and <i>venire</i>	43
	Grammar IV	The Adjective <i>tutto</i> , <i>a</i>	44
	Grammar V	A Person's Age	45
	Grammar VI	Seasons and Months of the Year	45
LESSON 5	IN UN ALBERGO DI MILANO	(In a Hotel in Milan)	48
	Parole da Ricordare	(Words to Remember)	48
	Dialogo	In un albergo di Milano	49
	Dialogue	In a Hotel in Milan	50
	Grammar I	Prepositions Not Combined with the Definite Article	51
	Grammar II	Prepositions Combined with the Definite Article	54
	Grammar III	The Partitive	55
	Grammar IV	Present Indicative of the Stem-Changing Verbs <i>dovere</i> , <i>potere</i> , and <i>volere</i>	57
	Grammar V	The Interrogative Pronoun <i>chi</i> and the Adjectives <i>che</i> , <i>quale</i> , and <i>quanto</i>	58
	Grammar VI	Future Indicative of <i>avere</i> and <i>essere</i> and of <i>-are</i> , <i>-ere</i> , and <i>-ire</i> Verbs	59
	Review A (Lessons 1–5)		63

LESSON 6	FARE LA SPESA (Grocery Shopping)	67
Parole da Ricordare	(Words to Remember)	67
Dialogo	A fare la spesa	68
Dialogue	Grocery Shopping	69
Grammar I	Plural of Some Nouns	70
Grammar II	Personal Pronouns After a Preposition or a Verb	72
Grammar III	Direct Object Pronouns	72
Grammar IV	Position of the Direct Object Pronoun in a Sentence	73
Grammar V	Future Indicative of Verbs Ending in <i>-care, -gare, -ciare, and -giare</i>	76
Grammar VI	<i>Niente, nulla, nessuno</i> , and Other Negative Expressions	77
Grammar VII	Future Indicative of the Stem-Changing Verbs <i>dare, andare, fare, stare</i> , and <i>dovere, potere, volere</i>	79
LESSON 7	IN UNA BANCA DI FIRENZE (In a Bank in Florence)	81
Parole Da Ricordare	(Words to Remember)	81
Dialogo	In una banca di Firenze	82
Dialogue	In a Bank in Florence	82
Grammar I	Nouns Ending in <i>-ista</i>	84
Grammar II	Present Indicative of the Stem-Changing Verbs <i>bere, dire, rimanere</i> , and <i>tenere</i> ; Future Indicative of <i>sapere, vedere</i> , and <i>venire</i>	85
Grammar III	The Past Participle	86
Grammar IV	<i>Passato Prossimo</i> of Transitive and Intransitive Verbs	88
Grammar V	Agreement of the Past Participle with Direct Object Pronouns	92
Grammar VI	Idiomatic Use of the Present Indicative with the Preposition <i>da</i>	92
LESSON 8	UNA VISITA MEDICA (A Medical Examination)	94
Parole da Ricordare	(Words to Remember)	94
Dialogo	Una visita medica	95
Dialogue	A Medical Examination	96
Grammar I	Future Indicative of the Stem-Changing Verbs <i>bere, dire, rimanere</i> , and <i>tenere</i>	97
Grammar II	The Relative Pronouns <i>che, cui, il quale</i> , and <i>la quale</i>	98
Grammar III	Reflexive Verbs and Reflexive Pronouns	100
Grammar IV	The Direct Object Pronoun <i>ne</i>	103

Grammar V	The Adjective <i>ogni</i>	105
Grammar VI	Idiomatic Expressions with <i>fare</i>	106
LESSON 9 IN UN NEGOZIO DI ABBIGLIAMENTO		
	(In a Clothing Store)	108
Parole da Ricordare	(Words to Remember)	108
Dialogo	In un negozio di abbigliamento	109
Dialogue	In a Clothing Store	110
Grammar I	The Relative Pronoun <i>cui</i> and the Possessive Interrogative <i>di chi</i>	111
Grammar II	Reciprocal Constructions	112
Grammar III	Indirect Object Pronouns	113
Grammar IV	The Verb <i>piacere</i>	115
Grammar V	Imperative of First-, Second-, and Third-Conjugation Verbs	116
Grammar VI	Imperative of <i>avere</i> and <i>essere</i> and of the Stem-Changing Verbs <i>dare, dire, fare, stare</i>	118
LESSON 10 UNA TELEFONATA (A Telephone Call)		121
Parole da Ricordare	(Words to Remember)	121
Dialogo	Una telefonata	122
Dialogue	A Telephone Call	122
Grammar I	The Adverbial Pronoun <i>ci</i>	124
Grammar II	Position of Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns with the Imperative	125
Grammar III	Imperative of Reflexive Verbs	127
Grammar IV	Imperative of the Stem-Changing Verbs <i>andare, bere, rimanere, tenere, uscire, and venire</i>	128
Grammar V	Double Object Pronouns	129
Grammar VI	The <i>Imperfetto</i>	131
Review B (Lessons 6–10)		136
LESSON 11 UNA GITA DOMENICALE (A Sunday Outing)		141
Parole da Ricordare		141
Dialogo	Una gita domenicale	142
Dialogue	A Sunday Outing	143
Grammar I	The Impersonal Construction	144
Grammar II	The Comparative	145
Grammar III	The Superlative	149

Grammar IV	Verbs Used in the Third-Person Singular	152
Grammar V	Idiomatic Use of the <i>Imperfetto</i> with the Preposition <i>da</i>	153
Grammar VI	Present Conditional of <i>-are</i> , <i>-ere</i> , and <i>-ire</i> Verbs; Present Conditional of <i>avere</i> and <i>essere</i>	153
LESSON 12 SUL SITO DI VIAGGI ONLINE		
	(On the Online Travel Website)	157
Parole da Ricordare	(Words to Remember)	157
Dialogo	Sul sito di viaggi online	158
Dialogue	On the Online Travel Website	158
Grammar I	Present Conditional of Stem-Changing Verbs	160
Grammar II	Future Perfect and Perfect Conditional	163
Grammar III	The <i>Trapassato Prossimo</i>	166
Grammar IV	The <i>Gerundio</i>	168
Grammar V	Special Construction of <i>stare</i> with the <i>Gerundio</i>	171
Grammar VI	The Infinitive	171
LESSON 13 ALL'UFFICIO POSTALE (At the Post Office)		175
Parole da Ricordare		175
Dialogo	All'ufficio postale	176
Dialogue	At the Post Office	176
Grammar I	Adverbs	178
Grammar II	The Comparative and Superlative of Adverbs	179
Grammar III	Present Subjunctive	180
Grammar IV	Perfect Subjunctive	182
Grammar V	The Subjunctive: Use (Part I)	184
Grammar VI	Tense Sequence: Indicative/Subjunctive (Part I)	187
LESSON 14 DAL MECCANICO (At the Mechanic's)		190
Parole da Ricordare		190
Dialogo	Dal meccanico	191
Dialogue	At the Mechanic's	191
Grammar I	The <i>Passato Remoto</i>	193
Grammar II	The <i>Passato Remoto</i> of Stem-Changing Verbs	195
Grammar III	The <i>Trapassato Remoto</i>	197
Grammar IV	Imperfect Subjunctive	198
Grammar V	Pluperfect Subjunctive	200
Grammar VI	Tense Sequence: Indicative/Subjunctive (Part II)	201

LESSON 15 IN CERCA DI LAVORO	(Looking for a Job)	205
Parole da Ricordare		205
Narrativa	In cerca di lavoro	206
Narrative	Looking for a Job	207
Grammar I	The Subjunctive: Use (Part II)	208
Grammar II	<i>If</i> Clauses with the Subjunctive	210
Grammar III	Additional Uses of the Subjunctive	212
Grammar IV	The Passive Construction	213
Grammar V	Nouns and Adjectives Combined with a Suffix	216
Grammar VI	Special Constructions with <i>fare, lasciare, metterci,</i> and <i>volerci</i>	218
Review C (Lessons 11–15)		222
<i>Appendix A</i>	<i>Answers for Exercises and Reviews</i>	226
<i>Appendix B</i>	<i>Regular Verbs</i>	290
<i>Appendix C</i>	<i>Irregular Verbs</i>	294
<i>Italian–English Vocabulary</i>		302

Preface

Italian: A Self-Teaching Guide is a simplified and practical beginner's course for anyone who wishes to learn Italian. The program is designed to provide self-learners, students in adult education courses, and students in beginning language courses with a general knowledge of the Italian language as it is spoken and written today.

In presenting almost all major grammatical structures of the Italian language, the book follows an essentially practical and linguistic approach, gradually building up a vocabulary of well over eleven hundred of the most commonly used Italian words. All explanations of grammatical points stress the basic and the indispensable and, as much as possible, concise, simple, and to the point.

The text consists of (1) fifteen regular lessons; (2) three review lessons, immediately following lessons 5, 10, and 15; (3) an appendix with the answers to the exercises, including those in the review lessons; (4) an appendix with the conjugations of regular verbs, and one with the conjugations of *avere* and *essere* and irregular forms of the stem-changing verbs encountered in the text; and (5) an Italian-English vocabulary, listing words presented in the fifteen lessons.

Each of the lessons begins with a list of useful words (*Parole da Ricordare*, Words to Remember), most of them related to the topic of the Dialogo that follows, portraying events, situations, or problems in everyday life. Following the English translation of the dialogue, several points of grammar are introduced in a step-by-step procedure. The exercises, rather than being grouped together at the end of the lesson, come immediately after the explanation of relevant grammatical points, thus giving students a sense of building effectively block by block. By checking the results of this immediate practice with the answers provided at the end of the book, students can clearly assess the progress they are making.

To make the best use of this text, carefully read the Pronunciation Guide, then proceed as follows:

1. Always read and repeat aloud each of the words listed in the Words to Remember. Practice writing them, and keep in mind their meaning in English.
2. Read the entire Dialogo and repeat each sentence several times until you think you know it quite well. Then check the English translation of the Dialogo to see how much of it you were able to understand by yourself.

3. Take your time in learning the content of the various grammatical points. When you have completed the first section, do the exercise(s) before going on to the next section. Check the answers in the back of the book to see how well you did.
4. Analyze your mistakes, and if necessary, reread the grammar explanation. If your mistakes concern vocabulary items, review Words to Remember before continuing with the lesson.

Italian: A Self-Teaching Guide will not turn you into a polished speaker of Italian overnight. It will not enable you to deal immediately with every Italian text. But it will give you the basic tools to understand, speak, read, and write simple Italian. It opens the gate to a very gratifying experience: understanding and appreciating the language and the culture of Italy and its people. *Buon lavoro*—enjoy your work!

—E.A.L.

The third edition of this book has been thoughtfully updated to reflect the evolving times, yet Professor Edoardo Lebano's work remains unparalleled. I am deeply honored to be entrusted with preserving the legacy of this beloved teacher.

—I.S.

Pronunciation Guide

Italian is a highly musical, flowing language. All vowels, diphthongs, and double consonants must be articulated as clearly as possible but should not be uttered by themselves. Related groups of words and phrases are to be pronounced as if they were linked together.

Although Italian and English have similar sounds, some English sounds do not exist in Italian (which, for example, has no aspirated sounds). At the same time, several combinations of vowels and consonants in Italian sound quite different from the sound that the same combinations of vowels and consonants produce in English.

Remember that guttural and nasal sounds are never very strong in Italian. With the exception of words of foreign origin (such as **bar**, **film**, **autobus**), Italian words end with a vowel. Most words are formed in the forward section of the mouth, and the voice normally drops at the end of a sentence, except when posing a question, in which case it usually rises.

Accents and Stress

Most Italian words are stressed on the next-to-last syllable (**giorno**, **signorina**, **arrivederci**). A number of words, including several monosyllabic words, end with a stressed vowel, which requires a written accent (**città**, **perché**, **sì**, **è**, **caffè**). Many words are stressed on the third-to-last syllable **automobile**, **numero**, **dialogo**), and some (for the most part verb forms) are stressed on the fourth-to-last syllable (**abitano**, **desiderano**). In this text, a dot below vowels in words that are stressed on the third- or fourth-to-last syllable (and sometimes the next-to-last) indicates the correct pronunciation.

Vowels

The Italian vowels are **a**, **e**, **i**, **o**, **u**. While **a**, **i**, and **u** are pronounced in the same way throughout Italy, the pronunciation of **e** and **o** in stressed position varies from one region of the Italian peninsula to another.

a has a sound more or less like that of *a* in the English word *father* (**casa**, **matita**).

e sometimes has the sound of *e* in the English word *they*, but without the glide (**sera**, **sete**); or it may resemble the sound of *e* in the words *set* and *get* (**bene**, **sette**).

i has a sound like that of *i* in the English word *machine* or that of *ee* in *see*, but without the glide (libri, via).

o has a sound similar to that of *o* in the English word *cold*, but without the glide (conto, pronto); or it may sound like the *a* in *salt* or the *ou* in *bought* (oggi, coma).

u has a sound similar to that of *u* in *rude*, *oo* in *choose*, or *o* in *do*, but without the glide (studente, università, virtù).

Consonants

c has the sound of **ch** in **chapel** and **church** before the vowel **e** or **i** (ciao, centro, cappuccino). In all other cases, it has the hard **c** sound of the English words **car** and **classroom** (amica, ecco, classe).

g, when followed by **e** or **i**, has the same soft sound of **g** in **general** and **giant** (giorno, oggi, generale). In all other cases, it has the hard **g** sound of the English words **gas** and **goat** (leggo, gas, guasto).

h is always silent, whether at the beginning or end of a word or between vowels (hanno, hotel).

r is trilled; it must be pronounced with the tip of the tongue against the front teeth (professore, treno); when double, the trill is longer (arrivederci, burro).

s has the sound of **s** in the English word **rose** when it is between two vowels or when it precedes the consonants **b**, **d**, **g**, **l**, **m**, **n**, **r**, and **v** (sbagliare, Rosa, così). In all other cases, it is pronounced like **s** in the word **sea** (signore, subito, sera).

z in the initial position sounds like **ds** in **fads** (zucchero, zero). In any other position, when followed by **ia**, **ie**, or **io**, it is pronounced like **ts** in the English words **cats** and **pets** (negozio, pazienza). When the noninitial **z** is *not* followed by **ia**, **ie**, or **io**, it is pronounced in some words like **ts** (abbastanza, vacanza), in others like **ds** (manzo, romanzo).

zz is generally pronounced like **ts** (indirizzo, piazza, ragazzo); in some words, however, it is pronounced like **ds** (azzurro, mezzogiorno).

Combined Consonants

ch + **e** or **i** is pronounced like **k** in **kept** and **kiss** (perché, macchina, benché, chiave).

gh + **e** or **i** has the same sound as **g** in **get** and **girl** (larghe, parafanghi).

gli has a sound similar to that of **lli** in **million** (figlia, biglietto, moglie).

gn has a sound similar to that of **ni** in **onion** (bagno, signore, cognome).

sc + **e** or **i** has more or less the same sound as **sh** in **shelter** and **shield** (pesce, scientifico).

sch + **e** or **i** has the same sound of **sk** in **skeptic** and **skin** (scherzo, pittoreschi).

The Italian Alphabet

The Italian alphabet consists of twenty-one letters (the Italian name appears in parentheses):

a (a), **b** (bi), **c** (ci), **d** (di), **e** (e), **f** (effe), **g** (gi), **h** (acca), **i** (i), **l** (elle), **m** (emme), **n** (enne), **o** (o), **p** (pi), **q** (cu), **r** (erre), **s** (esse), **t** (ti), **u** (u), **v** (vi), **z** (zeta)

Italian also uses five letters borrowed from other languages: **j** (i lunga), **k** (cappa), **w** (doppia vu), **x** (ics), **y** (ipsilon).

PRONUNCIATION EXERCISE

tassì—vaglia—esercizio—domenica—primo—chiesa—stadio—professoressa—
piacere—nazionale—guadagnare—chilometro—cliente—montagna—milione—zio—
sabato—stazione—ombrellino—dolce—spaghetti—cameriere—leggero—città—
centro—alberghi—pubblico—amiche—tabaccaio—eccellente—mio—aglio—
spendere—zucchini—olio—tagliatelle—prezzemolo—arancia—passeggiata

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Florida Atlantic University graduate students, Manuela Filomena, Alessio Giovane, Arianna Salomon, and Orianna Soubllette, for their precious help in updating the content.

1 Basic Expressions

Buon giorno, signore.

Buona sera, signora.

Buona notte, signorina.

Salve

Ciao

Come sta?

Sto bene, grazie. E Lei?

Non c'è male, grazie.

Come si chiama Lei?

Mi chiamo Giovanni Rossi.

Dove abita, signor Rossi?

Abito a Milano.

Di dov'è Lei, signora Jones?

Sono di Miami.

ArrivederLa, signor Martini.

Arrivederci.

A domani.

A presto.

Ciao. Come ti chiami?

Ciao, Maria, e tu?

Sono Edoardo. Come va?

Benino, tu come stai?

Così così.

Di dove sei, Maria?

Sono di Venezia.

Dove abiti, Maria?

Good morning, sir.

Good evening, ma'am.

Good night, miss.

Hello (general greeting)

Hello/Bye (informal)

How are you? (formal)

I'm fine, thank you. And you?

Not too bad, thank you.

What is your name? (formal)

My name is Giovanni Rossi.

Where do you live, Mr. Rossi?

I live in Milan.

Where are you from, Mrs. Jones?

I am from Miami.

Goodbye, Mr. Martini.

Goodbye.

See you tomorrow.

See you soon.

What's your name? (informal)

Hi, Maria, and you?

I am Edoardo. How's it going?

Pretty well, how are you? (informal)

So-so.

Where are you from, Maria?

I am from Venice.

Where do you live, Maria?

Abito a Roma.
Ti presento Giovanni.
Piacere.

I live in Rome.
I introduce to you Giovanni.
Pleasure to meet you.

1. The titles **signore**, **signora**, and **signorina** are to be used when addressing a person you do not know. Remember that **signore** becomes **signor** before a man's last name.
2. **ArrivederLa** is a formal salutation used with only one person at a time (less common today). **Arrivederci** can be used with a person you have already met or with a group of people.
3. **Ciao** is an informal salutation used when meeting or parting—the equivalent of *hi* or *bye*.
4. **Salve** is used when meeting and can be used formally or informally and in every moment of the day.

EXERCISE

ANSWERS
p. 226

1. It's 10:00 A.M. You meet a gentleman you have never seen before. How do you greet him? _____
2. How do you say *How are you* (informal)? _____
3. In late afternoon, do you use **buona sera** or **buona notte**? _____
4. How do you greet an old friend? _____
5. What is your reply to the question **Come sta Lei**? _____
6. Your name is Robert Smith. Introduce yourself in Italian. _____
7. Ask someone the question *Where are you from* (informal)? _____
8. In saying **goodbye** to a group of people, do you use **arrivederLa** or **arrivederci**? _____
9. How do you say *Not too bad, thank you*? _____
10. Ask Maria where she lives. _____

PAROLE DA RICORDARE (*Words to Remember*)

aereo

anno

autobus

bambina (*f.*)

bambino (*m.*)

bar

borsa

airplane

year

bus

child, little girl

child, little boy

bar

purse

caffè

casa

cellulare

città

classe

dottore

film

coffee, café

house, home

cell phone

city, town

class

doctor, physician

film, movie

giorno	day	signora	lady, married woman; ma'am, Mrs.
hotel	hotel		
informazione	information		
lezione	lesson	signore	man, gentleman; sir, Mr.
libro	book		
madre	mother	signorina	young lady, unmarried woman; Miss
matita	pencil		
nome	noun, name		
notte	night	sport	sport
padre	father	stanza	room
penna	pen	stazione	station
piatto	plate, dish of food	studente (<i>m.</i>)	student
piazza	square	studentessa (<i>f.</i>)	student
professore (<i>m.</i>)	professor	treno	train
professoressa (<i>f.</i>)	professor	università	university
quaderno	notebook	vacanza	vacation, holiday
ragazza	girl	via	street, road
ragazzo	boy	vino	wine
ristorante	restaurant	virtù	virtue
sera	evening	zaino	backpack
settimana	week	zucchero	sugar

GRAMMAR I Gender and Number of Italian Nouns

Italian nouns are either masculine or feminine. The gender is generally determined by the final letter of the word.

1. Most singular nouns end in **o** or **a**. Nouns ending in **o** are usually masculine; those ending in **a** are usually feminine. The plural of these nouns is formed by changing **o** to **i** and **a** to **e**.
2. Some nouns ending in **e** are masculine, and some are feminine. The appropriate gender is learned through usage. The plural is formed by changing **e** to **i**.

some masculine nouns ending in e :	dottore, nome, padre, professore, ristorante, signore, studente
some feminine nouns ending in e :	informazione, classe, lezione, madre, notte, stazione
3. Nouns ending with an accented vowel do not change in the plural. Usually nouns ending in **è, ì, and ò** are masculine, and those ending in **à (città)** and **ù (virtù)** are feminine.
4. Nouns ending in a consonant do not change in the plural. Most are of foreign origin and, unless otherwise indicated, are masculine.

EXERCISE

ANSWERS
pp. 226–227

Determine the gender of each of the following nouns; then form the plural and give the English meaning.

Example: bambino *m.*; *pl.* bambini; child, children

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. anno _____ | 16. università _____ |
| 2. matita _____ | 17. bar _____ |
| 3. nome _____ | 18. libro _____ |
| 4. città _____ | 19. lezione _____ |
| 5. vacanza _____ | 20. piazza _____ |
| 6. zucchero _____ | 21. notte _____ |
| 7. via _____ | 22. film _____ |
| 8. ragazza _____ | 23. aereo _____ |
| 9. ristorante _____ | 24. classe _____ |
| 10. signora _____ | 25. professoressa _____ |
| 11. informazione _____ | 26. autobus _____ |
| 12. sera _____ | 27. vino _____ |
| 13. ragazzo _____ | 28. bambina _____ |
| 14. caffè _____ | 29. sport _____ |
| 15. stazione _____ | 30. hotel _____ |

GRAMMAR II The Indefinite Article

In Italian the indefinite article has four forms:

- un** before masculine nouns beginning with a vowel or a consonant (except **s + consonant** or **z**)
- uno** before masculine nouns beginning with **s + consonant** or **z**
- un'** before feminine nouns beginning with a vowel (attaches to the following noun: **un'informazione**)
- una** before feminine nouns beginning with a consonant

Note that the indefinite article is omitted when the noun refers to a person's occupation, profession, nationality, or religion. It is retained when the noun is modified by an adjective or other qualifying phrase.

Antonio è dottore.

Antonella è una buona dottoressa.

Anthony is a doctor.

Antonella is a good doctor.

EXERCISE

ANSWERS
p. 227

Place the appropriate indefinite article before the following nouns.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. _____ informazione | 15. _____ signore |
| 2. _____ stazione | 16. _____ bar |
| 3. _____ signorina | 17. _____ sera |
| 4. _____ borsa | 18. _____ zucchero |
| 5. _____ casa | 19. _____ studente |
| 6. _____ caffè | 20. _____ madre |
| 7. _____ stanza | 21. _____ nome |
| 8. _____ autobus | 22. _____ studentessa |
| 9. _____ settimana | 23. _____ ristorante |
| 10. _____ treno | 24. _____ hotel |
| 11. _____ giorno | 25. _____ classe |
| 12. _____ quaderno | 26. _____ città |
| 13. _____ zaino | 27. _____ film |
| 14. _____ piatto | 28. _____ notte |

GRAMMAR III The Definite Article

A. In English, there is only one form of the definite article: *the*. In Italian, the definite article has several different forms.

1. With Masculine Nouns

il (<i>sing.</i>) and i (<i>pl.</i>)	before a noun beginning with a consonant (except s + consonant or z)
l' (<i>sing.</i>) and gli (<i>pl.</i>)	before a noun beginning with a vowel
lo (<i>sing.</i>) and gli (<i>pl.</i>)	before a noun beginning with s + consonant or z
l'anno	gli anni
il dottore	i dottori
lo studente	gli studenti

2. With Feminine Nouns

la (<i>sing.</i>) and le (<i>pl.</i>)	before a noun beginning with a consonant
l' (<i>sing.</i>) and le (<i>pl.</i>)	before a noun beginning with a vowel
l'informazione	le informazioni
la ragazza	le ragazze

- B. With very few exceptions, the definite article is always required before a noun. In contrast to English usage, the article is required when referring to a person by title.

Il dottor Rossi abita a Roma.

Dr. Rossi lives in Rome.

It is omitted, however, when addressing people by their titles.

Come sta, signora Jones?

How are you, Mrs. Jones?

Buon giorno, professor Betti.

Good morning, Professor Betti.

Note that as with **signore**, the last vowel of the titles **dottore** and **professore** is dropped before a person's last name.

EXERCISES

ANSWERS
p. 228

- A. Place the correct definite article before the following singular nouns.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. _____ casa | 8. _____ aereo |
| 2. _____ giorno | 9. _____ padre |
| 3. _____ autobus | 10. _____ signora |
| 4. _____ sera | 11. _____ bar |
| 5. _____ caffè | 12. _____ stanza |
| 6. _____ stazione | 13. _____ città |
| 7. _____ matita | 14. _____ zucchero |

ANSWERS
p. 228

- B. Give the plural forms of each of the following nouns.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. il quaderno _____ | 8. l'università _____ |
| 2. la piazza _____ | 9. il film _____ |
| 3. il ristorante _____ | 10. il professore _____ |
| 4. l'anno _____ | 11. il nome _____ |
| 5. la settimana _____ | 12. l'hotel _____ |
| 6. lo zaino _____ | 13. il treno _____ |
| 7. la lezione _____ | 14. la classe _____ |

GRAMMAR IV Subject Pronouns

The most commonly used subject pronouns are:

Person	Singular		Plural	
First	io	I	noi	we
Second	tu	you (<i>familiar sing.</i>)	voi	you (<i>fam. pl.</i>)
Third	lui	he	loro	they (<i>m. or f.</i>)
	lei	she		
	Lei	you (<i>formal sing.</i>)	voi	you (<i>form. pl.</i>)

Note the following:

1. The **tu** and **voi** forms of address are used with relatives, friends, and children.
2. **Voi** can also be used with a group of people, a class, or an audience.
3. **Lei** is the formal form to be used with a person whom you do not know or with whom you are not very familiar. **Loro** is rarely used for the formal plural and replaced with **voi** today.
4. Although the L in **Lei** is not always capitalized in writing, in this book it is capitalized to distinguish those words from the lowercased **lei** (she).
5. For inanimate objects, the pronoun is omitted (in English **it**, **they**).

Language is changing. The pronouns **egli** (he) and **ella** (she) may still be used for **lui** and **lei**, but only in formal writing.

Recently, there have been efforts to make the language more inclusive, looking for a new neutral pronoun, and replacing the feminine/masculine ending with an asterisk or a schwa (ə). For example, *cari tutti* would become *car* tutt** (dear all).

EXERCISES

ANSWERS,
A and B
p. 228

A. Fill in the blanks.

1. When talking with the grandchild of an Italian acquaintance of yours, what pronoun form of address would you use? _____
2. What is the difference in meaning between **lei** and **Lei**? _____
3. When writing to a friend about **la casa** you just bought, would you use a pronoun? _____
4. How would you address Mr. Bianchi? **Lei o voi**? _____
5. You have been invited to talk to a large group of Italian business people. How will you address them? _____

B. Write the pronouns in Italian.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. we _____ | 6. she and I _____ |
| 2. you (<i>fam. sing.</i>) _____ | 7. you (<i>fam. pl.</i>) _____ |
| 3. she (la madre) _____ | 8. I _____ |
| 4. they (i ragazzi) _____ | 9. he (lo studente) _____ |
| 5. you (<i>Dr. Smith</i>) _____ | |

GRAMMAR V Present Indicative of *essere* and *avere*

- A. The verbs *essere* (to be) and *avere* (to have) are irregular, and their forms must be memorized.
- B. Note that the **h** in **ho**, **hai**, **ha**, and **hanno** is never pronounced; it is used only to distinguish between the verb form and other words with the same pronunciation but different meaning—for example, **hanno** (they have) and **anno** (year).
- C. Note that sometimes they are used in a different way than English. In Italian we say: **ho fame** (I'm hungry, literally I have hunger), **ho sete** (I am thirsty, literally I have thirst), **ho paura** (I am scared, literally I have fear), **ho fretta** (I am in a hurry, literally I have hurry).

To give one's age, we say:

Quanti anni hai? (How old are you?)

Ho 22 anni. (literally, I have 22 years)

Pronoun	<i>essere</i>	to be
io	sono	I am
tu	sei	you are (<i>fam. sing.</i>)
lui, lei, Lei	è	he, she, it is, you are (<i>form. sing.</i>)
noi	siamo	we are
voi	siete	you are
loro	sono	they are

Pronoun	<i>avere</i>	to have
io	ho	I have
tu	hai	you have (<i>fam. sing.</i>)
lui, lei, Lei	ha	he, she, it has, you have (<i>form. sing.</i>)
noi	abbiamo	we have
voi	avete	you have
loro	hanno	they have