



Beginner S2

Italian Lessons 1-20

A large, thick green circular arc that starts from the left edge and curves downwards and to the right, framing the text '1-20'.

1-20

A large, thick green circular arc that starts from the right edge and curves upwards and to the left, framing the text '1-20'.

Introduction

This is Innovative Language Learning.

Go to InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks to get the lesson notes for this course and sign up for your FREE lifetime account.

The course consists of lessons centered on a practical, real-life conversation.

In each lesson, first, we'll introduce the background of the conversation.

Then, you'll hear the conversation two times:

One time at natural native speed and one time with the English translation.

After the conversation, you'll learn carefully selected vocabulary and key grammar concepts.

Next, you'll hear the conversation 1 time at natural native speed at the end of the lesson.

Finally, practice what you have learned with the review track. In the review track, a native speaker will say a word or phrase from the dialogue, wait three seconds, and then give you the English translation. Say the word aloud during the pause. Halfway through the review track, the order will be reversed. The English translation will be provided first, followed by a three-second pause, and then the word or phrase from the dialogue. Repeat the words and phrases you hear in the review track aloud to practice pronunciation and reinforce what you have learned.

Before starting the lessons, go to InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks to get the lesson notes for this course and sign up for your FREE lifetime account.



Beginner

How Will You Spend Your Saturday Night in Italy?

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Italian

Anna Allora usciamo sabato sera?
 Peter Sì, sì. A che ora ci incontriamo?
 Anna Vediamoci verso le otto, al Bar Sport e guardiamo la partita.
 Peter OK. Allora ci sentiamo venerdì!
 Anna Sì, così finalmente ci divertiamo!

English

Anna So, are we going out Saturday night?
 Peter Yes, yes. What time are we meeting?
 Anna Let's meet around eight, at Bar Sport and let's watch the match.
 Peter OK. So I'll speak to you on Friday!
 Anna Yes, so finally we will have fun!

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
uscire	to go out	verb
sera	evening	noun
incontrarsi	to meet	verb
vedersi	to see each other, meet	verb
verso	around, toward	preposition
partita	match, game	noun
sentirsi	to hear from each other, to speak to each other	verb
finalmente	finally	adverb
divertirsi	to have fun, enjoy oneself	verb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Sei uscito all'alba.

Usciamo domenica sera verso le otto.

Domani sera esco con gli amici.

Venerdì sera c'è un concerto in piazza Colombo.

La sera di solito guardo un film.

Ci incontriamo per un caffè?

Ci vediamo domani.

Maria arriverà verso le quattordici.

Verso sera.

Facciamo una partita?

Ci sentiamo stasera.

Finalmente ho la patente.

Divertiti!

Non mi sono divertita alla festa.

Mi diverto a cantare al karaoke.

You went out at dawn.

"We will go out Sunday night around eight."

Tomorrow night I am going out with friends.

"Friday evening there is a concert in Columbus square."

In the evening I usually watch a movie.

Shall we meet for a cup of coffee.

See you tomorrow.

Maria will come at around two p.m.

Around evening.

Shall we play a match?

I'll speak to you this evening.

I finally have the driving license.

Have fun!

I didn't enjoy the party.

I enjoy singing at the karaoke.

Grammar Points

Italian reflexive verbs are used to express actions done by the subject that are reflected on the subject itself. For example *io mi lavo* "I wash myself". They are easy to form, in fact we just add the pronominal particles (*mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si* respectively "myself, yourself, his/herself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves") before the verb.

Let's see some examples:

La mattina mi sveglio presto "In the morning I wake up early"

Mi sposo l'anno prossimo "I'm getting married next year"

In Italian reflexive verbs are used very often; in some cases you can also find Italian reflexive verbs which do not correspond to their English translation. For example the verb *chiamarsi* literally "to be called" is one of these cases:

Io mi chiamo Sara "My name is Sara" (literally meaning "I call myself Sara).

Another difference is that the Italian reflexive verbs can also be used when taking a direct object different from ourselves. For example: *io mi lavo il viso* "I wash my face". So in this sentence *io mi lavo* won't be translated anymore as "I wash myself" but simply "I wash" because the direct object is changed.

And now let's take a look at the three conjugations in the following table:

First conjugation: *lavarsi* "to wash oneself"

Italian

Io mi lavo
Tu ti lavi
Lui/Lei si lava
Noi ci laviamo
Voi vi lavate
Loro si lavano

English

I wash myself
You wash yourself
He/She washes his/herself
We wash ourselves
You wash yourselves
They wash themselves

Second conjugation: *mettersi* "to put on"

Italian

Io mi metto
Tu ti metti
Lui/Lei si mette
Noi ci mettiamo
Voi vi mettete
Loro si mettono

English

I put on
You put on
He/She puts on
We put on
You put on
They put on

Third conjugation: *divertirsi* "to enjoy oneself"

Italian

Io mi diverto
Tu ti diverti
Lui/Lei si diverte
Noi ci divertiamo
Voi vi divertite
Loro si divertono

English

I enjoy myself
You enjoy yourself
He/She enjoys his/herself
We enjoy ourselves
You enjoy yourselves
They enjoy themselves

The verb *uscire* is an irregular verb. Please take a look at its conjugation in the *presente indicativo* tense:

Italian

English

Io esco

Tu esci

Lui/Lei esce

Noi usciamo

Voi uscite

Loro escono

I go out

You go out

He/She goes out

We go out

You go out

They go out

So as you can see, the *u* changes into *e* in all three persons singular and in the third person plural.

Cultural Insight

Bar Sport is the title of a book written by Stefano Benni. This book is actually considered a classic within Italian fiction literature. The story tells us about Italian bars and how they can be surreal and funny at the same time. Benni especially focuses on rural bars as they are renowned to be full of humor and original characters.

Although the book was published in 1976 it still can transmit modern ideas and strong concepts about the culture standing behind people who love spending time in bars and sharing moments.

The book is characterized by Benni's ability to create humorous stereotypical and distorted situations in the various bars.

Stefano Benni is an Italian satirical journalist, writer and poet who was born in Bologna, on August the 12, 1947. His books have been translated into around 20 foreign languages and they have scored notable commercial success. He sold 2,5 million copies of his books in Italy.

He has contributed to *Panorama* and *Linus* (Italian magazines), *la Repubblica* and *il Manifesto*.

In 1989 he directed the film *Musica per vecchi animali*.



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What Will You See When You Go to Italy?

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Informal Italian

Anna Hai visto?
 Elena Cosa?
 Anna Peter si è offeso subito quando gli ho chiesto di suo fratello!
 Elena Sì, è geloso! Comunque, suo fratello è davvero carino!
 Anna Ha, ha, ha! Allora sei d'accordo con me!

Informal English

Anna Did you see?
 Elena What?
 Anna Peter got offended as soon as I asked him about his brother!
 Elena Yes, he is jealous! Anyway, his brother is really cute.
 Anna Ha ha ha! So you agree with me!

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
vedere	to look, to watch, to see	verb
cosa	what	interrogative adjective
offendersi	to get offended	verb
subito	right away, now	adverb
subito	immediately, right away, straightaway	adverb
geloso	jealous	adjective
carino	cute	adjective
essere d'accordo	to agree	verb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Hai visto quel film?
Ci vediamo domani.
Hai visto il mio cellulare?
Cosa facciamo domani sera?
Cosa mangi?
Cosa hai detto?
Marina si è offesa.
Ti ho detto di partire subito!
Potrei avere un caffè? Subito!
Vorrei due pizze al prosciutto. Subito!
Torna subito a casa!
Essere gelosi non è una buona cosa.
Sono geloso di te.
Ho visto un vestito molto carino, voglio comprarlo!
Il tuo gatto è così carino!
Non sono d'accordo con te.

"Have you seen that movie?"
 "See you tomorrow."
 "Have you seen my cell phone?"
 "What shall we do tomorrow evening?"
 "What are you eating?"
 "What did you say?"
 Marina got offended.
 "I told you to leave right away!"
 "Could I have a coffee? Right Away!"
 "I'd like two ham pizzas. Right away!"
 "Come back home immediately!"
 "To be jealous is not a good thing."
 "I am jealous of you."
 I saw a very cute dress, I want to buy it.

 Your cat is so cute!
 I do not agree with you.

Grammar Points

Today we will review the *passato prossimo* (which corresponds to the past perfect tense or simple past tense) of the reflexive verbs which require the verb *essere* "to be" as their auxiliary.

Since the *passato prossimo* is a compound tense, the auxiliary *essere* needs to be conjugated at the simple present form and then followed by the past participle of the main verb.

In the dialogue we can see the sentence *Peter si è offeso* "Peter got offended".

As you know, in the *passato prossimo* of verbs that require the auxiliary verb *avere* "to have", the past participle never changes. For example *Hai visto?* Have you seen?; *Abbiamo visto un film* "We have seen a movie".

Instead, with the verb *essere* "to be" the past participle changes in order to agree in number and gender with the subject of the action. In the case of the dialogue *Peter si è offeso* "Peter got offended"; *Anna e Elena si sono offese* "Anna and Elena got offended".

Among others, *essere* is used as the auxiliary verb in the following cases:

1) with intransitive verbs that express motion (*andare* "to go"; *venire* "to come"); state (*stare*, *rimanere* "to stay"); change of state (*diventare* "to become"; *cambiare* "to change").

2) with reflexive verbs (*offendersi* "to get offended"; *lavarsi* "to wash oneself").

And now let's take a look at the following table:

Reflexive verb

Io mi sono offeso

Tu ti sei offeso

Lui si è offeso

Lei si è offesa

Noi ci siamo offesi

Voi vi siete offesi

Loro si sono offesi

Motion verb

Io sono andato

Tu sei andato

Lui è andato

Lei è andata

Noi siamo andati

Voi siete andati

Loro sono andati

Offendersi

I got offended

You got offended

He got offended

She got offended

We got offended

You got offended

They got offended

Andare

I went

You went

He went

She went

We went

You went

They went

Cultural Insight

There are many ways to express physical beauty. The word *bello* "beautiful", for example, can be changed according to the way the person speaking is feeling about what he or she is describing. If the person speaking uses the diminutive form, *bellino*, it is a sign of affection or tenderness toward the person or thing described. *Carino* is a near synonym, but with slightly less emotion. *Discreto* can be also used for people. It is derived from a grading system in Italian schools that has since been changed. From worst to best the grades went: *insufficiente* "insufficient", *sufficiente* "sufficient", *discreto* "discrete", *buono* "good", *ottimo* "best", *eccellente* "excellent". While *discreto* is usually no longer given as a school grade, it might be still used as a beauty grade but with detached and coolish emotion.




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Why Won't You Talk about Your Italian Date?



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Italian

Luca Com'è andata?
 Peter Al bar? Be', era molto interessante.
 Luca No, intendevo con Anna.
 Peter Ah, be' lei era molto carina. Ero sorpreso, gli italiani non bevono molta birra.
 Luca Perché non vuoi parlare di Anna?

English

Luca How did it go?
 Peter At the bar? Well it was very interesting.
 Luca No, I meant with Anna.
 Peter Ah, well she was really nice. I was surprised, Italians don't drink a lot of beer.
 Luca Why don't you want to talk about Anna?

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
be'	well	exclamation
bello	nice, good	adjective
intendere	to mean	verb
essere sorpreso	to be surprised	expression
bere	to drink	verb
birre	beers	noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Be', cosa facciamo stasera?
Quel quadro è molto bello.

Well, what are we going to do tonight?
 "That picture is very nice."

Quella casa è bella.

Cosa intendi?

Sono piacevolmente sorpreso!

Mia madre non beve alcolici.

Bevo sempre un caffè dopo pranzo.

Beviamo un tè?

Bevo un po' di vino.

Bevo una birra.

Quante birre compro?

"That house is nice."

What do you mean?

I am pleasantly surprised!

"My mother doesn't drink alcohol."

"I always drink coffee after lunch."

"Shall we drink tea?"

"I drink some wine."

"I drink a beer."

"How many beers shall I buy?"

Grammar Points

The *imperfetto* tense belongs to the *indicativo* mode and is one the most widely used Italian tenses. It is chiefly employed in two circumstances:

1) when we want to describe (mark this word) qualities, features, characteristic and intrinsic traits of living beings and inanimate objects, or concepts, in the past;

2) to talk about past habits, regardless of the amount of time intervened between our utterance and the action we refer to.

The first use is exemplified in Peter's statements *era molto interessante* "it was very interesting" and (Anna) *era molto carina* "she was really nice". The *imperfetto* tense of the verb *essere* (to be) is in the first sentence employed to describe an attribute of the movie, while in the second one it is used to rectify Luca's previous statement. We notice that the aforementioned sentences concerned past states of respectively a movie and a human being.

The second usage is related to individual habits in the past that can still be valid at the present time. For example, the sentence *Quando ero in Italia, bevevo il cappuccino al mattino* "When I was in Italy, I used to drink a cappuccino in the morning" describes both a permanent state (being in Italy in the past, therefore *ero in Italia*) and a past habit "I used to do drink a cappuccino".

Finally, *imperfetto* tense is used in the narrative style for descriptions in the past, whether recent or close to the present. For instance, the English expression "once upon a time" would in Italian be *c'era una volta*.

The Italian equivalent of the verb "to mean" is *intendere* which is followed by the infinitive of another verb particularly in formal Italian. Whereas "to mean" is in English an irregular verb, *intendere* is a second class regular verb and thus follows the normal conjugation. The verb that follows it is never conjugated and always used in the infinitive tense, though direct object pronouns can be attached to it as normal (for instance, *intendo parlarti*, I mean to talk to you).

Cultural Insight

We have much mentioned in previous classes the importance Italians give to verbal communication and exchanging of emotions and ideas. Contrary to other more confidential cultures, Italians do love talking about their life and its important events. However, we should not mistake this attitude for mere curiosity. Close friends in Italy feel the need, and in fact also the right, to know the emotional status of their mates and help them to understand themselves as best as they can. There is no easy or general rule to apply in this kind of situations; if we are to truly delve into Italian culture, we should always try to reconcile the respect for individuals' privacy with the importance of sharing emotional life with close friends, according to the uniqueness of the situation and people involved in it. We should not be afraid of asking questions, this is how we build important, often unending, bonds with Italian people, particularly if we are foreigners.

Males and females share this trait nearly to the same extent, but in different forms; therefore we should not be surprised if asked about our dates. If we do not want to directly answer this kind of questions, we should provide our friends with a general answer, without delving into the details. This is normally an unspoken, though clear, message that communicates our emotional status without offending our friends' desire to be helpful.



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Was Your Date Impressed by Your Italian?

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Italian

Elena Com'è andato l'appuntamento?
 Anna Non ne voglio parlare.
 Elena Perché? Cos'è successo?
 Anna Ha continuato a farmi domande.
 Elena Riguardo te?
 Anna Magari. Riguardo la partita. Non ha capito le regole.

English

Elena How was the date?
 Anna I don't want to talk about it.
 Elena Why? What happened?
 Anna He kept asking me questions.
 Elena About you?
 Anna I wish. About the match. He didn't understand the rules.

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
appuntamento	appointment, date	noun
parlare	to talk, speak	verb
succedere	to happen	verb
ne	of/about + this, these, that, those	pronoun
continuare a	to keep + ing form	verb
domanda	question	noun
magari	I wish	exclamation
capire	to understand, comprehend, see, figure out	verb
regola	rule	noun
riguardo	about	adverb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Appuntamento romantico.

Non mi parli più?

Tu parli troppo Marco.

Che ti è successo?

Ne ho avuto abbastanza.

Lui continua ad ignorarmi.

Quella è una domanda intelligente.

Sei uscito con Elena? Magari!

Ho capito le tue intenzioni.

Non hai capito nulla.

Conosci qualche cantante italiano?

Hai fatto qualcosa al riguardo?

Romantic date.

"You're not speaking to me anymore?"

"You speak too much, Marco."

"What happened to you?"

I've had enough of this.

He keeps ignoring me.

That is an intelligent question.

Did you date Elena? I wish!

"I understood your intentions."

"You haven't understood anything."

"Do you know any Italian singers?"

Have you done something about it?

Grammar Points

When asked about her date, Anna uses in her answer one of the most widely used pronouns in Italian. *Ne* is an object pronoun used instead of *di quello*, *di questo*, *di quelli*, *di questi* (lit. trans., respectively, "of/about that, this, those, these"). In both the interrogative and affirmative structures, *ne* is always positioned between the subject and the verb, whether the latter is conjugated in a simple or compound form.

The syntactical order in an affirmative sentence is subject + *ne* + verb: *Io ne voglio parlare* "I want to talk about it".

While the syntactical order in a negative sentence is subject + negation + *ne* + verb: *Io non ne voglio parlare* "I don't want to talk about it".

Ne is used in many diverse circumstances we will consider in further lessons. However, as a rule of thumb, in this case we can employ it when we translate the English structure "about + pronoun". For example, the interrogative utterance "What do you think about it?" in Italian would be *Cosa ne pensi?*

Note that we should avoid confusing *ne* (without the accent) as pronoun with *né* (with the acute accent) as coordinating conjunction used in negative statements: *Lui non è né intelligente, né bravo* (He is neither intelligent, nor good).

While in English the verb “to keep” is always followed by either the object or the verb in the continuous form, the Italian equivalent *continuare* is only followed by the infinitive of the auxiliary verb with or without the preposition *a*. In Anna’s sentence: *Ha continuato a farmi domande* "He kept asking me questions", where *mi* "me" is the indirect object pronoun that stands for *a me* "to me".

Generally speaking, though we do have certain exceptions to this rule, whenever we have the structure “main verb + auxiliary verb in the –ing continuous form”, the auxiliary verb has to be translated as “a + infinitive” in Italian instead of the *gerundio*, continuous form. For instance, the English “Start running” has to be translated in Italian as *Comincia a correre*.

Cultural Insight

Italians show the same desire for closeness and confidentiality with everyone they like, whether they are foreigners or Italians. We should therefore be ready to come to terms with this social habit, which is, in fact, Italians’ favorite way to show their affection and care for people. Although we all have different characters and social backgrounds, we should try to find our own way to deal with this social habit. Giving some pieces of information, possibly with a bit of irony, is an effective way to keep our privacy and open up to our friends. This kind of questions does not require us to provide a full account of what we did, but rather a small talk on our feelings.

Failure to say anything would be seen as rude refusal of friendship and help, which Italians are eager to offer us.



Beginner

How Much Did You Pay for Your Italian iPhone?

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Italian

Luca È un iPhone quello?
 Peter Sì.
 Luca Dove l'hai comprato?
 Peter Me l'hanno spedito dall'America.
 Luca Davvero? Lo posso provare?
 Peter Certo. Quando esce l'iPhone qui in Italia?
 Luca È uscito da poco, ma costa tantissimo.

English

Luca Is that an iPhone??
 Peter Yes, it is!
 Luca Where did you buy it?
 Peter They sent it to me from the USA.
 Luca Really? Can I try it?
 Peter Sure. When will the iPhone come out here in Italy?
 Luca It recently came out, but it's really expensive.

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
comprare	to buy, to get	verb
ancora	still, yet, again	adverb
potere	to be able, can	verb
provare	to try, try on, try out	verb
certo	of course, sure	adverb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Peter ha comprato un iPhone.
Ho ancora sonno!

"Peter bought an iPhone."
 "I am still sleepy!"

*Posso entrare?**Posso aiutarti?**Ho provato a fare quello che mi hai detto.**Proviamo quel nuovo ristorante?**Posso provare questi pantaloni?**Certo che puoi provarli.**Certo che possiamo andare!*

"Can I come in?"

"Can I help you?"

"I tried to do what you said to me."

"Shall we try that new restaurant?"

"Can I try on these pants?"

Of course you can try them.

Of course we can go!

Grammar Points

comprare (to buy)**Italian**

Io compro

Tu compri

Lui/lei compra

Noi compriamo

Voi comprate

Loro comprano

English

I buy

You buy

He/she/it buys

We buy

You buy

They buy

When forming questions in Italian, the subject is very often placed at the end of the question or even deleted altogether. Look at the three questions in the dialogue. The only one that has a subject at all is the first one. In the other questions, it is completely unnecessary to state the subject because the verb endings reveal their subjects. Many times, the subject of a question is stated for emphasis. For example, "*L'hai comprato tu?*" has the implied meaning "Did *you* buy it?"

Peter uses the past tense verb "*hai comprato*." The act of buying the phone is viewed by the speaker as a one-time, completed action. Therefore, he uses the *passato prossimo*.

With verb combinations like Peter uses when he says, "*Lo posso provare?*", the object pronoun (in this case *lo*) can be placed either before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive. For example, "*Posso provarlo?*" carries the same meaning as "*Lo posso provare?*"

Cultural Insight

When making purchases in Italy, it is important to remember that the buyer is almost as responsible for having a receipt when leaving the store or market booth as the vendor is for giving it. A proper receipt,

or *scontrino*, has the name and address of the establishment, a telephone number, a tax (VAT) number and a list of the items purchased. In recent years, the *Guardia di Finanza* (the tax police) has more actively pursued stores and restaurants not declaring all of their income in their tax assessments. Officers have the right to stop customers within 100 meters of a business and ask them to show their receipt. Lack of a valid receipt could result in fines for both the consumer and the business.



Beginner

Will You Find the Right Places to Shop in Italy?

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Italian

Luca Sei andata a fare shopping?
 Elena Sì, ma non ho comprato niente.
 Luca Come mai?
 Elena Non ho trovato nulla di carino.
 Luca Dovevo portarti io nei posti giusti!
 Elena Magari.

English

Luca Did you go shopping?
 Elena Yes, but I didn't buy anything.
 Luca How come?
 Elena I didn't find anything nice.
 Luca I should have taken you to the right places.
 Elena I wish.

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
fare shopping	go/do shopping	verb
niente	nothing	pronoun
come mai	how come/why	expression
trovare	to find	verb
nulla	nothing	pronoun
portare	to bring, take	verb
posto	place	noun
giusto	right, fair	adjective

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Ieri sono andata a fare shopping con le (mie) amiche.

Niente di speciale.

Non vedo niente.

Niente per te!

Come mai non vieni stasera?

L'ho trovato! L'ho trovato!

Non trovo le chiavi.

Ho trovato questo portafoglio.

Abbiamo trovato un cane in giardino.

Non voglio nulla da te.

Portami al mare domani!

Hai un posto in cui stare a Milano?

Che posto è questo?

L'Italia è un bel posto per vivere.

Non è il momento giusto.

Yesterday I went shopping with my girlfriends.

"Nothing special."

"I see nothing."

"Nothing for you!"

Why aren't you coming tonight?

"I've found it! I've found it!"

"I can't find my keys."

"I found this wallet."

"We found a dog in the yard."

"I want nothing from you."

Take me to the beach tomorrow!

"Do you have a place to stay in Milan?"

"What kind of place is this?"

"Italy is a good place to live."

It's not the right moment.

Grammar Points

We already studied the verb "to wish" as proper verb. When we use it in hypothetical sentences referred to past events, like in Elena's statement "I wish (you did it)", we translate it in Italian with the exclamation *magari l'avesse fatto*; it never changes in both formal and informal level of speech. For example, the informal dialogue *Hai vinto alla lotteria? Magari!* "Did you win the lottery? I wish" is in formal Italian *Ha vinto alla lotteria? Magari avessi vinto!* "Did you win the lottery? I wish I did".

This is possible when we use the first person singular or the first person plural; in other words, only when we refer to ourselves.

While we have in English two different options to express negations "He didn't understand anything"; "He understood nothing", in Italian we only have one: *Non ha capito niente*. As you can see we convey the negation by adding the negative clause *non* between the subject and the verb and employing the pronoun *niente* (or *nulla* in formal Italian). For example, the sentences "I did nothing" and "I didn't do anything" would be both translated in Italian as *Non ho fatto niente* (or *Non ho fatto nulla* in formal speech). Please, note that contrary to English, the double negation is in Italian just a stylistic method to reinforce the negation itself, it does not form an affirmation.

In Italian *come mai* can be used as *perché*, exactly with the same meaning, in fact it is an interrogative adverb.

Interrogative adverbs are invariable and don't need to agree with gender either number.

Ex.; *Come mai hai fatto tardi?* "Why were you late?"; *Sono andata dal dottore - Come mai?* "I went to the doctor - How come?"

Cultural Insight

Come mai was the third single of the second album by 883 (Nord sud ovest est).

In Italy this song held the first position in the hit-parade for a long time. Together with *Sei un mito* and *Nord sud ovest est*, *Come mai* is one of the most famous songs by 883, it's actually the only song of the album with melodic tones, among the other ones that hold rock tones. It's been written by Max Pezzali who has been the singer of 883 till 1994 when the group split up.

In 2002 Pezzali published his first collection Love, Life (L'amore e la vita al tempo degli 883). In 2004 his first solo album come out and his style of writing keeps concentrating on the same style of 883.

The main themes in fact are are friendship, love, relationships. In 2007 he realized his latest album, *Time Out*. It met with a great success with the most popular singles (*Torno subito* and *Sei fantastica*) remaining at the top of the charts throughout the whole summer. In the 2001 a survey of Abacus describes Pezzali as the most appreciated famous character between young people who consider Pezzali as a star but very close to his fans thanks to his friendly approach, great stage performances, and his commitment to his music.



Beginner

Find the Right Balance Between Italian Pizza and Italian Nightlife!

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Italian

Peter Eri in giro ieri sera?
 Anna No, ieri sono rimasta a casa.
 Peter A casa? Come mai?
 Anna Sì, non avevo voglia di uscire.
 Peter E cosa hai fatto?
 Anna Niente di speciale, ho ordinato una pizza e guardato un film.
 Peter Io invece ho incontrato Luca, ma sono tornato presto.

English

Peter Were you hanging around last night?
 Anna No, yesterday I stayed in.
 Peter At home? How come?
 Anna Yeah, I was not in the mood for going out.
 Peter What did you do then?
 Anna Nothing special, I ordered a pizza and watched a movie.
 Peter Instead I met Luca, but I went back home early.

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
giro	circle, round	noun
essere in giro	to hang around	expression
rimanere a casa	to stay in	expression
avere voglia	to be in the mood for	expression
ordinare	to order	verb
invece	instead	adverb
tornare a casa	to go back home	expression

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Facciamo un giro?

Siamo stati in giro tutta la notte.

Rimango a casa tutto il giorno oggi.

Non ho voglia di lavorare!

Perché non ordiniamo un espresso?

Ordiniamo un antipasto?

Vorrei fare una passeggiata invece devo lavorare.

Ho fame. Io invece ho sete.

Invece di perdere tempo, lavora!

Torno a casa tardi stasera.

Shall we take a walk?

We've been hanging around all night long.

Today I will stay in all day.

I'm not in the mood for working!

"Why don't we order an espresso?"

"Shall we order an appetizer?"

"I'd like to take a walk, but I have to work instead."

"I'm hungry. Instead, I'm thirsty."

"Work instead of wasting time!"

Tonight I'll be back (home) late.

Grammar Points

In the dialogue we found in Anna's line the structure *niente di speciale* to translate the English "nothing/anything special". As you can see in Italian we use the preposition *di* "of" to convey many different cases.

1. To indicate possession:

Il libro di Maria.

Maria's book.

2. To indicate what an object is made of:

Il tavolo di legno.

The wooden table.

3. To indicate origin using the verb *essere* + *di* name of the city:

Cristiano è di Napoli.

Cristiano is from Napoli.

4. With certain verbs that express feelings:

Innamorarsi di qualcuno.

To fall in love with someone.

Vergognarsi di qualcosa.

To be ashamed of something.

Pentirsi di qualcosa.

To regret something.

5. In many particular grammatical constructions:

Di sera

In the evening

Di notte

At night

D'estate

During the summer/In the summer time

Nulla di speciale

Nothing special

Niente di particolare

Nothing particular

The word *giro*

This word in Italian can have many different meanings and be used in several different cases. First of all let's take a look at its different English translations:

- 1) circle
- 2) turn
- 3) tour, excursion
- 4) stroll, walk (if it's by foot)
- 5) drive, ride (if it's by car, motorbike, bike etc.)

Now let's see which are the typical Italian expressions in which the word *giro* is used: In the dialogue we have seen in Peter's line *Eri in giro ieri sera?* Were you hanging around last night?

So *essere in giro* can be used to translate the idiomatic expression "hanging around" then we have:

fare un giro

to go for a walk; a drive; a ride

fare il giro di

to go round

andare in giro

to go about, walk around
guardarsi in giro
 to look around
prendere in giro qualcuno
 pull sb's leg
nel giro di un mese
 in a month's time
essere nel giro
 to belong to a circle
giro d'affari
 business connections
giro turistico
 sightseeing tour
giro guidato
 guided tour

Cultural Insight

5

Ligabue was born in Correggio, in the province of Reggio Emilia, Emilia Romagna. He entered the music world in 1987, when he founded the amateur band Orazero. For this band he wrote several original songs, with which they participated in several local and national contests. After his first LP *Ligabue*, he soon gained fame as one of the most successful Italian rock stars. His most famous hits include *Balliamo sul mondo* (Let's Dance Over The World), *Ho perso le parole* (I lost my words) and the most successful of all, *Certe Notti* (Certain Nights), which was voted as "Italian song of the 1990s" in a poll held by a popular music magazine. He also collaborated with other famous singer-songwriters, such as Francesco Guccini, Elisa, Pavarotti. Francesco Guccini helped him in the production of Ligabue's first movie *Radiofreccia* in which Guccini himself played an important part. *Radiofreccia*, produced in 1998, was a semi-autobiographical story of a local radio station and it received three Davids of Donatello. Ligabue's second movie *Da zero a dieci* was not well received as the first one. Ligabue has also published a short story collection, *Fuori e dentro il borgo* (In and out the village), which won several literary awards, a science fiction novel *La neve se ne frega* (Snow doesn't care) (2005), and a collections of poems *Lettere d'amore nel frigo* (Love Letters in the fridge) (2006). *I ragazzi sono in giro* (The guys are hanging around) is one of the lyrics of the LP *Su e giù da un palco*, a live LP produced in 1997.



Beginner

I went to visit some friends in Trentino

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Italian

Elena: Ciao Luca, come va?
 Luca: Bene, grazie. E tu? Hai trascorso delle belle vacanze?
 Elena: Sì, mi sono divertita molto.
 Luca: Dove sei stata?
 Elena: In montagna. Ho fatto qualche passeggiata a cavallo.
 Luca: Davvero? E poi?
 Elena: Poi sono andata a trovare alcuni amici in Trentino.
 Luca: Come ti invidio!

English

Elena: Hi Luca, how is it going?
 Luca: Fine, thanks. And you? Did you spend some nice holidays?
 Elena: Yes, I had a lot of fun.
 Luca: Where did you go?
 Elena: To the mountains. I did some horse riding.
 Luca: Really? What else?
 Elena: Then I went to visit some friends in Trentino.
 Luca: How I envy you!

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
trascorrere	to spend, pass (time)	verb
vacanze	holidays, vacations	noun
divertirsi	to have fun, enjoy oneself	verb
montagna	mountain	noun
passeggiata	walk, ride	noun
andare a trovare	to visit	verb
invidiare	to envy	verb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Ho trascorso davvero una bella vacanza.</i>	"I actually spent a very nice holiday."
<i>Trascorro le domeniche al mare.</i>	"I spend Sundays at the beach."
<i>Come sono andate le vacanze?</i>	"How were your holidays?"
<i>Vacanze invernali.</i>	"Winter vacations."
<i>Divertiti!</i>	Have fun!
<i>Non mi sono divertita alla festa.</i>	I didn't enjoy the party.
<i>Mi diverto a cantare al karaoke.</i>	I enjoy singing at the karaoke.
<i>Ti piace la montagna?</i>	Do you like mountains?
<i>Facciamo una passeggiata insieme?</i>	Shall we take a walk together?
<i>Sono andata a trovare i miei genitori tre mesi fa.</i>	I visited my family three months ago.
<i>Ti invidio molto.</i>	I envy you a lot.

Grammar Points

In Italian the partitive (some, any) is conveyed by the simple preposition di "of" + the definite article.

The Partitive articles can be:

1) Masculine singular

del

dello (before masculine nouns starting with -z, -y or -s + consonant or the group -gn)

dell' (before masculine nouns starting with vowel)

For example:

Ieri ho comprato del pane al supermercato.

Yesterday I bought some bread at the supermarket.

2) Feminine singular

della

dell' (before feminine nouns starting with vowel)

For example:

Elisa ha comprato della frutta.

Elisa bought some fruit.

3) Masculine plural

dei

degli (before masculine nouns starting with -z, -y or -s + consonant or the group -gn)

For example:

Matteo mi ha prestato dei libri.

Matteo lent me some books.

4) Feminine plural

delle

For example:

Ho visto delle scarpe bellissime in un negozio.

I saw some very beautiful shoes in a shop.

Another way to convey the partitive in Italian is by using *qualche* followed by singular nouns or *alcuni* / *alcune* followed by plural nouns, in place of *di* + definite articles.

Please be careful because *qualche* and *alcuni/e* can be used only with countable things (and not with uncountable items such as *zucchero*, *pasta*, *pane*, etc.)

Let's see some examples now.

Vorrei vedere qualche amico.

I would like to see some friends.

Vorrei vedere alcuni amici.

I would like to see some friends.

As you can notice the meaning of the two sentences is exactly the same, the only thing that changes is that we use a singular noun after the partitive *qualche* and a plural noun after the partitive *alcuni/e*.

Ho mangiato qualche pesca.

I ate some peaches.

Ho mangiato alcune pesche.

I ate some peaches.

Instead if you are talking about things and using uncountable nouns you must use the partitive *di* + indefinite article.

Now let's revise some simple and important rules in using the partitive in Italian.

1) The partitive is used only if the quantity is not specified.

Devo comprare delle banane al mercato.

I have to buy some bananas at the market.

2) The partitive is not used in negative sentences.

Mia sorella non mangia frutta.

My sister doesn't eat fruit.

3) The partitive can also be expressed with *qualche* plus singular nouns and *alcuni/e* plus plural nouns.

Ho preparato qualche panino per il viaggio.

I made some sandwiches for the trip.

Abbiamo invitato alcuni amici per cena.

We invited some friends for dinner.

Cultural Insight

The region of Trentino Alto Adige is divided into the autonomous provinces of provinces of Trento and Bolzano.

It is situated in the northeast of Italy and borders with Austria. The Austrian culture has influenced the people of Trentino since the very early XIX century, when Napoleon played a key role conquering the whole region and placing it under the realm of the Austrian Habsburgs. This Austrian family ruled Trentino till the first postwar period.

In 1939, Mussolini gave them the chance to choose the Italian citizenship and so remain or assume the German citizenship and emigrate north. The overwhelming majority chose the latter option, leaving this largely rural territory even more underpopulated than before.

As a consequence of this unique history, today if you look at any map of Trentino Alto Adige, you will find that many of the localities have two names, such as Bolzano/Bozen, Merano/Meran, Bressanone/Brixen, Cortaccia/Kurtatsch, Castelvecchio/Altenburg, Corno Nero/Schwarzhorn and of course, Corno Bianco/Weisshorn.

Winter is the best period to enjoy these wonderful cities, skiing and spend some time dealing with the uncontaminated nature that still predominates in this region.



Beginner

How Will You Make it to Your Italian Wedding?

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Italian

Anna Prendiamo l'auto per andare alle nozze di tua sorella?
 Peter Vorrei, ma purtroppo è dal meccanico.
 Anna Ah! Capisco...
 Peter Possiamo andare con Elena e Luca.
 Anna Sì! Perché no!
 Peter Allora prendiamo il tram fino a casa di Luca...
 Anna Bene! Chiamo subito Elena.

English

Anna Are we taking the car to go to your sister's wedding?
 Peter I'd love to, but unfortunately it's at the mechanic.
 Anna Oh! I see...
 Peter We can go with Elena and Luca.
 Anna Yeah! Why not!
 Peter Let's take the tram to Luca's place then...
 Anna Cool. I'll call Elena right away.

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
auto	car	noun
nozze	wedding	noun
purtroppo	unfortunately	adverb
meccanico	mechanic	noun
tram	tram, streetcar	noun
fino a	to, till, until, as far as	preposition

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Prendiamo la tua auto?

Le nozze di Figaro è il titolo di un'opera di Mozart.

Purtroppo ho dimenticato le chiavi a casa.

Purtroppo il concerto è già finito.

Ho portato la mia moto dal meccanico.

Questo tram va a Piazza del Popolo.

Andiamo fino a casa di Mario.

Shall we take your car?

Le nozze di Figaro is the title of an opera by Mozart.

"Unfortunately, I forgot the keys at home."

"Unfortunately, the concert finished already."

I brought my motorbike to the mechanic.

This tram goes to Piazza del Popolo.

Let's go to Mario's home.

Grammar Points

Historically speaking, Italian irregular nouns belong in large measure to three linguistic groups: nouns referring to the human body, scientific terms, Greek and Latin words.

Italian irregular nouns are divided into four categories:

- 1) *sostantivi invariabili*, "invariable nouns" (they don't change from singular to plural)
- 2) *difettivi del singolare*, "singular defective" (they are used only in their plural form)
- 3) *difettivi del plurale*, "plural defective" (they are used only in their singular form)
- 4) The so-called *sovrabbondanti*, "overabundant" (they have multiple plural forms)

In this lesson we will focus on the first two categories. The remaining two will be studied in the next lesson.

- 1) *sostantivi invariabili* "invariable nouns" (they don't change from singular to plural)

Nouns that belong to this category are:

feminine compound nouns used in their contracted form

automobile ? *auto* (abbreviated)

l'auto - *le auto* "cars"

feminine nouns ending in *-ie*

la specie - le specie "species"

la serie - le serie "series"

feminine nouns ending in *-i*

l'analisi - le analisi "analysis"

la crisi - le crisi "crisis"

masculine nouns ending in *-a*

il vaglia - i vaglia "draft, order"

monosyllabic nouns

il re - i re "king"

la gru - le gru "crane"

nouns ending with a consonant

il camion - i camion "truck"

il tram - i tram "tram, streetcar"

nouns ending with tonic syllables

il caffè - i caffè "coffee" (the drink)

la virtù - le virtù "virtue"

2) *difettivi del singolare* "singular defective" (they are used only in their plural form)

nouns referring to objects formed by two equal part

gli occhiali "eye-glasses"

le bretelle "suspenders"

i pantaloni "trousers"

nouns referring to a plurality of objects and realities

i dintorni "surroundings, neighborhood"

le stoviglie "tableware"

nouns deriving from Latin plural words

le nozze "wedding"

le tenebre "darkness"

le ferie "vacations, paid holidays"

Cultural Insight

In times past, parents used to arrange their heir's wedding partner in advance; this habit was called *matrimonio combinato* (arranged marriage). In fact, engagements were decided and organized by families without the consent of their offspring. The lineage and wealth of the groom represented the most important factor the bride's family evaluated when deciding whether or not to accept him as an appropriate partner.

Most of the time there was a person who used to be the intermediary between the two families; this person was in charge of delivering messages to the bride's family, so that the family could choose among several grooms. The marriage would normally take place as soon as the parents chose the future groom for their daughter.

Someone said diamonds are a girl's best friends and, in fact, diamond engagement rings have always been popular since the fourteenth century. Italians have long held that diamonds are created through the flames of love. In medieval Italy, grooms even paid for heir brides with precious stones.



Beginner

Find a Way to Escape Stress in Italy!

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Italian

Luca Hai sentito Anna?
 Elena Non ancora, ma che fretta c'è?
 Luca Sono agitato, non vorrei fare tardi.
 Elena Un pò di pazienza, sarà impegnata.
 Luca Perchè non la chiami tu?
 Elena E va bene!

English

Luca Did you hear from Anna?
 Elena Not yet, but what's the rush?
 Luca I'm stressed out, I don't want to be late.
 Elena Be patient, she must be busy.
 Luca Why don't you call her?
 Elena OK. Fine!

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
non ancora	not yet	adverb
fretta	rush, hurry	noun
agitato	stressed out	adjective
pazienza	patience	noun
impegnato	busy	adjective
va bene!	fine!	exclamation

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Non ho ancora finito di studiare.
 Che fretta c'è?*

I haven't finished studying yet.
 "What's the hurry?"

*Sono un pò agitato per l'esame.
 Ci vuole pazienza con i bambini.
 Domani sarò impegnato tutto il pomeriggio.
 Puoi abbassare il volume? Va bene!*

I am a little stressed out because of the exam.
 We have to be patient with children.
 Tomorrow I will be busy all afternoon.
 May you turn down the volume? Fine!

Grammar Points

In the previous lesson we saw that Italian irregular nouns can be divided into four categories:

- 1) *sostantivi invariabili*, "invariable nouns" (they don't change from singular to plural)
- 2) *difettivi del singolare*, "singular defective" (they are used only in their plural form)
- 3) *difettivi del plurale*, "plural defective" (they are used only in their singular form)
- 4) The so called *sovrabbondanti*, "overabundant" (they have multiple plural forms)

Today we will focus on the last two categories:

- 3) *difettivi del plurale* "plural defective" (they are used only in their singular form)

collective nouns

la plebe "common people"
la prole "offspring"

abstract nouns

la pazienza "patience"
la vanità "vanity"
la fretta "rush, hurry"

nouns of illnesses and diseases

il tifo "typhus fever"

il colera "cholera"

nouns of chemical substances or metals

il ferro "iron"

il rame "copper"

l'ossigeno "oxygen"

l'oro "gold"

il bronzo "bronze"

nouns of some foods

il caffè "coffee" (meaning the product, not the actual drink)

il riso "rice"

il pepe "pepper"

4) The so called *sovrabbondanti* "overabundant" (they have multiple plural forms)

Nouns falling into this category have multiple variants for their singular and/or their plural forms.

Sovrabbondanti in their plural form

il braccio - *i bracci* "arm-wing" (building)

il braccio - *le braccia* "arm"

il ciglio - *i cigli* "edge, verge"

il ciglio - *le ciglia* "eyelash"

il gesto - *i gesti* "gesture"

il gesto - *le gesta* "deed"

il membro - *i membri* "member" (of a group)

il membro - *le membra* "member" (anatomy)

il muro - *i muri* "wall" (of a room)

il muro - le mura "wall" (of a city)

il fondamento - i fondamenti "foundation"

il fondamento - le fondamenta "groundwork"

Sovrabbondanti in both their singular and plural

il frutto - i frutti "fruit" (single product)

la frutta - le frutta "fruits" (a quantity of fruits)

Sovrabbondanti in their singular (they are very rare and are principally found in literary works).

il forestiero - i forestieri

il forestiere - i forestieri "foreigners"

Cultural Insight

Italian cities are "stressed out". This consideration emerges from the *Ambiente Italia* yearly dispatch, reported in 2000 by Legambiente. The key-factors taken into consideration for this survey are four: the water consumption, the electricity consumption, the number of cars and the waste production.

According to this survey, Venice is the most stressed Italian city, followed closely by some important metropolis, such as Milan, Turin, Rome, and Genoa. Italian southern cities seem to be less stressed than the northern ones, although there is a minor difference in the consumption of electricity and number of cars.



Beginner

This Italian Wedding is Only in Twenty Minutes!

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Italian

Anna: Pronto!
 Elena: Ciao! Allora siete pronti?
 Anna: Sì, ma abbiamo avuto un contrattempo. Verremmo se ci deste un passaggio.
 Elena: Cos'è successo?
 Anna: Niente di grave, la macchina di Peter è dal meccanico.
 Elena: Partendo subito, arriveremmo tra venti minuti. Chiedo a Luca se è pronto. OK partiamo subito. A dopo.
 Anna: Grazie! Ciao.
 Elena: Ciao.

English

Anna: Hello!!
 Elena: Hello! So, are you ready?
 Anna: Yes, but we've had a hitch. We'd come if you gave us a ride.
 Elena: What happened?
 Anna: Nothing serious, Peter's car is at the mechanic.
 Elena: If we left now we'd arrive in twenty minutes. I'll ask Luca if he's ready.
 OK we are leaving right away. See you later.
 Anna: Thanks! Bye.
 Elena: Bye.

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
allora	so, then, at that time	adverb
passaggio	lift, ride	noun
niente	nothing	pronoun
grave	serious, hard, heavy, harsh	adjective
subito	immediately, right away, straightaway	adverb

chiedere	to ask	verb
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Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Allora come si chiama?</i>	"So what's his name?"
<i>Allora andiamo a pranzo insieme?</i>	"Then are we going to lunch together?"
<i>Allora, dove andiamo?</i>	"So, where do we go?"
<i>Mi dai un passaggio?</i>	Can you give me a ride?
<i>Niente di speciale.</i>	"Nothing special."
<i>Non vedo niente.</i>	"I see nothing."
<i>Niente per te!</i>	"Nothing for you!"
<i>Ho un grave problema.</i>	"I have a serious problem."
<i>È accaduto un fatto grave.</i>	"A serious event has happened."
<i>Vorrei due pizze al prosciutto. Subito!</i>	"I'd like two ham pizzas. Right away!"
<i>Torna subito a casa!</i>	"Come back home immediately!"
<i>Chiedi a mamma le chiavi di casa.</i>	"Ask mom for the key to the house."
<i>Chiediamo del pane?</i>	"Shall we ask for some bread?"
<i>Ho chiesto una bambola.</i>	"I asked for a doll."
<i>Posso chiederti una cosa?</i>	"Can I ask you something?"
<i>Hai chiesto?</i>	"Did you ask?"

Grammar Points

Introduction: the conditional mood comprises of two tenses: *condizionale presente* (present conditional, properly called *condizionale semplice*, "simple conditional") and *condizionale passato* (past conditional, alternatively called *condizionale composto*, compound conditional).

It is important to note that the definitions *presente* and *passato* are merely names that identify two different kinds of conditional; they do not necessarily indicate the temporal contexts in which to use them.

Since the working of the two types of conditional varies considerably, they will be analyzed separately.

There are eight main contexts in which the *condizionale presente* is used; today we are going to look at the first one.

When formulating **type II if-clauses**, the present conditional is employed in the main clause to express future occurrences that we deem to be potentially possible. Therefore, in this case the *condizionale presente* conveys future events that might be possible provided that the condition expressed in the subordinate clause is met. For example:

Se guardassi meno la televisione, avresti più tempo per studiare.

If you watched less TV, you'd have more time to study.

Se fossi più alto potrei giocare a basket.

If I were taller, I could play basketball.

Se fossi più giovane, farei sport ogni giorno.

If I were younger, I'd do sport every day.

Note that the condition is not always introduced by the conjunction *se*; it may also take other forms as explained in the lessons regarding Italian if-clauses.

The key to determine whether we are dealing with an if-clause or not is to check out the meaning of the sentence by changing it into a standard if-clause and ascertain if it works. For instance:

Con un po' di soldi, comprerei un computer nuovo.

(lit.) With some money, I'd buy a new computer.

meaning

Se avessi più soldi, comprerei un computer nuovo.

If I had more money, I'd buy a new computer.

Essendo più organizzati, potreste vincere la prossima partita.

(lit.) Being more organized, you could win the next match.

meaning

Se foste più organizzati, potreste vincere la prossima partita.

If you were more organized, you could win the next match.

For further information regarding alternative forms of Italian if-clauses, please refer to the appropriate lessons.

Cultural Insight

Santa Maria delle Grazie

Located in the city center of the cosmopolitan Milan, this church and convent has withstood time and war, preserving one of the most famous paintings in the world - The Last Supper - L'ultima cena - by Leonardo da Vinci.

Construction was stated by order of Francesco I Sforza, Duke of Milan. He wanted to have a Dominican convent and church built in place of a small chapel dedicated to St. Mary of the Graces. The main architect was Guinforte Solari who completed the convent by 1469. The construction of the church took some more time and it is believed that the apse was a design of the Italian architect Donato Bramante.

The convent and church suffered through the years.

In 1796 French troops used the refectory as an armory. The refectory was later also used as a prison.

The biggest damage happened on the night of August 15th 1943, during a British and American plane bombardment of Milan. Some bombs hit buildings and much of the refectory was destroyed.

Fortunately some of the walls survived, including one that holds The Last Supper.



Beginner

Won't You Play in this Italian Soccer Game?

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Italian

Peter: Ciao Salvatore!
 Salvatore: Ciao Peter! Vieni a giocare a calcetto?
 Peter: Oggi vado ad un matrimonio, anche se verrei volentieri.
 Salvatore: Peccato.
 Peter: In quanti siete?
 Salvatore: Siamo in nove.
 Peter: Mi dispiace.
 Salvatore: Non ti preoccupare, divertiti!

English

Peter: Hello Salvatore!
 Salvatore: Hello Peter! Want to come play five-a-side football?
 Peter: Today I am going to a wedding, even though I'd love to come.
 Salvatore: Too bad.
 Peter: How many are you?
 Salvatore: We are in nine.
 Peter: I am sorry
 Salvatore: Don't worry, have fun!

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
giocare	to play, bet, gamble, trick	verb
calcetto	five-a-side football	noun
matrimonio	marriage, holy matrimony, wedding	noun
nove	nine	cardinal number
mi dispiace	I am sorry, sorry	expression
divertirsi	to have fun, enjoy oneself	verb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Giochiamo a carte?

Ogni mattina mi sveglio alle sette e dieci.

Ti piace giocare a calcetto?

È stato un bel matrimonio.

Andate nella camera numero nove.

Siamo in nove.

Siamo in nove.

Mi dispiace non poter venire.

Mi dispiace, ho fatto tardi.

Divertiti!

Non mi sono divertita alla festa.

Mi diverto a cantare al karaoke.

Shall we play cards?

"Every morning, I wake up at ten past seven."

Do you like playing five-a-side football?

It was a nice wedding.

Go to room number nine.

"We are nine people."

We are in nine.

"I am sorry I can't come."

"Sorry, I'm late."

Have fun!

I didn't enjoy the party.

I enjoy singing at the karaoke.

Grammar Points

Concessive clauses are subordinate clauses pointing to situations that contrast with the one presented in the main clause. In particular, as the name suggests, they concede a different possibility from the one expressed in the main clause.

Concessive clauses are normally introduced by conjunctions such as *malgrado*, *nonostante* (in spite of, despite), *sebbene*, *benché* (although, though), *anche se* (even though).

Oggi lavoro, anche se potrei andare a fare una passeggiata.

Today I work, even though I could go for a walk.

Verrò a casa tua stasera, sebbene dovrei stare con mia moglie.

I'll come to your home this evening, although I should stay with my wife.

Ho comprato un po' di pane, sebbene non dovrei mangiarne.

I bought some bread, even though I shouldn't eat it.

Aside from the verb's endings, the procedures regarding the present conditional conjugation of regular verbs are the same of those concerning the *Futuro Semplice* (Simple Future).

The *Condizionale Presente* tense of first conjugation regular verbs is realized by dropping the ending

vowel (just ending vowel, not the whole last syllable as it would normally be the case with verbs' formation) from the infinitive and adding the standard endings.

First conjugation verbs (only) change the last syllable vowel from *-a-* to *-e-*.

The steps to inflect first conjugation verbs are the following:

1st- take the infinitive of the verb: *stirare* (to iron, infinitive)

2nd- drop the final vowel: *stirar*

3rd- change the last syllable vowel from *-a-* to *-e-*, keeping the rest as it is: *stirer*

4th- add the appropriate endings

Condizionale Presente First conjugation

Stirare (to iron)

Condizionale Presente

Io stirer -ei

Tu stirer -esti

Lui/lei stirer -ebbe

Noi stirer -emmo

Voi stirer -este

Loro stirer -ebbero

Present Conditional

I would iron

You would iron

He/she/it would iron

We would iron

You would iron

They would iron

Cultural Insight

Val Camonica.

How can a valley attain a spot on the UNESCO World Heritage sites list?

If it is home to the greatest complex of rock drawings in Italy then it can easily do so!

With approximately 350,000 drawings by members of the ancient Camunni tribes (8000 BC), the valley was included in the UNESCO World Heritage sites list in 1979.

The most famous drawings were discovered in 1009 by Walter Laeng, a Brescian geographer. Over the years a great number have been catalogued, transcribed and classified. But there are certainly more to be discovered.

Feel like taking a trip to Val Camonica and try to discover ancient drawings?



Beginner

Let's Take a Ride in Your Italian Car!

13

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Italian

Anna: Guarda sono loro.
 Peter: Ci daresti un passaggio?
 Elena: Certo, siamo venuti apposta! Salite!
 Luca: Ciao come state?
 Anna: Bene. Luca, potresti andare avanti con il sedile. Peter ha le gambe lunghe.
 Peter: Non ti preoccupare ci sto.
 Luca: Va bene così?
 Peter: Grazie!

English

Anna: Look it's them.
 Peter: Would you give us a ride?
 Elena: Sure, we came on purpose! Get in!
 Luca: Hello, how are you?
 Anna: Good. Luca can you go forward with the seat? Peter has long legs.
 Peter: Don't worry I fit.
 Luca: Is this OK?
 Peter: Thanks!

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
dare	to give, offer, hand	verb
loro	they, them	object pronoun
avanti	forward, ahead, forwards	adverb
sedile	seat	noun
gamba	leg	noun
lungo	long, lengthy	adjective

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Mi daresti quel libro?

Chiedi loro cosa vogliono mangiare.

Sono loro!

Venite avanti.

Il sedile è sporco.

L'atleta è scivolato e si è fatto male ad una gamba.

Luca si è rotto una gamba.

Mi dai il cavo lungo?

Questo vestito è lungo.

Could you hand me that book?

"Ask them what they want to eat."

"It's them!"

Come forward.

The seat is dirty.

The athlete slipped and hurt his leg.

Luca broke a leg.

Can you give me the long cable?

This dress is long.

Grammar Points

As in English, the *condizionale presente* (present conditional) is used to make written and spoken polite requests. This employment is utterly identical to its English counterpart and it is used according to the politeness level we wish to have. However, as a rule of thumb, we should be using it almost always when directly asking favors or information, even in informal, friendly conversations. For example:

Mi passeresti il sale, per favore?

Would you pass the salt, please?

Potresti venire con me al parco?

Would you come with me to the park?

Avresti un attimo di tempo per me?

Would you spare a moment for me?

On the other hand, we shouldn't use it when formulating questions related to specific knowledge that doesn't relate to our needs. For instance:

Quando sei nato?

When were you born?

Chi fu il primo imperatore romano?

Who was the first Roman Emperor?

Quanto anni durò la prima Guerra mondiale?

How many years did the First World War last?

In addition to the inflection steps we presented in the previous lesson, certain first conjugation verbs require additional rules. These verbs may be divided into two broad categories:

1st) Due to the change of last syllable vowel, first conjugation verbs whose root ends with the letters -c - or -g- add the letter h between the root and stem, in order to keep the /k/ sound. For example:

Peccare (to sin)

Condizionale Presente

Io peccher –ei
 Tu peccher -esti
 Lui/lei peccher –ebbe
 Noi peccher -emmo
 Voi peccher -este
 Loro peccher -ebbero

Present Conditional

I would sin
 You would sin
 He/she/it would sin
 We would sin
 You would sin
 They would sin

2nd) First conjugation verbs whose root ends with the vowel -i-, drop it before adding the endings, as shown below.

Assaggiare (to taste)

Condizionale Presente

Io assagger –ei
 Tu assagger -esti
 Lui/lei assagger –ebbe
 Noi assagger -emmo
 Voi assagger -este
 Loro assagger -ebbero

Present Conditional

I would taste
 You would taste
 He/she/it would taste
 We would taste
 You would taste
 They would taste

Cultural Insight

When thinking of Tuscany, the first city that comes to mind is Firenze, but there is a small city that should also be remembered, San Gimignano.

This small medieval town surrounded by a wall is located in the province of Siena.

One of the first things you notice when getting close to the city are its medieval towers, which may be seen from several kilometers away. There are a total of fourteen towers that can be admired. Compared to other cities, San Gimignano was very lucky as few modern wars and urban renewals have changed this small city.

It was founded in the 3rd century BC by the ancient Etruscans, who started a small village on the city grounds.

During the 10th century it adopted its current name as a tribute to the bishop Saint Geminianus, who had successfully defended the city from Attila's Huns.

San Gimignano managed to preserve its independence until 1348, when a devastating plague that was ravaging Europe forced it to submit to Florence.



Beginner

Who is Coming to Your Italian Wedding?

14

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Italian

Luca: Siamo un po' in ritardo, ce la facciamo?
 Elena: La radio ha detto che il traffico dovrebbe essere scorrevole.
 Luca: Viene qualche vostra amica?
 Elena: Valeria mi ha scritto che sarebbe venuta.
 Luca: Non conosco Valeria. Lavorava nella panetteria?
 Elena: Sì, ora ha smesso.

English

Luca: We are a little bit late. Will we make it?
 Elena: The radio said that traffic should be smooth flowing.
 Luca: Any of your friends coming?
 Elena: Valeria wrote she was coming.
 Luca: I don't know Valeria. Did she work in the bakery?
 Elena: Yes, now she quit.

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
essere in ritardo	to be late, be delayed	expression
radio	radio	noun
traffico	traffic	noun
scorrevole	smooth, sliding	adjective
amico	friend	noun
lavorare	to work	verb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Sono in ritardo! Devo correre, ciao!
Ascoltiamo la radio.

I'm late! I have to run, bye!
 "Let's listen to the radio."

Ho comprato una nuova radio.

Ascolti la radio?

Oggi c'è molto traffico sull'autostrada.

Il meccanismo non è molto scorrevole.

Davide è un amico.

Ti presento la mia amica Valeria.

Un buon amico.

Non lavorare troppo.

Lavoro in una fabbrica.

"I bought a new radio."

"Do you listen to the radio?"

"Today, there is a lot of traffic on the highway."

The mechanism isn't very smooth.

"David is a friend."

"Let me introduce you to my friend Valeria."

"A good friend."

"Don't work too much."

"I work in a factory."

Grammar Points

As in English, the *condizionale presente* (present conditional) is used to convey unconfirmed information, rumors and hearsays. In this case, the present conditional is used to report any piece of information without expressing our personal opinion about it. For example:

Dicono che il presidente sarebbe una persona onesta.

They say that the president would be an honest person.

È stato detto che tu non aiuteresti mai Antonio.

Someone said that you would never help Antonio.

Secondo molte persone, la situazione dovrebbe peggiorare.

According to what many people say, the situation should get worse.

If we deem the reported information to be true, or at least sufficiently reliable, we should use the *presente indicativo* (simple present)/*futuro semplice* (simple future) instead. For instance:

I giornali dicono che il tempo migliora/migliorerà nei prossimi giorni.

Newspapers say that the weather gets/will get better in the coming days.

The *Condizionale Presente* tense of the second conjugation regular verbs is realized by dropping the

ending vowel from the infinitive and adding the standard endings.

The necessary steps to inflect second conjugation verbs are the following:

1st- take the infinitive of the verb: *prendere* (to take, infinitive)

2nd- drop the final vowel: *prender*

3rd- add the appropriate endings

Prendere (to take)

Condizionale Presente

Io prender –ei

Tu prender -esti

Lui/lei prender –ebbe

Noi prender -emmo

Voi prender -este

Loro prender -ebbero

Present Conditional

I would take

You would take

He/she/it would take

We would take

You would take

They would take

Cultural Insight

Known in Italian as the Costiera Amalfitana, the Amalfi Coast has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site thanks to the beauty of its scenery, terrain and towns.

It is located in a stretch of the Province of Salerno that goes from the city of Positano to Vietri sul Mare.

Positano is one of the most renowned summer resorts of Southern Italy. It gained great popularity also abroad after John Steinbeck published an essay describing the city "as dream place that isn't quite real when you are there and becomes beckoningly real after you have gone".

Also the city of Amalfi is a must see. The British upper class and aristocracy used to spend their winters in this wonderful town. If you can't visit Amalfi there is a way you can at least savour how it tastes. Buy a bottle of limoncello from Amalfi. Limoncello is a very tasty lemon liqueur produced in Southern Italy and the lemons cultivated in Amalfi are some of the best there are!



Beginner

What Will You Drink in Italy?

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Italian

Anna: Siamo arrivati? Ho sete, vorrei bere una Coca Cola fredda.
 Peter: Siamo partiti da dieci minuti!
 Anna: E allora? Sono nervosa e mi è venuta sete.
 Peter: Avresti potuto bere prima di uscire di casa.
 Anna: Uffa.
 Peter: Pensa a tutto quello che ci sarà da bere al matrimonio!

English

Anna: Have we arrived? I'm thirsty; I'd like to drink a cold Coke.
 Peter: We left ten minutes ago!
 Anna: So what? I'm nervous and I've got thirsty.
 Peter: You should have drunk before getting out of the house.
 Anna: Whatever.
 Peter: Think about all the drinks there will be at the wedding!

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
arrivare	to arrive, to come	verb
avere sete	to be thirsty	expression
freddo	cold	adjective
dieci	ten	cardinal number
minuto	minute	noun
nervoso	nervous, edgy, bad-tempered	adjective

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Siamo arrivati a Roma.
Sono arrivati i vicini.

"We've arrived in Rome."
 "The neighbors have arrived."

Arrivo!

Avete sete?

Questa bibita è molto fredda.

Il vento è freddo.

Ho freddo.

Ho dieci anni.

Tornerò in Giappone fra dieci giorni.

Ho letto dieci pagine del libro.

Ci vediamo tra cinque minuti.

È sempre nervoso.

"I'm coming!"

Are you thirsty?

"This drink is very cold."

"The wind is cold."

"I am cold."

I am ten years old.

"I'll move back to Japan in ten days."

I've read ten pages of the book.

I'll see you in five minutes.

"He is always nervous."

Grammar Points

The *condizionale presente* (present conditional) is used to communicate desires, wishes, aspirations, hopes. This employment is identical to its English equivalent.

For example:

Berrei volentieri un bicchiere di vino.

I'd gladly drink a glass of wine.

Noi preferiremmo organizzare la festa in anticipo.

We would prefer to organize the party in advance.

Vorrei tanto poter vedere Serena.

I would very much like to see Serena.

Although we use the present conditional, the wishes and desires expressed always refer to potential future events. When we wish to talk about hopes and aspirations related to the past (i.e., actions and facts that cannot become true anymore), we should use the *condizionale passato* (past conditional) instead. For instance:

Avrei voluto parlare con Mario prima che partisse.

I would have liked to have spoken with Mario before he left.

Sarebbe stato utile pagare la retta prima della scadenza.

It would have been useful to pay the fee before the deadline.

Potrei aver comprato una bicicletta nuova quando ne ebbi la possibilità.

I could have bought a new bicycle when I had to the chance to.

The *Condizionale Presente* tense of the third conjugation regular verbs is realized by dropping the ending vowel from the infinitive and adding the standard endings.

The necessary steps to inflect second conjugation verbs are the following:

1st- take the infinitive of the verb: *aprire* (to open, infinitive);

2nd- drop the final vowel: *aprir*

3rd- add the appropriate endings.

Aprire (to open)

Condizionale Presente

Io aprir –ei
 Tu aprir -esti
 Lui/lei aprir –ebbe
 Noi aprir -emmo
 Voi aprir -este
 Loro aprir -ebbero

Present Conditional

I would open
 You would open
 He/she/it would open
 We would open
 You would open
 They would open

Cultural Insight

Val d'Orcia, also written Valdorcia, is one of the most beautiful regions in Tuscany. It was added to the Unesco World Heritage sites list in 2004 as it reflects the way landscape was remodelled in Renaissance times and the subsequent celebration by painters of the famous Scuola Siennese (Siennese School).

Its landscape presents gentle hills that have been carved in the centuries by and loving hands of the farmers that cultivated them.

Its territory extends from the hills south of Siena to Monte Amiata.

One of its most famous local produce is the Brunello di Montalcino wine, one of the most famous wines of Italy.



Beginner

Where Can We Find the Italian Bathroom?

16

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Italian

Anna Devo andare in bagno!
 Luca Anche! Dai, ancora venti minuti e siamo arrivati.
 Anna Non penso che riuscirei a resistere.
 Luca OK, OK. Fermiamoci al prossimo autogrill.
 Anna Non fa niente, cerco di resistere ancora un po'.
 Luca Brava, ancora un piccolo sforzo.

English

Anna I have to go to the bathroom!
 Luca That too! Come on, twenty more minutes and we've arrived.
 Anna I don't think I could resist.
 Luca OK, OK. Let's stop at the next motorway café.
 Anna It's OK, I'll try to resist for a while longer.
 Luca Good, hang on a little more.

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
venti	twenty	cardinal number
resistere	to resist, withstand, last, hold	verb
fermare	to stop, arrest, halt, book	verb
prossimo	next, upcoming, forthcoming	adjective
autogrill	motorway café, highway stop	noun
sforzo	effort, strain, attempt	noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Ho venti nuovi numeri di telefono nella mia rubrica.

I've got twenty new phone numbers in my phone book.

Ho mangiato venti caramelle.
Resisteremo fino al vostro ritorno.
Fermati!
La prossima volta guido io.
Prendiamo il prossimo treno.
Mi fermo al prossimo autogrill.
Facciamo uno sforzo, aiutiamo i poveri.

I ate twenty candies.
 We shall resist until your return.
 Stop!
 "Next time, I'll drive."
 "Let's get the next train."
 I'll stop at the next motorway café.
 Lets make an effort; lets help the poor.

Grammar Points

The *condizionale presente* (present conditional) is used to express doubts, perplexity and uncertainty about a specific piece of information in subordinate clauses. This employment is identical to its English equivalent. Note that the subordinate clause with the present conditional is normally preceded by a main clause containing a negative particle. For instance:

Non pensiamo che tu potresti farcela.
 We don't think you could make it.

Mara non crede che il suo ragazzo sarebbe felice senza di lei.
 Mara doesn't believe that her boyfriend would be happy without her.

I giornalisti non ritengono che i politici potrebbero fare il loro lavoro.
 Journalists don't think politicians could do their job.

Differently from the employment we analyzed in the previous class, the doubts, perplexity and uncertainty may refer to either a general statement or to potential future events.

When we wish to express reservations related to the past, we should instead use the *condizionale passato* (past conditional) in the subordinate clause and the *imperfetto* tense in the main one. Taking the sample sentences above:

Non pensavamo che tu avresti potuto farcela.
 We didn't think you could have made it.

Mara non credeva che il suo ragazzo sarebbe stato felice senza di lei.
 Mara didn't believe that her boyfriend would have been happy without her.

I giornalisti non ritenevano che i politici avrebbero potuto fare il loro lavoro.
Journalists didn't think politicians could have done their job.

The *Condizionale Presente* tense of the irregular verb *essere* (to be) is realized as follows:

1st- take the stem of the Simple Future: *sar*

2nd- add the standard endings.

Essere (to be)

Condizionale Presente

Io sar –ei
Tu sar -esti
Lui/lei sar –ebbe
Noi sar -emmo
Voi sar -este
Loro sar -ebbero

Present Conditional

I would be
You would be
He/she/it would be
We would be
You would be
They would be

Cultural Insight

Villa d'Este is a masterpiece in architecture and garden design.

Commissioned by Cardinal Ippolito II d'Este in the second half of the 16th century, it presents a spectacular terraced garden that has been obtained by inserting pools, water jets , cascades and fountains.

This remarkable feat of hydraulic engineering created such a magnificent scene that it influenced the European landscape design for the following centuries.

The garden presents a central axis that is intersected by various cross-axes. Its water supply comes from the Aniene river, which has been partly diverted, and by a spring that supplies a cistern located under the courtyard.

Considering it is such a marvelous site for modern-day tourists that are used to indoor plumbing, what could have been the emotions of people who saw these marvels in the 16th century?



Beginner

Will You Wait Until the Church in Italy?

17

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Italian

Elena Pensi che resisterebbe fino alla chiesa?
 Luca Non credo. Fermiamoci a quella stazione di servizio.
 Elena Meglio non rischiare, vero?
 Luca Inoltre siamo abbastanza in orario.
 Elena Allora uso anche io i servizi.
 Luca Anche tu?
 Elena Perché non posso?
 Luca Certo, certo!

English

Elena Do you think she could resist till the church?
 Luca I don't believe so. Let's stop at that service station.
 Elena Better not risk it, right?
 Luca Besides, we are quite on time.
 Elena Then I'll use the bathroom too.
 Luca You too?
 Elena Why, can't I?
 Luca Sure, sure!

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
chiesa	church	noun
stazione di servizio	service station, petrol station	noun
rischiare	to risk, gamble, dare	verb
abbastanza	enough, quite, fairly, rather	adverb
orario	time, timetable, schedule	noun
servizi	services, bathroom	noun (uncountable; plural)

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Domenica andiamo in chiesa.

Fermiamoci alla stazione di servizio.

Non rischiare troppo.

Questo libro è abbastanza interessante.

Oggi è abbastanza nuvoloso.

Siamo in perfetto orario.

Dove sono i servizi?

We are going to church on Sunday.

Let's stop at the service station.

Don't risk too much.

"This book is quite interesting."

"Today it's quite cloudy."

We are right on time.

"Where is the bathroom?"

Grammar Points

The *condizionale presente* (present conditional) is used to express disapproval, disagreement about someone's statement or belief. These dubitative sentences cannot normally be literally translated into English. For instance:

Credi veramente che potrei tradire la tua fiducia?

Do you really believe I could betray your trust?

Secondo il mio professore io non avrei fatto un buon lavoro.

According to my professor, I didn't do a good job.

Note that this use may sometimes coincide with the one presented in the previous lesson, since the diverse interpretation depends on the viewpoint taken by speakers.

With the exception of the verb *essere* (to be) we considered in the previous class, the verbs that follow an irregular conjugation in the *condizionale presente* tense are divided into three main categories, according to how the verb's root change. Today we'll analyze the first one, which comprises only three first conjugation verbs: *dare* (to give), *fare* (to do, to make), *stare* (to be, to stay).

The first conjugation verbs *dare*, *fare*, *stare* **do not** change their last syllable vowel from *-a-* to *-e-*. When conjugating these verbs, simply drop the last vowel from the infinitive and add the appropriate endings, as shown below.

Dare (to give)**Condizionale Presente**

Io dar -ei
 Tu dar -esti
 Lui/lei dar -ebbe
 Noi dar -emmo
 Voi dar -este
 Loro dar -ebbero

Present Conditional

I would give
 You would give
 He/she/it would give
 We would give
 You would give
 They would give

Cultural Insight

Crespi d'Adda is one of the best surviving "company towns" built in Europe and North America in the 19th and early 20th century.

These towns were built to meet the newly formed workers class needs, helping them with housing and social services.

The construction started in 1875, after Cristoforo Benigno Crespi, a textile manufacturer of Busto Arsizio, bought the valley that stretched for about 1 Km from the rivers Brembo and Adda. At the beginning he built a cotton-mill, next to which in 1878 a modern town was added.

This town had very modern social services, like a school, a clinic, a cemetery, a wash-house, a church and also a theatre. It was also the first city in Italy to have electric public lighting.

The energy for the lights, which powered the whole city, was provided by a hydroelectric power plant in Trezzo, a small location just a few kilometers up the river Adda.

At the beginning the workers houses were built in large blocks, but after Silvio, son of Cristoforo, had come back from the British city of Oldham, one of the first ever industrialized towns, he decided to start building single-family houses. The reason for this change was to create better harmony between workers and defend against possible social strife.

Thanks to the good care that the Crespi family had taken of their workers, there were no strikes during the fifty years the Crespi family managed the town.

After the great depression of 1929, the town had to be sold and it never again regained the number of workers it had employed in its years of maximum activity.



Beginner

Save Time by Skipping the Line in Italy!

18

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Italian

Elena Guarda che coda!
 Anna Come facciamo?
 Uomo Consiglierei di usare i servizi dentro l'autogrill.
 Anna Grazie, da che parte sono?
 Uomo Appena entrate girate a destra e poi sempre dritto.
 Anna Grazie ancora.

English

Elena Look at the queue!
 Anna What shall we do?
 man I'd suggest using the bathrooms inside the motorway café.
 Anna Thank you. What side are they?
 man As soon as you enter, turn right and then always straight.
 Anna Thanks again.

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
coda	tail, queue, line	noun
consigliare	to suggest, advise	verb
dentro	in, inside, within, by	preposition
girare	to turn, go around, circle, wander	verb
destra	right	noun
dritto	straight	adverb

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*C'è sempre coda davanti a quel negozio.
 Ti consiglio di usare le scale.*

There is always a queue in front of that shop.
 "I suggest you use the stairs."

Ti consiglio di guardare quel film.

Andiamo dentro la chiesa.

Ieri ho girato per la città.

Gira a destra dopo il semaforo.

Dopo la scuola vieni dritto a casa.

"I suggest you watch that movie."

Let's go inside the church.

"Yesterday, I went around the city."

Turn right after the traffic lights.

After school come straight home.

Grammar Points

Similarly to English, the *condizionale presente* (present conditional) is used to express personal opinions, giving them a polite and formal tone. We should limit its use to formal situations or when making suggestions. For instance:

Consiglierei di valutare la situazione con attenzione.

I'd suggest carefully evaluating the situation.

Diremmo che questa decisione è appropriata.

We'd say this decision is appropriate.

Proporebbero di partire domani verso mezzogiorno.

They suggest leaving tomorrow around noon.

Generally speaking, this employment of the *condizionale presente* should be limited to really formal situations, such as giving a speech or attending professional meetings. Furthermore, we shouldn't abuse using it even in those contexts, since it'd be seen as a lack of self confidence in what we are saying.

The second category of irregular verbs includes all verbs that contract their infinitive form, thus losing the last two vowels. The steps to inflect this category of verbs are the following:

1st - take the infinitive of the verb: *potere* (can)

2nd - drop the last two vowels: *potr*

3rd - add the appropriate endings

Potere (can)

Condizionale Presente

Io potr –ei
 Tu potr -esti
 Lui/lei potr –ebbe
 Noi potr -emmo
 Voi potr -este
 Loro potr -ebbero

Present Conditional

I could
 You could
 He/she/it could
 We could
 You could
 They could

The list below presents the verbs belonging to this category.

English infinitive	Italian infinitive	1st person Presente Condizionale
to live	viver-e	vivr-ei
to have to; must	dover-e	dovr-ei
can; to be able to	poter-e	potr-ei
to know	saper-e	sapr-ei
to hear	udir-e*	udr-ei
to fall down	cader-e	cadr-ei
to go	andar-e	andr-ei
to see	veder-e	vedr-ei
to enjoy	goder-e	godr-ei
to perform; to do	compier-e	compir-ei

*= This verb may alternatively be inflected following the standard regular verbs procedure.

Cultural Insight

The city of Urbino is one of the best locations to visit if you want to experience Renaissance culture. Located in the Marche region in the center of Italy it is nested on hills that give the walled town a medieval aspect.

A small Roman town named Urvinum Mataurense, slowly rose in importance as it was in a strategically ideal stronghold during the Gothic wars of the 6th century.

The city suffered political and military battles between the supporters of the Guelphs and Ghibellines until the city was added to the papal dominions in 1626. Also the great library that Urbino had accumulated during the centuries was confiscated and added to the Vatican Library in 1657.



Beginner

Let's Have a Merry Italian Christmas!

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Italian

Cinzia Tra pochi giorni è Natale!
 Marco Sì. Adoro i regali!
 Cinzia Cosa hai chiesto a Babbo Natale?
 Marco Ho chiesto un iPhone, una nuova macchina fotografica digitale, un hard disk portatile...
 Cinzia Ho capito, ho capito. Sempre tecnologia.
 Marco A dire il vero ho chiesto solo una cosa.
 Cinzia Cosa?
 Marco Ho chiesto un Felice Natale per tutti i nostri ascoltatori!
 Cinzia Sì! Buon Natale a tutti!

English

Cinzia In a few days it will be Christmas!
 Marco Yes. I love presents!
 Cinzia What did you ask Santa Claus for?
 Marco I asked an iPhone, a new digital camera, a portable hard disk...
 Cinzia I got it, I got it. Always technology.
 Marco To tell the truth I only asked for one thing.
 Cinzia What?
 Marco I asked for a Happy Christmas for all our listeners!
 Cinzia Yes! Merry Christmas to everyone!

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
Natale	Christmas	noun
regalo	present, gift	noun
chiedere	to ask	verb
portatile	portable	adjective
tecnologia	technology	noun
felice	happy, glad, joyful	adjective

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Buon Natale!

Quale regalo vuoi?

Chiedi a mamma le chiavi di casa.

Chiediamo del pane?

Ho chiesto una bambola.

Posso chiederti una cosa?

Hai chiesto?

Vorrei una radio portatile.

Odio la tecnologia.

Sono molto felice!

Merry Christmas!

What present do you want?

"Ask mom for the key to the house."

"Shall we ask for some bread?"

"I asked for a doll."

"Can I ask you something?"

"Did you ask?"

I would like a portable radio.

I hate technology.

I am very happy!

Grammar Points

Today we are going to learn some very useful phrases to use at this time of the year.

The most widely used Christmas greetings are:

Buon Natale

Merry Christmas

Auguri di Natale

Best wishes for Christmas

Felice Natale

Happy Christmas

Buone feste

Happy holidays

Tanti auguri di Buone Feste

Best wishes for the holidays

If we want to point out that our greetings are intended to all the people present in the room or to all the members of a family who is receiving our Christmas card, we just have to add *a tutti* after the normal

greeting.

For example:

Buon Natale a tutti

Merry Christmas to everyone

Buone feste a tutti

Happy holidays to everyone

Cultural Insight

Traditionally Italian children used to write a Christmas letter to *Gesù Bambino*, "the Infant Jesus". With the help of modern Mass Media, this figure, started to fade away, replaced by *Babbo Natale*, "Santa Claus".

This change has culminated in recent years and now very few children actually write or know about *Gesù Bambino*.

A letter to *Gesù Bambino* or *Babbo Natale* is usually written in the following pattern:

Caro Gesù Bambino/Babbo Natale,

Quest'anno vorrei...

Dear Infant Jesus/Santa Claus

This Year I'd like...



Beginner

You Won't Find Anything More Delicious than This Italian Candy!

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Italian

Elena Vorrei prendere delle caramelle. Ci fermiamo un attimo?
 Anna OK, anche io vorrei qualcosa di dolce.
 Elena Io prendo queste caramelle alla liquirizia, tu?
 Anna Io prendo queste al miele.
 Elena OK ora torniamo in macchina.

English

Elena I'd like to get some candies. Shall we stop a minute?
 Anna OK, I'd also like something sweet.
 Elena I'll take these licorice candies, what about you?
 Anna I'll take these ones with honey.
 Elena OK now let's get back to the car.

Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
caramella	sweet, candy, toffee	noun
qualcosa	something	indefinite pronoun
attimo	moment, second, instant, minute	noun
dolce	sweet	adjective
liquirizia	licorice, liquorice	noun
miele	honey	noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Mamma! Voglio le caramelle!
Vorrei mangiare qualcosa di dolce.
Hai qualcosa da mangiare?
Aspetta un attimo.

Mom! I want some candies.
 "I'd like to eat something sweet."
 "Do you have something to eat?"
 Wait a second.

Questa caramella è molto dolce.
Ti piace la liquirizia?
Gli orsi mangiano il miele.

This candy is very sweet.
 Do you like licorice?
 Bears eat honey.

Grammar Points

The third and last category of verbs that follow an irregular inflection at the *condizionale presente* tense include all those verbs that contract their infinitive form, losing the last two vowels and changing the second-last consonant to *-r-*. The steps to inflect this category of verbs are the following:

- 1st - take the infinitive of the verb: *venire* (to come)
- 2nd - drop the last two vowels: *venr*
- 3rd - change the second-last consonant to *-r-*: *verr*
- 4th - add the appropriate endings

Venire (to come)

Condizionale Presente

Io verr -ei
 Tu verr -esti
 Lui/lei verr -ebbe
 Noi verr -emmo
 Voi verr -este
 Loro verr -ebbero

Present Conditional

I would come
 You would come
 He/she/it would come
 We would could
 You would could
 They would could

The verbs belonging to this category are presented in the list below.

English Infinitive	Italian Infinitive	1st Person Presente Condizionale
to hold; to keep	tener-e	terr-ei
to stay; to remain	rimaner-e	rimarr-ei
to want; to wish	voler-e	vorr-ei
to come	venir-e	verr-ei
to be worth	valer-e	varr-ei
to drink	ber-e*	berr-ei

*= verb *bere* does not change its first consonant; it simply doubles its ending *-r-*

Cultural Insight

Verona is one of the major cities of the Veneto region, in the north of Italy. It owes its importance to its geographical position, nested in the center of a wide loop carved by the Adige river near lake Garda.

Its history dates back to the 1st century BC and its most florid period was under the *della Scala* family during the 13th and 14th centuries and under the rule of the Venetian Republic between the 14th and 18th centuries.

It has been chosen as a UNESCO World Heritage site for the great number of finely preserved historical buildings, dating to both the Mediaeval and Renaissance periods. It also boasts high artistic works from various centuries.

Being in such a strategic position, it also developed as a military citadel and we can still see the evolution of its fortifications.

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