



## Upper Intermediate 1

Italian Lessons 1-25



1-25

## Introduction

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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](https://www.innovativelanguage.com/audiobooks) to get the lesson notes for this course and sign up for your FREE lifetime account.

## Upper Intermediate S1

How Can I Get Over My Fear of Flying in Italy?

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## Italian

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Altoparlanti	Si prega di allacciare le cinture di sicurezza...
Passeggero	Signorina! Scusi, signorina!
Claudia	Sì, mi dica!
Passeggero	Parli un attimo con me per favore. Durante il decollo sono sempre molto nervoso.
Claudia	Sì, certo. Allora, prima volta in Africa?
Passeggero	Veramente no, nel '63 andai in Kenya a trovare mio fratello che faceva lì il volontario. Mi piace proprio l'Africa! Sa, mi ricordo quella volta quando...
(in dissolvenza)	
-Dopo venti minuti-	
Passeggero	Poi ho conosciuto quella donna bellissima con quel nome strano...
Claudia	Ehm, ehm, mi scusi adesso l'aereo si è stabilizzato, dovrei andare dagli altri passeggeri adesso...
Passeggero	Ah, veramente!?! Grazie, mi ha aiutato molto.
Claudia	Si figuri!

## English

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Speakers	Please fasten your seat belts...
Passenger	Miss! Excuse me, Miss!
Claudia	Yes, may I help you?
Passegger	Talk with me for a moment, please. During takeoffs I'm always so nervous.
Claudia	Yes, certainly. So, first time in Africa?
Passegger	Honestly, no, in '63 I went to Kenya to visit my brother who was a volunteer there. I really like Africa! You know, I remember that time when...
(fade-out)	
After twenty minutes...	
Passegger	...Then I met that woman with that very strange name...
Claudia	Ahem, ahem. Excuse me, but now the plane has leveled off. I should to go to the other passengers now...
Passegger	Oh, really? Thank you. You helped me a lot...
Claudia	Don't mention it!



## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
cintura	belt	noun
durante	during, while	adverb
decollo	takeoff	noun
nervoso	nervous, edgy, bad-tempered	adjective
Africa	Africa	noun
volontario	volunteer	noun
stabilizzarsi	to level off, to stabilize	verb
passaggero	passenger	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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<i>Si prega di allacciare le cinture di sicurezza.</i>	"Please fasten your seat belts."
<i>A Firenze puoi trovare delle belle cinture di pelle.</i>	"In Florence, you can find some good leather belts."
<i>Non trovo la mia cintura preferita.</i>	I can't find my favorite belt.
<i>Di solito durante l'atterraggio prego.</i>	"Usually during landing I pray."
<i>Di solito durante il decollo non servono da mangiare.</i>	"Usually during the takeoff they don't serve any food."
<i>È sempre nervoso.</i>	"He is always nervous."
<i>Voglio fare un viaggio in Africa.</i>	"I want to make a trip to Africa."
<i>Sono un volontario della Fao.</i>	"I'm a volunteer for Fao."
<i>Il mercato azionario dovrebbe stabilizzarsi presto.</i>	"The stock market should stabilize soon."
<i>Quanti passeggeri ha questo autobus?</i>	"How many passengers does this bus have?"
<i>I passeggeri stanno volando sull'aereo.</i>	The passengers are flying on the airplane.

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the *Passato Remoto* Tense of First Conjugation Regular Verbs.**

*Veramente no, nel '63 andai in Kenya a trovare mio fratello che faceva lì il volontario.*

"Honestly, no, in '63 I went to Kenya to visit my brother who was a volunteer there."

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The *passato remoto*, or the preterit, is a past tense we use to report actions completed in the distant

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past. As we mentioned in previous lessons, in northern Italy the *passato remoto* is mostly limited to literature, while in southern Italy, people more widely use it in speech than the *passato prossimo*.

It is also known as the historical or narrative past tense, and people frequently use it also in TV news and newspapers.

However, we frequently use a few verbs in the *passato remoto*, such as *dissi* (*dire*, meaning "to say") or *andai* (*andare*, meaning "to go") in spoken standard Italian.

We form the *passato remoto* of first conjugation regular verbs by dropping the infinitive suffix and adding the appropriate endings as shown in the table.

<b><i>Infinitive Suffix</i></b>	<b><i>Ending</i></b>
<i>io</i>	<i>-ai</i>
<i>tu</i>	<i>-asti</i>
<i>lui/lei</i>	<i>-o</i>
<i>noi</i>	<i>-ammo</i>
<i>voi</i>	<i>-aste</i>
<i>loro</i>	<i>-arono</i>

The following table displays the *passato remoto* tense of the first conjugation regular verb *andare*, meaning "to go."

## ***Andare*** ("to go")

<b><i>Italian</i></b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Io and-ai</i>	"I went"
<i>Tu and-asti</i>	"You went"
<i>Lui/Lei and-ò</i>	"He/She/It went"
<i>Noi and-ammo</i>	"We went"
<i>Voi and-aste</i>	"You went"
<i>Loro and-arono</i>	"They went"

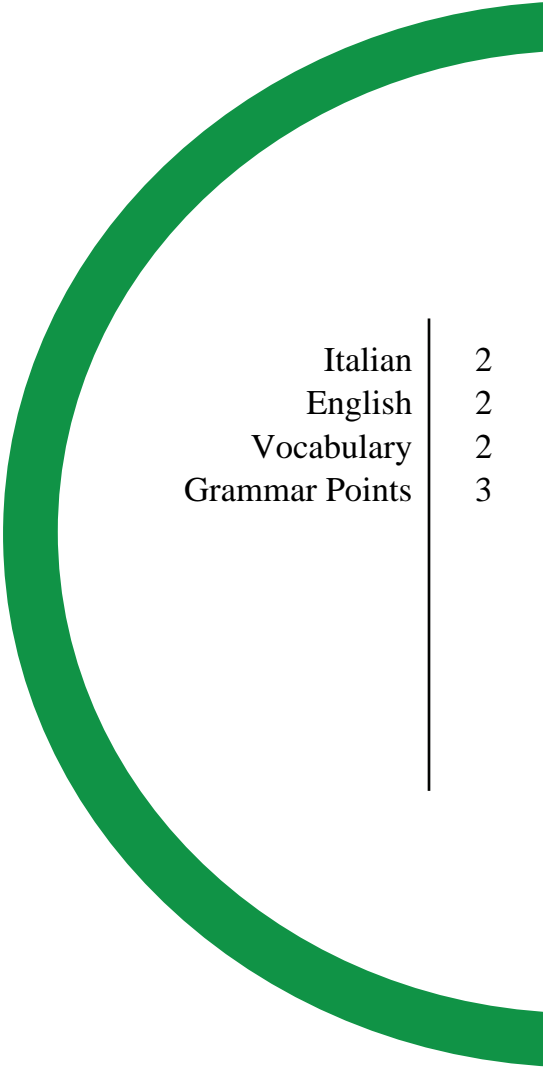


## Upper Intermediate S1

Will Your Italian Professor Give You the Highest Score?



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## Italian

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Professore Bene signorina Francini. L'esame è andato bene, devo dire che era molto preparata.

Irene Sì, poi il corso è stato interessantissimo.

Professore Direi che ha elencato in modo più che esauriente le basi che Morgagni diede all'anatomia patologica.

Irene Sinceramente mi sono impegnata molto per questo esame.

Professore Per questo ho deciso di darle...trenta!

Irene Addirittura!? Grazie mille professore!

Professore Se lo merita, arrivederci.

## English

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Professor Well, Miss Francini. I have to say that the examination went very well. You were well prepared.

Irene Yes, and the course has been very interesting.

Professor I'd say that you enumerated the basis that Morgagni gave to pathological anatomy in a more than exhaustive way.

Irene Honestly, I committed myself a lot to this exam.

Professor For this reason, I decided to give you...thirty!

Irene Really? Thank you very much professor!

Professor You deserve it; good-bye.

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
signorina	young lady, girl, miss	noun
corso	course	noun
elencare	to enumerate, list, catalog	verb
esauriente	exhaustive, thorough, comprehensive	adjective
anatomia	anatomy	noun
impegnarsi	to commit oneself, to apply oneself	verb
addirittura	really	exclamation
meritare	to deserve, merit	verb





## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Signorina, è il suo turno.*

*Sto frequentando un corso di lingua italiana.*

*Ti ho elencato tutti i miei difetti.*

*Ho preparato una spiegazione esauriente.*

*Ho comprato un libro di anatomia.*

*Mi impegno molto nel mio lavoro.*

*A: Ho comprato dieci accendini. B: Addirittura!?*

*Meriti un premio.*

"Miss, it's your turn."

"I'm attending an Italian language course."

"I listed all my flaws to you."

"I prepared an exhaustive explanation."

"I bought a book of anatomy."

"I commit myself a lot to my work."

A: "I bought ten lighters." B: "Really?!"

"You deserve a prize."

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the *Passato Remoto* Tense of First Conjugation Irregular Verbs.**  
*Direi che ha elencato in modo più che esauriente le basi che Morgagni diede all'anatomia patologica.*

**"I'd say that you enumerated the basis that Morgagni gave to pathological anatomy in a more than exhaustive way."**

Verbs in the first conjugation are generally regular; only few of them have an irregular form when we conjugate them at the *passato remoto* tense. However, here follows the conjugation for two of the most used *-are* irregular verbs: *dare* ("to give") and *stare* ("to stay").

### *dare* ("to give")

<b>Italian</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Io diedi</i>	"I gave"
<i>Tu desti</i>	"You gave"
<i>Lui/Lei diede</i>	"He/She/It gave"
<i>Noi demmo</i>	"We gave"
<i>Voi deste</i>	"You gave"
<i>Loro diedero</i>	"They gave"

### *stare* ("to stay")

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<b><i>Italian</i></b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Io stetti</i>	"I stayed"
<i>Tu stesti</i>	"You stayed"
<i>Lui/Lei stette</i>	"He/She/It stayed"
<i>Noi stemmo</i>	"We stayed"
<i>Voi steste</i>	"You stayed"
<i>Loro stettero</i>	"They stayed"

## Upper Intermediate S1

What's That Name You Used to Call Me in Italian?

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## Italian

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Irene Pronto?  
Claudia Pronto, Ire sono io.  
Irene Oh ciao sorellona! Da dove chiami?  
Claudia Da Nairobi. Com'è andato l'esame?  
Irene Ah, bene bene.  
Claudia Un altro trenta?  
Irene Sì...  
Claudia Che secchiona!  
Irene Ma no...  
Claudia Invece sì! Lo sei sempre stata, dalle elementari... Quando ricevesti quel premio per la piccola scienziata dell'anno.  
Irene Vuoi dire il premio di miglior esperimento dell'anno.  
Claudia Sì, sì, quello! Comunque volevo dirti che ci vediamo sabato a pranzo dal babbo.  
Irene Ah, bene. Ciao a sabato allora!

## English

---

Irene Hello?  
Claudia Hello, Ire, it's me.  
Irene Oh, hi, sister! Where are you calling from?  
Claudia From Nairobi. How did the test go?  
Irene Ah, well, very well.  
Claudia Another thirty?  
Irene Yes...  
Claudia What a swot!  
Irene No way...  
Claudia It is so! You have always been since primary school... When you received that prize for little scientist of the year.  
Irene You mean the prize for best experiment of the year.  
Claudia Yeah, that one! By the way, I wanted to tell you that we'll meet on Saturday at Dad's for lunch.  
Irene Ah, okay. Bye, see you on Saturday then!

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
chiamare	to call, to phone	verb
secchione	swot, grind, dweeb	noun
elementare	elementary	adjective
ricevere	to receive, to get	verb
scenziato, scenziata	scientist	noun
esperimento	experiment	noun
sabato	Saturday	noun
babbo	dad, father	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Da dove chiami?*

"Where are you calling from?"

*Ti chiamo domani sera.*

"I'll call you tomorrow evening."

*Chiama la polizia!*

"Call the police!"

*Sei proprio un secchione!*

"You are really a swot!"

*Questo è un corso di matematica elementare.*

"This is a course in elementary mathematics."

*Ho ricevuto una cartolina da Singapore.*

"I received a postcard from Singapore."

*Ho ricevuto delle rose per San Valentino.*

"I received some roses for Saint Valentine's day."

*Mi piacerebbe essere uno scenziato.*

"I'd like to be a scientist."

*La scenziata cerca le formiche.*

The scientist searches for ants.

*Questo esperimento è pericoloso.*

"This experiment is dangerous."

*Andiamo al cinema sabato?*

"Are we going to the movies on Saturday?"

*Il babbo di Elisa la sta cercando.*

"Elisa's dad is looking for her."

*Il mio babbo si chiama Enrico.*

"My dad's name is Enrico."

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the *Passato Remoto* Tense of Second Conjugation Regular Verbs.**

*Lo sei sempre stata, dalle elementari... Quando ricevesti quel premio per la piccola scenziata dell'anno.*

**"You have always been since primary school... When you received that prize for little scientist of the year."**

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We form the *passato remoto* of second conjugation regular verbs by dropping the infinitive suffix and adding the appropriate endings: (*io*) -ei, (*tu*) -esti, (*lui/lei*) -é, (*noi*) -emmo, (*voi*) -este, and (*loro*) -erono. However, some of the first and the third singular and the third plural persons have an alternative ending that can replace the ones we mentioned above: (*io*) -etti, (*lui/lei*) -ette, and (*loro*) -ettero. Consequently, several verbs have a double form, as happens with the regular *ricevere* ("to receive").

## *ricevere* ("to receive")

<b>Italian</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Io ricev-ei/etti</i>	"I received"
<i>Tu ricev-esti</i>	"You received"
<i>Lui/Lei ricev-é/ette</i>	"He/She/It received"
<i>Noi ricev-emmo</i>	"We received"
<i>Voi ricev-este</i>	"You received"
<i>Loro ricev-erono/ettero</i>	"They received"

Examples with other *-ere* regular verbs:

*credere* ("to believe")

### **For Example:**

1. *Crederono per anni a un culto magico./Credettero per anni a un culto magico.*

"They believed for years in magic worship."

*vendere* ("to sell")

### **For Example:**

*Mi ricordo che vendei la mia macchina molti anni fa./Mi ricordo che vendetti la mia macchina molti anni fa.*

"I remember I sold my car many years ago."



## Upper Intermediate S1

You Interrupted My Favorite Italian Television Show!

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## Italian

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Davide                    Dai Claudia, abbassa la televisione!  
Claudia                    Va bene, hai ragione.  
Irene                        Mi passi il pane? Grazie.  
Davide                    Allora ragazze che fate di bello oggi?  
Claudia                    Mah, io sono stanca, ma salvo le energie per stasera. Io e l'Ire usciamo, vero?  
  
Irene                        Sì, a proposito, devo chiamare Filippo.  
Davide                    Uscite? Spero non torniate tardi. Ricordatevi, c'è la Prima Comunione di vostra cugina domattina!  
  
Irene                        Ah, già! Mi ero già scordata.  
Davide                    Vedi?! Ve ne eravate già scordate!  
Claudia                    Hey, hey, se non sbaglio al matrimonio dello zio io e Irene andammo con la nonna ma tu e la mamma arrivaste in ritardo!  
  
Irene                        Sì, sì, interromperò pure la cerimonia!  
Davide                    Che vergogna...  
Irene e Claudia        Ah, ah, ah!

## English

---

Davide                    Come on, Claudia, turn down the television!  
Claudia                    Okay, you're right.  
Irene                        Can you pass me the bread? Thanks.  
Davide                    So, girls, what are you up to today?  
Claudia                    Well, I'm tired, but I'm saving energy for tonight. Ire and I are going out, aren't we?  
  
Irene                        Yes; by the way, I have to call Filippo.  
Davide                    Are you going out? I hope you won't be late. Remember, there's the First Communion ceremony for your cousin tomorrow morning!  
  
Irene                        Ah, right! I'd already forgotten.  
Davide                    You see? You had already forgotten it!  
Claudia                    Hey, hey, if I'm not wrong, at our uncle's wedding, Irene and I went with grandma. But you and mommy arrived late!  
  
Irene                        Yes, they also interrupted the ceremony!  
Davide                    What a shame...  
Irene and Claudia    Ah, ah, ah!





## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
dai	come on	exclamation
abbassare	to lower, to turn down, to dim	verb
salvare	to save	verb
Comunione	Holy Communion	noun
scordare	to forget	verb
zio	uncle	noun
cerimonia	ceremony	noun
vergogna	shame, embarrassment	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Dai non fare così!*

"Come on don't do like that!"

*Dai, andiamo!*

Come on, let's go!

*Come possiamo abbassare i prezzi?*

"How can we lower the price?"

*Almeno mi sono salvato la faccia.*

"At least I saved my face."

*Mia sorella oggi ha la sua prima comunione.*

"My sister has her First Communion today."

*Ho scordato le chiavi in ufficio.*

"I forgot the keys in the office."

*Mio zio è un cuoco.*

"My uncle is a cook."

*Questa cerimonia sarà molto lunga.*

"This ceremony will be very long."

*Che vergogna!*

"How embarrassing!"

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the *Passato Remoto* Tense of Second Conjugation Irregular Verbs.**

***Sì, sì, interrompero pure la cerimonia!***

**"Yes, they also interrupted the ceremony!"**

---

In the *passato remoto* tense, many verbs belonging to the second conjugation group are irregular for the first and third singular person and the third plural person. Among these, we can distinguish three main groups:

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- Those verbs ending in *-cere*, *-gere*, *-dere*, and *-ndere* take the endings *-si*, *-se*, and *-sero*, as in *vincere* ("to win"), *io vinsi*, *lui/lei vinse*, *loro vinsero*; *piangere*, ("to cry"), *io piansi*, *lui/lei pianse*, *loro piansero*; *ridere* ("to laugh"), *io risi*, *lui/lei rise*, *loro risero*; and *spendere* ("to spend"), *io spesi*, *lui/lei spese*, *loro spesero*.
- Those ending in *-ggere* take the endings *-ssi*, *-sse*, *-ssero*, as in *leggere* ("to read"), *io lessi*, *lui/lei lesse*, *loro lessero*, and in *reggere* ("to hold"), *io ressi*, *lui/lei resse*, *loro ressero*.
- Sometimes we double the last consonant of the verb's stem, as happens for *volere* ("to want"), *io volli*, *lui/lei volle*, *loro vollero*; *cadere* ("to fall"), *io caddi*, *lui/lei cadde*, *loro caddero*; *rompere* ("to break"), *io ruppi*, *lui/lei ruppe*, *loro ruppero*; and *sapere* ("to know"), *io seppi*, *lui/lei seppi*, *loro seppero*.

There are several rules, and for this reason it is easier to learn each verb.

## *interrompere* ("to interrupt")

<b>Italian</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Io interruppi</i>	"I interrupted"
<i>Tu interrompesti</i>	"You interrupted"
<i>Lui/Lei interruppe</i>	"He/She/It interrupted"
<i>Noi interrompemmo</i>	"We interrupted"
<i>Voi interrompeste</i>	"You interrupted"
<i>Loro interrupperò</i>	"They interrupted"

## Upper Intermediate S1

### I Know Not of What You Speak in Italian

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## Italian

---

(doorbell sound)

Irene Deve essere Filippo, ma perché vuole entrare in casa? Ha detto che aspettava fuori, meno male abbiamo pulito oggi...

(she opens the door)

Irene Ciao Pippo, entra! Ma che ci fai qui?

Filippo Non so se hai notato, ma fuori piove di brutto! Non volevo aspettarvi da solo in macchina.

Irene Sì hai fatto bene, ma come, piove!? Oh no, mi devo cambiare le scarpe adesso, se piove mi metto gli stivali!

Filippo Basta che ti sbrighi, sto morendo di fame! Poi è inutile che ti fai bella stasera, Mirco non viene.

Irene Cosa? Davvero? E perché?

Filippo E che ne so! Tua sorella è pronta?

Claudia Sì, sono qui al computer!

## English

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(doorbell sound)

Irene It might be Filippo, but why does he want to get in? He said he would wait outside. Thank goodness we cleaned today...

(she opens the door)

Irene Hi, Pippo, come in! What are you doing here?

Filippo I don't know whether you noticed, but it's raining like crazy outside! I didn't want to wait for you alone in my car.

Irene Yes, you did the right thing, but how come it's raining? Oh no, I have to change shoes now. If it's raining, I'll put on the boots!

Filippo As long as you hurry up; I'm starving! And it's of no use that you dress up tonight; Mirco is not coming.

Irene What? Really? Why?

Filippo I don't know! Is your sister ready?

Claudia Yes, I'm here at the computer!

## Vocabulary

**Italian**

**English**

**Class**

entrare	to go in, come in, enter	verb
pulire	to clean	verb
notare	to notice, to realize	verb
mettersi	to put on	verb
stivale	boot	noun
inutile	unnecessary, useless	adjective
stasera	tonight	noun
qui	here	adverb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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<i>Entriamo a dare un'occhiata?</i>	"Shall we go in to take a look?"
<i>Fa freddo fuori! Entra!</i>	"It's cold outside! Come in!"
<i>Entriamo?</i>	"Shall we go in?"
<i>Pulisciti le scarpe prima di entrare!</i>	"Wipe your feet before coming in!"
<i>Ultimamente non pulisco mai il mio appartamento.</i>	"Recently, I never clean my apartment."
<i>Hai pulito la tua stanza?</i>	"Did you clean your room?"
<i>Ho notato che mi stai evitando.</i>	"I noticed that you are avoiding me."
<i>Oggi mi metto i jeans.</i>	"I put on jeans today."
<i>L'Italia ha la forma di uno stivale.</i>	"Italy has the shape of a boot."
<i>E' inutile andare avanti.</i>	"It's useless to go on."
<i>Stasera usciamo?</i>	"Shall we go out tonight?"
<i>Possiamo uscire insieme stasera?</i>	"Can we go out together tonight?"
<i>Stasera usciamo?</i>	"Shall we go out tonight?"
<i>Vieni qui.</i>	"Come here."

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Preposition *Di* and Its Usages.**

*Non so se hai notato, ma fuori piove di brutto!*

**"I don't know whether you noticed, but it's raining like crazy outside!"**

---

Italian proper prepositions can be **simple** (*di, a, da, in, con, su, per, tra, fra*) or **articulated** (when a

definite article follows a preposition, the preposition contracts to form one word: *del, al, nel, sul*, etc.). In the case of the preposition *di*, meaning "of," the articulated forms are *del, dello, dell', dei, degli, della*, and *delle*.

We use the preposition *di* in the following cases:

## 1. To indicate possession

**For Example:**

1. *La figlia di Maria.*  
"Maria's daughter."
2. *Le scarpe di mia madre.*  
"My mother's shoes."

## 2. To specify the material, the measure, the origin or the quality

**For Example:**

1. *Un maglione di lana*  
"a wool sweater"
2. *una montagna di 1500 metri*  
"a 1500-meter mountain"
3. *una persona di Parigi*  
"a person from Paris"
4. *un uomo di cultura*  
"a man of culture"

## 3. To emphasize

**For Example:**

1. *Quello stupido del tuo amico!*  
"That fool of your friend!"



## 4. To give modal value, replacing adverbs ending in *-mente*

### For Example:

1. *di brutto*  
"like crazy/mad," "tons"
2. *di continuo*  
"continuously"
3. *di corsa*  
"quickly," "haste"
4. *di moda*  
"in fashion," "fashionable"

## 5. To give causal value

### For Example:

1. *Morire di noia*  
"die of boredom"
2. *bruciare di passione*  
"burn for passion"
3. *unto di olio*  
"greasy because of oil"

\*In the next lesson, we will see more ways to use this preposition.

## Upper Intermediate S1

Every Week, It's the Same Old Thing with You in Italy

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## Italian

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Filippo Bene, gli altri sono già al ristorante. Andiamo?  
Claudia Sì dai, andiamo che di sabato c'è un traffico...  
Irene Ehi, aspettatemi!  
Claudia In effetti siamo proprio in ritardo.  
Filippo Non vi preoccupate, non prendo la strada principale, conosco una scorciatoia.  
Irene Davvero? Io non mi fido di te!  
Filippo Claudia, ma tua sorella è sempre così acida?  
Irene Eh dai Pippo, scherzavo, che permaloso!  
Filippo Dobbiamo pure fare benzina!  
Claudia Perfetto!  
Irene Quindi ai ragazzi che ci aspettano diremo che è stata colpa tua!

## English

---

Filippo Well, the others are already at the restaurant. Shall we go?  
Claudia Yes, come on, let's go as there's a lot of traffic on Saturdays...  
Irene Hey, wait for me!  
Claudia Actually, we are really late.  
Filippo Don't worry. I'm not taking the main street; I know a shortcut.  
Irene Really? I don't trust you!  
Filippo Claudia, is your sister always so sour?  
Irene Come on, Pippo, I was kidding; how touchy!  
Filippo We also have to gas up the car!  
Claudia Perfect!  
Irene So we'll tell the guys who are waiting for us that it was your fault!

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
traffico	traffic	noun
in effetti	actually, indeed, in fact	adverb
principale	main, principal, first	adjective
acido	acid	adjective
scherzare	to joke, make fun of	verb



permaloso  
benzina

touchy, ticklish  
gas, petrol

adjective  
noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*C'è sempre traffico in centro.*

"There is always traffic downtown."

*Oggi c'è molto traffico sull'autostrada.*

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

*In effetti mi sono scordata di chiamarti.*

"Actually I forgot to call you."

*Qual'è la via principale della città?*

"Which is the city's main road?"

*Perché sei così acida oggi?*

"Why are you so acid today?"

*Sto solo scherzando, non ti arrabbiare.*

"I am just joking. Don't get angry."

*Scherzi sempre!*

"You are always joking!"

*Sto scherzando.*

"I am joking."

*Mio fratello è molto permaloso.*

"My brother is very touchy."

*Quanto costa un litro di benzina?*

"How much is a liter of gas?"

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Preposition *Di* and Its Usage.**

*Sì dai, andiamo che di sabato c'è un traffico...*

"Yes, come on, let's go as there's a lot of traffic on Saturdays..."

In this lesson we continue analyzing the different meanings and usages the preposition *di* can have. Please remember that *di* has articulate forms: *del, dello, dell', dei, degli, della, and delle*.

### 6. Temporal value

Using it with weekdays, it has the meaning of *ogni* ("every").

**For Example:**

1. *di domenica non si lavora*  
"We don't work on Sundays."

*di venerdì vado sempre al mercato*  
"I always go to the market on Fridays."

We also use *di* in some common adverbial expressions like *di solito* ("often"), *di recente* ("recently"), and *di tanto in tanto* ("sometimes").

## 7. Locative value

### For Example:

1. *Fuori di qui*  
"out of here"
2. *andiamo di là*  
"let's go there"

## 8. Partitive article "some"

### For Example:

1. *Vorrei dell'acqua gassata.*  
"I'd like some sparkling water."
2. *Hai del sale?*  
"Have you got some salt?"
3. *Del formaggio fresco per favore.*  
"Some fresh cheese, please."

## 9. Prepositional expressions

### For Example:

1. *A destra di*  
"at the right of"



2. *invece di*  
"instead of"

3. *prima di*  
"before"

4. *prego, dopo di Lei*  
"go ahead, after you"

5. *sopra di noi*  
"above us"

We use the preposition *di* in some frequent verb constructions.

**For Example:**

1. *fidarsi di*  
"to trust in"
2. *ridere di*  
"to laugh at"
3. *soffrire di*  
"to suffer of/for"

## Upper Intermediate S1

You Should Have Used Your Inside Italian Voice!

7

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## Italian

---

(Sound of bells)

- Irene                   Quanta gente! Dov'è la nostra cuginetta?  
Claudia                Eccola lì, l'ultima a destra.  
Irene                    Ah sì...Che carina con quel cerchietto di rose bianche in testa!  
Claudia                Hai ragione.... Ah guarda, la zia Rosa ci sorride.  
Irene                    Sei sicura? Secondo me non ci riconosce neanche....  
Claudia                Ma che dici!?! Ti ricordi cosa mi disse quella volta che la incontrai  
                            all'aeroporto?  
Irene                    Ah sì, ti disse che avevi due figlie stupende. Ti scambiò per la mamma,  
                            ah ah!  
Claudia                Esatto, lì per lì non capii poi....  
Irene                    Ah ah ah!  
Old Lady              Shhhhhh!!!!  
Irene                    Scusi!  
Claudia                Ho un sonno, hai scoperto poi perché Mirco non si è fatto vedere ieri  
                            sera?  
Irene                    Sì, perché lui...  
Old Lady              (Interrupting) Shhhhhhhhh!! (Louder)  
Irene                    Scusi ancora. Clau, che ne dici di uscire un attimo?  
Claudia                Sì dai, andiamo!

## English

---

(Sound of bells)

- Irene                    So many people! Where is our little cousin?  
Claudia                There she is. The last one to the right.  
Irene                    Oh yes... She's so cute with that hair band of white roses on her head!  
Claudia                You're right... Oh look, Aunt Rosa is smiling at us.  
Irene                    Are you sure? In my opinion, she doesn't even recognize us....  
Claudia                What are you saying? Do you remember what she said to me that time I  
                            met her at the airport?  
Irene                    Oh yes, she said you had two marvelous daughters. She mistook you for  
                            Mom, ah ah!  
Claudia                Exactly, there and then I didn't understand. Then...  
Irene                    Ah ah ah!  
Old Lady              Shhhhhh!

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Irene	I'm sorry!
Claudia	I'm so sleepy. Did you find out why Mirco didn't show up last night?
Ire	Yes, because he...
Old Lady	(Interrupting) Shhhhhhhhhh!! (Louder)
Irene	Sorry, again. Clau, what about going out for a minute?
Clau	Yes come on, let's go!

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
gente	people	noun
cerchietto	hair band	noun
sorridere	to smile	verb
riconoscere	to recognize, acknowledge, identify, see	verb
aeroporto	airport	noun
figlia	daughter	noun
esatto	exact, correct, right	adjective
avere sonno	to be sleepy	expression

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>C'è tanta gente stasera.</i>	"There are a lot of people tonight."
<i>Il tuo cerchietto viola è molto carino.</i>	"Your purple hair band is very cute."
<i>Perché non sorridi mai?</i>	"Why do you never smile?"
<i>Non ti ho riconosciuto con il nuovo taglio di capelli.</i>	"I hadn't recognized you with the new haircut."
<i>Ho riconosciuto dei miei vecchi amici alla festa.</i>	"I recognized some of my old friends at the party."
<i>Ti accompagno all'aeroporto.</i>	"I'll take you to the airport."
<i>Mia figlia abita all'estero.</i>	"My daughter lives abroad."
<i>La risposta è esatta!</i>	"The answer is correct!"
<i>È esatto!</i>	"It's correct!"
<i>Ieri non ho dormito e oggi ho molto sonno.</i>	"Yesterday I didn't sleep, and today I'm very sleepy."

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the *Passato Remoto* Tense of Third Conjugation Regular and Irregular Verbs.**

*Ti ricordi cosa mi disse quella volta che la incontrai all'aeroporto?*

**"Do you remember what she said to me that time I met her at the airport?"**

---

While forming the *passato remoto* of third conjugation regular verbs, we must drop the infinitive stem and replace it with the following endings: (io) **-ii**, (tu) **-isti**, (lui/lei) **-ì**, (noi) **-immo**, (voi) **-iste**, and (loro) **-irono**.

**For Example:**

*capire* ("to understand")

<b>Italian</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Io cap-ii</i>	"I understood"
<i>Tu cap-isti</i>	"You understood"
<i>Lui/Lei cap-ì</i>	"He/She/It understood"
<i>Noi cap-immo</i>	"We understood"
<i>Voi cap-iste</i>	"You understood"
<i>Loro cap-irono</i>	"They understood"

Verbs belonging to the group *-ire* are mostly all regular; however, there are some common verbs that don't follow the pattern above, such as *venire* ("to come") (*io venni, lui/lei venne*) or *dire* ("to say").

**For Example:**

*dire* ("to say")

<b>Italian</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Io dissi</i>	"I said"
<i>Tu dicesti</i>	"You said"
<i>Lui/Lei disse</i>	"He/she/it said"
<i>Noi dicemmo</i>	"We said"





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<i>Voi diceste</i>	"You said"
<i>Loro dissero</i>	"They said"



## Upper Intermediate S1

Who Knows Whether the Italian News Is Real?

8

Italian	2
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## Italian

---

(Sigla del Telegiornale)

Davide Silenzio ragazze, per favore, vorrei ascoltare il TG.

Irene Uffa, che noia!

Annunciatrice Trovato cimitero di gladiatori romani a York, in Inghilterra. Gli esperti hanno constatato che gli scheletri appartengono a uomini giovani e robusti. Questi uomini hanno inoltre il muscolo del braccio destro più sviluppato, caratteristica tipica degli schiavi addestrati come gladiatori. In aggiunta sono stati riportati anche segni di morsi di grandi animali. La presenza di gladiatori a York è plausibile, perché questa città fu una delle più importanti colonie romane in Inghilterra. Le legioni infatti vi rimasero fino al quinto secolo dopo Cristo. La classe aristocratica del tempo ebbe sicuramente l'opportunità di essere intrattenuta assistendo ai giochi del circo nell'arena.

Davide I gladiatori in Inghilterra... Chissà se andavano al pub a fine giornata?

Claudia e Irene Ah, ah, ah.

## English

---

(Jingle for TV news)

Davide Hey, girls, silence please, I'd like to hear the TV news.

Irene Come on, so boring!

Announcer A cemetery for Roman gladiators has been discovered in York, England. The experts ascertained that the skeletons belong to young and strong men. These men also have the muscle of the right arm more developed, a typical feature of slaves trained as gladiators. Furthermore, marks from bites of large animals have been also discovered. The presence of gladiators in York is plausible, as this city was one of the most important Roman colonies in England. In fact, the legions remained here until the fifth century A.D. The aristocratic class of that time surely had the opportunity to be entertained by attending circus games in the arena.

Davide Gladiators in England... Who knows whether used to go to the pub at the end of the day?

Claudia and Irene Ah, ah, ah.

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
cimitero	cemetery	noun
gladiatore	gladiator	noun
constatare	to ascertain, to certify	verb
schiaivo	slave	noun
addestrato	trained, practiced	adjective
colonia	colony	noun
assistere	to attend, assist, nurse, aid, help	verb
circo	circus	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Il cimitero è sempre chiuso la notte.*  
*I gladiatori erano combattenti armati che intrattenevano il pubblico dell'Impero romano.*  
*Dobbiamo constatare la causa.*  
*Gli schiavi costruirono le piramidi.*  
*Certe cani sono addestrati a fiutare esplosivi.*  
*L'Australia era una colonia penale.*  
*Ieri ho assistito ad un concerto nell'arena di Verona.*  
*Non posso assistere alla lezione di canto oggi.*  
*Non mi piace il circo.*

"The cemetery is always closed at night."  
"Gladiators were armed combatants who entertained audiences of the Roman Empire."  
"We have to ascertain the cause."  
"Slaves built the pyramids."  
"Certain dogs are trained to sniff out explosives."  
"Australia was a penal colony."  
"Yesterday I attended a concert at the Verona arena."  
"Today I can't attend singing class."  
"I don't like the circus."

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the *Passato Remoto* Tense of the Verbs *Essere* and *Avere*.**

*La presenza di gladiatori a York è plausibile, perché questa città fu una delle più importanti colonie romane in Inghilterra.*

**"The presence of gladiators in York is plausible, as this city was one of the most important Roman colonies in England."**

---

The auxiliary verbs *essere* ("to be") and *avere* ("to have") have an irregular form when we conjugate them at the *passato remoto* tense.

## *essere* ("to be")

<b>Italian</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Io fui</i>	"I was"
<i>Tu fosti</i>	"You were"
<i>Lui/Lei fu</i>	"He/She/It was"
<i>Noi fummo</i>	"We were"
<i>Voi foste</i>	"You were"
<i>Loro furono</i>	"They were"

## *avere* ("to have")

<b>Italian</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Io ebbi</i>	"I had"
<i>Tu avesti</i>	"You had"
<i>Lui/Lei ebbe</i>	"He/She/It had"
<i>Noi avemmo</i>	"We had"
<i>Voi aveste</i>	"You had"
<i>Loro ebbero</i>	"They had"

Examples with *essere* and *avere*:

### **For Example:**

1. *Michelangelo fu un artista famosissimo del Rinascimento e lavorò per i Medici.*

"Michelangelo was a very famous artist, and he worked for the Medici."

2. *Le cause economiche ebbero il ruolo più importante nello scoppio della Prima Guerra Mondiale.*

"Economical issues had the most important role in the outbreak of the First World War."

## Upper Intermediate S1

Don't Go Home Yet: The Italian Night Is Just Getting Started!

9

Italian	2
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## Italian

---

- Irene Claudia, vai piano! Non c'è fretta!
- Claudia Sì scusa, hai ragione. Che mi dicevi di Mirco?
- Irene Mi sono scordata di dirti poi che Mirco non è uscito con noi lo scorso sabato perché è arrabbiato con me!
- Claudia Cosa?
- Irene Sì, me l'ha detto Filippo.
- Claudia Sorellina sveglia! Fai attenzione a quello che ti dice Pippo, è evidente che ci tiene molto a te!
- Irene Tu dici? Comunque stasera provo a chiamare Mirco e lo invito ad uscire con me!
- Claudia Brava! Prova ad essere sincera.
- Irene Sì, non può rifiutare. E tu, hai sentito James poi?
- Claudia No, sono sempre in linea su skype ma di lui neanche l'ombra, che strano...
- Irene Sei in ansia? Non dovresti! Probabilmente ha da fare.
- Claudia Sì, da due settimane...
- Irene Ci siamo quasi, comincia a cercare parcheggio.
- Claudia Facciamo veloce perché devo preparare la valigia per domani.
- Irene Dove vai?
- Claudia A Francoforte e poi a Berlino, niente di stancante.

## English

---

- Irene Claudia, go slow! There's no need to hurry!
- Claudia Yes, sorry, you're right. What were you saying about Mirco?
- Irene I forgot to tell you that Mirco didn't hang with us last Saturday because he's mad at me!
- Claudia What?
- Irene Yes, Filippo told me.
- Claudia Little sister, wake up! Be careful about what Pippo tells you; it's obvious that he cares a lot about you!
- Irene Do you think so? Anyway, tonight I'll try to call Mirco and invite him to go out with me!
- Claudia Good! Try to be honest.
- Irene Yes, he can't refuse. What about you; did you hear from James then?
- Claudia No, I'm always on Skype, but no sight of him, so weird...

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Irene Are you worried about that? You shouldn't! He's probably busy.  
Claudia Yeah, for two weeks...  
Irene We're almost there; start to look for parking.  
Claudia Let's make it quickly because I have to pack the suitcase for tomorrow.  
Irene Where are you going?  
Claudia To Frankfurt and then Berlin. Nothing tiring though.

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
arrabbiato	angry, mad	adjective
fare attenzione	to be careful, to pay attention	verb
evidente	obvious, evident	adjective
tenere a	to care about	expression
rifiutare	to refuse, to decline, to reject	verb
ansia	anxiety, worry, distress	noun
parcheggio	parking	noun
valigia	suitcase, bag	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Perché sei arrabbiato?</i>	"Why are you angry?"
<i>Sei arrabbiato con me?</i>	"Are you angry with me?"
<i>Fai attenzione a quello che fai.</i>	"Be careful on what you're doing."
<i>E' evidente che non ne sai niente di calcio.</i>	"It's obvious that you don't know anything about soccer."
<i>Tengo molto alle mie piante.</i>	"I care a lot about my plants."
<i>Non ho potuto rifiutare.</i>	"I couldn't refuse."
<i>C'è troppa ansia.</i>	"There's too much anxiety."
<i>Non trovo parcheggio.</i>	"I can't find parking."
<i>Il parcheggio costa un euro l'ora.</i>	"The parking costs one Euro per hour."
<i>Chiudi la valigia.</i>	"Close the suitcase."

## Grammar Points



**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Preposition A and Its Usage.**

*Tu dici? Comunque stasera provo a chiamare Mirco e lo invito ad uscire con me!*

**"Do you think so? Anyway, tonight I'll try to call Mirco and invite him to go out with me!"**

---

The preposition *a* has basically three meanings: "to," "at," and "in." The articulated forms of the preposition *a* are *al*, *allo*, *ai*, *agli*, *all'*, *alla*, and *alle*.

Here is a list of some of the most common uses for this preposition.

## 1. **Staying/going somewhere**

**For Example:**

1. *Io abito a Milano.*

"I live in Milan."

2. *Vado a casa.*

"I go home."

## 2. **Direct object**

**For Example:**

1. *Do un regalo a Fabrizio.*

"I give a present to Fabrizio."

## 3. **Time**

**For Example:**

1. *Finisco di lavorare alle sette.*

"I finish work at seven."

## 4. **Events/Occasions**

### **For Example:**

1. *Ci vediamo a Natale.*  
"We meet for Christmas."

## 5. **Age**

### **For Example:**

1. *A 18 anni ho preso la patente.*  
"At the age of eighteen, I got a driving license."

## 6. **Mood**

### **For Example:**

1. *Mia madre è all'antica.*  
"My mom is old-fashioned."
2. *Piove a catinelle.*  
"It's bucketing down."

## 7. **Distance**

### **For Example:**

1. *La stazione è a dieci metri da casa.*  
"The station is ten meters from home."

## 8. **Price**



## For Example:

1. *Ho visto una gonna carina a cinque euro.*  
"I saw a nice skirt for five Euros."

## 9. Cause

### For Example:

1. *A causa della crisi economica la disoccupazione è aumentata.*  
"Due to the economic crisis, unemployment has increased."

## 10. Limitation

### For Example:

1. *A mio parere dobbiamo cambiare strategia.*  
"In my opinion, we have to change strategy."

We also use the preposition *a* combined with several verbs.

### For Example:

<b>Italian</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>giocare a</i>	"to play"
<i>fermarsi a</i>	"to stop"
<i>incoraggiare a</i>	"to encourage to"
<i>riuscire a</i>	"to succeed in"
<i>invitare a</i>	"to invite to"
<i>cominciare a</i>	"to start"

We can also include *a* in special grammatical constructions with particular meanings.

### For Example:

<b>Italian</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>a proposito di</i>	"regarding"
<i>in quanto a</i>	"as to"



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<i>essere alla guida di</i>	"to be at the head of"
<i>davanti a</i>	"in front of"
<i>accanto a</i>	"next to"



## Upper Intermediate S1

I Needed More Time to Tidy Up My Italian Apartment Before You Arrived

10

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## Italian

---

(Irene entra a casa dei suoi genitori.)

- Irene Ciao babbo che leggi? Sembri perplesso...
- Davide Senti qua! "Negli USA è stato messo all'asta il taxi con il quale scappò l'assassino di Kennedy nel '63. Salì sul taxi dopo che ebbe sparato al Presidente degli Stati Uniti e lasciò pure cinque centesimi di mancia. Il taxi è stato venduto ad un museo per 35.700 dollari." Il taxi che ha portato un criminale finisce in un museo, incredibile, no?
- Irene In effetti sì...
- Davide Che ci fai qui tesoro?
- Irene Settimana scorsa ho lasciato qui i miei appunti.
- Davide Hai esami adesso?
- Irene No grazie al cielo! Adesso vado babbo, domani torna Claudia e la casa è sottosopra, devo rimettere un pò a posto.
- Davide Ah ah, brava! Ciao tesoro!

## English

---

(Irene enters her parents' house)

- Irene Hi, Dad, what are you reading? You look perplexed...
- Davide Listen! "The taxi in which Kennedy's murderer escaped in 1963 has been auctioned in the United States. He got in the taxi right after he had shot the President of the United States, and he also left a five cent tip. The taxi has been sold to a museum for 35,700 dollars." The taxi that drove a criminal ends up in a museum; incredible, isn't it?
- Irene Actually, yes...
- Davide What are you doing here, sweetie?
- Irene Last week, I left my notes here.
- Davide Do you have tests now?
- Irene No, thank goodness! I'm leaving now, Dad. Tomorrow Claudia is coming back and the house is upside down; I have to tidy up a bit.
- Davide Ah ah, good! Bye, sweetie!

## Vocabulary

**Italian**

**English**

**Class**

perplesso	perplexed, puzzled	adjective
asta	auction	noun
sparare	to shoot	verb
mancia	tip	noun
criminale	criminal	noun
incredibile	incredible, unbelievable	adjective
appunti	notes	noun
sottosopra	upside down	adjective

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Sembri molto perplesso.*

"You look very perplexed."

*Mi interessa di aste online.*

"I'm interested in online auctions."

*Non sparare!*

"Don't shoot!"

*Ho lasciato una mancia alla cameriera.*

"I left a tip for the waitress."

*La città è piena di criminali.*

"The city is full of criminals."

*Che storia incredibile!*

"What an incredible story!"

*Ho preso molti appunti!*

"I took a lot of notes!"

*La tua camera è sottosopra!*

"Your room is upside down!"

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the *Trapassato Remoto* Tense.**

*Salì sul taxi dopo che ebbe sparato al Presidente degli Stati Uniti e lasciò pure cinque centesimi di mancia.*

**"He got in the taxi right after he had shot the President of the United States, and he also left a five cent tip."**

---

The *trapassato remoto* ("preterit perfect") is a compound tense we form with the *passato remoto* of the auxiliary verb *essere* or *avere* and the past participle of the main verb.

The preterit perfect is a verb form that we use to refer to events and facts that were already completed

before a point of reference in the past.

We use the *trapassato remoto* after temporal expressions like *dopo che* ("right after"), *appena* ("just"), *quando* ("when"), and *finchè non* ("up until") that are related to the main clause.

### For Example:

1. *La festa cominciò dopo che tutti gli invitati furono arrivati.*  
"The party began right after all the guests had arrived."

We also use this tense to report facts that happened before the main clause but in a very specific span of time.

### For Example:

1. *Dopo che ebbi lavorato a Milano dal 1960 al 1968, mi trasferii a Roma.*

"After I had worked in Milan from 1960 to 1968, I moved to Rome."

The usage of the *trapassato remoto* is usually limited to the written language.

### *sparare* ("to shoot")

<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>Io ebbi sparato</i>	"I had shot"
<i>Tu avesti sparato</i>	"You had shot"
<i>Lui/Lei ebbe sparato</i>	"He/She/It had shot"
<i>Noi avemmo sparato</i>	"We had shot"
<i>Voi aveste sparato</i>	"You had shot"
<i>Loro ebbero sparato</i>	"They had shot"



## Upper Intermediate S1

I'll Only Forgive You After You Will Have Told Me Everything in Italian

11

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## Italian

---

Mirco Sai, non vengo spesso al parco, non ho mai tempo.  
Irene A me piace venire qui, a volte porto pure i libri e mi metto a studiare.  
Mirco Già, tu studi dappertutto!!  
Irene Ah ah, non è vero, ma piuttosto, dimmi, perché non ti sei fatto vedere sabato scorso? Ho fatto qualcosa..?  
Mirco Cosa? Tu? Assolutamente no, se ho l'occasione di vederti non manco mai, ma la partita è finita tardi e siamo andati a cena con la squadra. Ecco perché ho chiamato Filippo.  
Irene Davvero? Filippo mi ha detto che...  
Mirco Cosa ti ha detto?  
Irene No niente.  
Mirco Dai, dimmi cosa ti ha detto!  
Irene Non ha importanza non me lo chiedere più!  
Mirco Non te lo chiederò più solo quando me lo avrai detto!  
Irene Andiamo su quella panchina...!

## English

---

Mirco You know, I don't come often to the park. I never have time.  
Irene I like coming here; sometimes I bring books and start studying.  
Mirco Right, you study everywhere!  
Irene Ah ah, it's not true. But I'd rather you tell me why you didn't show up last Saturday. Did I do something...?  
Mirco What? You? Absolutely not; if I have the chance to see you I never miss it, but the match finished late and we had dinner with the team. That's why I called Filippo.  
Irene Really? Filippo told me that...  
Mirco What did he tell you?  
Irene Oh, nothing.  
Mirco Come on! Tell me what he said!  
Irene It doesn't matter. Don't ask me anymore!  
Mirco I won't ask you anymore only after you'll have told me!  
Irene Let's go to that bench...!

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
parco	park	noun
libro	book	noun
dappertutto	everywhere	adverb
assolutamente	absolutely	adverb
mancare	to be lacking, missing	verb
squadra	team	noun
importanza	importance	noun
panchina	bench	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Facciamo un picnic al parco?*

*Parco Sempione è a Milano.*

*Ho comprato un libro.*

*È un libro interessante.*

*In Italia il cibo è buono dappertutto.*

*Devo assolutamente parlare con te.*

*Mi manchi.*

*Mi manchi.*

*Ci sono undici giocatori in squadra.*

*Ho dato troppa importanza a questa relazione.*

*Sediamoci su quella panchina là!*

"Shall we do a picnic in the park?"

"Sempione Park is in Milan."

"I've bought a book."

"It's an interesting book."

"In Italy, food is good everywhere."

"I absolutely have to talk to you."

"I miss you."

"I miss you."

"There are eleven players in the team."

"I gave too much importance to this relationship."

"Let's sit on that bench over there!"

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson is on the *Futuro Anteriore* ("Future Perfect") Tense.**

***Non te lo chiederò più solo quando me lo avrai detto!***

**"I won't ask you anymore only after you'll have told me!"**

---

We use the *futuro anteriore* tense to express a future action that is completed before another future action. In other words, this action will be over and done with before another future event occurs.

The *futuro anteriore* is a compound tense we form with the "future tense," *futuro semplice*, of the auxiliary verb *essere* or *avere* and the past participle of the main verb.

Considering the meaning of the word *anteriore* in Italian, it is easier to understand whether to employ this tense. In fact, *anteriore* stands for "previous" or "earlier." Consequently, we use *futuro anteriore* to report a future event that will happen earlier than another one (this last one expressed with *futuro semplice*).

### For Example:

1. *Partirò per la Svezia solo quando avrò trovato lavoro.*  
"I will leave for Sweden only when I will have found a job."
2. *Quando avrai finito di lavorare andremo a cena fuori?*  
"When you will have finished working, will we go out for dinner?"

Furthermore, we use the *futuro anteriore* when expressing conjectures or doubts. (We will explain this usage in detail in the next lesson.)

### *dire* ("to say," "to tell")

<i>Futuro Anteriore</i>	"Future Perfect"
<i>Io avrò detto</i>	"I will have said"
<i>Tu avrai detto</i>	"You will have said"
<i>Lui/Lei avrà detto</i>	"He/She/It will have said"
<i>Noi avremo detto</i>	"We will have said"
<i>Voi avrete detto</i>	"You will have said"
<i>Loro avranno detto</i>	"They will have said"

## Upper Intermediate S1

I Might Have Had Time to Call, But I Had Too Much to Do in Italy

12

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## Italian

---

Davide Pronto, prontoooooooooo!  
Claudia Babbo, sono io non urlare ti sento!!  
Davide (ad alta voce) Eh? Come? Scusa, io non ti sento, aspetta mi metto le cuffie!!  
Claudia Dai babbo!! Mi senti adesso?  
Davide Sì tesoro!  
Claudia Finalmente! Senti, non ho molto tempo. Sono a New York.  
Davide Ah, saluta il Presidente!  
Claudia Babbo, la Casa Bianca sta a Washington!  
Davide Ah sì, è vero, hai ragione... Vabbè, che succede?  
Claudia Sto cercando di parlare con Irene, ma dov'è?? Non risponde neanche al cellulare!  
Davide E io che ne so, sarà andata in biblioteca, quando sparisce di solito è a studiare da qualche parte.  
Claudia Allora babbo fammi un favore, contattala e dille che mi deve venire a prendere all'aeroporto stasera alle dieci perchè mi hanno posticipato il volo.  
Davide Bene ho capito!  
Claudia Babbo, mi raccomando è importante!  
Davide Non ti preoccupare non ti lascio di notte sola all'aeroporto!  
Claudia Devo andare, ciao grazie!  
Davide Ciao tesoro!

## English

---

Davide Hello, helloooooooooo!  
Claudia Dad, it's me; don't shout, I hear you!  
Davide (loud) Eh? What? Sorry, I can't hear you; hold on, I'll put the headphones on!  
Claudia Come on, Dad! Can you hear me now?  
Davide Yes, sweetheart!  
Claudia Finally! Listen, I don't have much time. I'm in New York.  
Davide Ah, say hello to the President!  
Claudia Dad, the White House is in Washington!  
Davide Oh yes, that's true, you're right... All right... What's going on?  
Claudia I'm trying to talk to Irene; where is she? She doesn't even pick up the

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mobile phone!

Davide How am I supposed to know? She must have gone to the library; when she vanishes, she's usually studying somewhere.

Claudia Okay, Dad. Do me a favor. Contact her and tell her that she has to come and pick me up tonight at ten at the airport because they postponed my flight.

Davide Okay, got it!

Claudia Dad, don't forget. It is important!

Davide Don't worry, I won't leave you alone at the airport at night!

Claudia I have to go. Bye, thanks!

Davide Bye, sweetie!

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
urlare	to shout, yell, scream	verb
cuffie	headphones	noun
la Casa Bianca	the White House	noun
biblioteca	library	noun
sparire	to vanish, disappear	verb
contattare	to contact, get in touch	verb
posticipare	to postpone, defer	verb
volo	flight	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*I bambini stanno urlando.*

*Non trovo le cuffie.*

*Uso sempre le cuffie quando ascolto la musica.*

*Il Presidente degli Stati Uniti vive nella Casa Bianca.*

*Vado a studiare in biblioteca.*

*Vado spesso in biblioteca.*

*Oh no la mia borsa è sparita!*

*Devo contattare al più presto l'ambasciata.*

*Per qualsiasi inconveniente non esiti a contattarmi.*

"The children are shouting."

"I can't find the headphones."

I always use headphones when listening to music.

"The President of United States lives in the White House."

"I'm going to study at the library."

I often go to the library.

"Oh no, my purse disappeared!"

"I have to contact the embassy as soon as possible."

"For any inconvenience, don't hesitate to contact me."

*La lezione è stata posticipata di quindici minuti.* "The lesson has been postponed by fifteen minutes."

*Il volo durerà dodici ore.* "The flight will last twelve hours."

---

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on Another Particular Usage of the *Futuro Anteriore*.**

*Sarà andata in biblioteca, quando sparisce di solito è a studiare da qualche parte.*

**"She must have gone to the library; when she vanishes, she's usually studying somewhere."**

---

We also call this alternative usage of *futuro anteriore* the future of probability. In this case, we use the *futuro anteriore* to express uncertainty or doubt about something that has already occurred. In other words, we use it to speculate or guess about what could have been.

In English, we express probability with such words as "probably," "can," or "must." This is the reason why we translate statements like *cosa sarà successo?*, which we express in Italian through the future perfect, into "What could have happened?" in English.

### For Example:

1. *Sarai stato stanco ieri dopo quella corsa.*

"You must have been tired yesterday after that run."

2. *Se hai mal di mancia avrai mangiato qualcosa di strano.*

"If you have a stomachache, you must have eaten something strange."

3. *Dove hai preso questo souvenir? Non ricordo, l'avrò comprato in Italia.*

"Where did you get this souvenir? I don't remember; I must have bought it in Italy."

***andare* ("to go")**



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<i>Futuro Anteriore</i>	"Future Perfect"	"English" (referring to the future of probability)
<i>Io sarò andato/andata</i>	"I will have gone"	"I must have gone"
<i>Tu sarai andato/andata</i>	"You will have gone"	"You must have gone"
<i>Lui/Lei sarà andato/andata</i>	"He/she/it will have gone"	"He/she/it must have gone"
<i>Noi saremo andati/andate</i>	"We will have gone"	"We must have gone"
<i>Voi sarete andati/andate</i>	"You will have gone"	"You must have gone"
<i>Loro saranno andati/andate</i>	"They will have gone"	"They must have gone"



## Upper Intermediate S1

Do You Want to Buy It from the Italian Store or Do It Yourself?

13

Italian	2
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## Italian

---

- Irene Perché siamo venute all'Ikea? Odio questo posto. Guarda quante persone!
- Claudia Dobbiamo comprare dei bicchieri. Ti sei accorta che i nostri ospiti bevono il vino nelle tazze da latte?
- Irene Ah sì, in effetti... Ieri poi eri stanca e non abbiamo parlato, ma dimmi, come è andata a New York? Hai incontrato James?
- Claudia Sì, avevo tre ore libere, sono andata da lui... Ma.. Non so, sento che ci stiamo allontanando. Questa è una relazione troppo complicata.
- Irene Clau, lui abita in America mi sembra una complicazione abbastanza grossa...
- Claudia Hai ragione, ma io voglio stare con lui... E tu? Hai chiarito con Mirco poi?
- Irene Guarda che carini questi bicchieri azzurri!
- Claudia Pronto? Ti ho fatto una domanda!
- Irene Eh? Mirco? Sì, sì adesso tutto a posto. Ti piacciono o no questi bicchieri azzurri? E' un set da sei persone, ti danno anche i sottobicchieri.
- Claudia Quanto costano?
- Irene Poco.
- Claudia Allora vanno bene.

## English

---

- Irene Why did we come to Ikea? I hate this place. Look at how many people!
- Claudia We have to buy some glasses. Did you notice that our guests drink wine from milk cups?
- Irene Oh yeah, as a matter of fact... Yesterday you were tired and we didn't talk, but tell me, how was New York? Did you meet James?
- Claudia Yes, I had three hours free; I went to his place... But... I don't know. I feel that we are drifting further apart. This relationship is too complicated.
- Irene Clau, he lives in America, quite a big complication, I guess...
- Claudia You're right, but I want to stay with him... And you? Did you clear things up with Mirco then?
- Irene Look at how pretty these light blue glasses are!
- Claudia Hello? I've asked you a question!
- Irene Eh? Mirco? Yes, now everything is fine. Do you or don't you like these light blue glasses? It's a six-person set. They also give you coasters.

Claudia            How much are they?  
Irene                Not much.  
Claudia            They're fine then.

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
accorgersi	to notice, realize	verb
ospite	guest	noun
tazza	cup, mug	noun
allontanarsi	to drift away, go away, move away	verb
relazione	relationship, affair	noun
complicato	complicated	adjective
abbastanza	enough, quite, fairly, rather	adverb
bicchiere	glass	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Non si accorge mai di me.</i>	"He never notices me."
<i>Non fate aspettare gli ospiti!</i>	"Don't make the guests wait!"
<i>Mi piace questa tazza a forma di mucca.</i>	"I like this cow-shaped cup."
<i>"Mi sto allontanando dal mio migliore amico."</i>	"I'm drifting away from my best friend."
<i>La mia relazione con lei è già finita.</i>	"My relationship with her has already finished."
<i>Perché le cose devono essere sempre così complicate?</i>	"Why do things always have to be so complicated?"
<i>Hai mangiato abbastanza?</i>	"Have you eaten enough?"
<i>Che bel bicchiere.</i>	"What a nice glass."
<i>Due bicchieri di vino rosso.</i>	"Two glasses of red wine."
<i>Vorrei un bicchiere di Coca-Cola.</i>	"I'd like a glass a Coke."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Preposition *Da* and Its Usage.**

*Ti sei accorta che i nostri ospiti bevono il vino nelle tazze da latte?*

**"Did you notice that our guests drink wine from milk cups?"**

The preposition *da* means "since," "from," or "by." Its articulated forms are *dal*, *dallo*, *dagli*, *dai*, *dalla*, and *dalle*. We use the preposition *da* to express many different meanings in Italian. Here follows a list with the most common uses.

1. To indicate the **origin or source**:

**For Example:**

1. *Vengo da Milano.*  
"I come from Milan."
2. *L'aria entra dalla finestra.*  
"The air comes in from the window."

2. To express **separation**:

**For Example:**

1. *Ha divorziato da suo marito.*  
"She divorced her husband."
2. *Mi allontano da te.*  
"I move away from you."

3. **At the house/office/business**:

**For Example:**

1. *da Maria*  
"at Maria's place"



2. *dal dentista*  
"at the dentist's"

4. **Temporal** meaning:

**For Example:**

1. *Studio l'italiano da un anno.*  
"I've been studying Italian for one year."

2. *Da quanto tempo aspetti?*  
"How long have you been waiting for?"

5. To indicate the **purpose**:

**For Example:**

1. *abito da sera*  
"evening dress"

2. *cavallo da corsa*  
"racehorse"

6. The **passive form**:

**For Example:**

1. *un quadro dipinto da Tiziano*  
"a painting painted by Tiziano"

2. *una legge emanata dal governo*  
"a law enacted by the government"

7. To indicate the **quantity or quality**:

## For Example:

1. *una borsa da cento Euro*  
"a hundred Euro purse"

2. *una cosa da niente*  
"a trifle"

Furthermore, we use the preposition *da* in certain **idiomatic expressions** like *d'altra parte* ("on the other hand"), *farsi da parte* ("to stand aside"), *da parte di* ("from"), *tanto da* ("so much to"), and *da morire* ("to die for").

We also combine this preposition with verbs creating some **special verbal constructions**, such as *difendersi da* ("to defend oneself from"), *dipendere da* ("to depend on"), *tradurre da* ("to translate from"), and *pretendere qualcosa da qualcuno* ("to expect something from someone").

## Upper Intermediate S1

Keep All Your Secrets by Not Speaking Italian at the Salon

14

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## Italian

---

Claudia Che noia! Sono già trenta minuti che aspettiamo.  
Irene Sei tu che non hai voluto prendere l'appuntamento!  
Claudia Non immaginavo ci fossero tutte queste persone di mercoledì pomeriggio.  
Irene Vedrai tra poco è il nostro turno.  
Claudia Ogni volta che esco da questo posto poi sono sempre scontenta...  
Irene Mamma mia, smettila di lamentarti!  
Claudia Sì, sì va bene. Senti, ti hanno richiamato poi dallo studio veterinario?  
Irene Ah sì, mi sono scordata di dirtelo! Posso andare in quello studio di Via Grande tutti i lunedì e i venerdì dalle quattro alle otto di sera.  
Claudia Ah bene, non è lontano poi.  
Irene Ho chiamato la mamma per dirglielo, poi abbiamo cominciato a parlare e lei mi ha chiesto del babbo....  
Claudia Shhhhh. E' meglio non parlare di queste cose dal parrucchiere.  
Irene Sì, questo posto è pieno di pettegole!  
Parrucchiera Prego signorine, accomodatevi!

## English

---

2  
Claudia How boring! It's already thirty minutes that we've been waiting.  
Irene It's you who didn't want to make an appointment!  
Claudia I didn't think that there would have been all these people on Wednesday afternoon.  
Irene You'll see; it's going to be our turn soon.  
Claudia Every time I get out of this place, I'm always so dissatisfied...  
Irene Oh my goodness; stop complaining!  
Claudia Yes, fine. Listen, did they then call you back from the veterinary clinic?  
Irene Oh yes, I forgot to tell you! I can go in that clinic of Via Grande every Mondays and Fridays from four to eight p.m.  
Claudia Oh very well, it's not that far.  
Irene I called mum to tell her, and then we started talking. She asked me about dad...  
Claudia Shhhhh. It's better not to talk about these things at the hairdresser.  
Irene Yes, this place is full of gossipers!  
Hairdresser Please ladies, take a seat!

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
immaginare	to imagine, suppose, think	verb
pomeriggio	afternoon	noun
lamentarsi	to complain	verb
studio veterinario	veterinary clinic	noun
scordarsi	to forget	verb
cominciare	to start, begin	verb
pieno	full	adjective
pettegola	gossiper	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Non puoi neanche immaginare quanto tu sia importante per me.*

"You can't even imagine how important you are to me."

*Buon pomeriggio.*

"Good afternoon."

*Le lezioni sono sempre di pomeriggio.*

"Classes are always in the afternoon."

*Io non mi lamento mai.*

"I never complain."

*Lavoro in uno studio veterinario.*

"I work in a veterinary clinic."

*"Non mi scorderò mai questa esperienza."*

"I'll never forget this experience."

*Comincia la partita.*

"The soccer game is starting."

*Ho cominciato a frequentare un corso di danza del ventre.*

"I started attending a belly-dancing course."

*Domani comincia la nuova serie di Heroes.*

"Tomorrow, the new *Heroes* series will start."

*Siamo pieni di speranza.*

"We are full of hope."

*Quella ragazza è proprio una pettegola!*

"That girl is really a gossiper!"

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Indefinite Adjectives *Ogni* and *Tutto*.**

*Ogni volta che esco da questo posto poi sono sempre scontenta...*

"Every time I get out of this place, I'm always so dissatisfied..."

---

We use indefinite adjectives to indicate unspecified things or persons, such as "every," "any," and "some." In other words, they do not refer to a particular person or thing and they always precede the noun.

The adjectives "each," "every," and "all" are *ogni* and *tutto/tutti/tutta/tutte*.

*Ogni* ("each," "every") is invariable, and we use it exclusively with singular nouns.

### **For Example:**

1. *Ogni estate vado al mare.*  
"Every summer I go to the seaside."
2. *Ogni volta che ti vedo sono felice.*  
"Every time I see you, I'm happy."
3. *Ogni mercoledì vado in palestra.*  
"Every Wednesday I go to the gym."

The adjective *tutto* ("all," "every," "the whole") can have the same meaning as *ogni*, but it agrees with the noun it refers to and it is always followed by a definite article.

### **For Example:**

1. *Ho lavorato tutto il giorno.*  
"I worked all day long."
2. *Tutte le mattine faccio yoga.*  
"Every morning I do yoga."
3. *Tutti i nostri amici abitano in città.*  
"All of our friends live in town."
4. *Il mio vicino di casa ha suonato il violino tutta la notte.*

"My neighbor played violin all night long."

Please consider the following statements:

1. *Ogni anno traslochiamo in un posto diverso.*

*Tutti gli anni traslochiamo in un posto diverso.*

"Every year we move to a new place."

These sentences have exactly the same meaning; they just change in their form. One is using *ogni* followed by *anno* (a singular noun), and the other uses *tutti* followed by the definite article *gli* plus the plural form of *anno*, which is *anni*.



## Upper Intermediate S1

At Least I Speak Better Italian Than Some People

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## Italian

---

Irene Buongiorno, si accomodi.  
Cliente Grazie, posso aprire la gabbia?  
Irene Prego, la appoggi qui sul tavolo e poi la apra pure.  
Dottoressa Cosa è successo a questo bel gattone?  
Cliente Non so, qualche giorno fa ha cominciato a zoppicare, poi la sua zampa ha cominciato a gonfiarsi.  
Dottoressa Eh sì. Il suo gatto... come si chiama?  
Cliente Si chiama Filippo.  
Dottoressa Ah. Filippo esce spesso di casa vero?  
Cliente Sì, è un vagabondo.  
Dottoressa Come pensavo, vede, qui ci sono alcuni segni di morsi. Molto probabilmente ha un'infezione.  
Irene La posso aiutare dottoressa?  
Dottoressa Sì, metti un po' di disinfettante sulle ferite mentre io preparo l'iniezione.  
Irene Hai sentito Filippo? Ti facciamo una puntura e potrai camminare di nuovo.

## English

---

Irene Good morning, please enter.  
Client Thank you; can I open the cage?  
Irene Yes, please put it on the table and then open it.  
Doctor What happened to this cute, big cat?  
Client I don't know, some days ago he started to limp, and then his leg started to swell.  
Doctor I see. Your cat... What is his name?  
Client He's called Filippo.  
Doctor Ah... Does Filippo get out of home often?  
Client Yes, he's a vagabond.  
Doctor As I thought, you see, here there are some bite marks. He probably has an infection.  
Irene May I help you, Doctor?  
Doctor Yes, put some disinfectant on the injuries while I prepare the injection.  
Irene Did you hear, Filippo? We'll give you a shot and you'll be able to walk again.



## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
gabbia	cage	noun
appoggiare	to put, lean	verb
zampa	leg (for animals only)	noun
gonfiarsi	to swell, puff up, blow up	verb
probabilmente	probably, perhaps	adverb
infezione	infection	noun
aiutare	to help, aid, assist	verb
iniezione	injection, shot	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

<i>Gli animali non dovrebbero stare nelle gabbie.</i>	"Animals shouldn't stay in cages."
<i>Dove posso appoggiare la giacca?</i>	"Where can I put the jacket?"
<i>Un ragno ha otto zampe.</i>	"A spider has eight legs."
<i>Ho sbattuto il dito e subito dopo si è gonfiato.</i>	"I banged my finger, and soon after it swelled."
<i>Probabilmente arrivo in ritardo.</i>	"I'll probably arrive late."
<i>Probabilmente andrò a studiare in Cina l'anno prossimo.</i>	"Next year, I'll probably go to study in China."
<i>L'infezione porta la febbre.</i>	"Infection leads to fever."
<i>Grazie per l'aiuto.</i>	"Thanks for the help."
<i>Puoi aiutarmi, non trovo più il mio gatto.</i>	"Can you help me: I can't find my cat anymore."
<i>Ti posso aiutare?</i>	"Can I help you?"
<i>Quest'iniezione non sarà dolorosa.</i>	"This injection will not be painful."

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Indefinite Adjectives *Qualche, Alcuni/Alcune, Un pò di, (Partitive) Di, Qualunque, and Qualsiasi*.**

***Non so, qualche giorno fa ha cominciato a zoppicare, poi la sua zampa ha cominciato a gonfiarsi.***  
**"I don't know, some days ago he started to limp, and then his leg started to swell."**

---



In the last lesson, we covered the indefinite adjectives "each," "every," and "all": *ogni* and *tutto/tutti/tutta/tutte*. In this section, we continue analyzing indefinite adjectives, and this time we have those that refer to "some" or "any" in Italian: *qualche*, *alcuni/alcune*, *un pò di*, (partitive) *di + definite article*, *qualsunque*, *qualsiasi*.

## *Qualche*

---

We only use *qualche* ("some" or "a few") with singular nouns, and it is invariable. We never employ this adjective with uncountable items such as *acqua* ("water"), *pasta*, *sale* ("salt"), etc.

### **For Example:**

1. *Mi piacerebbe imparare qualche canzone italiana.*  
"I'd like to learn some Italian songs."

## *Alcuni/Alcune*

---

*Alcuni* and *alcune* have the same meaning as *qualche* ("some," "a few") but we can only use them to refer plural nouns. We use *alcuni* with masculine nouns, while we use *alcune* with feminine nouns.

### **For Example:**

1. *Alcuni amici giocano a calcio.*  
"Some friends play soccer."
2. *Alcune persone sono più sensibili.*  
"Some people are more sensitive."

## *Un Pò Di*





We commonly use the pattern *un pò di* ("some," "a little") with uncountable nouns.

**For Example:**

1. *Mi piace bere il caffè con un pò di latte.*  
"I like drinking coffee with a bit of milk."

2. *Sento un pò di ansia.*  
"I feel some anxiety."

**Partitive *Di* + Definite Article**

---

Another way to express "some" or "any" is to use the partitive *di* + *definite article*.

**For Example:**

1. *Hai dei bellissimi fiori in giardino.*  
"You have some beautiful flowers in the garden." (*dei=di+i*)

2. *Ci sono delle melanzane in frigo.*

"There are some eggplants in the fridge." (*delle=di+le*)

***Qualunque* and *Qualsiasi***

---

*Qualunque* and *qualsiasi* have the same meaning: "any."



**For Example:**

1. *Qualunque cosa tu dica mi fa arrabbiare./Qualsiasi cosa tu dica mi fa arrabbiare.*

"Anything you say makes me angry."

2. *Qualunque proposta è ben accetta./Qualsiasi proposta è ben accetta.*

"Any suggestion is well accepted."

## Upper Intermediate S1

Someone's Italian Words Might Get Him in Trouble!

16

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## Italian

---

- Irene Amore, allora cosa facciamo questo fine settimana?  
Mirco Dai, lo sanno tutti che la domenica ho le partite di calcio.  
Irene Va bene, va bene... e allora sabato, cosa facciamo sabato?  
Mirco Mi dispiace ma sabato devo aiutare mia zia con il trasloco poi vado a pescare con i miei amici.  
Irene Cosa? Stai scherzando? Mi stai dicendo che non ci vediamo questo fine settimana?  
Mirco Eh sì, che ti devo dire, ognuno ha i suoi impegni!  
Irene Ah certo, ma sai che gli impegni si possono anche cancellare o posticipare!  
Mirco Ci siamo, è partita...  
Irene Ma non ti preoccupare, troverò di meglio da fare, questo è sicuro!  
Adesso vado, ciao!  
Mirco Cosa?! E il film? Ma dove stai andando, Irene!  
Irene Mi ero scordata che ho un impegno! Mi dispiace, ciao!  
Mirco Qualcuno mi aiuti a capire le donne!

## English

---

- Irene Honey, so what are we doing this weekend?  
Mirco Come on, everybody knows I have soccer matches on Sundays.  
Irene Okay, okay... So Saturday, what are we doing on Saturday?  
Mirco Sorry, but Saturday I have to help my aunt with the move and then I'll go fishing with my friends.  
Irene What? Are you kidding? Are you telling me that we are not seeing each other this weekend?  
Mirco Well, yes. What can I say, everyone has their own plans!  
Irene Oh sure, but you know, we can also cancel or postpone plans!  
Mirco Here she goes...  
Irene But don't worry, I'll find something better to do, that's for sure! Now I'm leaving, bye!  
Mirco What? And the movie? Hey, where are you going, Irene!  
Irene I forgot that I have stuff to do! I'm sorry, bye!  
Mirco Someone help me understand women!



## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
domenica	Sunday	noun
trasloco	move, house moving, relocation	noun
pescare	to fish, catch fish, fish out	verb
impegno	plan	noun
cancellare	to cancel, delete, erase	verb
partire	to leave, start, take off	verb
trovare	to find	verb
film	movie	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*La domenica vado sempre allo stadio.*

"On Sundays, I always go to the stadium."

*Mi puoi aiutare con il trasloco il prossimo mese?*

"Can you help me with the house moving next month?"

*Mi piace pescare la mattina presto.*

"I like fishing in the early morning."

*Hai qualche impegno per stasera?*

"Do you have any plans for tonight?"

*Il volo è stato cancellato.*

"The flight was canceled."

*Domani partirò per Milano.*

"I'll leave for Milan tomorrow."

*Sono partito alle sei del mattino.*

"I left at six o'clock a.m."

*Domani parto per Roma.*

"Tomorrow, I am leaving for Rome."

*L'ho trovato! L'ho trovato!*

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

*Non trovo le chiavi.*

"I can't find my keys."

*Ho trovato questo portafoglio.*

"I found this wallet."

*Abbiamo trovato un cane in giardino.*

"We found a dog in the yard."

*Che film vuoi vedere?*

"What movie do you want to watch?"

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Indefinite Pronouns *Ognuno/Ognuna, Tutti/Tutte, and Qualcuno/Qualcuna.***

***Eh sì, che ti devo dire, ognuno ha i suoi impegni!***

**"Well, yes. What can I say, everyone has their own plans!"**

---

Indefinite pronouns do not refer to a particular person or thing, except when they replace something or someone previously mentioned. In English, these are "someone," "everybody," "nobody," "something," and so on.

## *Ognuno/Ognuna* ("Each," "Everyone")

---

This pronoun is often followed by *di noi*, *di voi*, or *di loro*, and it has a masculine and a feminine version according to the noun it replaces.

### **For Example:**

1. *Ognuno deve fare I compiti.*  
"Everyone has to do homework."

2. *Ognuno di noi ha un lato nascosto.*  
"Every one (of us) has a hidden side."

3. *Prima lavate bene le scarpe, poi ognuna deve essere lucidata.*

"Clean the shoes well first, and then each one must be polished."

## *Tutti/Tutte* ("All," "Everybody")

---

Please remember to choose the appropriate masculine or feminine form when using this pronoun.

### **For Example:**

1. *Tutti dicono cose stupide ogni tanto.*



"Everybody says stupid things sometimes."

2. *Ho contattato le mie vecchie amiche, adesso sono tutte sposate.*

"I contacted my old friends; now they are all married."

## *Qualcuno/Qualcuna* ("Someone," "Some")

---

*Qualcuno/qualcuna* is another pronoun with a masculine and a feminine form.

### **For Example:**

1. *Qualcuno mi ha detto che vai in vacanza in Egitto.*

"Someone told me that you are going to Egypt on holiday."

2. *Ho comprato sei mele ma qualcuna non è buona.*

"I bought six apples, but some are not good."

As you can see, the forms of indefinite pronouns resemble those of indefinite adjectives we already covered in previous lessons.



## Upper Intermediate S1

Is Something Italian Driving You Crazy?

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## Italian

---

Claudia Davvero l'hai lasciato lì davanti al cinema? Ah, ah non ci posso credere!  
Irene E' la verità. Tu ridi, ma ero molto arrabbiata, anzi sono arrabbiata!  
Claudia Vabbè è normale litigare ogni tanto.  
Irene Sì, ma noi litighiamo per tutto! Poi adesso che ho trovato questo lavoro mi accusa sempre di non avere più tempo per lui, quando lui invece passa i fine settimana con la squadra.  
Claudia Perché non vai anche tu a vedere le sue partite?  
Irene Sei matta!?! Non ci penso neanche!  
Claudia Ah ah ah. Calmati, però... così mi piaci!  
Irene Odio fare il tifo alle partite, non mi diverto.  
Claudia Vuoi qualcosa da bere? Per te sarebbe meglio una camomilla...  
Irene Spiritosa... Comunque chiunque incontri mi dice che sono nervosa.  
Claudia Forse vuol dire che lo sei!

## English

---

Claudia Did you really leave him there in front of the movie theater? Ah, ah, I can't believe you!  
Irene It's the truth. You laugh, but I was very angry, or better yet I'm angry!  
Claudia Well, it's normal to fight sometimes.  
Irene Yes, but we fight about everything! And now that I've found this job, he always blames me for not having time for him anymore, while he spends his weekends with the team.  
Claudia Why don't you go to see his matches?  
Irene Are you crazy? I wouldn't even think about that!  
Claudia Ah ah ah. Calm down, but...that's the way I like you!  
Irene I hate cheering at matches. I don't have fun.  
Claudia Do you want something to drink? Chamomile tea would be best for you...  
Irene You're funny... Anyway, whomever I meet tells me that I'm nervous.  
Claudia That probably means that you are!

## Vocabulary

**Italian**  
verità

**English**  
truth

**Class**  
noun



arrabbiato	angry, mad	adjective
anzi	in fact, or better still, on the contrary, rather	conjunction
accusare	to accuse, blame, charge	verb
calmarsi	to calm down	verb
spiritoso	funny, hilarious, witty	adjective
comunque	however, anyhow, anyway, whatever	conjunction
nervoso	nervous	adjective

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Dimmi la verità!*

"Tell me the truth!"

*Perché sei arrabbiato?*

"Why are you angry?"

*Sei arrabbiato con me?*

"Are you angry with me?"

*Vorrei un panino, anzi due!*

"I'd like a panino or rather two."

*Non ti preoccupare, non ti sto accusando.*

"Don't worry; I'm not blaming you."

*Calmati per favore!*

"Calm down, please!"

*Tuo cugino è spiritoso!*

"Your cousin is funny!"

*Comunque, ci vediamo domani.*

"Anyway, I'll see you tomorrow."

*Il nervoso uomo d'affari sta aspettando per un colloquio.*

"The nervous businessman is waiting for the interview."

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Indefinite Pronouns *Qualcosa*, *Chiunque*, and *Tutto*.**

***Vuoi qualcosa da bere?***

**"Do you want something to drink?"**

---

In addition to the indefinite pronouns we already covered in the previous lesson, we have those that in English stand for "something," "anyone," "whoever," "everything," and "everyone."

***Qualcosa* ("Something")**



We often use this pronoun in the constructions *qualcosa di* + masculine singular adjective or *qualcosa da* + infinitive verb.

**For Example:**

1. *Ho bevuto qualcosa di freddo.*

"I drank something cold."

2. *Vado a comprare qualcosa da mangiare.*

"I go buy something to eat."

3. *E' successo qualcosa?*

"Did something happen?"

4. *C'è qualcosa di interessante in TV stasera?*

"Is there something interesting on TV tonight?"

***Chiunque* ("Anyone," "Whoever")**

---

*Chiunque* is invariable and is mainly followed by a subjunctive or a conditional.

**For Example:**

1. *Chiunque venga alla festa deve portare un regalo.*

"Whoever comes to the party must bring a gift."



2. *Chiunque si innamorerebbe di me!*

"Anyone would fall in love with me!"

***Tutto*** ("Everything," "Everyone")

---

This pronoun has all the four forms for masculine and feminine, both singular and plural: *tutto*, *tutta*, *tutti*, and *tutte*. Please don't confuse them with the indefinite adjectives.

**For Example:**

1. *Sofia, hai mangiato la pasta? Sì, l'ho mangiata tutta!*

"Sofia, did you eat pasta? Yes, I ate everything."

2. *Ho capito tutto.*

"I understood everything."

3. *Tutti hanno bevuto il mio caffè.*

"Everyone drank my coffee."



## Upper Intermediate S1

Don't Be Stingy with Your Italian Money!

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## Italian

---

Claudia           Eccolo lì il babbo, non ci vede, ma è cieco?  
Irene             Babbo, siamo qua!  
Davide           Ehi ragazze, eccovi qui! Dove volete andare a pranzo? Ho una fame...  
Claudia           Perché non andiamo in quel ristorante in centro?  
Davide           Ristorante? Per pranzo? No, dai, andiamo al bar.  
Irene             Babbo non fare il tirchio!  
Davide           Ah, pago io?  
Claudia           Certo, siamo solo in tre!  
Davide           Voi mi invitate per pranzo e io pago, giusto?  
Irene             In pratica sì!  
Claudia           Va bene allora andiamo al bar.  
Irene             In quello in Piazza Alberti fanno dei primi molto buoni.  
Davide           Va bene, non è neanche lontano, andiamo. Così vi compro anche un gratta e vinci!

## English

---

Claudia           There he is. He doesn't see us; is he blind?  
Irene             Dad, we're here!  
Davide           Hey, girls, here you are! Where do you want to go for lunch? I'm so hungry...  
Claudia           Why don't we go to that restaurant in downtown?  
Davide           Restaurant? For lunch? No, come on, let's go to a bar.  
Irene             Dad, don't be stingy!  
Davide           Ah, am I paying?  
Claudia           Sure, we are only three!  
Davide           You're inviting me for lunch, and I'm paying, right?  
Irene             Practically yes!  
Claudia           Okay, so let's go to the bar.  
Irene             In the one in Alberti Square they make very good first courses.  
Davide           Okay, it's not even far; let's go. Then I'll also buy a lottery scratch card for you!

## Vocabulary



Italian	English	Class
cieco	blind	adjective
tirchio	mean, stingy, miserly	adjective
pagare	to pay	verb
invitare	to invite	verb
pranzo	lunch	noun
buono	good, tasty	adjective
neanche	neither, even	adverb
gratta e vinci	lottery scratch card	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Il mio cane è cieco.*

"My dog is blind."

*I miei genitori sono tirchi.*

"My parents are stingy."

*Questa sera pago io.*

"This evening, I'll pay."

*Quanto hai pagato quella borsa?*

"How much did you pay for that bag?"

*Mi piacerebbe invitarti per cena.*

"I'd like to invite you for dinner."

*Oggi per pranzo mangio un gelato.*

"Today I eat an ice cream for lunch."

*Ti invito a pranzo.*

I invite you for lunch.

*Il risotto è molto buono.*

"Risotto is very good."

*Non hai pulito la tua stanza e neanche lavato i piatti!*

"You didn't clean your room and haven't even washed the dishes!"

*Non so neanche il tuo nome.*

"I don't even know your name."

*Non ho comprato il regalo per Pete. Neanche io.*

I didn't buy the present for Pete. Me neither.

*Dove posso comprare un gratta e vinci?*

"Where can I buy a lottery scratch card?"

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson is on the Preposition *In*.**

***In quello in Piazza Alberti fanno dei primi molto buoni.***

**"In the one in Alberti Square, they make very good first courses."**

---

The Italian preposition *in* has different meanings in English: mainly "in" but also "to" or "by." Its

articulated forms are: *nel*, *nello*, *nella*, *nei*, *negli*, and *nelle*. Here follows a list with all the most common usages.

## 1. Going or staying somewhere

### For Example:

1. *Vado in America.*  
"I go to America."
2. *Ci vediamo in biblioteca.*  
"We meet at the library."
3. *Abito in Toscana.*  
"I live in Tuscany."

## 2. Temporal meaning

### For Example:

1. *In estate andiamo in spiaggia.*  
"We go to the beach in summer."
2. *Sono nato nel 1979.*  
"I was born in 1979."

## 3. Modal meaning

### For Example:

1. *Siamo in attesa.*  
"We are waiting."



2. *Mangio in piedi.*

"I eat standing up."

3. *Non arriviamo in tempo.*

"We are not going to make it on time."

#### 4. To indicate the material of something

##### For Example:

1. *una statua in bronzo*

"a bronze statue"

2. *un abito in seta*

"a silk dress"

3. *una cornice in legno*

"a wooden frame"

#### 5. To express a change of status

##### For Example:

1. *L'economia è in crisi.*

"The economy is in crisis."

2. *Il mio vaso è andato in pezzi.*

"My vase is shattered."

#### 6. To indicate quality



## For Example:

1. *A tavola siamo in tredici.*  
"We are thirteen at the table."
2. *Alla festa eravamo in sei.*  
"We were six at the party."
3. *Hanno partecipato in massa.*  
"They participated in crowds."

In addition, we use the preposition *in* in some idiomatic expressions.

## For Example:

<b>Italian</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>in fin dei conti</i>	"in the end"
<i>in sostanza</i>	"to sum up"
<i>nei limiti</i>	"within the limits"
<i>in su e in giù</i>	"up and down"
<i>in pratica</i>	"practically"

Here are some verbal constructions where we frequently use the preposition *in*:

## For Example:

<b>Italian</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>avere fiducia in</i>	"to trust in"
<i>credere in</i>	"to believe in"
<i>consistere in</i>	"to consist of"
<i>imbattersi in</i>	"to run into"
<i>includere in</i>	"to include in"
<i>sperare in</i>	"to hope for"



## Upper Intermediate S1

### Do You Like to Complain in Italian?

19

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## Italian

---

Passeggero	Mi scusi signorina.
Claudia	Sì, mi dica!
Passeggero	Avete del succo di mirtillo?
Claudia	No signore, mi dispiace, abbiamo solo succo d'arancia o di mela, oppure del tè freddo...
Passeggero	No, allora non mi porti niente, grazie.
Claudia	Ah, come preferisce.
Passeggero	Senta, avete delle riviste sul giardinaggio?
Claudia	Purtroppo no, tutte le riviste che abbiamo sono sul catalogo.
Passeggero	Sì, ho visto, niente di interessante.
Claudia	Ah, mi dispiace.
Passeggero	Almeno avete delle ciabatte? Mi fanno male i piedi!
Claudia	No signore.
Passeggero	Ma gli altri le hanno!
Claudia	Non so, probabilmente le hanno portate, ma non si preoccupi tra meno di venti minuti atterriamo.
Passeggero	Meno male! Niente di buono da bere, nulla di interessante da leggere e nessuno che ti vuole aiutare! La prossima volta cambio sicuramente compagnia!
Claudia	Faccia come crede!

## English

---

Passenger	Excuse me, Miss.
Claudia	Yes, may I help you?
Passenger	Do you have some blueberry juice?
Claudia	No, sir, I'm sorry, we have only orange or apple juice or some iced tea...
Passenger	No, then don't bring me anything, thanks.
Claudia	Ah, as you prefer.
Passenger	Listen, do you have some magazines about gardening?
Claudia	Unfortunately, no. All the magazines we have are in the catalog.
Passenger	Yes, I saw nothing interesting.
Claudia	Ah, I'm sorry.
Passenger	Do you have some slippers at least? My feet hurt!
Claudia	No, sir.
Passenger	But the others have them!

Claudia I'm not sure; they probably brought them, but don't worry. We are landing in less than twenty minutes.

Passenger Thank goodness! Nothing good to drink, nothing interesting to read, and nobody who wants to help you! Next time, I'm surely changing company!

Claudia Do as you please.

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
mirtillo	blueberry	noun
giardinaggio	gardening	noun
purtroppo	unfortunately	adverb
catalogo	catalog	noun
ciabatte	slippers	noun
compagnia	company	noun
fare	to do, to make, to build	verb
credere	to believe	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Lo yogurt al mirtillo è il mio preferito.*  
*Non mi piace molto il giardinaggio.*  
*Purtroppo ho dimenticato le chiavi a casa.*  
*Purtroppo il concerto è già finito.*  
*Questo è il catalogo per la collezione primavera-estate.*  
*Mi puoi prestare le tue ciabatte?*  
*Non lavoro più in questa compagnia.*  
*Cosa facevi quando eri in Italia?*  
*Vorrei fare un viaggio in Thailandia.*  
*Faccio una telefonata.*  
*Che lavoro fai?*  
*Credo che qualcosa non vada.*  
*Credo di sì.*  
*Non ci credo!*

"Blueberry yogurt is my favorite."  
"I don't like gardening that much."  
"Unfortunately, I forgot the keys at home."  
"Unfortunately, the concert finished already."  
"This is the catalog for the spring-summer collection."  
"Can I borrow your slippers?"  
"I don't work in this company anymore."  
"What did you do when you were in Italy?"  
"I would like to make a trip to Thailand."  
"I'm making a phone call."  
"What do you do?" / "What job do you do?"  
"I believe there's something wrong."  
"I believe so."  
"I don't believe it!"

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Negative Pronouns *Nessuno*, *Niente*, and *Nulla*.**

*No, allora non mi porti niente, grazie.*

**"No, then, don't bring me anything, thanks."**

---

The negative pronouns indicate the nonexistence of people or things, like "nobody," "no one," "nothing," or "anything." In Italian, these pronouns are *nessuno*, *niente*, and *nulla*.

We usually make an Italian sentence negative by inserting *non* in front of the verb. Here are some examples with the negative pronouns:

### For Example:

1. *Non mangio niente.*  
"I don't eat anything."
2. *Non viene nessuno alla festa.*  
"Nobody is coming to the party."
3. *Non vuole sapere nulla.*  
"He doesn't want to know anything."

By the way, when we place these pronouns before the verb, we omit *non*.

### For Example:

1. *Niente sarà facile d'ora in poi.*  
"Nothing will be easy from now on."
2. *Nessuno è perfetto.*  
"Nobody's perfect."



3. *Nulla gli fa paura.*

"Nothing scares him."

The pronouns *niente* and *nulla* are often followed by the preposition *di* plus an adjective or *da* before an infinitive.

**For Example:**

1. *In questo museo non c'è niente di interessante da vedere.*

"In this museum there is nothing interesting to see."

2. *In questa lezione non c'è nulla di complicato da capire.*

"In this lesson there is nothing complicated to understand."



## Upper Intermediate S1

How Long Will It Take You to Learn to Respond in Italian?

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## Italian

---

Irene Grazie, lavi tu i piatti, che gentile!  
Claudia Approfitta di questi miei momenti di gentilezza sorellina.  
Irene Bene, allora pulisci anche i fornelli.  
Claudia Adesso non esagerare!  
Irene Va bene faccio io. Senti, ho deciso di fare una sorpresa a Mirco.  
Claudia Cioè?  
Irene Oggi vado a vedere la sua partita, ma non gli dico niente. Così sarà una sorpresa, lui sa che non andrei mai a vederlo giocare.  
Claudia Ah che bella idea, vengo con te! A che ora comincia la partita?  
Irene Fra due ore.  
Claudia Ah bene, mi devo preparare. Quanto tempo ci vuole per arrivare al campo da calcio?  
Irene Se prendiamo la macchina ci mettiamo venti minuti!  
Claudia Bene, abbiamo anche il tempo per un caffè.

## English

---

Irene Thank you; you're washing dishes, how nice!  
Claudia Take advantage of these moments of kindness, little sister.  
Irene Well, then clean the stove too.  
Claudia Don't exaggerate now!  
Irene Okay, I'll do that. Listen, I've decided to surprise Mirco.  
Claudia And that is?  
Irene Today I'll go and see his match, but I'm not telling him anything. This way it will be a surprise. He knows that I'd never go to see him play.  
Claudia Oh, what a great idea; I'm coming with you! At what time does the match start?  
Irene In two hours.  
Claudia Ah, okay, I have to get ready. How long does it take to get to the soccer field?  
Irene If we take the car, it will take twenty minutes!  
Claudia Cool, we also have time for a coffee.

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
gentilezza	kindness	noun
fornello	stove	noun
esagerare	to exaggerate, overdo	verb
sorpresa	surprise	noun
cioè	that is, namely	adverb
campo da calcio	football field	noun
prendere	to take, get (figuratively, to buy)	verb
caffè	coffee	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Ho fatto un atto di gentilezza.*

"I did an act of kindness."

*Odio pulire i fornelli.*

"I hate cleaning the stove."

*Non esagerare con l'alcol!*

"Don't exaggerate with alcohol."

*Ho fatto una sorpresa alla mia ragazza.*

"I surprised my girlfriend."

*Non mi è chiaro, cioè non capisco.*

"It's not clear to me; that is, I don't understand."

*Ci incontriamo al campo da calcio.*

"Are we meeting up at the football field?"

*Andiamo a prendere Luca.*

"Let's go get Luca."

*Prendere due piccioni con una fava.*

"Kill two birds with one stone."

*Hai preso il pane?*

"Did you buy the bread?"

*Anthony prende un gelato.*

"Anthony gets an ice cream."

*Prendi le chiavi per favore.*

"Get the keys, please."

*Un caffè macchiato, grazie.*

"A caffè macchiato, thank you." (Coffee with a small amount of hot milk)

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson Is on Pronominal Verbs with *Ci*: *Volerci* and *Metterci*.**

***Se prendiamo la macchina ci mettiamo venti minuti!***

**"If we take the car, it will take twenty minutes!"**

---

There are some verbs in Italian that we call pronominal verbs; we combine them with the particles *ci*,

*la, le, ne, cela, cene, ci si, sela, and sene.* This lesson concerns those using the particle *ci*. In Italian, we use the verbs *volerci* ("take," "need") and *metterci* ("take," "employ") to express the amount of time it takes to complete an action.

The verb *metterci* changes in the plural to agree with the number of objects or persons that are taking the time and so doing the action, not the amount of time taken. Thus, we can conjugate *metterci* in all persons and tenses. It takes *avere*, meaning "to have," in compound tenses.

## For Example:

1. *Ci metto venti minuti per pranzare.*  
"It takes me twenty minutes to have lunch."
2. *Quanto ci metti per andare a scuola?*  
"How long does it take you to go to school?"
3. *Il treno per Roma ci mette un'ora e mezzo.*  
"The train for Rome takes one hour and a half."
4. *Ci abbiamo messo tre mesi per finire questo progetto.*  
"It took us three months to finish this project."
5. *Ci metterete un mese a traslocare.*  
"It will take you a month to move."
6. *Ci hanno messo due giorni per preparare la festa.*  
"It took them two days to prepare the party."

On the other hand, the subject of *volerci* is the amount of time in question. We can only conjugate this verb in third-person forms but in all tenses. In this case, the auxiliary verb is *essere*, which means "to be."

## For Example:

1. *Ci vuole un'ora di macchina per arrivare a Siena.*  
"It takes an hour by car to go to Siena."



2. *Ci è voluto un anno per imparare lo spagnolo.*  
"It took a year to learn Spanish."

3. *Ci vorranno tre settimane per guarire.*  
"It will take three weeks to recover."

The verb *volerci* can also agree with the object or the person that is needed in terms of number. That is singular or plural.

### **For Example:**

1. *Ci vuole l'aereo per andare in Australia.*  
"You need an airplane to go to Australia."

2. *Ci vogliono quattro bambini per giocare a questo gioco.*  
"Four kids are needed to play this game."

3. *Ci vorranno tre persone per spostare la macchina.*

"Three people will be needed to move the car."

4. *Ci sono volute due arance per fare l'aranciata.*

"Two oranges will be needed to make the orange juice."



## Upper Intermediate S1

No Mere Mortal Should Try to Handle This Italian Situation

21

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## Italian

---

(Urla dei tifosi)

Irene Che casino, vedi dei posti liberi?  
Claudia Hey ma quello è Pippo, andiamo accanto a lui!  
Irene Ah sì, sta facendo un cenno con la mano.

(Dissolvenza)

Filippo Non mi sembra vero che siate venute qui, che onore avervi tra noi comuni mortali di domenica pomeriggio!  
Claudia Siamo venute per fare una sorpresa a Mirco. Adesso che la partita è finita andiamo a salutarlo.  
Irene Oh mio Dio!! Eccolo là, ma che sta facendo e chi è quella vestita in quel modo?!  
Claudia Sbaglio o lo ha baciato sulla guancia?  
Filippo E lui le tiene pure la mano!  
Irene Bene, andiamo via!  
Claudia Cosa hai intenzione di fare? Non vai a parlargli?  
Irene No, sono troppo arrabbiata, non posso pensarci adesso.  
Claudia Beh almeno provaci, perché poi è troppo tardi!

## English

---

(Screams of the fans)

Irene What a commotion; do you see any free seats?  
Claudia Hey, that's Pippo; let's go sit next to him!  
Irene Ah yes, he's gesturing with his hand.

(Fade out)

Filippo It doesn't seem real that you came here; what an honor to have you with us mere mortals on a Sunday afternoon.  
Claudia We came to surprise Mirco. Now that the match is over, let's go say hi.  
Irene Oh my God! There he is, but what is he doing? And who is that dressed in that way?  
Claudia Am I wrong or did she kiss him on the cheek?  
Filippo And he is also holding her hand!  
Irene Right, let's get away!  
Claudia What are you going to do? Aren't you going to talk to him?

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Irene

No, I'm too angry; I can't think about that right now.

Claudia

Well, at least try! Because afterward it's going to be too late!

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
casino	noise, racket, mess	noun
accanto	next to, near	adverb
cenno	sign, nod, wave	noun
onore	honor	noun
mortale	mortal	adjective
sbagliare	to make a mistake, be wrong	verb
guancia	cheek	noun
mano	hand	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*I bambini stanno facendo un bel casino.*

"The kids are making a fine mess."

*Abito accanto a una chiesa.*

"I live next to a church."

*Fammi un cenno con la mano una volta che hai finito.*

"Gesture with your hand once you have finished."

*Ha lavorato con onore.*

"He worked with honor."

*Ha una ferita mortale alla testa.*

"He has a mortal wound to his head."

*Questa volta non sbagliare!*

"Don't make a mistake this time!"

*Luisa ha sbagliato di nuovo.*

"Luisa was wrong again."

*Hai le guance rosse.*

"You are blushing."

*Che mano grande!*

"What a big hand!"

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson is on Pronominal Verbs with *Ci*: *Pensarci* and *Provarci*.**

***No, sono troppo arrabbiata, non posso pensarci adesso.***

**"No, I'm too angry; I can't think about that right now."**

---

We continue focusing on pronominal verbs combined with the particle *ci*. Some other frequent verbs using this particle are *pensarci* and *provarci*. *Pensarci* means "to take care" or "to think about something," whereas *provarci* means "to try something."

*Pensarci* comes from the verb *pensare*, meaning "to think," but it has a more specific meaning. *Pensarci* indicates "to think about something or someone specific." This is why it is very close to "to take care about something."

## For Example:

1. *Ho un problema e continuo a pensarci costantemente.*  
"I have a problem, and I constantly keep thinking about it."

2. *Chi ci pensa a me?*  
"Who takes care of me?"

3. *Ci penso io!*  
"I'll take care of that." or "I'll do it."

4. *So che non è facile, ma cerca di non pensarci.*  
"I know it's not easy, but try not to think about it."

*Provarci* comes from the verb *provare*, meaning "to try," and as for *pensarci*, the particle *ci* gives the verb a more specific meaning. That is, "to try to do something."

## For Example:

1. *Non so esattamente come fare ma ci provo.*  
"I don't know exactly how to do that, but I'll try."

2. *E' difficile ma provaci!*  
"It's hard, but give it a try."





3. *Mi piace chi ci prova sempre e comunque.*  
"I like those who try doing it always and anyhow."

4. *Questa danza è difficile, ma proviamoci a farla!*  
"This dance is difficult, but let's try doing it!"



## Upper Intermediate S1

I Just Realized I Didn't Set the Italian Alarm Clock!

22

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## Italian

---

- Claudia Sei sicura che non gli vuoi parlare?  
Irene Sicurissima! Andiamocene!  
Claudia Aspetta a salire in macchina, devo togliere l'allarme prima!  
(suono dell'allarme, le portiere della macchina si chiudono)  
Irene Andiamo a casa per favore. Mi sento una deficiente. Come ho fatto a non accorgermene!  
Claudia Le persone non smettono mai di sorprenderti.  
Irene O di deluderti!  
Claudia E' vero. Lascialo perdere...  
Irene Di sicuro. Sentivo che c'era qualcosa che non andava..  
Claudia Andiamo a casa e ordiniamo una pizza.  
Irene Buona idea.  
(cellulare suona)  
Claudia Ti squilla il cellulare! E' lui?  
Irene No, è Pippo. Cosa vuole adesso?

## English

---

- Claudia Are you sure you don't want to talk to him?  
Irene I'm very sure! Let's get out of here!  
Claudia Wait to get in the car. I have to turn off the alarm first!  
(Alarm sound, the doors of the car close)  
Irene Let's go home, please. I feel like an idiot. How didn't I see it?  
Claudia People never cease to surprise you.  
Irene Or to let you down!  
Claudia True. Let him be...  
Irene For sure. I felt that there was something wrong...  
Claudia Let's go home and order a pizza.  
Irene Good idea.  
(Mobile rings)  
Claudia Your mobile is ringing! Is it him?  
Irene No, it's Pippo. What does he want now?

## Vocabulary



Italian	English	Class
togliere	to remove, take out, take off	verb
allarme	alarm	noun
deficiente	idiot, half-wit	noun
sorprendere	to surprise, astonish	verb
deludere	to let down, fail someone	verb
squillare	to ring	verb
cellulare	cellphone, mobile phone	noun
adesso	now	adverb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Posso togliere la giacca?*

"Can I take off my jacket?"

*Mi devo far togliere un dente.*

"I have to get a tooth removed."

*Bisogna dare l'allarme!*

"We need to raise the alarm!"

*Il tuo amico è un deficiente!*

"Your friend is an idiot!"

*Il suo comportamento non mi sorprende affatto.*

"His behavior does not surprise me at all!"

*Non mi deludere di nuovo.*

"Don't let me down again."

*Il telefono non smette di squillare.*

"The phone doesn't stop ringing."

*Non trovo più il mio cellulare!*

"I can't find my cell phone anymore!"

*Hai visto il mio cellulare?*

"Have you seen my cell phone?"

*Adesso scrivo un'e-mail.*

"Now I write an e-mail."

*Adesso piove.*

"It is raining now."

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson Is on Pronominal Verbs with *Sene*, *Andarsene*, and *Accorgersene*.**

***Come ho fatto a non accorgermene!***

**"How didn't I see it!"**

---

The pronominal particle *sene* gives certain verbs a stronger perception of the action happening. Two of the most common are the verbs *andarsene*, meaning "to go away," and *accorgersene*, meaning "to realize" or "to notice something."

*Andarsene* comes from the verb *andare*, meaning "to go," but it has a stronger meaning for the person who is speaking. *Andarsene* involves feelings that can express the following emotions:

**For Example:**

1. anger

*Vattene, non ti voglio più vedere!*

"Go away, I don't want to see you anymore!"

2. joy

*Dove te ne vai di bello stasera?*

"To what nice place are you going tonight?"

3. laziness

*Sono troppo stanca, me ne vado a casa.*

"I'm too tired; I'm going home."

The verb *accorgersene* comes from the reflexive verb *accorgersi*, meaning "to realize" or "to notice." *Accorgersene* implies realizing a specific thing or fact.

**For Example:**

1. *Scusa, l'ho fatto senza accorgermene.*

"I'm sorry, I did it without realizing."

2. *Ah, sei qui! Non me n'ero accorto!*

"Ah, you're here! I didn't notice!"

3. *Una bella amicizia può diventare amore senza accorgersene*

"A good friendship can become love without realizing it."

4. *Una persona è svenuta ma nessuno sembra accorgersene.*

"A person fainted, but nobody seems to notice it."



## Upper Intermediate S1

Are You an Expert on Italian Love?

23

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## Italian

---

Filippo	Grazie per essere venuta.
Irene	Perché proprio qui in enoteca?
Filippo	Perché io me ne intendo di vino.
Irene	Ah certo.
Filippo	A dir la verità me ne intendo anche di donne e ti volevo dire che tu sei speciale e non devi soffrire troppo per una persona così.
Irene	Oh grazie Pippo. Comunque io non sto soffrendo, non ti preoccupare, abbiamo rotto ma è meglio così.
Filippo	Sono contento che sei tranquilla. Allora scegliamo una bottiglia e brindiamo, offro io!
Irene	In questo caso ho proprio intenzione di approfittarmene. mmmmm Prendiamo questo!
Filippo	Il più costoso! Va bene, però mi devi promettere che la prossima volta andiamo a cena!
Irene	Volentieri!
(Versano il vino)	
Filippo	Cin cin! "Alle storie che finiscono e a quelle che iniziano!"
Irene	Ben detto!

## English

---

Filippo	Thanks for coming.
Irene	Why right here in the wine bar?
Filippo	Because I'm an expert about wine.
Irene	Ah, right.
Filippo	Actually, I'm an expert also about women, and I wanted to tell you that you are special and you don't have to suffer too much for a person like that.
Irene	Oh, thank you, Pippo. Anyway, I'm not suffering. Don't worry. We broke up, but it's better this way.
Filippo	I'm happy you're cool. Then let's choose a bottle and toast, my treat!
Irene	In this case, I really plan to make the most of it. Mmmmmm. Let's have this!
Filippo	The most expensive! Okay, but you have to promise that the next time we'll go for dinner!
Irene	Gladly!



(They pour wine)

Filippo

Cheers! To relations that end and to those that begin!

Irene

Well said!

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
enoteca	wine bar	noun
donna	woman	noun
soffrire	to suffer, ache, endure	verb
tranquillo	quiet, noiseless, cozy, easygoing	adjective
costoso	expensive	adjective
promettere	to promise, swear, guarantee, commit oneself	verb
cena	dinner	noun
iniziare	to begin	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Ho bevuto un vino buonissimo in enoteca.*

"I drank a very good wine at the wine bar."

*Sei una donna meravigliosa.*

"You are a marvelous woman."

*Che donna affascinante.*

"What a fascinating woman."

*Non voglio più soffrire così!*

"I don't want to suffer like this anymore!"

*Pranziamo in un posto tranquillo per favore.*

"Let's have lunch in a quiet place, please."

*Le tue scarpe devono essere molto costose.*

"Your shoes must be very expensive."

*Prometto di arrivare in orario.*

"I promise I'll arrive on time."

*È pronta la cena?*

"Is the dinner ready?"

*Verresti a cena con me?*

"Would you come to dinner with me?"

*Iniziamo a mangiare.*

"Let's start to eat."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on Pronominal Verbs with *Sene*, *Approfittarsene*, and *Intendersene*.**

***In questo caso ho proprio intenzione di approfittarmene.***

**"In this case, I really plan to make the most of it."**



Pronominal verbs with *sene* imply a deeper meaning than the basic verbs they originate from. In this lesson, we will cover  *approfittarsene*, meaning "to take advantage of something or somebody," and *intendersene*, meaning "to be an expert." *Approfittarsi* means "to take advantage" in general terms, whereas  *approfittarsene* is "to take advantage of something or somebody for personal reasons." Thus, we basically use this verb to express a roughly negative meaning.

### For Example:

1. *Scusa se me ne approfitto.*  
"Sorry if I take advantage of it."
2. *Mi dispiace che tu abbia perso il lavoro, ma io me ne approfitto.*  
"I'm sorry you lost your job, but I'll take advantage of that."
3. *Il ragazzo era molto gentile e lei se ne approfittava.*  
"The guy was very nice, and she took advantage of that."
4. *Anche se Franco ti vuole aiutare spesso, non te ne approfittare!*  
"Even if Franco often wants to help you, don't take advantage of that!"

The verb *intendersene* comes from *intendere*, which is similar to *capire*, meaning "to understand." On the other hand, *intendersene* means "to understand very well how something works." In other words, it stands for "to be an expert in something."

### For Example:

1. *Te ne intendi di macchine?*  
"Are you an expert on cars?"
2. *Non te ne intendi per niente di donne!*  
"You don't know how to deal with women at all!"



3. *Carlo se ne intende proprio di vino!*

"Carlo is a real expert on wine."



## Upper Intermediate S1

What's Better Than Winning the Italian Lottery?

24

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## Italian

---

Davide Di che notizia parlavi al telefono tesoro? Sembri proprio emozionata.  
Claudia Lo sono.  
Davide Vieni qui. Siediti sul divano.  
Irene Cosa succede Claudia? Hai vinto alla lotteria?  
Claudia No, meglio. Vado a vivere a New York.  
Irene Davvero? Che bello!! Vai da James!  
Davide Cosa? Ho sentito delle storie su questo James, ma non pensavo fosse una cosa seria!  
Claudia Lo è. Mi ha fatto vedere la foto dell'appartamento dove andremo ad abitare. Poi non è finita, quella compagnia aerea americana mi ha contattata per un colloquio!  
Irene Fantastico! Quando parti?  
Claudia Fra due settimane, ma all'inizio rimarrò solo sui due mesi, poi si vedrà.  
Davide Avevi ragione, è una bella notizia. Vieni qui tesoro dammi un bacio, sono felice per te!

## English

---

Davide What news were you talking about on the phone, sweetheart? You look very excited.  
Claudia I am.  
Davide Come here. Take a seat on the couch.  
Irene What's up, Claudia? Did you win the lottery?  
Claudia No, better. I'm going to live in New York.  
Irene Really? That's nice! You're going to James's!  
Davide What? I heard some rumors about this James, but I didn't think it was a serious thing!  
Claudia It is. He showed me the pictures of the apartment we are going to live in. And it's not over. Furthermore, that American airline company contacted me for an interview!  
Irene Wonderful! When are you leaving?  
Claudia In two weeks, but at the beginning I'll only stay about two months, and then we will see.  
Davide You were right, it is good news. Come here, sweetie; give me a kiss, I'm happy for you!



## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
notizia	a piece of news, news	noun
lotteria	lottery	noun
serio	serious	adjective
appartamento	apartment, flat	noun
contattare	to contact, get in touch	verb
colloquio	interview	noun
partire	to leave, start, take off	verb
fantastico	fantastic	adjective

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Finalmente ho avuto una bella notizia!*

"Finally, I got good news!"

*Ho comprato un biglietto della lotteria.*

"I bought a ticket for the lottery."

*Questo è un problema serio.*

"This is a serious problem."

*Mi piace molto il tuo appartamento.*

"I like your apartment a lot."

*Ho in mano le chiavi del mio nuovo appartamento.*

"I've got in my hand the keys of my new apartment."

*Devo contattare al più presto l'ambasciata.*

"I have to contact the embassy as soon as possible."

*Per qualsiasi inconveniente non esiti a contattarmi.*

"For any inconvenience, don't hesitate to contact me."

*Oggi ho un colloquio alle due.*

"Today I have an interview at two p.m."

*Domani partirò per Milano.*

"I'll leave for Milan tomorrow."

*Sono partito alle sei del mattino.*

"I left at six o'clock a.m."

*Domani parto per Roma.*

"Tomorrow, I am leaving for Rome."

*Questo è uno spettacolo fantastico.*

"This is a fantastic show."

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Preposition *Su* and Its Usage.**

*Ho sentito delle storie su questo James, ma non pensavo fosse una cosa seria!*

**"I heard some rumors about this James, but I didn't think it was a serious thing!"**

---

The preposition *su* in Italian is the equivalent of "on," "over," "about," and many others in English. Its articulated forms are *sul*, *sullo*, *sulla*, *sui*, *sugli*, and *sulle*. Here follows a list with some of the most common usages for this preposition.

## 1. Going or staying somewhere

### For Example:

1. *Sediamoci sul bordo della piscina.*  
"Let's sit on the side of the pool."

2. *La giacca è sulla sedia.*  
"The jacket is on the chair."

## 2. Topic

### For Example:

1. *Devo leggere un libro sulla vita di Garibaldi.*  
"I have to read a book about Garibaldi's life."

2. *Ha scritto un articolo sull'economia italiana.*  
"He wrote an article about the Italian economy."

## 3. Age

### For Example:

1. *La mia professoressa è una donna sulla cinquantina.*  
"My professor is a woman in her fifties."

2. *Quel ragazzino probabilmente avrà sugli otto anni.*



"That kid is probably about eight years old."

## 4. Temporal meaning

### For Example:

1. *Ci vediamo sul tardi.*

"See you later on."

2. *Per andare a lavoro in metro ci metto sui dieci minuti.*

"It takes about ten minutes to commute to work."

## 5. Estimating the value

### For Example:

1. *L'affitto per quest'appartamento sarà sui duemila Euro.*

"The rent for this apartment is probably around two thousand Euros."

2. *Il valore di questo anello è sui cento Euro.*

"The value of this ring is about one hundred Euros."

## Upper Intermediate S1

Count on Breaking Out the Italian Champagne to Celebrate This!

25

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## Italian

---

Davide	Allora festeggiamo per la tua partenza! Ho proprio una bottiglia di vino perfetta per l'occasione!
Irene	Sì, festeggiamo! Babbo vai a prendere il vino, io guardo se c'è del dolce in frigo.
Claudia (suono del campanello)	Come, niente spumante?
Davide	Andate ad aprire la porta, ma chi è adesso?
Claudia	Io so chi è, l'ho chiamata io.
Luisa	Buon giorno a tutti!!
Irene	Mamma! Sei tornata, è meraviglioso!
Davide	Lu-Lu-Luisa! Che bello vederti...
Luisa	Sono tornata per restare, non vi lascio più soli, credetemi sulla parola!
Davide	Spero tu sia sincera.
Luisa	Ci ho riflettuto su molto, non posso stare senza di voi, perdonatemi...
Claudia	Bene, allora brindiamo poi andiamo al ristorante tutti insieme.
Irene	Che bella idea, è tanto che non lo facciamo.
Davide	Bene, su richiesta della festeggiata, tutti a mangiare bistecca stasera!

## English

---

Davide	So let's celebrate your departure! I actually have a perfect bottle of wine for this occasion!
Irene	Yes, let's celebrate! Daddy, go and get the wine, and I'll see whether there is some dessert in the fridge.
Claudia (doorbell sound)	What, no spumante?
Davide	Go open the door, but who is it now?
Claudia	I know who it is; I called her.
Luisa	Good day everyone!
Irene	Mum! You're back; it's awesome!
Davide	Lu-Lu-Luisa! So good to see you...
Luisa	I'm back to stay. I won't leave you alone anymore; take my word for it!
Davide	I hope you're sincere.
Luisa	I pondered a lot over it; I can't stay without you, forgive me...
Claudia	Well, then, let's have a toast and then let's go to the restaurant all together.

Irene  
Davide

What a good idea; it's been a long time since we did it.  
Good, per request of the guest of honor, we all eat steak tonight!

## Vocabulary

Italian	English	Class
partenza	departure, start	noun
spumante	sparkling wine	noun
parola	word	noun
riflettere	to ponder, reflect	verb
perdonare	to forgive	verb
brindare	to toast, drink to	verb
insieme	together	adverb
idea	idea, thought	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

<i>E' tutto pronto per la partenza?</i>	"Is everything ready for the departure?"
<i>Mi piace lo spumante con il dolce.</i>	"I like sparkling wine with dessert."
<i>Non dire una parola!</i>	"Don't say a word!"
<i>Ho dimenticato come pronunciare questa parola!</i>	"I forgot how to pronounce this word!"
<i>A volte è meglio non riflettere affatto.</i>	"Sometimes it is better not to ponder at all."
<i>Sono in ritardo, mi perdoni?</i>	"I am late, would you forgive me?"
<i>Prima brindiamo poi mangiamo.</i>	"First we toast, and then we eat."
<i>Facciamo una passeggiata insieme?</i>	"Shall we take a walk together?"
<i>Che idea brillante!</i>	"What a brilliant idea!"
<i>Hai avuto un'ottima idea!</i>	"You had a great idea!"

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Preposition *Su* and Its Uses.**

*Ci ho riflettuto su molto, non posso stare senza di voi, perdonatemi...*

**"I pondered a lot over it; I can't stay without you, forgive me..."**

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In this lesson, we will cover other usages for the preposition *su*, which we explained in part in the previous lesson. *Su* basically means "on," "over," and "about." The articulated forms are *sul*, *sullo*, *sulla*, *sui*, *sugli*, and *sulle*. Here follows a list of the rest of the cases in which we commonly use *su*.

## 6. Weight

### For Example:

1. *Un cucchiaino di zucchero pesa sui venticinque grammi.*  
"A spoon of sugar weighs about twenty grams."
2. *Quella ragazza probabilmente è sui cinquanta chili.*  
"That girl is probably about fifty kilos."

## 7. Measure

### For Example:

1. *Quel portone sarà alto sui tre metri.*  
"That gate will be about three meters high."
2. *Ho pescato un pesce che era sui quaranta centimetri.*  
"I caught a fish that was about forty centimeters."

## 8. Manner

### For Example:

1. *Mi sono fatta fare un vestito su misura.*  
I got a tailored dress.
2. *Ascoltiamo questa canzone su richiesta.*  
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Furthermore, we use the preposition *su* in certain idiomatic expressions like *credere sulla parola*, meaning "to take someone's word for it," and *fare qualcosa su consiglio di*, meaning "to do something following the advice of [someone]."

Lastly, *su* is also implied in many verbal constructions.

## For Example:

<i>Italian</i>	"English"
<i>contare su,</i>	"to count on"
<i>giurare su</i>	"to swear on"
<i>rifletterci su</i>	"to ponder on"
<i>scommettere su</i>	"to bet on"



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