
Unit 1 - Review #2

Present Tense (regular)

In this lesson we review the conjugation of Italian verbs in the **Present Tense**. We will never reach a higher level of fluency if we are not 100% confident with regular verbs in the Present Tense.

The good news is that this is very achievable and, with a little practice, there won't be a regular verb you can't use quickly and correctly!

When to use the Present Tense in Italian

- **For general statements** (*sono italiano, l'Italia è bella*)
- **When English uses the continuous form** (*she is speaking to Marco > lei parla con Marco*)
- **For future statements** (*l'anno prossimo andiamo in Italia*)
- **In narrations** (*... poi Pinocchio incontra un gatto e una volpe*)

Write some sample sentences



Italian Verb Groups

There are three main groups of verbs in Italian, identified by their ending:

- Verbs ending in **-ARE**
- Verbs ending in **-ERE**
- Verbs ending in **-IRE**

Write the Infinitive form of a few regular verbs from the three groups

It is important to remember to use the conjugated verbs when they have a subject.

Conjugating means changing the verb so that it is “personalizes” for the subject used.

Similar to the Present Tense of the English verb **TO BE** (*I am, you are, she is* - three distinct forms for three different subjects), in Italian, each subject has its unique conjugated form of a verb.

I am 100% sure you already know this... but do you always apply your knowledge when speaking Italian? Don't worry, it's normal to forget this at times, that is why we are reviewing it!



Italian Subject Pronouns

| “Person” | Subject Pronoun | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <i>First person singular</i> | io | used by the speaker |
| <i>Second person singular</i> | tu | used when addressing a friend |
| <i>Third person singular</i> | lui | used when the subject is a male |
| <i>Third person singular</i> | lei | used when the subject is a female |
| <i>Third person singular</i> | ? | used when the subject is not human |
| <i>Third person singular</i> | Lei | use when addressing a stranger |
| <i>First person plural</i> | noi | used when the speaker and someone else are the subject |
| <i>Second person plural</i> | voi | used when addressing more than one person |
| <i>Third person plural</i> | loro | used when the subject is plural and neither the speaker nor the listener are part of it |
| <i>Third person plural</i> | ? | used when the subject is plural and not human |



How to conjugate Italian verbs

A common thing we do in Italian to conjugate a verb is take the verb in its **Infinitive** form (dictionary entry), remove the ending (**-ARE/-ERE/-IRE**) and then attach subject and tense specific **endings** to what is left (known as the **stem** of the verb).

INFINITIVE: PARLARE

ENDING: -ARE

STEM: PARL-

This is how most Italian tenses start being conjugated, so it's good to be very quick and doing this mentally!

Write the stem of all the verbs you wrote down in the previous box.



Group Specific Endings for Present Tense

| "Person" | Subject Pronoun | -ARE | -ERE | -IRE |
|-------------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|
| <i>First person singular</i> | io | -o | -o | -o |
| <i>Second person singular</i> | tu | -i | -i | -i |
| <i>Third person singular</i> | Lui / lei / Lei / ? | -a | -e | -e |
| <i>First person plural</i> | noi | -iamo | -iamo | -iamo |
| <i>Second person plural</i> | voi | -ate | -ete | -ite |
| <i>Third person plural</i> | loro / ? | -ano | -ono | -ono |



Now write down the Present Tense of the following verbs:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| AFFITTARE (to rent) | LUCIDARE (to polish) | AZZERARE (to reset) |
| | | |
| DECIDERE (to decide) | RICEVERE (to receive) | SVENDERE (to sell out) |
| | | |
| DORMIRE (to sleep) | COPRIRE (to cover) | SENTIRE (to feel / to hear) |
| | | |

Did you have to go back to the previous page to look up the ending? If so, you really need to spend a full day drilling down this conjugation! Don't worry, it's not punishment. It's being smart!



General Tips

- Most Italian verbs belong to the **-ARE** group
- Most useful **-ERE** verbs are irregular
- Many **-IRE** verbs are irregular (“**ISC**” verbs)

This means that, in case you are not sure what group a verb belongs to (maybe you heard it already conjugated by an Italian), it is safer and wiser to assume the verb is an **-ARE** verb, and conjugate it accordingly. You might be wrong, for sure, but the chances of being right are much higher!

The Italian word for IT is...

We don't have it. We used to use **ESSO / ESSA** but now those forms are obsolete. Do not use them please or trust who tells you you should!

In most cases, Italians will just use the verb in the third person, without worrying about the subject. We do it for people, why not do it for objects, right?

Other times, when we really need to be specific, we might use expressions like **QUESTO / QUESTA** or name the object itself!

Your Notes



Conjugated Verbs

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| AFFITTARE (to rent) | LUCIDARE (to polish) | AZZERARE (to reset) |
| io affitto tu affitti lei/lui/Lei affitta noi affittiamo voi affittate loro affittano | io lucido* tu lucidi lei/lui/Lei lucida noi lucidiamo voi lucidate loro lucidano | lo azzero tu azzeri lei/lui/Lei azzerà noi azzeriamo voi azzerate loro azzerano |
| DECIDERE (to decide) | RICEVERE (to receive) | SVENDERE (to sell out) |
| io decido tu decidi lei/lui/Lei decide noi decidiamo voi decidete loro decidono | io ricevo tu ricevi lei/lui/Lei riceve noi riceviamo voi ricevete loro ricevono | io svendo tu svendi lei/lui/Lei svende noi svendiamo voi svendete loro svendono |
| DORMIRE (to sleep) | COPRIRE (to cover) | SENTIRE (to feel / to hear) |
| io dormo tu dormi lei/lui/Lei dorme noi dormiamo voi dormite loro dormono | lo copro tu copri lei/lui/Lei copre noi copriamo voi coprite loro coprono | lo sento tu senti lei/lui/Lei sente noi sentiamo voi sentite loro sentono |

The verb **LUCIDARE** has the stress very early in the word. We say:

LUcido, LUci*d*i, LUci*d*a

Then:

luciDIAmo, luciDAte

And finally:

LUci*d*ano

