



# BASIC ITALIAN PHRASES

---

Greetings • Introductions • I don't understand • At the restaurant •  
Directions • Shopping • I don't feel well • Travel • Numbers •  
Date & Time • Family

**START LEARNING**

# Greetings!

---

- **Salve!** — Hello (any time of day)
- **Buongiorno** — Good morning/afternoon.

It is always polite to say “Hi” every morning because Italian speakers are really sociable. “ Good morning” in Italian is “Buongiorno”.

- **Buonasera** — Good evening
- **Buonanotte** — Goodnight
- **Grazie mille** — Thank you very much
- **Arrivederci** — Goodbye
- **Mi chiamo...** — My name is ...
- **Sono americano/canadese/inglese** — I’m American/Canadian/English
- **Piacere** — Nice to meet you

- **Si** — Yes
- **No** — No
- **Per favore; per piacere; per cortesia** — Please
- **Grazie** — Thank you
- **Molte grazie** — Thank you very much
- **Prego!** — You’re welcome!
- **Si figuri!** — It’s nothing!
- **Mi scusi** — Excuse me
- **Prego** — By all means
- **Può ripetere, per cortesia?** — Can you please repeat?

## Introductions

---

- **Come ti chiami?** — What's your name? (Informal)

- **Come si chiama?** — What's your name? (Formal)

If you're not sure whether you should be using informal or formal, stick with formal.

- **Mi chiamo...** — My name is...

Cocktail Party Fact: This literally means, "I call myself..." and comes from the reflexive verb "chiamarsi".

- **Sono...** — I am...

You can fill in the above phrase with your name or with your nationality, like:

- "Sono Americano/a. — I'm American."

Then the most common Italian phrase when you meet someone for the first time:

- **Piacere.** — Nice to meet you.
- **Piacere mio.** — The pleasure is mine.

Other questions you may be asked include asking about your hometown:

- **Di dov'è?** — Where are you from? (Formal)
- **Di dove sei?** — Where are you from? (Informal)
- **Sono (Australiana).** — I'm (Australian).

Learn Italian phrases to ask about people's age:

- **Quanti anni ha?** — How old are you? (Formal)
- **Quanti anni hai?** — How old are you? (Informal)
- **Ho (trentadue) anni.** — I'm 32 years old.

Finally, learn Italian phrases about people's jobs:

- **Che lavoro fa?** — What do you do for work? (Formal)
- **Che lavoro fai?** — What do you do for work? (Informal)
- **Faccio (l'insegnante).** — I'm a (teacher)

## I don't understand

---

- **Mi scusi, non capisco** — I don't understand
- **Non parlo italiano molto bene** — I don't speak Italian very well
- **Cosa vuole dire?** — What does that mean?
- **Parla inglese?** — Do you speak English?
- **Mi scusi** — I'm sorry
- **Non lo so** — I don't know
- **Va bene** — All right
- **Non importa** — Never mind

## At the restaurant

---

- **Un tavolo per uno/due, per favore** — A table for one/two, please
- **Siete già aperti?** — Are you open yet?
- **Mi scusi!** — Excuse me! (Calling a waiter)
- **Cosa mi consiglia?** — What do you recommend?
- **Qual è la specialità della casa?** — What's your most popular dish?
- **Cos'è questo?** — What's this?
- **Faccia Lei!** — It's up to you/ You can decide
- **Il conto, per favore** — The cheque, please
- **Potrei avere il menu, per favore?** — Can I have the menu, please?
- **Possiamo aspettare (per un tavolo)?** — Can we wait (for a table)?
- **Possiamo sederci qui?** — Can we sit here?

## Directions

---

- **Vorrei andare a...** — I want to go to... (If you know the name of your destination)
- **Vorrei andare qui** — I want to go here (Pointing to your destination on the map)
- **Mi sono perso / Mi sono persa** — I'm lost
- **È di qua?** — Is it this way? (Useful for checking if you're walking in the right direction)
- **Dov'è...?** — Where is...?
- **Scusi, mi può dire come arrivare al Colosseo?** — Excuse me, could you tell me how to get to the Colosseum?

Here are some of the basic Italian sentences for useful replies you might hear.

- **Gira a destra** — Turn right
- **Gira a sinistra** — Turn left
- **È qua vicino** — It's close by
- **È laggiù** — It's over there
- **È davanti alla scuola** — It's opposite the school
- **È dietro la stazione** — It's behind the station
- **È sotto il ponte** — It's under the bridge
- **È a fianco alla chiesa** — It's next to the church
- **È prima della stazione di servizio** — It's before the gas station
- **È dopo la gelateria** — It's past the ice-cream parlor
- **Dov'è il bagno?** — Where is the bathroom/toilet?

# Shopping

---

- **Mi piace questo** — I like this
- **Quanto costa questo?** — How much is this?
- **È troppo caro per me** — It's too expensive for me
- **Sì, grazie** — Yes, please
- **No, grazie** — No, thanks
- **Può farmi uno sconto?** — Can you do me a discount?
- **Cerco un/una...** — I'm looking for a...
- **Sto solo guardando** — I'm just looking around
- **Un attimo** — Just a moment

## I don't feel well

---

- **Mi porti in ospedale, per favore** — Take me to the hospital please (To a taxi driver)
- **Mi fa male qui** — It hurts here (pointing to body parts)
- **Ho bisogno di medicine** — I need some medicine
- **Può aiutarmi, per favore?** — Can you help me, please?
- **Devo andare da un medico** — I need to see a doctor
- **Non mi sento bene** — I don't feel well
- **Non si sente bene** — He/she doesn't feel well
- **C'è un ospedale da queste parti?** — Is there a hospital near here?



## Travel

---

- **Mi scusi.** — Excuse me. (Formal)
- **Non parlo bene l'italiano.** — I don't speak Italian well.
- **Parla inglese?** — Do you speak English? (Formal)
- **Parlo inglese.** — I speak English.
- **Non lo so.** — I don't know.
- **Non posso.** — I can't.
- **Non potevo.** — I couldn't.
- **Non lo faccio.** — I won't do it.
- **Non dimenticare!** — Don't forget!
- **Mi sono perso. (M); Mi sono persa. (F)** — I'm lost.
- **Sto cercando il mio albergo.** — I'm looking for my hotel.
- **Sì, lo so.** — Yes, I know.
- **Non lo so.** — I don't know.
- **Non so dove sia.** — I don't know where it is.
- **Non capisco.** — I don't understand.
- **Capisco, grazie.** — I understand, thanks.
- **Lei non mangia la carne.** — She doesn't eat meat.
- **Non siamo americani.** — We aren't American.
- **Il caffè non è buono.** — The coffee isn't good.
- **Non è caro!** — It's not expensive!
- **Può ripetere, per cortesia?** — Can you repeat, please? (Formal)
- **È bello.** — It's beautiful.
- **È bellissimo.** — It's very beautiful.
- **Vado a casa.** — I'm going home.
- **Domani visitiamo Venezia.** — We'll visit Venice tomorrow.
- **Due cappuccini, per favore.** — Two cappuccinos, please.

# Numbers

---

- **Uno** — one
- **Due** — two
- **Tre** — three
- **Quattro** — four
- **Cinque** — five
- **Sei** — six
- **Sette** — seven
- **Otto** — eight
- **Nove** — nine
- **Dieci** — ten
- **Undici** — eleven
- **Dodici** — twelve
- **Tredici** — thirteen
- **Quattordici** — fourteen
- **Quindici** — fifteen
- **Sedici** — sixteen
- **Diciassette** — seventeen
- **Diciotto** — eighteen
- **Diciannove** — nineteen
- **Venti** — twenty
- **Ventuno** — twenty-one
- **Ventidue** — twenty-two
- **Trenta** — thirty
- **Quaranta** — forty
- **Cinquanta** — fifty
- **Sessanta** — sixty
- **Settanta** — seventy
- **Ottanta** — eighty
- **Novanta** — ninety
- **Cento** — one hundred
- **Mille** — one thousand

## Date & Time

---

- **lunedì** — Monday
- **martedì** — Tuesday
- **mercoledì** — Wednesday
- **giovedì** — Thursday
- **venerdì** — Friday
- **sabato** — Saturday
- **domenica** — Sunday
- **gennaio** — January
- **febbraio** — February
- **marzo** — March
- **aprile** — April
- **maggio** — May
- **giugno** — June
- **luglio** — July
- **agosto** — August
- **settembre** — September
- **ottobre** — October
- **novembre** — November
- **dicembre** — December
- **Che giorno è oggi?** — What day is today?
- **Oggi è venerdì.** — Today is Friday.
- **Che giorno parti? (Informal); Che giorno parte? (Formal)** — What day are you leaving?
- **Parto lunedì.** — I'm leaving on Monday.
- **In che mese vai in Italia? (Informal)** — What month are you going to Italy?
- **Ad agosto.** — In August.
- **Quando è il tuo compleanno? (Informal)** — When's your birthday?
- **Il sette novembre.** — November 7.

# Family

---

- **madre** — mother
- **padre** — father
- **genitori** — parents
- **sorella** — sister
- **fratello** — brother
- **figlia** — daughter
- **figlio** — son
- **marito** — husband
- **moglie** — wife
- **zia** — aunt
- **zio** — uncle
- **nonna** — grandmother
- **nonno** — grandfather

When you're talking about just one member of your family, or of someone else's family, you just strap the Italian word for "my", "your", "his", "her" etc (a.k.a possessive adjectives) onto the front.

- **my mother** — mia madre
- **your grandfather** — tuo nonno
- **her aunt** — sua zia



# Speak Italian with confidence.

**TAKE YOUR FIRST LESSON**

[www.thinkinitalian.com](http://www.thinkinitalian.com)