



Smart-lesson Nr 0 - Italian, level 1

Topics:

- Present tense: 2nd person (informal) of the verb “to come” and how to use it immediately in conversation.
- Some useful words to help you start to form sentences.
- How to ask questions.
- How to say “yes”, “no” and “maybe”.

Lesson:

Listen and repeat: **Vieni**.

“**Vieni**” means “you come”. You should try to remember the ending, the sound /i/. Say it once more: “**Vieni**”.

“-i” is the ending, indicating who is performing the action, for the second-person singular (“you” in English). This is the ending you should use when you speak to one person directly, in an informal way, which is 90% of the time in Italian. Italians speak informally to each other most of the time.

Say it once more: “**Vieni**” (= you come)

Good news: “-i” indicates the “you” informal ending for ALL verbs (regular and irregular).

For example: studi (you study), balli (you dance), etc.

No need to remember these verbs now, you will learn them all. For now, just focus on “**vieni**”, “you come” and on its ending “-i”.

You now know the ending of all Italian verbs in the second person in the present tense (“you” informal, one person, addressed directly, in English), the sound /i/.

...if, in the past, you have learnt the actual word for “you”, forget about it for now—we don’t really use it. In fact, using it can make your Italian sound rude or unnatural.

Let’s add one more word: “**domani**”

“**Domani**” means “tomorrow”.

Say it once more: “**domani**”

If I said “**vieni domani**”, could you guess what it means? Say it or write it here: _____

If you said or wrote “you come tomorrow”, you are right!
Say it aloud after me: **Vieni domani.**

In order to ask a question in Italian, you just have to raise your intonation on the last word. You can probably guess how to say “Are you coming tomorrow?”...

Just repeat the earlier sentence and raise your intonation towards the end. Repeat after me:

Vieni domani? = “Are you coming tomorrow?”

You can use it when you’re talking to a friend and you want to know whether they are coming to an event, to work, etc.

Let’s imagine three possible answers.

- 1) **Si.** “Si” means “yes. Say it once more: “Si”
- 2) **No.** “No” means “no”. Say it once more: “No”
- 3) **Forse.** “Forse” means “maybe”. Say it once more: “Forse”

Now let’s imagine that we were invited to a party tomorrow and I asked you:

“Vieni domani?”

How might you answer? Just pick one of the answers you have just seen (**si/no/forse**).

Now let’s imagine where you could be invited...

Can you guess what I am asking you?

Vieni alla conferenza?

If you answered “Are you coming to the conference?”, you are right!

Let’s learn two new words:

- 1) **“cena”** = dinner
Say it once more: “cena”. (N.B. same “c” as in “ciao”, if you know the word for “hello” in Italian)
- 2) **“gita”** = excursion
Say it once more: “gita”. (N.B. same “g” as in “gelato”, if you know the word for “ice-cream” in Italian)

Can you guess the meaning of the following questions?

Vieni alla cena? (= Are you coming to the dinner?)

Vieni alla gita? (= Are you coming to the excursion?)

Vieni alla conferenza domani? (= Are you coming to the conference tomorrow?)

Let’s learn one last word.

Listen and repeat: **“oggi”**.

“oggi” means “today”. Say it once more: **“oggi”**.

You can use it with everything you have seen so far.

For example:

Vieni alla gita oggi? (= are you coming to the excursion today?)

Can you guess how to say “Are you coming to the conference today?”

...Vieni alla conferenza oggi?

Let's now see everything in conversation:

- Ciao Maria, vieni alla conferenza oggi?
- Sì!

- Ciao Marco, vieni alla gita domani?
- Forse...

- Ciao Luca, vieni alla cena oggi?
- No...

→ Very soon you will be able to say much more!

Well done! Bravo! (or brava!)

Takeaways:

It's impossible to remember everything the first time round. Focus on recurrent and/or important words/structures.

Below are the important takeaways from this lesson (this is what you should try to remember/use/revise).

Grammar points:

“-i” (ending for the second-person singular, informal), e.g. **vieni** (you come)

Don't use the subject pronouns (“I”, “you”, etc.) together with verbs. Instead, focus on the verb ending (in this case: -i, pronounced /i/).

...and no, it's not clearer for Italians if you use the word for “you” before the conjugated verb (it would more likely sound rude/arrogant).

If you want to ask questions in Italian, just raise your intonation. Most importantly, remember to raise your intonation when saying the last word in the question (or the last part of a word, if the sentence is made up of only one word).

For example:

Vieni?

Vieni alla conferenza?

Words:	si = yes no = no (as an answer, as opposed to “yes”) forse = maybe oggi = today domani = tomorrow	Vieni = you come (informal, addressing one person) Vieni? = are you coming? (informal, addressing one person) Conferenza = conference <u>Alla</u> conferenza = <u>to the</u> conference Gita = excursion <u>Alla</u> gita = <u>to the</u> excursion Cena = dinner <u>Alla</u> cena = <u>to the</u> dinner
Sentences to remember:	Vieni domani? (Are you coming tomorrow?) Vieni alla conferenza? (Are you coming to the conference?)	Vieni alla gita oggi? (Are you coming to the excursion today?) Vieni? (Are you coming?)

Homework (Practice time!):

I don't expect you to remember new things straight away: you are of course welcome to have a look at the explanations in order to complete this part. Ideally, from the next lesson onwards, you will try to remember the vocabulary, verbs and structures from previous lessons, before looking them up.

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the verb ending when you are talking to an individual directly in an informal way? _____
2. Write an example (e.g. you come): _____

Translate the following sentences into English:

3. Vieni alla cena domani? _____
4. Vieni alla conferenza oggi? _____
5. Vieni alla gita? _____
6. Forse. _____

Translate the following sentences into Italian:

7. Are you coming?
- _____

8. Are you coming to the dinner today?

9. Are you coming to the conference tomorrow?

React to the following questions (in any way you can):

Ideally, this should be a speaking exercise. If you want to write your answers out, do this afterwards. The aim of this exercise is to train fluency, not accuracy. This means answering/reacting when people talk to you, rather than waiting to have the perfect sentence before responding (maybe the person will leave before you get the chance...!).

Your answer doesn't have to be perfect, just do your best with what you know.

For example, if I ask you "Vieni alla conferenza?" you can say "Sì", "No" or "Forse" (and very soon you will be able to say much more!).

There are no wrong answers as long as you react to what I am asking you. For this part, grammar is less important than you reacting to my questions. The aim of speaking, especially in social situations, is communication – even if it's just expressing the fact that you haven't understood something (you will learn how to express this in future units). Just do your best to get the message across. Your best is always enough!

Now it's your turn! React to the following questions:

1. Vieni alla conferenza domani? E.g. Yes/no/maybe
2. Vieni alla cena oggi? E.g. Yes/no/maybe
3. Vieni alla gita? E.g. Yes/no/maybe
4. Vieni alla conferenza oggi? E.g. Yes/no/maybe
5. Vieni alla cena domani? E.g. Yes/no/maybe

Well done! Bravo! (or brava!)

See you tomorrow!