Unit 1 - Review #6

PREPOSITIONS and Articulated Prepositions

We are moving forward and going to tackle what might arguably be one of the most challenging topic for students of Italian to master... PREPOSITIONS and ARTICULATED PREPOSITIONS!

Even when you become fluent in Italian, you can still be confused by prepositions and how to use them correctly every time. In this review, we will summarize the key points of prepositions and articulated prepositions so that you have a guide to look back on when you need a reminder!

(If you are a student who learns best through song or rhymes, please rewatch the start of this review video to hear the melody of a little song Italians sing when learning prepositions. It may be a good memory tool for you!)

Although prepositions and articulated prepositions are a concept that will surely confuse you a bit, luckily for us, they behave in a relatively predictable way. So, once you grasp prepositions and articulated prepositions, you will be able to follow some guidelines, more or less, to help you use them correctly!

Tell me everything you know about Prepositions! When do you use each one? How much can you remember?
### The main PREPOSITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DI</th>
<th>OF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>TO / AT</td>
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<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>FROM</td>
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<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td>IN</td>
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<tr>
<td>CON</td>
<td>WITH</td>
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<tr>
<td>SU</td>
<td>ON / OVER</td>
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<tr>
<td>PER</td>
<td>FOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRA / FRA</td>
<td>BETWEEN / AMONG / AMONGST</td>
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We are going to first begin with the **prepositions** **CON, SU, PER**.

Tell me everything you know about the prepositions: CON, SU, PER.
The Prepositions CON, SU, PER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CON</th>
<th>WITH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SU</td>
<td>ON / OVER</td>
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<tr>
<td>PER</td>
<td>FOR</td>
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The preposition **CON** may be the easiest one to use out of these three. It means *WITH* and it is used in the same way that you would use it in English.

**Examples:**

Mi piace studiare con Flavia.  
I like to study with Flavia.

Esci con me?  
Will you go out with me?

Orecchiette con i carciofi  
Orecchiette (type of pasta) with artichokes

The preposition **PER** is another relatively easy one. It translates in most cases to *FOR*, and is also used the way it would be used in English.

**Examples:**

Ecco un regalo per tua figlia.  
Here is a present for your daughter.

Ho studiato l'Italiano per tre anni.  
I studied Italian for three years.

**NOTE**
Since we use the **Passato Prossimo** **HO STUDIATO** in this sentence, it means that *I STUDIED* Italian for three years and no longer study it.

If you want to say: *I have been studying Italian for three years (and still study it)*, the sentence is:  
Studio l'Italiano da tre anni.

We basically need to state the fact in the Present Tense and use the Proposition **DA** (*from*).
Another Example using \textbf{PER}:

\textit{Per} chi cucini stasera? \hspace{1cm} \textit{For whom are you cooking tonight?}

\textit{Who are you cooking for tonight?}

The \textbf{preposition SU} is very similar to English. It means \textit{ON}. Like English, the \textbf{preposition SU} is usually followed by an article like, \textit{ON THE TABLE}.

\textbf{Examples:}

La penna è \textit{sul} tavolo. \hspace{1cm} \textit{The pen is on the table.}

In this example, \textit{SU} combines with the article \textit{IL} from \textit{IL TAVOLO}.

\textit{SU} + \textit{IL} = \textit{SUL}

Scrive un libro sulla lingua Italiana \hspace{1cm} \textit{I am writing a book about/on the Italian language.}

In this example, \textit{SU} combines with the article \textit{LA} from \textit{LA LINGUA}.

\textit{SU} + \textit{LA} = \textit{SULLA}

Vado su! \hspace{1cm} \textit{I am going upstairs!}

In this example, \textit{SU} means \textit{UPSTAIRS}. \textit{GIÙ} on the other hand, means \textit{DOWNSTAIRS}.

\textbf{SU} combines with articles

\textbf{CON / PER} only combines with articles in speech (you’ll see more of this when we get to the part about \textbf{Articulated Prepositions}).

\textbf{PER} “in order to”

If you wanted to say:

\textit{In order to find a job, you must have a good CV}

You would use the preposition \textbf{PER}:

\textit{Per trovare lavoro, devi avere un buon CV}

I know that \textbf{TROVARE} already means \textit{TO FIND}. But remember, Italian is its own language and the more you try to translate things word for word, the more confused you will become. So in this
sentence, you say **PER TROVARE** because in Italian you need something to suggest that the verb we are using is performed “in order to” achieve another goal/verb. 

Vado in Italia **per** migliorare il mio Italiano  
*I’m going to Italy to improve/better my Italian*

This sentence is similar to the one above. **MIGLIORARE** already means **TO IMPROVE**. But, we must say **PER MIGLIORARE**. If it helps you remember the correct usage of **PER**, say this sentence in English like this instead: 
*I’m going to Italy (in order to) improve/better my Italian*

Or, in a slightly odd English:
*I’m going to Italy for improving/bettering my Italian*

In Italian, you **CAN’T** end a sentence in a **preposition**. In English you might say: 
*Want to come with?*

In Italian, you **can’t** say this because you can’t end a sentence with the preposition **CON**.

You can say: 
**Vuoi venire con me?**  
*Want to come with me?*

**More examples:**

**Con chi esci?**  
*Who are you going out with?*

**Perché lo fai?**  
*What are you doing this for?*
Tell me everything you know about the prepositions: TRA / FRA.

Anytime you want to say AMONGST or BETWEEN, you can use either TRA or FRA, as they’re interchangeable and usually chosen based on personal preference to avoid the repetition of the sounds TR and FR in nearby words.

Examples:

Abito tra Roma e Firenze
È seduto fra i suoi amici
Quale preferisci fra tutti questi?

I live between Rome and Florence
He’s sitting amongst/between his friends
Which do you prefer among/between all of these?

Another point to remember about the prepositions TRA / FRA, is that it is also used when in English we say IN when referring to Time.
Examples:

Ci vediamo fra 10 minuti  
Vado in Italia fra due mesi

See you in 10 minutes  
I am going to Italy in two months

It’s a common mistake for student to say:
*Ci vediamo in 10 minuti
Notice it now, and do your best to not make this mistake!

TRA / FRA only combines with prepositions in speech.

The preposition DA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DA</th>
<th>FROM / BY / FOR</th>
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</table>

Tell me everything you know about the preposition DA.

The preposition DA is another one that is often combined with a definite article.
Examples:

Ho ricevuto un regalo da Carlo
I received a present from Carlo
Vengo dalla spiaggia
I am coming from the beach
Da dove arriva questo pacco?
Where does this parcel come from?
Prendete l’acqua dal frigo
Take the water from the fridge

The **preposition** **DA** becomes a little confusing when it comes to **verbs of movement**. With **verbs of movement**, the preposition **DA** can mean **TO**.

When we are referring to **Time**, the preposition **DA** can mean **FOR**.

Examples:

Stasera andiamo da Rita
Tonight we are going to Rita’s
Studio Italiano da quattro anni
I’ve been studying Italian for four years
Ti aspettiamo da due ore!
We’ve been waiting for you for two hours!

I know, this is a challenging concept in Italian! Don’t worry so much about it. Practice will help you get better at it. I know people who are fluent and really good at Italian who still get **prepositions** confused when they speak. You just have to do your best! I know English very well but still make mistakes sometimes. This is all apart of learning a new language!

**The preposition A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>TO / AT</th>
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</table>

Before we review more about the **preposition A**:  

**What can you remember about the preposition A?**
Right from the start the **preposition A** has two meanings: **TO** or **AT**.

**Some examples:**

- **Sono a scuola**
  - *I’m at school*
- **Studiate all’università**
  - *You guys study at the university*
- **A che ora parti?**
  - *(At) what time are you leaving?*
- **Porto la cena a mia sorella**
  - *I am bringing dinner to my sister*

The examples above are quite similar to when you would use **TO** or **AT** in English. However, the **preposition A** is the preposition we use before **cities**:

**Example:**

- **Abitiamo a Roma**
  - *We live in Rome*

In English you would say:

*We live in Rome*

But, in Italian, instead of using **IN** we use the preposition **A**.

Don’t forget that the **preposition A** combines with definite articles. You can see in the sentence above:

- **Studiate all’università**
  - *(for l’università)*
  - **A + LA** = **ALL’università**.

The **preposition A** is also used to introduce **direction of movement**. It can also be used between **two verbs**. As you can see, the **preposition A** is used in many different ways!

**Examples of A used to introduce direction of movement:**

- **Stasera andate al cinema?**
  - *Are you guys going to the cinema/movies tonight?*
- **Non vado a casa, vado a scuola!**
  - *I’m not going to school, I’m going (to) home!*

**Examples of A between two verbs:**

- **Vado a casa a preparare la cena**
  - *I’m going (to) home to prepare dinner*
- **Vai in Italia a studiare o a lavorare?**
  - *Are you going to Italy to work or to study?*
The Preposition DI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DI</th>
<th>OF</th>
</tr>
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</table>

What can you remember about the preposition DI?

The preposition DI means OF. It is used to express material or the “intrinsic” quality of something.

Examples:

- Un tavolo di legno  
  A wooden table / Table made of wood
- Un vestito di cotone  
  A cotton dress / A dress made of cotton

The preposition DI is used also as the English Saxon Genitive would be used. You add the preposition DI where you would add an apostrophe S in English, “’S”.

Examples:

- La casa di Marco  
  Marco’s house
- Il compleanno di Lucia  
  Lucia’s birthday

Notice the order: thing owned first + DI + owner
The preposition **DI** is also used when English would use two nouns where one noun describes another. In English you are basically using one of the two nouns as an adjective, but in Italian we simply cannot have one noun describing another noun. **DI** (and sometimes **DA**) fix this problem.

**Il libro di ricette**  
*A recipe book / A book of recipes*

In English, both *RECIPE* and *BOOK* are nouns, but we are using *RECIPE* as an adjective of *BOOK*.

**Il corso di italiano mi piace molto**  
*I like the course of Italian a lot / I like the Italian course a lot*

**La festa di compleanno di Lucia**  
*The party of Lucia's birthday / Lucia's birthday party*

If you are finding it challenging to understand how to use the preposition **DI**, refer back to *Beginner Italian Level 1* where they were first introduced, or check your grammar good.

### The Preposition IN

<table>
<thead>
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<th>IN</th>
<th>IN</th>
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What can you remember about the preposition **IN**?
The preposition **IN**, I think, is pretty straightforward. It gets a little tricky when it is used with **verbs of movement**, but we’re going to do our best to understand it as clearly and as straightforward as possible.

The **preposition IN** usually combines with **articles**.

**Examples:**

- Metti l’acqua nel frigo  
  *Put the water in the fridge*
- Ho gli occhiali nello zaino  
  *I have glasses in the backpack*
  *(my glasses are in my backpack)*

The **preposition IN** will combine with articles like we see above. UNLESS we are using the **preposition IN** with **verbs of movement**, to express **movement towards** *(TO)*. In this case, **IN** stays unchanged.

**Examples:**

- Andiamo in banca  
  *We are going to the bank*
  *(NOT *andiamo nella banca)*
- Andiamo in palestra  
  *We are going to the gym*
- Andiamo in farmacia  
  *We are going to the pharmacy*

The **preposition IN** is used in many many different expressions for no particular reason like:

- In vacanza  
  *on holiday / vacation*
- In spiaggia  
  *at the beach*
- In ufficio  
  *at the office*

The **preposition IN** is also used before **Countries and States or Regions**.

**Examples:**

- Abito in Italia  
  *I live in Italy*
- Sono in vacanza  
  *I am on vacation / holiday*
- Vado in Italia  
  *I am going to Italy*
- In Italia si parla Italiano  
  *In Italy you speak in Italian*
When the Preposition IN is NOT used

The **preposition IN** is **NOT** used with expressions of Time
The **preposition IN** is **NOT** used before the months of the year

We **DO NOT** say:
*Ci vediamo in due giorni
We **SAY**:
Ci vediamo fra / tra due gironi  
*I will see you/we will see each other in two days*

We **DO NOT** say:
*In settembre mi sposo
We **SAY**:
A settembre mi sposo  
*I am getting married in September*

The Prepositions A, IN, DA with Verbs of Movement

What can you remember about the prepositions A, IN, DA when they are used with Verbs of Movement?
When we use the **prepositions** **A**, **IN**, **DA** with **verbs of movement**, they can be roughly translated to the English **TO**. Yes this can be considered a lot. Three Italian **prepositions** for one English **preposition**. Give it time and practice!

**Examples:**

Vado a Roma  
_I am going to Rome_

Vado in Italia  
_I am going to Italy_

Vado da Manu  
_I am going to Manu’s_

The **preposition** **A** is used when we are going to/towards a **City**. This may be the easiest way to use it.

The **preposition** **A** is also used with “**symbolic**” **destinations**, or **concepts**. What I mean by this is that you can tell someone that you are going to the **OPERA** or **THEATER**. Yes, you are going to a physical place, but these activities are **concepts** and **art forms**. You can tell someone that you go to **COLLEGE** or **UNIVERSITY**. When you say this, you usually don’t imply that you are physically going to the building where the **concept** of **education** persists, but that your occupation is student and that you **ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE**.

The **preposition** **A** is also used with certain **fixed** expressions.

**Some examples of fixed expressions that use A:**

**A CASA**  
_HOME_

**A SCUOLA**  
_TO SCHOOL_

**A LAVORO**  
_TO WORK_

**AL SUPERMERCATO**  
_TO THE SUPERMARKET_

**AL CINEMA**  
_TO THE CINEMA / MOVIES_

**AL MERCATO**  
_TO THE MARKET_

**AL MARE**  
_TO THE BEACH_

The **preposition** **A** usually combines with a **Definite Article**. But again, not always. You just have to remember the **fixed** expressions and phrases that **don’t** require it, like, **A CASA**.
Examples:

- Stasera andiamo all'opera  
  Tonight we’re going to the opera
- Studio all'università  
  I study at the University / I go to College
- Vado a casa / a lavoro / a scuola  
  I am going home / to work / to school
- Andate al cinema / al supermercato  
  You guys are going to the cinema(movies) / to the supermarket

We use the **preposition IN** when we speak of going to a **general destination**, movement **INTO** a building, Country, States, Regions.

Examples:

- Vado in banca/in posta/in chiesa  
  I am going to the bank/post office/to church
- Andiamo in America  
  We’re going to America
- Andiamo negli Stati Uniti  
  We’re going to the United States

In this last example we see **IN** combined with **GLI**. I told you that **IN** doesn’t usually combine with **articles** when it refers to movement towards something. Why do you think that in this specific sentence, **IN** is combined with an **article**?

Because **GLI** is apart of **STATI UNITI**. The correct way the say **THE UNITED STATES** is, **GLI STATI UNITI**.

More examples:

- Venite in Calabria?  
  Are you guys coming to Calabria?
- Vengo in California  
  I am coming to California

Don’t overthink this! Some expressions you’re just better off memorizing. If you try to make sense of every little detail of the Italian language, it will get unbearably confusing! Trust yourself and trust the process!
Now here’s a piece of information that will either confuse you, or get you excited. I know that I told you that when it come to verbs of movement, we use the preposition IN. This is true when we are saying that we’re going to the BANK, LIBRARY and so forth.

But, if we are talking about a specific place, like a specific COMMONWEALTH BANK or NATIONAL MUSEUM, we use the preposition A. Look here:

Andiamo alla banca dove lavora Sara  We’re going to the bank where Sara works

This example is very specific because we aren’t going into just any bank, we’re going to a bank where our friend SARA works.

Andiamo alla Biblioteca Nazionale  We’re going to the National Library

In this example we aren’t going into just any library, we’re going into the NATIONAL LIBRARY of the place we’re in/visiting.

When we are talking about a general destination, we use the preposition IN. Whenever we specify the destination, we switch back to the preposition A, combined with the correct Definite Article.

The preposition DA means FROM. But when it is used with verbs of movement, the preposition DA can mean TO. This happens when we move towards a person.

Examples:

Vado dal panettiere  I am going to the bread baker
Devi andare dal dottore?  Do you have to go to the doctor?
Passo dal farmacista  I am going to pass/walk by the pharmacist
Andiamo da Luca e Stefano?  Are we going to Luca and Stefano’s?

This preposition with verbs of movement may be the easiest to remember because it’s consistent!
Articulated Prepositions / Combined Prepositions

What can say about Articulated / Combined Prepositions?

Some prepositions merge with the definite article that follows.

In English you would say:

*To the children*

In this example, *TO* is the preposition and *THE* is the definite article. In Italian, *TO* is **A**, and *THE CHILDREN* is, **I BAMBINI**.

So, **Preposition + Definite Article = Articulated Preposition**

**A + I = AI bambini**

These prepositions combine with the Definite Articles ALL the time:

**DI, A, DA, IN, SU**

This preposition combines with Definite Articles only in speech:

**CON**

These prepositions sometimes combine, only in speech:

**PER, TRA, FRA**

You would see these prepositions merges in poetic writing. In speech you may sometimes hear it but not often. I don’t recommend you try this right now because it’s not necessary or common.
Why do we merge **prepositions** with the **article**? Because it's faster! Simple! When you combine a **preposition** with the **article**, you basically combine two words to make one, and it actually rolls off your tongue smoother when you speak!

**Examples:**

Prendo l’acqua *dal* frigo e la metto *sul* tavolo

Lavori *dalle* 8 *alle* 16

È aperto *dai* lunedì *al* sabato

*Dalla* finestra si vedono le montagne

**Col** tempo, tutto passa

È entrata Marta *con* scarpe bagnate

Usciamo *con* amici

Here is an example of **PER** + **IL**:

*Per* compleanno di Rita faccio la torta

Like I said, this way is kind of poetic and I don’t recommend you do it. I do it sometimes when I’m speaking very very fast and just combining words. You will hear a lot of these combinations from people who are speaking very quickly.
How do these combinations work?

The **Definite Articles**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IL</th>
<th>L'</th>
<th>LO</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>GLI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA</td>
<td>L'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LE</td>
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The **Merging Prepositions**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DI</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>DA</th>
<th>IN</th>
<th>SU</th>
<th>(CON)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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**Combinations for the preposition A:**

| A + IL | AL  |
| A + L  | ALL'  |
| A + LA | ALLA |
| A + LO | ALLO |
| A + I  | AI  |
| A + GLI | AGLI |
| A + LE | ALLE |

**Examples:**

- Porto la pizza alle ragazze
  - I'm bringing pizza *to the girls*
- All'aeroporto non c'è mai parcheggio
  - There's never any parking *at the airport*
- Agli italiani piace mangiare
  - Italians *like to eat/eating is pleasing to Italians*
### Combinations for the preposition *DI*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DI + IL</th>
<th>DEL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DI + L</td>
<td>DELL’</td>
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<td>DI + LA</td>
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<td>DELLO</td>
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<td>DI + I</td>
<td>DEI</td>
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<tr>
<td>DI + GLI</td>
<td>DEGLI</td>
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<tr>
<td>DI + LE</td>
<td>DELLE</td>
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### Combinations for the preposition *DA*:

<table>
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<th>DA + IL</th>
<th>DAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>DA + L</td>
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<td>DA + LA</td>
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<td>DA + LO</td>
<td>DALLO</td>
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<td>DA + I</td>
<td>DAI</td>
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<tr>
<td>DA + GLI</td>
<td>DAGLI</td>
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<td>DA + LE</td>
<td>DALLE</td>
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### Combinations for the preposition *IN*:

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<th>IN + IL</th>
<th>NEL</th>
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<td>IN + L</td>
<td>NELL’</td>
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<tr>
<td>IN + LA</td>
<td>NELLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>IN + LO</td>
<td>NELLO</td>
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<tr>
<td>IN + I</td>
<td>NEI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN + GLI</td>
<td>NEGLI</td>
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<tr>
<td>IN + LE</td>
<td>NELLE</td>
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### Combinations for the preposition **SU:**

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<th>SU + IL</th>
<th>SUL</th>
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<tr>
<td>SU + L</td>
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<td>SU + LA</td>
<td>SULLA</td>
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<td>SU + LO</td>
<td>SULLO</td>
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<td>SU + I</td>
<td>SUI</td>
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<tr>
<td>SU + GLI</td>
<td>SUGLI</td>
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<tr>
<td>SU + LE</td>
<td>SULLE</td>
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### Combinations for the preposition **CON:**

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<tr>
<th>CON + IL</th>
<th>COL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CON + L</td>
<td>COLL’</td>
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<td>CON + LA</td>
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<td>CON + LO</td>
<td>COLLO</td>
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<tr>
<td>CON + I</td>
<td>COI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CON + GLI</td>
<td>COGLI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CON + LE</td>
<td>COLLE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Examples:

- Compro vestiti **dagli** amici di Sandra  
  *I buy clothes from Sandra’s friends*
- Portano lo zaino **sulle** spalle  
  *They carry the backpack on the shoulders*
- Mangiamo **dai** genitori di Rita  
  *We’re eating at Rita’s parents*
- Scrive un libro **sull’importanza** dell’alimentazione  
  *I am writing a book on the importance of nutrition*
- Il problema **dello** smog è che...  
  *The problem of the smog is...*
The great thing about these combinations is that you just have to memorize the combination for each preposition with the article IL. Then, it will be easy to replicate it using the rest of them!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEL</th>
<th>AL</th>
<th>DAL</th>
<th>NEL</th>
<th>SUL</th>
<th>(COL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The PARTITIVO

What do you remember about the PARTITIVO?

What is the PARTITIVO? It is when you use the articulated preposition DI to express an unspecified and undefined quantity!

Examples:
Vorrei del pane     I would like some bread
Prendiamo della pizza     We’re getting some pizza
Conosco delle persone simpatiche     I know friendly people
Mi porti delle carote?     Will you bring me some carrots?

If you don’t have a specific amount/quantity of something, and just want SOME of something, we use the Partitivo.

Don’t say:
*Vorrei pane
Say:
Vorrei del pane

It’s good to get familiar with the PARTITIVO because Italians use it a lot! It adds to the melody and flow of the Italian language.

If you’re not ready to use the PARTITIVO yet, can you think of other expressions that would mean the same thing as saying SOME of something?
Other ways to express unspecified amounts

QUALCHE

ALCUNI / ALCUNE

UN PO’ DI

literally means: a little bit

Do you remember these expressions?

Examples:

Compro delle carote
I’m buying some carrots / a few carrots
Compro qualche carota
I’m buying some carrots / a few carrots
Compro alcune carote
I’m buying some carrots / a few carrots
Compro un po’ di carote
I’m buying some carrots / a few carrots

All of these sentences mean the same thing in Italian! So is there ANY difference between them?

QUALCHE + SINGULAR ITEM

Qualche amico
A few friends

Even though we are basically speaking of friends, when we use QUALCHE we need to use the noun in the singular: AMICO.

ALCUNI/E + PLURAL

Alcune carote
Some carrots
Alcuni amici
Some friends

When using ALCUNI/E, you have to match the gender and make sure your noun is plural.

UN PO’ DI + SINGULAR/PLURAL

Vorrei un po’ d'acqua
I would like a little bit of water
Vorrei un po’ di torta
I would like a little bit of cake

This expression literally means A LITTLE BIT OF. Although you can use it in the place of any of the other expressions listed above, be cautious with this one. It’s very colloquial. You wouldn’t really say:

Un po’ di amici
A little bit of friends
It’s not wrong if you say it this way, but would you? Or would you rather say SOME FRIENDS or A FEW FRIENDS? However, you can absolutely have a LITTLE BIT OF WATER or CAKE.

Which one should you use?

If you asked me which expressions I like the best and which ones I think are the most eloquent to express this content of ‘undefined quantity’ here is what I’d say!

**MY PREFERENCE LIST:**

1. **PARTITIVO**
2. **QUALCHE**
3. **ALCUNI / ALCUNE**
4. **UN PO’ DI**

This means, that I would be, in most cases using the Partitivo, occasionally replacing it by QUALCHE. ALCUNI/ALCUNE is very beautiful, but tends to be used more in writing, while with UN PO’ DI we run the risk of sounding too casual.

If we wanted to express that “we are eating (some/a few) pastries”, we could say:

1. Mangiamo delle paste
2. Mangiamo qualche pasta
3. Mangiamo alcune paste
4. Mangiamo un po’ di paste

* Don’t be confused with this word... PASTA means PASTA when it’s uncountable, but it means PASTRY (as in Danish) when it is countable!
Your Notes