

*Conversational
Italian
for
Travelers*

Kathryn Occhipinti



Conversational Italian for Travelers

Copyright © June 2012, by Kathryn Occhipinti

International Standard Book Number: 978-0-9903834-5-1

Publisher: Stella Lucente, LLC

Author: Kathryn Occhipinti

Italian Editor: Simona Giuggioli

Graphics and Page Layout: Cyndi Clark

Cover Photograph: Entrance to Piazza San Marco, Venice
Kathryn Occhipinti

Map of Italian Cities: www.maps-of-europe.net

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Order at:

Internet: www.StellaLucente.com or www.learntravelitalian.com

Stella Lucente, LLC

P.O. Box 9640

Peoria, IL 61612

Dedication: *To my parents, who made it possible for me to dream of big things and far away places.*

How to Use This Book

This book, *Conversational Italian for Travelers*, is unique in that it functions both to teach the Italian language in a gradual, understandable way, and also to serve as a reference book for important travel phrases, basic and intermediate grammar, verb conjugations, numbers, and the idiomatic expressions spoken by real Italians today.

The idea is that the adult who is interested in learning a second language has specific needs to communicate with other adults and the world around him, and that these needs should be stressed. In fact, most adults try to learn a new language fairly quickly before they must visit, relocate, or do business in another country. This book is designed to focus on the vocabulary and grammar adults will most often encounter, while at the same time teaching the formal rules of the language. It is an instructional book that can be kept for later reference as well.

The material covered is from beginning to intermediate levels, and contains three units. The units describe the information covered: "Transportation," "City Life," and "Hotels and Restaurants" – with three full chapters on how to read those Italian menus!

Each unit is divided into six chapters, and each chapter contains the following sections: "Dialogue," "Vocabulary," "Important Phrases," "Cultural Note," "Grammar," "Verbs," "Idiomatic Expressions," and "Numbers." The Italian words are color-coded and specifically organized to make visual learning easy. The book assumes some knowledge of English grammar and will be easiest to use by those who have already attempted to learn a second language at school, but was developed to be useful to adults of any education level or experience. The "Getting Started" section at the very beginning of the text introduces the Italian alphabet and idea of gender agreement for those who are entirely new to the romance languages.

There is an emphasis on using technology to one's best advantage in the world today, with links to informational internet sites and tips on how to communicate internationally. The information is presented in an interesting way, as we follow our main character, Caterina, through her travels in Italy, with cultural notes about important places and events that she encounters during her trip. The culture of Italy is presented throughout the book, with helpful tips on how to handle encounters on the transportation system in Italy, as well as at Italian hotels and restaurants.

Here is a summary of what can be learned from each unit from this book:

Unit 1 – “Transportation”

The unit entitled, “Transportation,” covers the Italian vocabulary/grammar/verbs needed to use the various modes of transportation in Italy to get from one place to the other – airplane, taxi, train, and car travel are undertaken by Caterina, the main character, for the example phrases in our dialogues . Important “Meeting and Greeting” phrases are covered. The simple present tense, with most pronunciation and spelling exceptions, is gradually introduced throughout the unit. The final chapter also includes the present progressive tense.

Unit 2 – “City Life”

The unit entitled, “City Life,” covers the Italian vocabulary/grammar/verbs needed to communicate with people the visitor may already know, such as relatives, or will get to know or meet while traveling in Italy. Reflexive verbs and object pronouns are covered in detail, as these are the verbs of relationships, along with the familiar command form. The present perfect past tense form is also covered. Vocabulary and expressions needed for shopping are discussed in detail.

Unit 3 – “At the Hotel”

The unit entitled, “At the Hotel,” covers the Italian vocabulary/grammar/verbs needed to communicate with people while staying at a hotel, as well as how make reservations and order at a restaurant. The first three chapters are devoted to Caterina’s “trip within her trip” with her Italian family to the lakeside town of Stresa, and the last three to a celebratory meal they have at a restaurant in Stresa at the conclusion of their vacation. The imperfect past tense is introduced, with emphasis on when to use the imperfect past tense and when to use the present perfect (past) tense. The future and conditional tenses are also covered in detail.

Here is a summary of the sections found in each individual chapter:

1. "Dialogue" – The dialogues create a running story from one chapter to the next. We follow the main character Caterina as she journeys to Italy, meets her relatives and their friends, and spends some vacation time at the beach. There are dialogues which focus on taking public transportation, as well as going to a party, meeting that special someone, making reservations, and eating out in a restaurant.
2. "Vocabulary" – This section expands on the dialogue section before it; important vocabulary words from the dialogue are included, with additional words that can be used in a similar situation.
3. "Important Phrases" – The phrases covered in this section are important for travelers and can be used to create a "travel phrase book." The phrases included often have more complex verb use or sentence structure than are covered in the same or preceding chapters, but are short enough (and important enough) to be committed to memory without the background knowledge. This section will generally have some relation to the subject matter of each chapter.
4. "Cultural Note" – Additional vocabulary and/or information is given in this section that relates to the chapter topic. For instance, for the chapter "Taking the Train," the cultural note gives a description about how to use the railway system in Italy to get from the major Italian airports to one's destination. Excerpts from the cultural notes in the book can be found on www.learntravelitalian.com and www.StellaLucente.com.
5. "Grammar Note" – Grammar rules for beginning to intermediate sentence structure are given, with emphasis on gender and number agreement; definite articles and their nouns, pronouns, indefinite articles, adjectives, adverbs, and cognates are discussed.
6. "Verbs" – Basic verb conjugation and rules for the present tense in Units 1 and 2, including a short section on the familiar command forms and extensive discussion of reflexive verbs and use of direct and indirect object pronouns. The last section of Unit 2 and the first section of Unit 3 cover the present perfect (past) tense, past participles, and the imperfect past tense. The remainder of Unit 3 covers future and conditional tenses.
7. "Grammar Point" – Addresses additional grammar information related to verbs
8. "Idiomatic Expressions" – More important phrases that are necessary to understand the way Italians speak today, which may not follow the specific rules of grammar previously outlined.
9. "Numbers" – Counting from zero to 100 in the first unit, and use of these numbers to tell time. Counting from one hundred to one billion in the second and third units, and use of these numbers to give the date, pay for purchases, etc. A short discussion of European currency is also included.

The Unique Pagination System

Conversational Italian for Travelers can be purchased as a C.D. and then printed out if desired, and arranged in a typical 3 hole spiral loose leaf binder. Purchase the right to download the entire book in PDF format into your electronic devices as well, from the websites www.learntravelitalian.com or www.StellaLucente.com.

Both the above formats allow the textbook to be printed out and reorganized to create individualized reference books. For instance, the "Important Phrases" section of each chapter has been specifically organized so that these pages can be removed and refiled together to create a book of travel phrases! Use the second set of numbers on the bottom of the page, which end in "IP" to keep the correct order, from 1(IP) in the first chapter to 18(IP) in the last. And, of course, to keep those important travel tips near-by, all of the "Cultural Note" sections, which directly follow the "Important Phrases" section and are included with the IP numbers.

Need to have vocabulary, grammar, numbers, or idiomatic expressions close by? Re-organize those pages as needed with the (Vo), (G), (N) and (IE) pages. The dialogues are included with the vocabulary section. Having trouble remembering all those verb conjugations and rules? Make your own verb reference book for easy accessibility with the (V) numbers! The Italian words in each section are color-coded as well, to help with creating these individual reference books.

The individual sections from this textbook can also be purchased in the form of compact, bound reference books or downloaded in PDF format, with the titles, *Just the Grammar*, *Just the Verbs*, and *Just the Important Phrases*.

The Audio Dialogue Practice Books

The *Conversational Italian for Travelers Audio Dialogue Practice Books, Volumes I and II* (for beginner and intermediate levels) are separate textbooks with audio files that can be downloaded in MP3 format from the websites www.learntravelitalian.com and www.StellaLucente.com. The material in these books corresponds to and expands each chapter in the *Conversational Italian for Travelers* textbook. Use in a classroom or for individual practice. Listen as native speakers say simple and then ever more complex sentences, using the grammar and vocabulary appropriate for each section. This is an especially useful aid for the study of verb conjugations, which is the main focus of the practice books. The unique way each group of sentences builds upon the ones before in each section will allow for practice, practice, practice, conjugating those verbs, without the boredom that can otherwise come with the usual rote memorization.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Getting Started.....	xiv
<i>The Italian Alphabet.....</i>	<i>xv</i>
<i>The Italian Sound Combinations.....</i>	<i>xvi</i>
<i>General Pronunciation and Stress for Italian Words.....</i>	<i>xix</i>
<i>Masculine and Feminine Nouns and Definite Articles.....</i>	<i>xx</i>
<i>Masculine and Feminine Nouns and Definite Articles – Examples for Nouns that End in the Letter E.....</i>	<i>xxii</i>
Unit 1 – Transportation.....	3
<i>Chapter 1 – At the Airport.....</i>	<i>3</i>
Dialogue.....	3
Vocabulary – At the Airport.....	5
Important Phrases – Meeting and Greeting: Polite Expressions of Agreement.....	7
Important Phrases – How to Be Polite in Italian: Piacere, Pregare, Scusarsi and Dispiacere	8
Cultural Note – The World in Italian.....	10
Grammar Note – Buono and Bello	11
Grammar Note – Buona and Bella	12
Grammar Note – Buono/Buona and Bello/Bella Summary.....	12
Grammar Point – Studying Italian Verbs and Italian Subject Pronouns.....	13
Present Tense – First Conjugation Regular –are Verbs.....	14
Present Tense – Direct Reflexive Verbs and Their Pronouns.....	15
Grammar Point – The Many Forms of “You” in Italian – Singular Forms.....	16
Grammar Point – The Many Forms of “You” in Italian – Plural Forms.....	17
Present Tense Verb Tables for Chapter 1.....	18
Idiomatic Expressions – Dove and Ecco	19
Numbers – Counting 0 - 10.....	21
<i>Chapter 2 – At Customs in Italy.....</i>	<i>23</i>
Dialogue.....	23
Vocabulary – Customs in Italy.....	25
Vocabulary – The Calendar in Italian: Days of the Week.....	26
Vocabulary – Months of the Year.....	26
Vocabulary – The Seasons.....	26
Important Phrases – Basic Communication.....	27
Cultural Note – Describing Nationality.....	28
Grammar Note – Describing Where You Are From.....	29
Grammar Note – Italian Street Addresses.....	30
Grammar Note – Saying the Date in Italian.....	30
Grammar Note – Singular and Plural Nouns and Adjectives.....	31
Grammar Note – Singular and Plural Adjectives Buono	32
Grammar Note – Singular and Plural Adjectives Bello	33
Present Tense – First Conjugation: More Regular –are Verbs.....	35
Present Tense – First Conjugation: Irregular –are Verb Andare	36
Grammar Point – Writing “I” and “Is” in Italian: Italian Accents.....	37
Present Tense – Auxiliary Verb Essere	38
Present Tense Verb Tables for Chapter 2.....	39
Idiomatic Expressions – “ Come va? ”.....	41
Numbers – Counting 20 - 99.....	43

<i>Chapter 3 – Taking a Taxi</i>	45
Dialogue	45
Vocabulary – Trains and Automobiles.....	47
Vocabulary – Money	48
Important Phrases – Money.....	49
Cultural Note – Regions and Major Cities of Italy	51
Cultural Note – Discovering Italy.....	52
Grammar Note – How to Say “Yes” and “No:” The Uses of Si, No, Non and Mai	53
Grammar Note – Quanto - Asking How Much/How Many.....	53
Present Tense – Auxiliary Verb Avere	55
Expressions that Use Avere	55
Grammar Point – Choosing Essere or Avere	56
Present Tense Verb Tables for Chapter 3.....	57
Idiomatic Expressions – “ Quanti anni hai? ”	59
Numbers – Counting 11 - 19.....	61
<i>Chapter 4 – At the Train Station</i>	63
Dialogue	63
Vocabulary – At the Train Station.....	66
Vocabulary – Colors	67
Vocabulary – Ordinal Numbers.....	67
Important Phrases – Buying a Ticket and Taking the Train	69
Cultural Note – Taking the Train in Italy.....	70
Grammar Note – The Indefinite Article	73
Grammar Note – Irregular Plural Nouns and Adjectives: The -co and -ca Endings.....	74
Grammar Note – Irregular Plural Nouns and Adjectives: The -go, -ologo, and -ga Endings	75
Present Tense – First Conjugation: Regular Verbs that End in -care/-gare	77
Present Tense – Second Conjugation: Irregular Verb Volere	78
Grammar Point – Expressing a Need with Volere and Desiderare	79
Present Tense Verb Tables for Chapter 4.....	80
Idiomatic Expressions – “ Che cosa? ”	81
Numbers – Telling Time.....	83
<i>Chapter 5 – On the Train to Milan</i>	85
Dialogue	85
Vocabulary – In the Country.....	88
Important Phrases – Asking for Assistance	89
Cultural Note – Trenitalia and Online Ticketing.....	90
Grammar Note – Possessive Adjectives for Family (Singular)	93
Grammar Note – Possessive di vs. Possessive Suffix.....	94
Grammar Note – More Uses for di	94
Present Tense – First Conjugation: Regular Verbs that End in -ciare/-giare	95
Present Tense – First Conjugation: Regular Verbs that End in -iare	96
Present Tense – Second Conjugation: Regular –ere Verbs.....	97
Present Tense – Second Conjugation: More Regular –ere Verbs	98
Present Tense – Second Conjugation: Irregular –ere Verbs Sapere and Conoscere	99
Grammar Point – When to Use Sapere vs. Conoscere	100
Present Tense Verb Tables for Chapter 5.....	102
Idiomatic Expressions – Sapere and Conoscere	103
Numbers – More Telling Time	105
<i>Chapter 6 – Driving with Pietro</i>	107
Dialogue	107
Vocabulary – Driving in the City and on the Highway.....	109
Vocabulary – Parking, Rental Car and General Car Terms	110

Important Phrases – Renting a Car/Take me?/Get in!	111
Cultural Note – Renting a Car and Driving in Italy	112
Grammar Note – Possessive Adjectives: Things and Plural Forms for Family	115
Grammar Note – Adjectives that Precede Nouns	117
Grammar Note – Forming Sentences with Essere and the Adjective Bravo	119
Grammar Note – Adverbs and Adjectives Expressing Quantity	120
Present Tense – Second Conjugation: Regular Verbs that End in -cere/-gere	121
Present Tense – Second Conjugation: Irregular Verbs Bere, Scegliere, Spegnere, Tenere and Togliere	122
Present Tense – First Conjugation: Irregular Verb Stare	123
Present Tense – Present Progressive Tense	124
Grammar Point – To Be / To Live Revisited: Essere and Stare ; Abitare and Vivere	126
Grammar Point – C'è and Ci sono vs. Ecco	126
Present Tense Verb Tables for Chapter 6	127
Idiomatic Expressions – Bene	129
Numbers – Expressions for Telling Time	131
Unit 2 – City Life	135
<i>Chapter 7 – A Family Reunion</i>	<i>135</i>
Dialogue	135
Vocabulary – At Home	137
Important Phrases – Coming and Going	139
Cultural Note – Italian Relatives	140
Grammar Note – More Adverbs of Quantity	141
Grammar Note – Asking Questions in Italian	142
Grammar Note – Interrogative Expression List	142
Grammar Note – Cognates: Nouns Ending in -tà , and some -ire Verbs	143
Present Tense – First Conjugation: Regular -ire Verbs	145
Present Tense – First Conjugation: Regular -ire Verbs with the -isco Ending	146
Present Tense – Third Conjugation: More Regular -ire Verbs	147
Present Tense – Third Conjugation: More Regular -ire -isco Verbs	147
Present Tense – Third Conjugation: Important Regular -ire -isco Verbs	148
Present Tense – Third Conjugation: Irregular Verbs Dire, Morire, Salire, Uscire, Venire	148
Grammar Point – Verbs that Take di + Infinitive	149
Present Tense Verb Tables for Chapter 7	150
Idiomatic Expressions – Avere and Essere + di + Infinitive	151
Numbers – Counting 100-999	153
<i>Chapter 8 – Getting Ready</i>	<i>155</i>
Dialogue	155
Vocabulary – Making Yourself Comfortable at Home	157
Important Phrases – Getting Ready	159
Cultural Note – Renting a Place in Italy	161
Grammar Note – Cognates Adjectives Ending in -ale, -ico, -etto, -atto	163
Grammar Note – Adverbs of Manner	164
Present Tense – Direct Reflexive Verbs	165
Present Tense – More Direct Reflexive Verbs	166
Present Tense – Direct Reflexive Verbs: Irregular Verb Sedersi	166
Present Tense – Direct Reflexive Verbs: Verbs that Have Both Reflexive and Non-Reflexive Forms	167
Present Tense – Reciprocal Reflexive Verbs	169
Grammar Point – Infinitive Reflexive Verbs and Reflexive Pronouns	170
Grammar Point – Using Si to Make Impersonal Statements	170
Present Tense Verb Tables for Chapter 8	171
Idiomatic Expressions – Trovare	173
Numbers – Counting 1,000-1,000,000,000	175

<i>Chapter 9 – It's a Party!</i>	177
Dialogue	177
Vocabulary – Hosts and their Guests.....	180
Important Phrases – Meeting and Greeting at a Gathering.....	181
Cultural Note – The Trades and Professions in Italian.....	182
Grammar Note – Cognates: Nouns Ending in -ista, -ore, -ario	187
Grammar Note – Indirect and Direct Object Pronouns.....	188
Grammar Note – Reflexive, Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns: Summary	189
Grammar Note – Reflexive, Indirect and Direct Object Pronouns with the Negative	190
Grammar Note – Titles and Proper Forms of Address	191
Grammar Note – Che and Cui	192
Present Tense – Familiar Imperative Verbs.....	193
Present Tense – Irregular Verb Dare	194
Present Tense – Irregular Familiar Imperative Verbs.....	195
Grammar Point – Negative Familiar Imperative Verbs	196
Present Tense Verb Tables for Chapter 9.....	197
Idiomatic Expressions – Dare del tu/Dare del Lei	199
Numbers – The Date in Italian	201
<i>Chapter 10 – Shopping in Milan</i>	203
Dialogue	203
Vocabulary – In the Piazza.....	208
Vocabulary – Shopping for Clothing and Jewelry	209
Important Phrases – Shopping	211
Cultural Note – Shopping for Clothing in Italy	212
Grammar Note – More Irregular Plural Nouns	215
Grammar Note – Adverbs of Frequency.....	216
Grammar Note – Introduction to the Demonstrative Adjectives Questo and Quello	217
Grammar Note – Feminine Demonstrative Adjectives Questa and Quella	217
Grammar Note – Masculine Demonstrative Adjective Questo	218
Grammar Note – Masculine Demonstrative Adjective Quello	218
Grammar Point – Verbs that Take A + Infinitive	219
Present Tense – First Conjugation Irregular Verb Fare	219
Present Tense – Reflexive and Indirect Object Pronouns for Reference to Clothing and the Body.....	220
Present Tense – Second Conjugation Irregular Verb Piacere	222
Present Tense Verb Tables for Chapter 10	223
Idiomatic Expressions – Fare	225
Numbers – Fare and Mathematics.....	229
<i>Chapter 11 – At the Coffee Shop</i>	231
Dialogue	231
Vocabulary – Adjectives of Personality	235
Important Phrases – Making Friends	237
Cultural Note – Italian Coffees.....	240
Grammar Note – Common Suffixes of Nouns and Adjectives.....	241
Grammar Note – Cognates: Adjectives Ending in -oso	242
Grammar Note – Friendship and More.....	242
Grammar Note – Prepositions that Combine with the Definite Article	243
Grammar Note – Relative Superlatives	244
Grammar Note – Absolute Superlatives	244
Present Tense – Second Conjugation - Modal Verbs: Dovere, Potere and Volere	245
Grammar Point – How to Use Modal Verbs.....	246
Grammar Point – Modal Verbs with Reflexive Forms	246
Past Tense – Passato Prossimo with Avere	247
Past Tense – Passato Prossimo Irregular Past Participles.....	249

Past Tense – Passato Prossimo Regular Past Participles with Dovere, Potere and Volere	250
Verb Tables for Chapter 11	251
Idiomatic Expressions – Potere	253
Numbers – The Euro - Bills.....	255
<i>Chapter 12 – Phone Conversations</i>	257
Dialogue	257
Vocabulary – The Telephone	261
Important Phrases – Making a Telephone Call	263
Important Phrases – Leaving/Sending a Message	265
Important Phrases – Making/Checking/Changing a Reservation.....	266
Cultural Note – Telephone Calls To and Within Italy	267
Grammar Note – Making, Checking, and Changing a Reservation.....	269
Grammar Note – Cognates: Adjectives Ending in -zione, -za, -izzare, -ia, -ica	270
Grammar Note – Comparatives of Equality	271
Grammar Note – Comparatives of Superiority and Inferiority.....	272
Grammar Note – Adjectives with Irregular Comparative and Superlative Forms	273
Grammar Note – Adverbs with Irregular Comparative and Superlative Forms	274
Past Tense – Passato Prossimo with Essere	275
Past Tense – Passato Prossimo : Verbs that Take Essere	277
Grammar Point – Reflexive Verbs with the Passato Prossimo	278
Grammar Point – Modal Verbs with Essere and the Passato Prossimo	278
Past Tense – Passato Prossimo : Avere and Essere Past Participles	279
Grammar Point – Single Negative with the Passato Prossimo	279
Grammar Point – Double Negative with the Passato Prossimo	279
Verb Tables for Chapter 12	280
Idiomatic Expressions – Dovere and Volere	283
Idiomatic Expressions – Commands Using Fare	284
Numbers – The Euro - Coins	286
Unit 3 – At the Hotel and Restaurant	289
<i>Chapter 13 – Arriving at the Hotel</i>	289
Dialogue	289
Vocabulary – At the Hotel	293
Vocabulary – In the Hotel Room.....	294
Cultural Note – Italian Holidays	295
Grammar Note – Tutto and Ogni	299
Grammar Note – Indefinite Pronouns: Tutto and Tutti ; Entrambi and Entrambe	299
Grammar Note – Expressions of Past Time	300
Past Tense – Imperfetto	301
Past Tense – Imperfetto : Irregular Verbs – Bere, Dire, Fare	303
Past Tense – Imperfetto : Auxiliary Verbs – Avere and Essere	304
Grammar Point – Imperfetto vs. Passato Prossimo	305
Verb Tables for Chapter 13	306
Idiomatic Expressions – Fa and Expressions of Past Time.....	307
Numbers – Telling Time with Reference to the Past	309
<i>Chapter 14 – On the Beach at Last!</i>	311
Dialogue	311
Vocabulary – On the Beach.....	314
Vocabulary – The Weather	315
Cultural Note – Ferragosto	317
Grammar Note – Nessuno	319
Grammar Note – The Weather	320

Past Tense – Imperfetto with Dovere, Potere, Volere	321
Grammar Point – The Weather in Past Tense	322
Grammar Point – Imperfetto vs. Passato Prossimo : Final Summary	323
Verb Tables for Chapter 14	324
Idiomatic Expressions – “ Quanti anni aveva? ”	327
Numbers – Da Quanto Tempo?/Da Quando?	329
<i>Chapter 15 – Sightseeing!</i>	331
Dialogue	331
Vocabulary – Sightseeing	334
Important Phrases – Finding One’s Way/Directions	335
Cultural Note – Taking in Italian Culture and Shops	336
Grammar Note – Niente and Nulla	339
Grammar Note – Expressions of Future Time	340
Grammar Note – Adverbial Prepositions and Directions	341
Future Tense	343
Future Tense – Auxilliary Verbs - Avere and Essere	344
Future Tense – Verbs with Irregular Stems: Verbs that Drop the Stem Vowel	345
Future Tense – Verbs with Irregular Stems: Verbs that Do Not Change the Letter A in the Stem	345
Future Tense – More Verbs with Irregular Stems	346
Grammar Point – Use of Two Verbs in the Same Sentence with the Future Tense	346
Verb Tables for Chapter 15	347
Numbers – Talking About Events in Future and Past Tense	349
<i>Chapter 16 – Ordering at the Restaurant Antipasto and Il Primo</i>	351
Dialogue	351
Vocabulary – Ordering at the Restaurant: Table Setting and Drinks	355
Vocabulary – Appetizers	356
Vocabulary – Soup, Pasta and Gnocchi	357
Vocabulary – Famous Italian Pasta, Gnocchi and Rice Dishes	358
Important Phrases – Speaking with the Waiter	359
Cultural Note – A Typical Italian Menu	360
Grammar Note – Nè... Nè and Neanche : Final Summary of Negative Expressions	363
Grammar Note – Disjunctive Pronouns	364
Grammar Note – Pronoun Summary - Reflexive, Direct, Indirect, and Disjunctive Pronouns	365
Grammar Note – Double Object Pronouns	366
Grammar Note – The Partitive – Some/Any/A Little Bit	367
Present Tense – Piacere and the Disjunctive Pronouns	369
Future Tense – Verbs with Endings of -care, -gare	371
Future Tense – Verbs with Endings of -ciare, -giare	372
Verb Tables for Chapter 16	373
Numbers – The Centuries	377
<i>Chapter 17 – Dinner at the Restaurant</i>	379
Dialogue	379
Vocabulary – Cooking Methods, Meats and Fish/Shellfish	382
Vocabulary – Vegetables	383
Vocabulary – Italian Wines and After Dinner Drinks	384
Important Phrases – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner	385
Cultural Note – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner in Italy	386
Grammar Note – The Partitive - Qualche and Alcune/Alcuni	389
Grammar Note – The Partitive - Negative and Interrogative	390
Grammar Note – Using Ne in Place of the Partitive + Noun	390
Grammar Note – Direct Object Pronouns and the Passato Prossimo	391
Grammar Note – Ne and the Passato Prossimo	392

Grammar Note – Direct Object Pronouns with Reflexive Verbs	392
Grammar Note – Conditional Tense.....	393
Conditional Tense – Auxilliary Verbs Avere and Essere	394
Conditional Tense – Verbs with Irregular Stems: Verbs that Drop the Stem Vowel	395
Conditional Tense – Verbs with Irregular Stems: Verbs that Do Not Change the Letter A in the Stem	395
Conditional Tense – More Verbs with Irregular Stems.....	396
Conditional Tense and Introduction to the Subjunctive Mood	396
Conditional Tense – Modal Verbs Dovere , Potere and Volere	397
Present Tense vs. Conditional Tense – The Meaning of Dovere , Potere , and Volere	398
Verb Tables for Chapter 17	399
Numbers – Roman Numerals	403
<i>Chapter 18– A Happy Birthday Surprise</i>	<i>405</i>
Dialogue	405
Vocabulary – Desserts and Nuts	408
Vocabulary – Fruits	409
Vocabulary – Italian Cheeses (I Formaggi)	410
Important Phrases – Common Conditional Phrases.....	411
Cultural Note – Settling the Bill and Tipping.....	412
Grammar Note – More Uses for Ne	413
Grammar Note – Summary of the Adverb Ci	414
Grammar Note – Irregular Plurals - Parts of the Body	415
Grammar Note – Indefinite Adjectives	416
Conditional Tense – Verbs with Endings of -care, -gare	417
Conditional Tense – Verbs with Endings of -ciare, -giare	418
Conditional Past Tense – Dovere , Potere , and Volere : Should’ve, Could’ve, Would’ve	419
Present and Past Conditional Tense – Piacere : Would Like and Would Have Liked.....	420
Present Tense – Dispiacere	421
Present and Past Conditional Tenses – Dispiacere : Would Not Mind and Would Not Have Minded	422
Verb Tables for Chapter 18	423
Numbers – The Centuries in Roman Numerals	427
Appendix 1	429
<i>Exceptions to Masculine and Feminine Endings.....</i>	<i>429</i>
Appendix -2.....	435
<i>A Note About the Changing Italian Subject Pronouns.....</i>	<i>435</i>
<i>The Different Forms of “They” in Italian.....</i>	<i>436</i>
Index	437



Map of Italy
Italian Cities

Getting Started The Italian Alphabet

The Italian alphabet has only 21 letters, but there are names in Italian for all of the Latin letters, including those traditionally described as foreign to Italian. The letters which are foreign to Italian are listed in parenthesis and are included together with the Italian alphabet given below. The written form of each letter's name in Italian and the phonetic pronunciation are listed in separate columns.

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Italian Name</u>	<u>Phonetic Pronunciation</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>Italian Name</u>	<u>Phonetic Pronunciation</u>
a	a	ah	u	u	oo
b	bi	bee	v	vu/vi	voo/vee
c	ci	chee	(w)	doppia vu	doh-pee-ah voo
d	di	dee	(x)	ics	eeks
e	é	eh	(y)	ipsilon	eep-see-lohn
f	èffe	ehf-feh		i greca	ee greh-ka
g	gi	jee	z	zèta	zeh-tah
h	àcca	ah-kah			
i	i	ee			
(j)	i lunga	ee loon-gah			
(k)	càppa	kahp-pah			
l	èlle	ehl-leh			
m	èmme	ehm-meh			
n	ènne	ehn-neh			
o	ò	oh			
p	pi	pee			
q	cu	koo			
r	èrre	ehr-reh			
s	èsse	es-seh			
t	ti	tee			

Getting Started

The Italian Sound Combinations

Here is the Italian alphabet again, with an example word in Italian to represent how each written letter should sound, as well as an example of an English word that has an equivalent sound. If the sounds are identical in Italian and English, no explanation is given. Multiple examples will be given for a letter if the pronunciation can vary. Italian is one of the most phonetic (and beautiful) languages spoken, and a little time spent learning how to pronounce the letter combinations will make learning this language much easier!

Letters(s)	Italian Pronunciation	English Pronunciation Equivalent	
a	cane	father	(ah sound)
b	bene	bell	
ca/co/cu	casa	cat	(hard c sound)
ci	ciao	cheese	(soft ch with long ee sound)
ce	cena	cheddar	(soft ch with short e sound)
chi	chi	key	(hard c with long ee sound)
che	che	kennel	(hard c with sort e sound)
d	dado	dad	
e	era	bet	(eh sound)
e	vedi	bait	(ay sound)
f	farfalla	fan	
ga/go/gu	gusto	good	(hard g sound)
gi	giro	jeer	(soft j with long ee sound)
ge	gettare	jet	(soft j with short e sound)
gli	figlio	million	(gli is a unique Italian sound similar to the "lli" in million, pronounced like mil-lyee-on)*
gn	signora	onion	(sounds like the "ni" in onion)
h	--	--	(h is not pronounced in Italian)
i	vita	meet	(long ee sound)
l	luna	love	
m	mamma	mother	
n	non	no	
o	sole	soap	(oh sound)
o	modo	law	(aw sound)

*To form the sound that corresponds to the letter combination "gli" in Italian, place the tip of your tongue behind your upper teeth. Then, raise the back part of your tongue to the palate and roll your tongue forward to form the guttural "gl" sound that is a part of this combination. Finish with the "yee" sound. By listening, you will note the word **gli (the)** stresses the guttural sound, but when placed in the middle of the word, such as with **figlio (son)**, the "yee" part of the sound is stressed.

Getting Started

The Italian Sound Combinations (cont'd)

Letters(s)	Italian Pronunciation	English Pronunciation Equivalent	
p	pasta	pasta	
qu	quanto	quest	(qu together makes the kw sound)
r	Roma	---	(r is always trilled in Italian)
s	rossa	to ss	(hard s)
s	rosa	no se	(soft s)
sch	schia vo	ske t	(s + chi makes hard skey sound)
sch	sch em a	sk ill	(s + che makes hard skeh sound)
sci	sc ia re	sh ield	(soft sh sound with long ee sound)
sce	sc em o	sh ed	(soft sh sound with short e sound)
t	tu	to	
u	u v a	bo ot	(oo sound)
v	vinc er e	vin e	
z	z e ro	z ero	(soft z)
z	p iz za	p iz za	(hard z, like tz sound)

Getting Started

General Pronunciation and Stress for Italian Words

The Italian language is a phonetic language, and so each letter in an Italian word needs to be pronounced to create the final sound. If two vowels are written next to each other, both are pronounced, but the sound is a combined sound (referred to as a diphthong). There are many pronunciation rules, which include rules for consonants, pure vowels and semivowels, but the easiest thing to remember is just to pronounce what you see! Here is where listening will also be invaluable. First read the Italian word and then try to say it out loud. Listen to the *Conversational Italian Audio Dialogue Book* chapter that corresponds to the chapter you are working on in this textbook, and see if your pronunciation is correct. Try to pronounce the word again, and then listen once more!

Most Italian words will be stressed on the second to last syllable, which is easy to remember if the word contains only three syllables – just stress the syllable in the middle of the word. In general, a syllable in Italian is usually made up of a vowel or consonant group with its vowel. So, for many Italian words, just look for the vowel in the middle of the word and stress the syllable it goes with by making your intonation a little higher and more forceful. The word **ragazzo**, for instance, which means **boy**, will place the stress on the /ga/ sound.

ragazzo: ra/GAZ/zo

There are many exceptions to this rule, however, and the first syllable is stressed instead in many cases for words with three syllables, while the second syllable is often stressed in words with four syllables, as in **sabato** (Saturday) and **domenica** (Sunday).

sabato: SA/ba/to
domenica: do/ME/ni/ca

A vowel alone can also form a complete syllable. **Abito** (I live), is a verb with three syllables where the first syllable, which happens to be the vowel /a/ is stressed.

abito: A/bi/to

In the few cases where the very last syllable is stressed, the vowel at the end of the word will be given a grave (`) accent, as in **città** (city) or **caffè** (coffee). Otherwise, accents are infrequently used in Italian, and pronunciation is learned by listening!

For words with double consonants, hold the original sound of the consonant a little longer. For similar words, this can change the meaning; **casa** (house) or **cassa** (cash register)!

Getting Started

Masculine and Feminine Nouns and Definite Articles

Italian, and all of the romance languages, have what are called masculine and feminine nouns. When referring to a person, the ending of the noun for that person's name must match that person's gender. As we all know, nouns refer not only to people, but also to places and things. In Italian, even references to a place or an object will be either masculine or feminine, as assigned by the rules of linguistics. In Italian, then, all nouns will be either masculine or feminine.

The definite article - the word "the" in English - will change in Italian to reflect the gender of the noun that is being modified. It is necessary to learn both the definite article and the noun together in order to speak fluently, so the definite article will always be included with the nouns given in the vocabulary lists. In some cases where the definite article is followed by an apostrophe, the combined sounds create one spoken "word" instead of two.

Here are some general rules:

For the most part, Italian nouns that end in **-a** will be designated as feminine, and take the definite article **la**, which means **the**.

For the most part, Italian nouns that end in **-o** will be masculine, and take the definite article **il**, which also means **the**.

There are also Italian nouns that end in **-e**, and these can be *in some cases masculine*, and *in other cases feminine*, as assigned by the rules of linguistics. Feminine nouns that end in **-e** will take **la** and masculine nouns that end in **-e** will take **il** as their definite article.

If the noun begins with a vowel, whether it is masculine or feminine, **l'** will be used as the definite article.

For Italian masculine nouns that begin with **s + consonant, z, ps, gn, pn**, or for foreign words incorporated into Italian that begin with the letters **x** or **y**, the definite article **lo** will be used.

For plural nouns, the definite articles will also change. Each noun, then, will have at least two forms, either singular or plural. For nouns that refer to people, this creates four different possibilities: masculine singular, masculine plural, feminine singular, and feminine plural!

Please see the table and examples that summarize these rules on the following page.

Getting Started

Masculine and Feminine Nouns and Definite Articles (cont'd - 2)

*****Italian Definite Article – The*****

	Masculine Definite Article (singular/plural)		Feminine Definite Article (singular/plural)
Noun begins with consonant	il / i		la / le
Noun begins with s+consonant, z, ps, gn, pn, x or y	lo / gli		
Noun begins with vowel	l' / gli		l' / le

	Masculine Definite Article (singular/plural)		Feminine Definite Article (singular/plural)
Noun begins with consonant	il ragazzo / i ragazzi the boy / the boys		la ragazza / le ragazze the girl / the girls
Noun begins with s+consonant, z, ps, gn, pn, x or y	lo zio / gli zii the uncle the uncles		
Noun begins with vowel	l'amico / gli amici the (male) friend / the (male) friends		l'amica / le amiche* the (girl) friend / the (girl) friends = the girlfriends

*Notice the letter **h** has been inserted in this case before the letter **e**, but do not worry about this for now. Its function is just to maintain the correct sound.

Getting Started

Masculine and Feminine Nouns and Definite Articles - Examples for Nouns that End in the Letter E

Nouns that end in **-ore**, **-one**, **-ale**, and **-ile** are masculine, so the letter **-e** will change to an **-i** in the plural, and the definite articles **il**, **l'** and **i** will be used to correspond to the masculine origin of the noun. Below is a list of commonly used words we will encounter later in the text that have an **-e** ending and are masculine.

il dottore	the doctor	i dottori	the doctors
l'attore	the actor	gli attori	the actors
il direttore	the manager	i direttori	the managers
lo scrittore	the writer	gli scrittori	the writers
l'albergatore	the hotel owner	gli albergatori	the hotel owners
il viaggiatore	the traveler	i viaggiatori	the travelers
il giornale	the newspaper	i giornali	the newspapers
il badile	the shovel	i badili	the shovels
il pallone	the soccer ball	i palloni	the soccer balls

Nouns that end in **-ione** and **-ice** are feminine, and will take the feminine definite articles in the singular and plural: **la**, **l'** and **le**. However, the **-e** ending of the noun will change to an **-i**. In this case, the definite article in the plural is a reminder of the feminine origin of the noun. Below is a list of commonly used words we will encounter later in the text that have an **-e** ending and are feminine. Notice that for the professions, the **-ice** ending is the feminine counterpart to the masculine **-ore**.

l'attrice	the actress	le attrici	the actresses
la direttrice	the manager	le direttrici	the directors
la scrittrice	the writer	le scrittrici	the writers
l'albergatrice	the hotel owner	le albergatrici	the hotel owners
la viaggiatrice	the traveler	le viaggiatrici	the travelers
la stagione	the season	le stagioni	the seasons



Unit 1

Transportation





Unit 1 - Transportation

Chapter 1 - At the Airport

Dialogue

For our first dialogue, we join **Kathy (Caterina)**, a girl from the United States of America who has just graduated college, as she takes a plane to Italy to visit her Italian relatives for the summer. As Caterina boards a flight from Chicago to Milan on an Italian airline, we listen in on the final boarding instructions in Italian and then to a simple dialogue. Caterina speaks with the friendly Italian **stewardess Mary (l'hostess Maria)**. Caterina and Maria exchange polite greetings, which will get us started on our own exciting journey learning the Italian language!

For all of our dialogues, the Italian verbs will be highlighted in **green**, with the remainder of the Italian in **blue**, and important phrases will be underlined when first introduced. This is conversational Italian, so sometimes phrases, rather than full sentences, will be spoken in our dialogues. The English translation will be in black and will reflect the Italian word choices and order as closely as possible, sometimes with a literal translation for clarification, signified by the abbreviation (lit.). Although the English translation may not sound or be exactly grammatically correct, especially in the beginning chapters, not to worry; in order to speak Italian, we must first learn to think in Italian, and use the Italian approach to relaying thoughts and ideas as much as possible. So, fasten your seatbelts for a fun-filled and interesting flight, as we begin to experience the world of the Italian language!

Maria *(altoparlante)*: **Attenzione, prego. Il volo dieci per Milano Malpensa imbarca al cancello due.**

(loudspeaker): Attention, please. The flight ten for Milan Malpensa (is) board(ing) from gate two.

Tutti i passeggeri sono pregati di mettere il bagaglio a mano nel vano superiore, prendere posto e allacciare la cintura di sicurezza.

All passengers are please requested to put the carry-on luggage in the overhead compartment, take (their) seat, and fasten (their) seat belt.

Unit 1 - Transportation

Chapter 1 - At the Airport

Dialogue (cont'd)

Maria (a Caterina): Buon giorno. La carta d'imbarco, per favore.

(to Caterina): Good morning. The boarding pass, please.

Caterina: Buon giorno. Eccola.

Good morning. Here it is.

Maria: Come si chiama?

What (is) your name? (lit. How (do) (you polite) call/name yourself?)

Caterina: Mi chiamo Caterina.

My name (is) Kathy. (lit. (I) call myself Kathy.)

Maria: Lei parla italiano molto bene. Dove abita?

You (polite) speak Italian very well. Where (do) (you polite) live?

Caterina: Abito in America.

(I) live in America.

Maria: Dove in America?

Where in America?

Caterina: A Chicago.

In* Chicago. (*See the Chapter 1 Cultural Note)

Maria: Che bella città!

What a beautiful city!

Caterina: Mi scusi, ma quanto dura il volo?

Excuse me (polite command), but how long (is) the flight?

Maria: Solamente dieci ore. Buon viaggio!

Only ten hours. (Have a) good trip!

Caterina: Grazie.

Thank you.

Maria: Prego.

You're welcome.

Vocabulary - At the Airport

Here is a list of vocabulary words the traveler may encounter or need to use to ask for information while at an Italian airport. The Italian definite article **(the)** (**il, lo, l', la, i, gli, le**) has been included with each noun for easy memorization. Remember from the "Getting Started" section that, as a general rule, Italian words that end in the letter **-o** are masculine, and those that end in the letter **-a** are feminine, while those that end in the letter **-e** may be either masculine or feminine. For nouns that can be both masculine and feminine, such as those that describe professions or specific jobs, both forms have been given. Useful verbs for this section are highlighted in green.

il viaggio	trip	viaggiare	to travel
l'aereo(plano)	airplane	volare	to fly
l'aeroporto	airport	decollare	to take off
il terminal	terminal	atterrare	to land
la scala mobile	escalator	allacciare	to fasten
il marciapiede mobile*	moving walkway	prendere	to take
il volo	flight	mettere	to put
gli arrivi	arrivals	depositare	to leave/check luggage
le partenze	departures	abitare	to live
il cancello	gateway (to flight)	chiamarsi	to call oneself (a name)
il/la pilota	pilot	parlare	to talk/to speak
l'hostess	stewardess	scusarsi	to excuse oneself
lo steward	steward		
l'assistente di volo	flight attendant		
il/la passeggero(a)	passenger		
il biglietto (d'aereo)	(airline) ticket		
la carta d'imbarco	the boarding pass		
la torre di controllo	control tower		
la pista (d'atterraggio)	runway/landing strip		
il decollo	take-off		
l'atterraggio	landing		
il posto	seat		
la cintura di sicurezza	seat belt		
il bagaglio a mano	carry on luggage		
il vano	(luggage) compartment		
il deposito bagagli	place for stored luggage		
il nastro portabagagli	luggage conveyor belt		

*Although technically correct, many Italians also use the French phrase **tapis roulant** when referring to a **moving walkway**. 1(Vo)3



Tour Bus by La Scala Opera House, Milan

Important Phrases - Meeting and Greeting

Polite Expressions of Agreement

As in English, in Italian there are many ways to greet people, and different expressions will be used depending on the situation and how well the individuals know one another. Italian society has become overall less formal. Many easy-going, familiar, and slang expressions are now commonly used, not only between friends and family, but even between acquaintances, although polite forms of address are still important to know.

Listed below are some of the most common ways to say, "hello." "**Buon giorno**," can be used to mean, "**Good morning**," when greeting both family members at home and shop owners at the piazza; this phrase can also be used in more formal situations as its literal translation of, "**Good day**." It is a phrase used so often in fact, that one often hears the reply shortened to simply, "**Giorno**." There are at least as many ways to say "good bye" as there are to say "hello," as noted below. Notice that the word **ciao** is unique, since it can be used as both an informal "**hi**" as well as a quick way to say "**good bye**." **Ciao** is used frequently throughout Italy today with family and friends.

Buon giorno.*	Good morning. (lit. Good day.).....	used all day into evening
Buona sera.*	Good evening.....	early night-time greeting
Buona notte.*	Good night.....	used when leaving/bedtime
Buona giornata.	(Have a) good day.....	to wish someone a nice (entire) day
Salve.	Hello./Hi.....	informal greeting family/friends
Ciao.	Hi./Bye.....	informal greeting family/friends
Ci vediamo!	(Until) we see each other (again)!.....	for family or for a friend you hope to see again soon
Arrivederci.	Good-bye.....	familiar polite
Arriverla.	Good-bye.....	polite, with respect
ArrivederLa.	Good-bye.....	formal written form
Come va?	How (is it) go(ing)?.....	a slang greeting used often
Ciao bella!/Ciao bello!	Hey, beautiful girl!/Hey handsome!....	for someone you know (well)
A dopo!	(See you) later!.....	good-bye between friends
A più tardi!	(See you) later!.....	good-bye between friends
A presto!	(See you) soon!.....	good-bye between friends

Use these phrases to agree with what someone is saying:

Si.	Yes.
Certo.	Of course.
D'accordo.	(I) agree.
Penso di sì.	(I) think so.

*Can be written as one word, as in **buongiorno**, **buonasera**, or **buonanotte**.

1(IP)1

Important Phrases – How to Be Polite in Italian

Piacere, Pregare, Scusarsi and Dispiacere

One of the most rewarding aspects of travel is becoming acquainted with the people in the region or country visited. Understanding the polite phrases of speech will take one a long way in this regard, as politeness and respect are usually rewarded with the same in return. There are several very important and helpful verbs of politeness in Italian. The most useful of these verbs is **piacere**, with the meaning of **to like/to be pleasing to**, from which one of the phrases for “please” is derived. We will study **piacere** in detail in Units 2 and 3 due to the somewhat unusual and complicated way that it is conjugated. The Italian word **favore** translates into the English as **favor**. The two different ways to say, **please** in Italian, **per piacere** and **per favore**, are interchangeable, and loosely translate into “**for a pleasantry/nicety**” or “**for a favor.**” **Grazie** is a noun that means **thanks**, and used in the same way as the English **thank you**. If you are really pleased, say, “**Molte grazie!**” “**Tante grazie!**” or “**Mille grazie!**”

Per favore./Per piacere.	Please.
Grazie.	Thank you.
Molte grazie!	Thank you very much!
Tante grazie!	Thank you so much!
Mille grazie!	Thanks a lot! (lit. A thousand thanks!)

Prego is the direct response to **grazie**, and means, **You're welcome**. It is derived from another verb of politeness, **pregare**, which has several meanings. **Pregare** can be translated as **to pray**, which lends itself to the connotation of asking or requesting something. English phrases like, “I pray of you,” “I beg of you,” or “Pray tell,” carry the same idea, although these are no longer commonly used. In a similar way, a simple, “**Prego...**” can also be used with a gesture to address someone when on line in a crowded place, as in, “**Go ahead of me, I beg you, if you please...**” “**Sono pregati di,**” is a polite expression derived from **pregare** that may also be heard when someone in charge, such as a flight attendant or tour guide, is directing a group of people. Finally, if a waiter comes to the table with a wonderful dish for you to try, he may put this in front of you with a flourish and say, “**Prego!**” as in, “**There you go!**”

Prego.	You're welcome.	
Prego...	If (you) please.....	Prego can be used if you would like a stranger to go ahead of you in a line, usually with a gesture.
Sono pregati di...	Are requested/asked/begged to.....	polite, to a group
Di niente.	It was nothing./You're welcome.	1(IP)2

Important Phrases - How to Be Polite in Italian
Piacere, Pregare, Scusarsi and Dispiacere (cont'd)
Proper Forms of Address

Scusarsi means **to excuse oneself**, and is used frequently in crowded situations in its polite command form, "**Mi scusi.**" "**Scusa**" is the form used between people who know one another. **Dispiacere** is a verb that is used to convey the ideas of **sadness, sorrow, and regret** and so, "**Mi dispiace,**" means, "**I'm sorry.**"

Another expression that is useful when navigating an unfamiliar place, and especially when entering an unfamiliar building is, "**Permesso?**" This expression comes from the shortened form of the phrase, "**Permesso di entrata?**" The literal meaning is, "**Permission to enter?**" and might be thought of as useful in similar situations when in English we would ask, "**May I come in?**"

Here are some essential phrases to get through the throngs of tourists in Italy:

Mi scusi.	Excuse me. (polite command)
Scusa.	Excuse me. (familiar command)
Mi dispiace.	I'm sorry.
Permesso?	Permission to enter?
	May I come in?

Finally, the word **spiacente**, which is most often used in written Italian and is an adjective that means **sorry**, should also be mentioned. When combined with the verb **essere** (see Chapter 2), the phrase takes the meaning of **to regret**, as in the example below:

Io sono spiacente di informarvi che... I regret to inform you all that...

When addressing someone formally, Italians use the following titles:

Signore	Mister/Sir
Signora	Misses/Madam/Ma'am
Signorina	Miss

Cultural Note - The World in Italian

When Americans travel, we travel to a place – to Italy, to Rome, to the northeast. Italians travel directly ***in* (in)** a country, region, or large island, but ***to* (a)** a city, town, or small island. (In Italian, the word for **in** is the same as in English... **in**!) For instance, Caterina lives **in America**, but **a Chicago**, as we have seen in our first dialogue. Here is a list of the Italian words for the continents and a selection of the countries of **the world (il mondo)**, along with some capital cities. Notice that by convention the definite article (**the**) (**il, la, or l'**) is used to refer to countries, except when talking about traveling directly ***into*** them!

Europe	l' Europa	Africa	l' Africa
Austria	l' Austria	Asia	l' Asia
Belgium	il Belgio	Central America	l' America Centrale
<i>Brussels</i>	<i>Bruxelles</i>	Europe	l' Europa
Denmark	la Danimarca	Middle East	il Medio Oriente
England	l' Inghilterra	North America	l' America del nord
<i>London</i>	<i>Londra</i>	South America	l' America del sud
France	la Francia	Australia	l' Australia
<i>Paris</i>	<i>Parigi</i>		
Germany	la Germania	Argentina	l' Argentina
<i>Berlin</i>	<i>Berlino</i>	Brazil	il Brasile
Greece	la Grecia	Canada	il Canada
<i>Athens</i>	<i>Atene</i>	Chile	il Cile
Holland	l' Olanda	China	la Cina
<i>Amsterdam</i>	<i>Amsterdam</i>	Egypt	l' Egitto
Ireland	l' Irlanda	<i>Cairo</i>	<i>il Cairo*</i>
<i>Dublin</i>	<i>Dublino</i>	India	l' India
Italy	l' Italia	Indonesia	l' Indonesia
<i>Rome</i>	<i>Roma</i>	Japan	il Giappone
Norway	la Norvegia	Korea	la Corea
Poland	la Polonia	Mexico	il Messico
Portugal	il Portogallo	Pakistan	il Pakistan
<i>Lisbon</i>	<i>Lisbona</i>	Russia	la Russia
Scandinavia	la Scandinavia	<i>Moscow</i>	<i>Mosca</i>
Spain	la Spagna	Turkey	la Turchia
<i>Madrid</i>	<i>Madrid</i>	United States	gli Stati Uniti
Sweden	la Svezia	Viet Nam	il Vietnam
Switzerland	la Svizzera		

*In this case, **il Cairo** is the name of the city, rather than the word **Cairo** alone, by convention.

1(IP)4

Grammar Note - **Buono** and **Bello**

Buono is a word you will hear quite often – so many things are **good** in Italy! But, the form of this adjective will change according to the masculine or feminine form of the noun (person, place or thing) it modifies, and also according to where it is placed in the sentence.

For masculine nouns, **buono** is placed either *directly after* the noun, or at the end of the sentence, after the verb **è** for **is** (from the verb **essere**, which we will encounter in the next chapter). In the second case, the adjective **buono** will be separated from the noun it modifies, but both the noun and adjective will agree in gender.

il giorno **buono** the good day
Il giorno **è buono**. The day is good.

But, when the adjective **buono** is placed *before* a masculine noun, the letter **-o** is dropped from **buono** to make **buon**, as in, “**Buon giorno!**” The only exception to this will be if the Italian masculine noun begins with the following letters: **s+consonant**, **z**, **ps**, **gn** or **pn**. The two most important masculine words to remember in this category are **studente** (student) and **zio** (uncle). In this case, we are back to our original word, and use **buono!**

Buon giorno! Good day!
il **buono studente** the good student
il **buono zio** the good uncle

And, of course, many things are **beautiful** in Italy... so **bello** is an adjective that will come up frequently! **Bello** is used often, not only to refer to things that are **beautiful**, but also with the meanings of **nice**, **fine**, **lovely**, or **handsome**. The rules are similar to those for **buono** – just drop the **-o** ending (and the extra “**i**” if writing) to make **bel** when it is placed before the noun, unless the noun happens to begin with **s+consonant**, **z**, **ps**, **gn** or **pn**.

il giorno **bello** the beautiful day
Il giorno **è bello**. The day is beautiful.

il **bel giorno** the beautiful day
il **bello studente** the fine student
il **bello zio** the handsome uncle

Grammar Note - Buona and Bella

For a feminine noun (person, place or thing), the words **buona** and **bella** are used to describe something **good** or **beautiful, nice, fine, lovely, or pretty**, whether placed before or after the noun these adjectives modify.

Buona sera! Good evening!
La città è buona. The city is good.

la bella città the beautiful city
La città è bella. The city is beautiful.

There is only one exception to this rule: if **buona** or **bella** is placed before a feminine noun that begins with the letter **-a**, simply drop the last letter from **buona** or **bella** and add an apostrophe to make **buon'** or **bell'** for smoother conversation. Since our focus is on conversational Italian, just remember to bring the two words together when speaking, without repeating the **-a** ending, and don't worry for now about the spelling!

la buon'amica the good friend
la bell'amica the nice friend

Grammar Note - Buono/Buona and Bello/Bella Summary

Here is a summary of all the rules we've covered. Notice the similarities between **buono** and **bello**, and for now, focus on the most commonly used forms, which are bold in English. But most of all, try to remember the word combinations in our examples; say them out loud, and listen to how smoothly they flow together when the endings are changed to reflect the different forms of each noun and adjective!

Buono –good	Bello – beautiful, nice, fine, lovely, pretty, handsome
Masculine	Masculine
buono - after the noun before nouns that begin with: s+consonant, z, ps, gn, pn	bello - after the noun before nouns that begin with: s+consonant, z, ps, gn, pn
buon - before the noun	bel - before the noun
Feminine	Feminine
buona - before and after the noun	bella - before and after the noun
buon' - before nouns that begin with -a	bell' - before nouns that begin with -a

1(G)2

Grammar Point - Studying Italian Verbs and Italian Subject Pronouns

The action words, or verbs, are the heart of every language. One who knows a wide variety of verbs and how to conjugate them quickly has a much easier time understanding others and also expressing their own point of view. We learn verb conjugation - how to change the form of the verb to reflect the speaker - from our native language, naturally and gradually, over many years as we are growing up, simply by listening to the people around us. By the time we are teenagers, we know how to express present, past, and future tenses to describe both action and time. As adults, often the way we use verbs can denote where we are from as much as our accent does. A verb incorrectly conjugated just sounds wrong to our ears in our native language, and this will soon be the case the more we practice our Italian verbs.

At first, learning how to conjugate Italian verbs may seem complicated to the English speaker, and for good reason. In English, we rely on the subject pronouns - I, you, he, she, etc., to signal who is doing the talking. In Italian, however, the speaker is signaled by the verb endings themselves. A different ending must be learned for each speaker for each form of the verb! Since the Italian verb endings are different for each speaker, the subject pronouns are only included for emphasis in Italian. More often than not, subject pronouns are left out of the sentence in conversational Italian. As an example, in cases where the word "it" is the subject, the third person singular verb form is used, but the subject pronoun "it" is always omitted. But, with a little practice (that is with "verb drills," which are available in the *Conversational Italian Audio Dialogue Practice Book*), this way of speaking will become more easily understood and the correct conjugation of the verb alone will be easy to remember and just "sound right."

The table below shows the order in which all subject pronouns will be listed when learning each verb form, with the technical names (first, second, third person) for each type of conjugation. At first, when learning to conjugate a verb, try to focus only on the **io**, **tu**, and **noi** forms, as these forms will be used the most in conversation; and luckily, the endings will be the same in the present tense for all three major Italian verb forms!

Subject Pronouns		
io	I	1 st person singular
tu	you (familiar)	2 nd person singular
Lei/lei/lui	you (polite)/she/he/(it)	3 rd person singular
noi	we	1 st person plural
voi	you all (familiar)	2 nd person plural
Loro/loro	you all (polite)/they	3 rd person plural

1(V)1

Present Tense - First Conjugation

Regular **-are** Verbs

Italian verbs are categorized into three main types that are called infinitive forms, and also referred to as conjugations. In English, verbs have just one infinitive form, the "to" form – for instance: "to live," "to sell," and "to sleep." In Italian, the infinitive verb is recognized by its ending: **-are** for the first conjugation, **-ere** for the second conjugation, and **-ire** for the third conjugation. For instance, we will soon learn the verbs that correspond to the above English translations: **abitare**, **vendere** and **dormire**.

To form the present tense of the first conjugation **-are** verbs, just drop the **-are** and add the appropriate ending to the stem that remains, as given in the table below. These endings alone will tell you who is doing the talking. In English, we need to use personal pronouns (I, you, he/she, etc.). But, in conversational Italian, personal pronouns can be, and usually are, omitted. You will notice that in our dialogue, the stewardess asks Caterina, simply, "**Dove abita?**" which translates into the polite sentence, "**Where (do) you live?**"

***** **Abitare – to live** *****

The table below shows the conjugation of **abitare**, a regular **-are** verb. First, drop the **-are** and you are left with the stem **abit**. Then, add the correct ending to reflect the speaker, and form the new word. The endings are as follows: **o, i, a, iamo, ate, ano**.

As a general guide to the pronunciation of verbs in Italian, remember that the stress will fall in the beginning of the word for the **io, tu**, and **lei/lui** forms. This is most often on the second syllable, but can also be on the first, as with our example verb, **abitare**. For the **noi** and **voi** forms, an additional syllable is created by combining the root with the first vowel of the new ending. The stress will change to the end of the word, and will be at the second to the last syllable. Finally, for **loro**, the stress reverts back to its original location at the beginning of the word! The stressed syllables will be underlined for our examples.

Abitare – to live			
io	<u>a</u>bito	o	I live*
tu	<u>a</u>biti	i	you (familiar) live
Lei lei/lui	<u>a</u>bita	a	you (polite) live she/he lives
noi	abit<u>i</u>amo	iamo	we live
voi	abit<u>a</u>te	ate	you all live
loro	<u>a</u>bitano	ano	they live

*Note this simple present tense in Italian can be translated four ways:

io abito is equivalent to the English I live, I do live, I am living, I am going to live. 1(V)2

Present Tense - Direct Reflexive Verbs and Their Pronouns

Direct reflexive verbs are recognized by the additional ending of **-si** to the usual **-are**, **-ere**, and **-ire** endings of our infinitive verbs. We have already encountered the reflexive verb **chiamarsi** in our dialogue, as this is the infinitive verb from which **chiama** and **chiamo** originate. These are verbs that take the reflexive pronouns (myself, yourself, etc.), which refer back directly to the person who is doing the action.

The reflexive pronouns are:

mi –myself, **ti** –yourself (fam.), **si** –yourself (polite), herself, himself, itself

ci –ourselves, **vi** –yourselves (fam.), **si** –yourselves (polite), themselves

For now, the only reflexive verb we will learn is **chiamarsi**, since it is so commonly used in introductions. To conjugate all reflexive verbs, both the reflexive pronoun and the verb ending must be changed to agree with the subject pronoun.

***** **Chiamarsi** – to be called, as in a name*****

So, first let's conjugate **chiamarsi** the way we would any other **-are** verb: Drop the **-arsi** and add the endings you already know to the stem **chiam** to form the new words below.

The stress will fall on the second syllable for our first three forms and the **loro** form.

io	chiam <u>o</u>	I call
tu	chiam <u>i</u>	you (familiar) call
Lei	chiam <u>a</u>	you (polite) call
lei/lui		she/he calls
noi	chiam <u>iamo</u>	we call
voi	chiam <u>ate</u>	you all call
loro	chiam <u>ano</u>	they call

To finish the conjugation, add the reflexive pronoun *before* the verb. Notice that in English the reflexive pronoun goes after the verb, so this may take a little getting used to.

Chiamarsi – to be called, as in a name/to name oneself			
io	mi	chiam <u>o</u>	I call myself
tu	ti	chiam <u>i</u>	you (familiar) call yourself
Lei/lei/lui	si	chiam <u>a</u>	you (polite)name/she/he calls yourself, herself, himself, itself
noi	ci	chiam <u>iamo</u>	we call ourselves
voi	vi	chiam <u>ate</u>	you all call yourselves
loro	si	chiam <u>ano</u>	they call themselves

Grammar Point - The Many Forms of "You" in Italian - Singular Forms

In Italian, when we address someone as "you," different subject pronouns and verb endings are used. As we've seen already from the examples in the prior verb sections from this chapter, there are four different subject pronouns and verb endings in Italian that all mean "you" - for each verb! How do we know which is the correct form to use in a given situation? Since this is the first time we are studying verbs, we will go through the situations when each form of "you" is used. Also, throughout the text from here on, references to the familiar (fam.) and polite (pol.) forms of the Italian verbs may appear for clarity after the English translation of the verb.

Keep in mind that for conversational Italian, the familiar is used very commonly in Italy today, so if you can remember the verb endings for the **io**, **tu**, and **noi** forms (which will be the same for each subject pronoun in all three conjugations), you are well on your way to speaking Italian! Remember these forms when you speak; recognize the other forms when you are listening.

You familiar (singular) – **tu** with an **-i** ending for the **-are**, **-ere** and **-ire** verbs is used for people you know well, or are familiar with – family (always with children), friends, or someone you would like to be a friend. For instance, "**Tu parli italiano?**" uses the "familiar you" form of the verb **parlare** to ask the question, "**Do you speak Italian?**" Remember this form for traveling, as it can be used in almost all situations.

You polite (singular) – **Lei** with an **-a** ending for the **-are** verbs is used for people you do not know or have just met, and to be respectful toward someone older than you. "**Lei parla italiano?**" also means, "**Do you speak Italian?**" but asks this question in a more polite way than the example given in the last paragraph. This form of the verb, called the "polite" or "formal" form, is important to show respect to others. For the traveler, who is often a customer, the hotel personnel or the salespeople in a shop may use the polite form. You, in turn, may also want to use this polite form when making requests, and this will be emphasized throughout the text. Notice that in our dialogue, the stewardess Maria uses the "polite you" when she says to Caterina, whom she has just met, "**Lei parla italiano molto bene.**" The response may be in the familiar or polite form, and the situation will usually determine what form the rest of the conversation will continue in. We will focus on the appropriate use of the polite form and how and when to switch to the familiar form in Unit 2.

In written Italian, the subject pronoun **Lei** is capitalized in formal situations. In spoken Italian, the meaning of **Lei**, which means **polite you**, and **lei**, which means **she**, is, of course, understood from the situation.

Grammar Point - The Many Forms of "You" in Italian - Plural Forms

You familiar (plural) – voi with an –ate ending for the –are verbs is used when calling a group of people "you." In this text, this form will be referred to as the "you all" form, since the use of this subject pronoun is similar to the colloquial phrase used in the southern states of America. If speaking directly to a group of people you know, such as your family, use this form. Tour guides when addressing "all of you" on the tour will probably use this form, as they will become familiar with the members of the tour group.

When asking shop clerks, **"Do you have...?"** use this form for the "collective you" that includes owners and shopkeepers, and start your question with, **"Avete...?"** **"Do you all have...?"** To ask a group of people if they speak Italian, we can say, **"Voi parlate italiano?"** which means, **"Do you all speak Italian?"**

You polite (plural) – Loro with an –ano ending for –are verbs. **Loro** is capitalized to distinguish the "polite plural you" from **loro**, which means **they**. **Loro** as the "polite you plural" is almost never used by Italians today, and it gives the language a very stiff feeling when it is occasionally used. In a very formal situation, **Loro** may be used to address a group of people, but it is unlikely one will encounter this use while traveling. So, the word **Loro** with a capital "L" to mean "polite you all" will not be included in the tables used to present verb conjugation after this section.

Finally, then, if we want to ask a group of people if they speak Italian in an extremely formal way, we could say, **"Loro parlano italiano?"** which, again, means, **"Do you all (to a group) speak Italian?"** When making a general statement about a group of people, one would also say, **"Loro parlano italiano,"** to mean, **"They speak Italian."**

Subject Pronouns		
io	I	1 st person singular
tu	you (familiar)	2 nd person singular
Lei/lei/lui	you (polite)/she/he/(it)	3 rd person singular
noi	we	1 st person plural
voi	you all (familiar)	2 nd person plural
Loro/loro	you all (polite)/they	3 rd person plural

Present Tense Verb Tables for Chapter 1

Infinitive Forms	-are	-ere	-ire	-ire (isco)
io	o	*	*	*
tu	i	*	*	****
Lei/lei/lui	a	*	*	****

noi	iamo	****	****	****
voi	ate	***	***	***
loro	ano	***	***	*****

Auxiliary Verbs	Essere (*****)	Avere (*****)
io	****	**
tu	***	***
Lei/lei/lui	*	**

noi	*****	*****
voi	*****	*****
loro	****	*****

Irregular Verbs	Andare (*****)	Volere (*****)	Sapere (*****)	Conoscere (*****)
io	****	*****	**	*****
tu	***	****	***	*****
Lei/lei/lui	**	*****	**	*****

noi	*****	*****	*****	*****
voi	*****	*****	*****	*****
loro	*****	*****	*****	*****

Idiomatic Expressions - **Dove** and **Ecco**

As in English, many Italian expressions do not make sense if each word is translated literally, but together the words do have a significant meaning. These types of phrases can be called “idiomatic expressions.” Note that many of the meeting/greeting phrases are idiomatic expressions in Italian, and just need to be memorized. Here are a few more. For instance, the interrogative expressions for **where is/where are** are **dov'è** and **dove sono**. The typical answer of **here/there is/are** is **ecco**. **Ecco** is a single word in Italian that encompasses both the adverbs **here/there** and the verbs **is/are**. Note that **ecco** is used to point out something in plain sight.

Students can practice together to enlarge their vocabulary in each section using these expressions. For instance, one student can ask the next, “**Dov'è l'Italia?**” for “**Where is the (country of) Italy?**” and the response will be, “**Ecco l'Italia!**” for “**Here Italy is!**” when pointing to the correct country on a map.

Dove?	Where?
Dov'è...?	Where is...?
Dove sono ...?	Where are...?
 Ecco...	 Here is.../Here are... There is.../There are...
 Eccolo!/Eccola!	 Here he is!/Here she is!/Here it is!
Eccomi!	Here I am!

To ask someone where they are from, combine the prepositions, **di** (of/from) or **da** (from) with **dove** and a verb, as in the examples below. Either of the two phrases below can be used. (The grammar for this will be covered in Chapter 2). To make it easy to remember the response, simply repeat the same preposition and verb you hear in the question when giving your answer! It should be noted that Italians often answer with the largest city nearest to their town of origin, so you might want to do that also, especially as most Italians are familiar with the names of the larger cities in America.

Di dov'è Lei?	Where are you (pol.) from? (lit. From where are you?)
Di dove sei?	Where are you (fam.) from? (lit. From where are you?)
Sono di Chicago.	I am of (from) Chicago.
 Da dove viene?	 Where (do) you (pol.) come from? (lit. From where do you come?)
Da dove vieni?	Where (do) you (fam.) come from? (lit. From where do you come?)
Vengo da Chicago.	I come from Chicago.

1(IE)1



Gondolas on the Grand Canal, Venice

Numbers - Counting 0 - 10

We will focus on numbers in every chapter of the first two units. Numbers are important in the daily life of a traveler, as you can imagine, for making reservations, keeping appointments, and purchasing goods and services.

Flash cards that children use when learning addition or multiplication can be an entertaining way to practice numbers in a group. Each student can take turns picking a card, any card, out of the pile, and say the number in Italian!

0	zero	Zero will change to the plural zeri when describing more than one of this number (i.e. 100 has two zeros , or due zeri).
1	uno	
2	due	
3	tre	
4	quattro	
5	cinque	
6	sei	
7	sette	
8	otto	
9	nove	
10	dieci	



Venice
Residential Canal