

# ITALIAN

ROMANCE LANGUAGE OF 62 MILLION

---

## 41. Stare

Stare-to stay, be  
sto   stiamo  
stai   state  
sta   stanno

**Stare** means *to be* when used in progressive tense. If you use it with a present participle, it translates to something is happening, not something happens as with the present indicative.

Stare is also used in many health expressions, such as **Come stai?** How are you? **Sto bene.** I'm fine.

And *stare per* plus an infinitive means "to be about to" do something. **Stavo per uscire.** I was about to go out. **Stiamo per mangiare.** We're about to eat.

---

## 42. Present Participles

Present participles are formed by dropping the ending of the verb, and adding the following endings to the stem:

Present Participles  
-are   **-ando**  
-ere   **-endo**  
-ire   **-endo**

Conjugate stare and form the present participle, and you have a progressive action. **Sto parlando italiano** is *I am speaking Italian*. (As opposed to **Parlo italiano** *I speak Italian*.) There are only a few irregular present participles: fare-**facendo** (doing), dare-**dando** (giving), dire-**dicendo** (say/telling), and bere-**bevendo** (drinking).

---

## 43. Imperfect Tense

The imperfect tense is also called the past descriptive tense and corresponds to *was doing* or *used to do* in English. The imperfect is used to describe a continued or habitual action in the past, or to describe an action that was occurring in the past, while something else happened. Time, age, weather conditions as well as mental and physical conditions are all expressed in the imperfect rather than the past indefinite tense.

The imperfect in Italian has the same ending for all three verb groups. It is formed by dropping the -re of the infinitive and adding the following endings:

-vo -vamo

-vi -vate

-va -vano

Avere is regular in the imperfect, but essere, bere, dire and fare are irregular. The stem of essere becomes **er-** for the singular endings, and it does not take the **v**, while the stem for the plural endings is **era-** and it does take the **v**. The stems for bere, dire and fare are derived from the old Latin infinitives, and are **beve-**, **dice-**, and **face-** and they take the regular endings of the imperfect.

**Avevo fame.** I was hungry.

**Era tardi.** It was late.

**Non diceva niente.** He wasn't saying anything.

**Aspettavamo in fila.** We were waiting in line.

**Prendevo sempre l'autobus.** I always take the bus.

---

#### 44. Places

market	il mercato
restaurant	il ristorante
hotel	l'albergo
square	la piazza
store	il negozio
library	la biblioteca
stadium	il stadio
movie theater	il cinema
church	la chiesa
museum	il museo
beach	la spiaggia
park	il parco
hospital	l'ospedale
post office	l'ufficio postale
bakery	il panificio
pharmacy	la farmacia

---

#### 45. Transportation

bus	l'autobus
automobile	l'automobile
car	la macchina
train	il treno
ship	la nave

airplane	l'aeroplano
boat	la barca
motorcycle	la motocicletta
on foot	a piedi

Note: To say *by* bus, car, etc., use **in** and leave off the *il, la, and l'*.

---

#### 46. To Want, to Be Able to, to Have to

<b>volere-to want</b>	<b>potere-to be able to, can</b>	<b>dovere-to have to, must</b>
voglio vogliamo	posso possiamo	devo (debbo) dobbiamo
vuoi volete	puoi potete	devi dovete
vuole vogliono	può possono	deve devono (debbono)

---

#### 47. Asking Questions

The easiest way to ask a question is to simply add a question mark to the end of the statement.

You can also put the subject at the end of the sentence. **Il ragazzo mangia la pizza** becomes **Mangia la pizza, il ragazzo?**

Or, if you're speaking to a Sardinian, you can put the verb at the end of the sentence. **Parla francese?** can become **Francese parla?** *Does he/she speak French?*

---

#### 48. House and Furniture

house	la casa
roof	il tetto
kitchen	la cucina
room	la stanza
bathroom	il bagno
dining room	la sala da pranzo
terrace	la terrazza
balcony	il balcone
table	la tavola
wall	la parete/il muro
door	la porta
chair	la sedia
telephone	il telefono
television	la televisione
window	la finestra

sofa	il divano
living room	il soggiorno
hallway	il corridoio
garden	il giardino
bedroom	la camera
bed	il letto
closet	l'armadio
bathtub	la vasca da bagno
sink	l'acquiao
staircase	la scala
toilet	il bagno
refrigerator	il frigorifero
curtains	le tende
clock	l'orologio
bookshelf	lo scaffale
lamp	la lampada
armchair	la poltrona
bathroom sink	il lavandino
wastebasket	il cestino
mirror	lo specchio
nightstand	il comodino
vase	il vaso
dresser	il cassettone
rug	lo scendiletto

---

## 49. Comparative and Superlative

Comparisons are expressed as follows:

<b>più... di / che</b>	more... than
<b>meno... di / che</b>	less... than
<b>così... come</b>	as... as
<b>tanto... quanto</b>	as... as

Più and meno can be used with di or che. Di is used when comparing two different things, while che is used when the comparison is between two qualities of the same thing.

**Le ciliege sono più buone delle fragole.** Cherries are better than strawberries.

**La mela è più verde che rossa.** The apple is more green than red.

**Franco è così alto come me.** Frank is as tall as me.

The *Relative Superlative* compares two or more things and expresses the greatest or the least degree. It is formed by placing the article before the comparative form of the adjective, or in front of the noun. And instead of the preposition in, **di** (and its contractions) is always used with the superlative.

**Le mele sono la frutta meno costosa del mondo.** Apples are the least expensive fruit in the world.  
**L'oro è il più prezioso dei metalli.** Gold is the most precious metal.  
**Questo è il palazzo più alto di Napoli.** This is the tallest building in Naples.

The *Absolute Superlative* expresses an extreme degree or absolute state of something without comparison. This can be expressed in several ways in Italian.

Drop the last vowel of the adjective and add -issimo, -issima, -issimi, or -issime.  
**Le fragole sono dolcissime.** Strawberries are very sweet.

Place the words molto, troppo, or assai before the adjective.  
**Questa arancia è molto buona.** This orange is very good.

Repeat the adjective or adverb.  
**Lei parla piano piano.** She speaks very softly.

## 50. Irregular Forms

Some adverbs have irregular comparative, relative superlative, and absolute superlative forms. The most common are:

Adverb	Comparative	Relative Superlative	Absolute Superlative
<b>bene</b> well	<b>meglio</b> better	<b>(il) meglio</b> (the) best	<b>ottimamente</b> very well
<b>male</b> badly	<b>peggio</b> worse	<b>(il) peggio</b> (the) worst	<b>peccatamente</b> very badly
<b>molto</b> much	<b>più</b> more	<b>(il) più</b> (the) most	<b>moltissimo</b> very much
<b>poco</b> little	<b>meno</b> less	<b>(il) meno</b> (the) least	<b>pochissimo</b> very little

## 51. Clothing

jacket	la giacca
belt	la cintura
earrings	gli orecchini
necklace	la collana
scarf	la sciarpa
dress	il vestito
swimsuit	il costume da bagno
blouse	la camicetta
raincoat	l'impermeabile
sock	il calzino
sandals	i sandali
purse	la borsa
shirt	la camicia
shoe	la scarpa
skirt	la gonna
umbrella	l'ombrello

tie	la cravatta
pants	i pantaloni
hat	il capello
stocking	la colza
sweater	la maglia
glove	il guanto
coat	il cappotto

*Note: Portare means to wear, but it also means to bring. So use mettersi for to wear or put on clothing.*

---

## 52. To Wear

### Mettersi-to wear, put on (clothing)

mi metto	ci mettiamo
ti metti	vi mettete
si mette	si mettono

*Note: You don't use possessive pronouns when referring to parts of the body or clothing, but you do use the definite article. Mi metto la maglia is I'm wearing my sweater.*

---

## 53. Future Tense

The future of regular verbs is formed by dropping the final -e of the infinitive and adding the following endings. For -are verbs, the a is changed to an e.

**-ò -emo**  
**-ai -ete**  
**-à -anno**

Verbs ending in -care and -gare add an h after the c and g in the in order to retain the hard sounds.  
 Verbs ending in -ciare and -giare drop the i from their stems in the future.

Many verbs use irregular stems in the future tense, but they still use the regular endings from above:

avere	<b>avr-</b>
essere	<b>sar-</b>
dare	<b>dar-</b>
fare	<b>far-</b>
stare	<b>star-</b>
andare	<b>andr-</b>
dovere	<b>dovr-</b>
vedere	<b>vedr-</b>
sapere	<b>sapr-</b>
potere	<b>potr-</b>
bere	<b>berr-</b>

venire **verr-**  
volere **vorr-**

---

## 54. Preceding Adjectives

Only a few adjectives go before the noun, the rest are placed right after it. **Bello-beautiful, buono-good, grande-large**, and **brutto-ugly** are the most common preceding adjectives, even though they don't have to go before the noun. Bello and buono have alternate forms when they precede a noun.

### Buono e Bello

Singular Plural Before a:

#### Masculine

buono	buoni	z, s + consonant
buon		vowel or consonant

#### Feminine

buona	buone	consonant
buon'		vowel

#### Masculine

bello	begli	z, s + consonant
bell'		vowel
bel	bei	consonant

#### Feminine

bella	belle	consonant
bell'		vowel

If they go after the noun, then they can be formed in the usual way. The above forms are only for when they go *before* the noun. Be aware that **grande** can have alternate forms before nouns too. **Grande** can become **gran** before masculine or feminine nouns beginning with a consonant. Or it could contract to **grand'** before masculine or feminine nouns beginning with a vowel. But you do not have to use the alternate forms, whether or not you place the adjective before or after the noun.

---

## 55. Adjectives: Feminine and Plural

Masculine to Feminine and Singular to Plural

Masc. Fem.

**-o** **-a**

**-e** **-e**

Sing. Pl.

**-o, -e** **-i**

**-a** **-e**

Some adjectives have two forms, others have four. Francese (*french*) has two: francese and francesi. Nuovo (*new*) has four: nuovo, nuova, nuovi, and nuove.

---

## 56. More Adjectives

facile	easy
difficile	difficult
semplice	simple
complicato	complicated
interessante	interesting
noioso	boring
lungo	long
corto	short
giusto	correct
sbagliato	mistaken/wrong
caro	expensive/dear
economico	economical/cheap
moderno	modern
antico	old/ancient
aperto	open
chiuso	closed
alto	tall
basso	short
felice	happy
triste	sad
simpatico	nice
antipatico	unpleasant
buono	good
cattivo	bad
grande	big/large
piccolo	small
giovane	young
vecchio	old
intelligente	intelligent
stupido	stupid
elegante	elegant
inelegante	inelegant
ricco	rich
povero	poor
magro	skinny/thin
grosso	fat
sincero	sincere
timido	shy
forte	strong
gentile	gentle/kind

generoso	generous
pigro	lazy

---

## 57. Position of Sempre and Anche

The adverb *sempre* (always) usually follows the verb. *Anche* (also, too) always precedes the noun, pronoun or infinitive to which it refers. When it precedes *io*, it becomes *anch'*.

**Noi studiamo sempre.** We always study.

**Vuole anche questo libro.** He wants that book, too.

**Anch'io devo studiare.** I have to study too.

---

## 58. Sports

golf	il golf
soccer	il calcio
volleyball	la palla a volo
football	il foot-ball americano
basketball	la pallacanestro
baseball	il base-ball
bowling	il birilli
swimming	il nuoto
tennis	il tennis
bicycling	il ciclismo
boxing	il pugilato
skating	il pattinaggio
skiing	lo sci
car racing	l'automobilismo

---

## 59. To Play

### Giocare-to play

**gioco** joh-koh **giochiamo** joh-kee-ah-moh

**giochi** joh-kee **giocate** joh-kah-teh

**gioca** joh-kah **giocano** joh-kahn-oh

*Note: Most sports use *giocare a (sport)* to mean *to play a sport*. They play basketball would be **Giocano a pallacanestro**.*

---

## 60. Nature

fields	i campi
flowers	i fiori
forests	le foreste
hills	le colline
meadows	i prati
mountains	le montagne
plants	le piante
waterfalls	le cascate
woods	i boschi
farms	le fattorie
villages	i villaggi
vineyards	le vigne
beach	la spiaggia
bridge	un ponte
castle	un castello
lake	un lago
pond	uno stagno
river	un fiume

---

## 61. Object Pronouns

Subject	Direct	Indirect	Object of Prepositions
<b>io</b> I	<b>mi</b> me	<b>mi</b> to me	<b>me</b> me
<b>tu</b> you (s.i.)	<b>ti</b> you	<b>ti</b> to you	<b>te</b> you
<b>lui</b> he/it	<b>lo</b> him/it	<b>gli</b> to him/it	<b>lui</b> him/it
<b>lei</b> she/it/you (s.p.)	<b>la</b> her/it/you	<b>le</b> to her/it/you	<b>lei</b> her/it/you
<b>noi</b> we	<b>ci</b> us	<b>ci</b> to us	<b>noi</b> us
<b>voi</b> you (p.i.)	<b>vi</b> you	<b>vi</b> to you	<b>voi</b> you
<b>loro</b> they/you (p.p.)	<b>li/le</b> them/you	<b>loro</b> to them/you	<b>loro</b> them/you

1. S.i. means singular informal, s.p. means singular polite, p.i. means plural informal, and p.p. means plural polite. For you (s.p.) and you (p.p.) they are capitalized to set them apart from the other meaning. (Lei instead of lei and Loro instead of loro.)
2. Direct and Indirect pronouns go directly in front of the verb, except loro, which always follows the verb.
3. With infinitives or participles, the pronoun (except loro) follows it and is written as one word. This also is true of commands, except for Lei or Loro.
4. When you have more than one pronoun, the indirect comes before the direct.
  5. The i of mi, ti, ci, and vi changes to an e before lo, la, li and le.
6. Gli and le become glie before lo, la, li, and le; and are written as one word connected with the other pronoun (glielo, gliela, glieli, gliele).

If you use **lo, la, li, le**; the past participle must agree with them.

Hai mangiato **il** panino? Did you eat the bun?

**Lo** ho mangiato. I ate it.

Hai mangiato **la** pasta? Did you eat the pastry?  
**La** ho mangiata. I ate it.

In negative sentences, pronouns go before the entire verb as well, but after the **non**.

I haven't eaten it. **Non lo** ho mangiato.

---

## 62. Parts of the Body

hand	<b>la mano</b>	mouth	<b>la bocca</b>
foot	<b>il piede</b>	finger	<b>il dito</b>
ear	<b>l'orecchio</b>	fingernail	<b>l'unghia</b>
eye	<b>l'occhio</b>	elbow	<b>il gomito</b>
tongue	<b>la lingua</b>	arm	<b>il braccio</b>
face	<b>la faccia</b>	knee	<b>il ginocchio</b>
hair	<b>i capelli</b>	leg	<b>la gamba</b>
nose	<b>il naso</b>	head	<b>la testa</b>
tooth	<b>il dente</b>	neck	<b>il collo</b>
lip	<b>il labbro</b>	shoulder	<b>la spalla</b>
stomach	<b>lo stomaco</b>	throat	<b>la gola</b>

You can use the expressions **Ho mal di** + body part or **Mi fa male** + definite article and the body part to say that something hurts. If the noun is plural, you have to use *mi fanno male* instead of *mi fa male*.

**Ho mal di testa.** My head hurts. / I have a headache.

**Mi fa male il dito.** My finger hurts.

**Mi fanno male gli occhi.** My eyes hurt.

---

## 63. Interrogative Pronouns

Most of the question words are invariable (they don't have to agree with the noun), but **quale** (which) and **quanto** (how much/many) must agree. Note that these words do not require a noun to follow them.

Before singular nouns, **quale** is used, and before plural nouns, **quali** is used.

**Quale camicetta compri?** Which blouse are you buying?

**Quali maglioni compri?** Which pullovers are you buying?

**Quali compri?** Which ones are you buying?

Quanto has four forms that follow the regular adjective pattern. **Quanto** is masculine singular, **quanta** is feminine singular, **quanti** is masculine plural and **quante** is feminine plural.

**Quanto denaro hai?** How much money do you have?

**Quante camicette compri?** How many blouses are you buying?

**Quanto costa?** How much does it cost?

---

## 64. Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns connect a dependent clause and a main clause together in a sentence. An antecedent is the noun or pronoun that the relative pronoun refers back to. The relative pronouns in English are that, what, which, whom, and whose. The relative pronouns in Italian are che, cui, il quale (and its forms), chi, quello che, quel che, and ciò che.

When the antecedent is a definite person, animal or thing, che, cui or a form of il quale is used. Che is invariable and never used with a preposition. Cui is also invariable, but it is always used with a preposition. Il quale and its forms can be used with articles or articles plus prepositions. It is mainly used in formal speech, writing and for clarity, and rarely in casual conversation.

**La ragazza che vedi è mia sorella.** The girl whom you see is my sister.

**Per le pillole di cui has bisogno ci vuole la ricetta.** The pills (of) which you need require a prescription.

**Lei è la sola persona nella quale (or in cui) io abia fudicia.** You are the only person whom I trust.

**È una medicina la quale (or che) non fa male allo stomaco.** It's medicine that doesn't upset your stomach.

When the antecedent is unknown or indefinite, chi is used when referring to people. It is invariable and means "he/she who," "whoever," "the one who" and takes a verb in the third person singular form.

Quello che, quel che, and ciò che are all invariable and interchangeable. They refer to things only and mean "what" or "that which."

**Chi sta bene non va dal dottore.** He who feels well doesn't go to the doctor.

**Chi trova un amico, trova un tesoro.** One who finds a friend, finds a treasure.

**Non capisco quello che dice.** I don't understand what he's saying.

**Ciò che scrivi è sbagliato.** What you're writing is wrong.

---

## 65. To Read, to Say/Tell, to Laugh

<b>leggere - to read</b>	<b>dire - to say/tell</b>	<b>ridere - to laugh</b>
leggo leggiamo	dico diciamo	rido ridiamo
leggi leggete	dici dite	ridi ridete
legge leggono	dice dicono	ride ridono

---

## 66. Disjunctive Pronouns

Disjunctive pronouns are used independently of the verb. They are the pronouns which follow prepositions, or show emphasis. They can also be found in exclamations.

me    noi  
te    voi  
lui / lei loro

**Vengo con te.** I'll come with you.  
**Amo te, non lui.** I love you, not him.  
**Fortunati voi!** Lucky you!

---

## 67. Ci and Ne

**Ci** (there, it, about it, of it) and **ne** (some, of them, of it) are both pronouns that go before the verb and they replace prepositional phrases. **Ci** will replace phrases that begin with *in, on, to, at, under*, etc. and **ne** will replace phrases that begin with *some* or a *number*.

### Example Sentences

I live <u>in</u> Paris.	Vivo a Parigi.
I live there.	Ci vivo.
I have <u>some</u> apples.	Ho delle mele.
I have some (of them).	Ne ho.
I have <u>five</u> sisters.	Ho cinque sorelle.
I have five (of them).	Ne ho cinque.

Quante caramelle hai mangiato? How many candies did you eat?  
**Ne** ho mangiate quattro. I ate four of them.

---

## 68. Animals

giraffe	<b>la giraffa</b>
elephant	<b>l'elefante</b>
zebra	<b>la zebra</b>
lion	<b>il leone</b>
leopard	<b>il gattopardo</b>
parrot	<b>il pappagallo</b>
rhinoceros	<b>il rinoceronte</b>
koala	<b>il koala</b>
snake	<b>il serpente</b>

chimpanzee	<b>lo scimpanzé</b>
polar bear	<b>l'orso bianco</b>
tiger	<b>la tigre</b>
bull	<b>il toro</b>
fox	<b>la volpe</b>
monkey	<b>la scimmia</b>
wolf	<b>il lupo</b>
turtle	<b>la tartaruga</b>

---

## 69. Pluperfect Tense

The pluperfect or past perfect tense corresponds to the English "had + past participle." It indicates an event that happened prior to another event in the past. It consists of the imperfect of *avere* or *essere* (whichever auxiliary verb the main verb takes in the past indefinite tense) and a past participle.

**L'avevo già notato.** I had already noticed it.

**Ero andato ad un suo concerto.** I had been to one of his concerts.

**Non avevo avuto ancora occasione.** I hadn't had the opportunity yet.

**Erano già stati a Sanremo.** They had already been in Sanremo.

---

## 70. Suffixes

Suffixes may be attached to nouns, adjectives or adverbs. The final vowel of the word should be dropped before adding the suffixes. The endings -ino, -ina, -ello, -ella, -etta, -etto, -uccio, and -uccia are diminutives that express smallness. The endings -one and -ona are augmentatives and express largeness. The endings -ino and -uccio also express endearment. The endings -accio, -accia, -astro, -astra, -azzo, and -azza imply ugliness or poor quality.

letter **lettera** small letter **letterina**

parcel **pacco** large parcel **paccone**

boy **ragazzo** bad boy **ragazzaccio**

**Tesorino mio!** My sweetheart!

**Amoruccio mio!** My sweet love!

---