



Italian



È possibile emettere un biglietto elettronico?

Is it possible to get an e-ticket?

Può ripetere, per favore??

Can you repeat that, please??

Includes: 21 language lessons

Italian

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This phrasebook doesn't claim to be a substitute for a language course, but if you devote a bit of time to reading it and learning a few useful phrases, you'll quickly find that you're able to participate in basic exchanges with Italian speakers, enriching your travel experience.

A word of advice: don't aim for perfection! Those you're speaking to will forgive any mistakes and appreciate your efforts to communicate in their language. The main thing is to leave your inhibitions behind and speak!

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Getting started

➤ Day 1

Ciao!
Hi!

- 1 Paolo è italiano.**
paolo eh eetalyano
Paolo is Italian.
- 2 Maria è italiana.**
mareea eh eetalyana
Maria is Italian.
- 3 Paolo e Maria sono italiani.**
paolo ay mareea sono eetalyanee
Paolo and Maria are Italian.

Notes

Ciao! is an informal way both to greet someone or say goodbye:
Hi! Hello! Bye! See you!

Every Italian noun is either masculine or feminine (even nouns that don't refer to people). An adjective that qualifies the noun has to agree with its gender. So when referring to a male or female, the ending of the word may be a bit different. Frequently, singular masculine words end in **-o** and singular feminine words end in **-a**: **italiano** *Italian* (m.); **italiana** *Italian* (f.).

An adjective also has to agree with a noun in number, i.e. whether it is singular or plural. In Italian, plurals are not formed by adding **-s**! The masculine singular ending **-o** changes to **-i**, and

the feminine singular ending **-a** changes to **-e**: **italiani** *Italian* (m. pl.); **italiane** *Italian* (f. pl.). As in line 3 of the dialogue, the masculine form is used if a plural refers to both genders: **Paolo e Maria sono italiani**. *Paolo and Maria are Italian.*

The verb *to be* is **essere**. The third-person singular is *è he/she/it is*. Don't confuse it with the conjunction **e and**, which has no written accent. The third-person plural is **sono they are**.

To form a question in Italian, just change the intonation of the sentence – you don't need to change the order of the words: **Sono italiani**. *They are Italian. Sono italiani? Are they Italian?*

Practice–Translate the following sentences:

1. Are Paolo and Anna Italian?
2. Maria and Anna are Italian.
3. È italiana?
4. Ciao, Paolo!

Answers:

1. Paolo e Anna sono italiani?
2. Maria e Anna sono italiane.
3. Is she Italian?
4. Hi Paolo! or See you, Paolo!

Conversing

➤ First contact

Italians often use the informal **tu you** (with the second-person singular verb) – especially the younger generation. But it's still useful to know the formal **Lei you** (used with the third-person singular verb), especially for service contexts. (All formal pronouns, **Lei, La, Le**, etc., are capitalized—though they appear to be feminine, they are used to address both genders.)

Greetings

Saying hello & taking leave

<i>Hello! ('Good day!')</i>	Buon giorno!	<i>bwon jorno</i>
<i>Hi! / Bye!</i>	Ciao!	<i>chao</i>
<i>Good evening!</i>	Buonasera!	<i>bwonasayra</i>
<i>Have a good evening!</i>	Buona serata!	<i>bwona sayrata</i>
<i>Goodnight!</i>	Buona notte!	<i>bwona not-teh</i>
<i>Goodbye!</i>	Arrivederci!	<i>arreevaydayrchee</i>
<i>See you soon!</i>	A presto! / Ci vediamo!	<i>a presto / chee vaydyamo</i>
<i>Farewell!</i>	Addio!	<i>ad-deeo</i>

The most common way to say goodbye is **Ciao!** [*chao*].

Addressing someone

<i>Mrs / madam</i>	la signora	<i>la seenyora</i>
<i>Miss / young lady</i>	la signorina	<i>la seenyoreena</i>
<i>Mr / sir / gentleman</i>	il signor(e)	<i>eel seenyoreh</i>

Offering wishes

There are different forms for welcoming someone, depending if it is one person or more, and their gender:

Welcome!

Benvenuto/-a/-i/-e! (*m. sing./f. sing./m. pl./f. pl.*)

baynvaynooto/-a/-ee/-eh

In everyday situations

<i>Keep it up!</i>	Buon proseguimento!	<i>bwon prozaygwemento</i>
<i>Good luck!</i>	Buona fortuna!	<i>bwona fortoona</i>
<i>Have a nice holiday!</i>	Buone vacanze!	<i>bwoneh vakantseh</i>
<i>Have a good trip!</i>	Buon viaggio!	<i>bwon vyaj-jo</i>

The answer might be:

Thank you, likewise!

Grazie, altrettanto!

gratsyeh altrayt-tanto

Special occasions

Here are some specific wishes for various special occasions. If speaking formally to someone, you might start by saying:

I wish you ...

Le auguro... (*formal*)

leh aogooro

<i>Happy holidays!</i>	Buone feste!	<i>bwoneh festeh</i>
<i>Best wishes!</i>	Tanti auguri!	<i>tantee aogooree</i>
<i>Merry Christmas!</i>	Buon Natale!	<i>bwon nataleh</i>

<i>Happy New Year!</i>	Buon Anno!	<i>bwon an-no</i>
<i>Happy Easter!</i>	Buona Pasqua!	<i>bwona paskwa</i>
<i>Happy Birthday!</i>	Buon compleanno!	<i>bwon komplean-no</i>

In writing

<i>Best wishes from ...</i>	Tanti saluti da...	<i>tantee salootee da</i>
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Agreeing and disagreeing

<i>Yes.</i>	Sì.	<i>see</i>
<i>Yes, of course.</i>	Sì, certo.	<i>see chayrto</i>
<i>No.</i>	No.	<i>no</i>
<i>No, unfortunately.</i>	No, purtroppo.	<i>no poortrop-po</i>
<i>Maybe.</i>	Forse.	<i>forseh</i>
<i>I don't know.</i>	Non so.	<i>non so</i>
<i>I agree.</i>	Sono d'accordo.	<i>sono dak-kordo</i>

Asking questions

<i>Where?</i>	Dove?	<i>doveh</i>
<i>When?</i>	Quando?	<i>kwando</i>
<i>Who?</i>	Chi?	<i>kee</i>
<i>Why?</i>	Perché?	<i>payrkay</i>
<i>How?</i>	Come?	<i>komeh</i>
<i>How much/many?</i>	Quanto / Quanti?	<i>kwanto / kwantee</i>

Making requests, thanking and excusing

<i>Please.</i>	Per favore. / Per piacere.	<i>payr favoreh / payr pyachayreh</i>
<i>Thank you.</i>	Grazie.	<i>gratsyeh</i>
<i>Thank you very much!</i>	Tante grazie!	<i>tanteh gratsyeh</i>
<i>You're welcome.</i>	Prego.	<i>prego</i>

To excuse yourself, you say **Scusa!** [*skooza*] if speaking to one person informally, or:

Excuse me!

Scusi! (*formal sing.*) / **Scusate!** (*to more than one person*)

skoozee / skoozateh

Or if you want to pass through a group of people:

Excuse me ...

Permesso...

payrmayssso

Making yourself understood

<i>Do you speak ...</i>	<i>Parla... (formal)</i>	<i>parla</i>
<i>English?</i>	inglese?	<i>eenglayzeh</i>
<i>French?</i>	francese?	<i>franchayzeh</i>
<i>German?</i>	tedesco?	<i>taydaysko</i>
<i>Italian?</i>	italiano?	<i>eetalyano</i>
<i>Spanish?</i>	spagnolo?	<i>spanyolo</i>

I don't understand.

Non capisco.

non kapeesko

Could you repeat that, please?

Può ripetere, per favore? (*formal*)

pwo reepetayreh payr favoreh

What does that mean?

Che cosa significa?

kay koza seenyeefeeka