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Sample*

ASSiMiL
Phrasebook

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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Section I

INTRODUCTION

9

How to use this book	9
Italy: facts & figures	10
A bit of history	11
The Italian language	13

Section II

GETTING STARTED

15

Day 1 to 21	15
--------------------------	-----------

Section III

CONVERSING

57

First contact	57
Greetings	57
Offering wishes	58
Agreeing and disagreeing	59
Asking questions	59
Making requests, thanking and excusing	59
Making yourself understood	60
Meeting people	61
Running into someone	61
Introducing yourself or someone else	62
Saying where you're from	62
Giving your age	63
Talking about your family	64
Saying what you do	65
Religion	67
The weather	68
Expressing opinions and feelings	69
Invitations	70

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!

Meeting up ...	71	Reporting a theft or loss	99
... and chatting up	72	At the bank	99
Time and the calendar	73	Going to a performance	100
Talking about time	73	At the hairdresser's	101
Days, months and seasons	75	Outdoor activities	102
Festivals and holidays	77	Recreation	102
Asking for assistance	78	At the pool or beach	104
Emergencies	78	Camping	105
On the road	79	Trees and plants	107
Signs, notices and abbreviations	79	Animals	108
Signs and notices	79	Accommodation	111
Abbreviations	80	Making a reservation	111
Travelling	81	At the hotel	112
Passport control and customs	81	Breakfast and services	113
Money	82	Resolving issues	115
Flying	82	Eating and drinking	116
Going by bus or train	83	At the restaurant	116
Going by boat	86	Specialities and traditional dishes	120
Going by taxi	87	Food vocabulary	126
Biking and motorcycling	88	Cooking methods and sauces	130
Renting a car	88	Cheeses	134
Driving	88	Drinks	136
Getting around town	92	Other beverages	136
Finding your way around	92	Shopping	137
Taking public transport	92	Shops and services	138
Sites and places of interest	94	Laundry and dry cleaning	140
Posting a letter	95	Shopping for clothes	141
Making a phone call	96	Smoking	143
Going online	97	Photos	143
Administration and forms	98	Souvenirs	144

Business meetings	144
Making an appointment	144
In the workplace	145
Business vocabulary	146
Conferences and trade shows	146
Health	147
If you need medical attention	147
Symptoms	148
Health problems	149
Pains and body parts	150
Women's health	151
Getting treatment	152
At the dentist's	153
At the optician's	153
At the pharmacy	153

Section IV

INDEX

156

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!</i> ('Good day!')	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

Italian

Phrasebook

Visiting Rome, Florence or gliding along the canals of Venice? The creator of the famous Assimil language-learning method has developed this indispensable companion for your break or business trip to Italy.

- Getting started in Italian: 21 mini-lessons
- Useful words and phrases
- Phonetic pronunciations
- Essential vocabulary for a range of contexts

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