

Italian A1 Complete Starter Pack

Speak your first real Italian, from zero

for English speakers

WHAT IS INSIDE

- 12 chapters, in teaching order
- A full answer key
- Mistakes English speakers make
- Graded exercises
- Italian audio throughout
- Print and mobile editions



How to use this book

What you will learn

Each chapter opens with what you will be able to do and closes with a recap. In between: the rule, real Italian examples, the mistake speakers of your language actually make, and where the language is used.

Nothing is used before it is taught. If a form appears, you have already met it — so read the chapters in order, even the ones that look easy.

Tip

A workable rhythm: one chapter every two days. Day one, read and say the examples out loud. Day two, do that chapter in the workbook before reading anything new. Twenty minutes beats two hours on Sunday.



Free lessons, audio and a word every day on the website.

<https://www.imparitaliano.com/en>

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The sounds of Italian

What you will learn

- Pronounce every letter you see
- Know when c and g are hard or soft
- Hear and produce double consonants

Italian is read almost exactly as it is written. Learn the few rules on these pages and you will never have to guess how a new word sounds.

1.1 Greetings & Introductions

- ▶ **Ciao!** — Hi/Bye! [a1-148]
- ▶ **Buongiorno!** — Good morning/day! [a1-149]
- ▶ **Buonasera!** — Good evening! [a1-150]
- ▶ **Buonanotte!** — Good night! [a1-151]
- ▶ **Arrivederci!** — Goodbye! [a1-152]
- ▶ **A presto!** — See you soon! [a1-153]

Common mistake

✗ che pronounced “chay”

✓ **che** = “keh”

In English ch is /tʃ/. In Italian an h after c or g makes them hard, so che and chi are “keh” and “kee”.

In real life

Double consonants change words: nonno (grandfather) is not nono (ninth), capelli (hair) is not cappelli (hats). Hold the consonant a beat longer and you are understood.

Listen and say it

c and g are soft before e and i (ciao, gelato) and hard before a, o, u (casa, gatto). An h always makes them hard: che, ghiaccio.

Recap

- Say every letter; swallow no vowel
- c and g are soft only before e and i
- A double consonant is longer, not louder

Next step: Now that you can pronounce what you read, let us say the first real thing: hello.

Greetings and the first contact

What you will learn

- Greet at any hour of the day
- Tell the polite form from the familiar one
- Introduce yourself and ask back

In Italy a greeting is not a formality: walking into a shop without saying *buongiorno* reads as rude. This chapter gives you the right form for each situation.

2.1 Greetings & Introductions

- ▶ **Ciao!** — Hi/Bye! [a1-148]
- ▶ **Buongiorno!** — Good morning/day! [a1-149]
- ▶ **Buonasera!** — Good evening! [a1-150]
- ▶ **Buonanotte!** — Good night! [a1-151]
- ▶ **Arrivederci!** — Goodbye! [a1-152]
- ▶ **A presto!** — See you soon! [a1-153]
- ▶ **A domani!** — See you tomorrow! [a1-154]
- ▶ **Come ti chiami?** — What's your name? [a1-155]
- ▶ **Mi chiamo Marco.** — My name is Marco. [a1-156]
- ▶ **Come si chiama?** — What's your name? [a1-157]
- ▶ **Piacere di conoscerti!** — Nice to meet you! [a1-158]
- ▶ **Di dove sei?** — Where are you from? [a1-159]

2.2 Feelings & Emotions

- ▶ **Come stai?** — How are you? [a1-323]
- ▶ **Come sta?** — How are you? [a1-324]
- ▶ **Sto bene, grazie.** — I'm fine, thanks. [a1-325]
- ▶ **Così così.** — So-so. [a1-326]
- ▶ **Non sto molto bene.** — I'm not doing very well. [a1-327]
- ▶ **Sto benissimo!** — I'm doing great! [a1-328]
- ▶ **E tu, come stai?** — And you, how are you? [a1-329]
- ▶ **Sono felice.** — I'm happy. [a1-330]
- ▶ **Sono triste.** — I'm sad. [a1-331]
- ▶ **Sono stanco/stanca.** — I'm tired. (m/f) [a1-332]
- ▶ **Ho paura.** — I'm afraid. [a1-333]
- ▶ **Sono arrabbiato/arrabbiata.** — I'm angry. (m/f) [a1-334]

Common mistake

✗ Buongiorno! (at 6 p.m.)

✓ **Buonasera!**

English keeps “good afternoon” going until dark, so buongiorno feels safe all day. Italian switches earlier: from mid-afternoon on it is buonasera. And buonanotte is not a greeting at all — it is what you say on leaving, on the way to bed.

In real life

The working rule: buongiorno until mid-afternoon, buonasera after it. If you hesitate, say salve — it is perfectly neutral and never wrong.

Recap

- ciao for friends, buongiorno for everyone else
- buonanotte only when leaving for bed
- salve is the safe exit when unsure

Next step: To say more than hello you need nouns — and every Italian noun has a gender. That is the next chapter.