

# Italian A2 Complete Pack

The past tenses – taught, drilled, and sat under the clock

for English speakers

## WHAT IS INSIDE

- 9 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

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## 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 passato prossimo with AVERE

## What you will learn

- Say what you did yesterday
- Build the past from two parts: avere + a participle
- Know the irregular participles that appear most

Until now you have talked about now. From this chapter you can tell a story: what you did yesterday, what you ate, whom you saw. Italian builds the past from two pieces — a helper verb and a participle — exactly as English does in “I have eaten”.

## 1.1 The Pattern

MANGIARE (to eat) - Past Participle: mangiato. Use AVERE as auxiliary + past participle.

| Pronoun | Auxiliary | Past Participle | Example                       |
|---------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| io      | ho        | mangiato        | Io ho mangiato una pizza.     |
| tu      | hai       | mangiato        | Tu hai mangiato troppo.       |
| lui/lei | ha        | mangiato        | Lei ha mangiato bene.         |
| noi     | abbiamo   | mangiato        | Noi abbiamo mangiato insieme. |
| voi     | avete     | mangiato        | Voi avete mangiato già?       |
| loro    | hanno     | mangiato        | Loro hanno mangiato fuori.    |

## 1.2 How to Form Past Participles

| Verb Type  | Pattern | Example           |
|------------|---------|-------------------|
| -ARE verbs | -ato    | parlare → parlato |
| -ERE verbs | -uto    | vendere → venduto |
| -IRE verbs | -ito    | dormire → dormito |

## 1.3 High-Frequency Verbs with AVERE

**Ho mangiato una pizza ieri.** — I ate a pizza yesterday.  
**Hai bevuto troppo caffè.** — You drank too much coffee.  
**Ha comprato un regalo.** — He/She bought a gift.  
**Abbiamo visto un bel film.** — We saw a beautiful movie.  
**Avete sentito la notizia?** — Did you hear the news?  
**Ho preso l'autobus.** — I took the bus.  
**Hai fatto i compiti?** — Did you do the homework?  
**Ha detto la verità.** — He/She told the truth.  
**Ho scritto una lettera.** — I wrote a letter.  
**Abbiamo letto quel libro.** — We read that book.  
**Hanno aperto un negozio.** — They opened a shop.  
**Ho chiuso la porta.** — I closed the door.  
**Hai messo le chiavi?** — Did you put the keys?  
**Ho perso il portafoglio.** — I lost my wallet.  
**Ha trovato lavoro.** — He/She found a job.

## 1.4 Irregular Past Participles with AVERE

| Infinitive | Past Participle | Example                     |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| fare       | fatto           | Ho fatto la spesa.          |
| dire       | detto           | Hai detto bene.             |
| leggere    | letto           | Ha letto il giornale.       |
| scrivere   | scritto         | Ho scritto un'email.        |
| aprire     | aperto          | Abbiamo aperto la finestra. |
| chiudere   | chiuso          | Hai chiuso la porta?        |
| mettere    | messo           | Ho messo i libri qui.       |
| prendere   | preso           | Ha preso un caffè.          |
| vedere     | visto           | Abbiamo visto Roma.         |
| perdere    | perso           | Ho perso le chiavi.         |
| bere       | bevuto          | Hai bevuto troppo caffè.    |

## 1.5 Passato Prossimo - What Happened

- ▶ **Ieri ho mangiato una pizza.** — Yesterday I ate a pizza. [a2-174]
- ▶ **Ho visto un film interessante.** — I saw an interesting movie. [a2-175]
- ▶ **Abbiamo parlato per ore.** — We talked for hours. [a2-176]
- ▶ **Hai dormito bene ieri notte?** — Did you sleep well last night? [a2-177]
- ▶ **Non ho fatto niente di speciale.** — I didn't do anything special. [a2-178]
- ▶ **Sono andato/a al cinema.** — I went to the cinema. [a2-179]

### Common mistake

✗ Ho prenduto il treno.

✓ **Ho preso il treno.**

English has one regular way to make a participle and a short list of irregulars you already know. Italian has a much longer irregular list — preso, fatto, detto, visto, letto, scritto — and they must be learnt as words, not derived.

### In real life

This is the tense you hear in every bar in the morning: “ieri ho visto...”, “ho fatto...”. If you want to tell anyone anything that happened to you, this is the tense you need.

### Listen and say it

The stress in a regular participle falls on the second-to-last syllable: man-GIA-to, par-LA-to. Short irregular ones stress the first: PRE-so, FAT-to, DET-to.



This chapter on the website: more examples and the audio.

<https://www.imparitaliano.com/en/learn/a2/grammar#a2-passato-prossimo-avere>

### Recap

- ho / hai / ha / abbiamo / avete / hanno + participle
- -are ➔ -ato, -ere ➔ -uto, -ire ➔ -ito
- Learn the irregulars as words: fatto, detto, preso, visto, letto

**Next step:** But not every verb takes avere. Verbs of motion and of change pick a different helper — that is the next chapter.