# Contents

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# Verbs

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# SUMMARY OF TENSES

Italian verbs have fourteen tenses, seven simple and seven compound.   The changes that a verb undergoes in different tenses and moods are accomplished by use of endings and auxiliaries.   Their systematic arrangement is called conjugation.

Verbs are divided into three classes according to their infinitive endings:

| **-are** | **-ere** | **-ire** |
|---|---|---|
| gioc**are** | vend**ere** | part**ire** |
| to play | to sell | to leave |

Here is the conjugation model of the verb:giocare:

*Italian*                                        *English*

*Present Tenses*

| **Presente dell'Indicativo:** | **Present:** | **Present Continuous:** |
|---|---|---|
| [Io] gioco | I play / I do play | I am playing |

| **Presente del Congiuntivo:** | **Present Subjunctive:** | |
|---|---|---|
| [che] io giochi | [that] I may play | |

*Past Tenses*

| **Passato Remoto:** | **Simple Past:** | |
|---|---|---|
| [Io] giocai | I played / I did play | |

| **Imperfetto dellIndicativo:** | **Imperfect:** | **Past Continuous:** |
|---|---|---|
| io giocavo | I played / I used to play | I was playing |

| **Congiuntivo Passato:** | **Past Subjunctive:** | |
|---|---|---|
| [che] io abbia giocato | [that] I may have played | |

| **Imperfetto del Congiuntivo:** | **Imperfect Subjunctive:** | |
|---|---|---|
| [che] io giocassi | [that] I might play | |

*Perfect Tenses*

| **Passato Prossimo:** | **Present Perfect:** | **Present Perfect Continuous:** |
|---|---|---|
| [Io] ho giocato | I have played | I have been playing |

*Past Perfect Tenses*

**Trapassato Remoto:**     **<span style="color:green">Past Anterior</span>:**
[Io] ebbi giocato            I had played

**Trapassato Prossimo:**     **<span style="color:green">Past Perfect</span>:**        **<span style="color:green">Past Perfect Continuous</span>:**
Io avevo giocato           I had played         I had been playing

**Trapassato**
**del Congiuntivo:**         **<span style="color:green">Past Perfect Subjunctive</span>:**
[che] io avessi giocato          [that] I might have played

*Future Tenses*

**Futuro Semplice:**     **<span style="color:green">Future</span>:**        **<span style="color:green">Future Continuous</span>:**

[Io] giocherò          I will / shall play     I will be playing
                    I am going to play

*Future Perfect Tenses*

**Futuro Anteriore:**     **<span style="color:green">Future Perfect</span>:**
[Io] avrò giocato         I shall have played
                    I will have played

*Present Conditional*

**Condizionale Presente:**    **<span style="color:green">Present Conditional</span>:**    **<span style="color:green">Conditional Continuous</span>:**

Io giocherei

                         I would play     I would be playing

*Conditional Perfect*

**Condizionale Passato:**     **<span style="color:green">Conditional Perfect</span>:**
Io avrei giocato          I would have played**.**

# Modal Verbs

The modal verbs may be conjugated with either avere or essere, depending on the infinitive that follows. If the infinitive is a transitive verb, it is conjugated with avere.   If the infinitive expresses movement and is **not** transitive, then it is conjugated with essere.

When the modal verb is used in a response, where the infinitive is understood, avere is used as the auxiliary verb.

**DOVERE** (must) , **POTERE** (be able to)   and **VOLERE** (want) are usually followed by an infinitive and are considered irregular verbs since they don't follow the pattern of the regular **-ere** verbs.


## DOVERE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| [Io] devo | I must | |
| [Tu] devi | You must | |
| Egli (lui, essa) deve | He (she, it) must | |
| [Noi] dobbiamo | | We must |
| [Voi] dovete | You must | |
| Essi [loro] devono | They must | |


## POTERE

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] posso | I can |
| [Tu] puoi | You can |
| Egli può | He (she, it) can |
| [Noi] possiamo | We can |
| [Voi] potete | You can |
| Essi [loro] possono | They can |


## VOLERE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| [Io] voglio | I want | |
| [Tu] vuoi | You want | |
| Egli vuole | He (she, it) want | |
| [Noi] vogliamo | | We want |
| [Voi] volete | You want | |
| Essi [loro] vogliono | They want | |


Maria deve finire il compito.
Maria must finish the homework.

Non sono voluti uscire con noi.
They didn't want to go out with us.

# Avere/Essere

The Italian Auxiliary verbs "essere" (to be) and "avere" (to have) are irregular. They are called Auxiliary Verbs because they are used in conjunction with other verbs to form compound tenses.
**Avere**, used by itself, is a transitive verb with the meaning : **to own or to have**.
**Essere**, used by itself, is an intransitive verb with the meaning: **to exist**.
Essere and Avere are conjugated as follows:

## AVERE

### Presente dell'Indicativo

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] ho | I have |
| [Tu] hai | You have |
| Egli ha | He/she has |
| [Noi] abbiamo | We have |
| [Voi] avete | You have |
| Essi [loro] hanno | They have |

### Imperfetto dell'Indicativo

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] avevo | I had |
| [Tu] avevi | You had |
| Egli aveva | He/she had |
| [Noi] avevamo | We had |
| [Voi] avevate | You had |
| Essi [loro] avevano | They had |

### Passato Remoto   (Simple Past or Past Absolute) :

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] ebbi | I had |
| [Tu] avesti | You had |
| Egli ebbe | He/she had |
| [Noi] avemmo | We had |
| [Voi] aveste | You had |
| Essi [loro] ebbero | They had |

### Futuro   (Future) :

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] avrò | I will have |
| [Tu] avrai | You will have |
| Egli (ella) avrà | He/she will have |
| [Noi] avremo | We will have |
| [Voi] avrete | You will have |
| Essi [loro] avranno | They will have |

### Condizionale Presente   (Present Conditional) :

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] avrei | I would have |
| [Tu] avresti | You would have |
| Egli (ella) avrebbe | He/she would have |
| [Noi] avremmo | We would have |
| [Voi] avreste | You would have |
| Essi [loro] avrebbero | They would have |

### Presente del Congiuntivo (Present Subjunctive):

| | |
|---|---|
| che io abbia | that I have |
| che tu abbia | that you have |
| che egli (ella) abbia | that he/she has |
| che noi abbiamo | that we have |
| che voi abbiate | that you have |
| che essi [loro] abbiano | that they have |

### Imperfetto del Congiuntivo (Imperfect Subjunctive):

| | |
|---|---|
| che io avessi | that I had |
| che tu avessi | that you had |
| che egli (ella) avesse | that he/she had |
| che noi avessimo | that we had |
| che voi aveste | that you had |
| che essi [loro] avessero | that they had |

### Passato Prossimo (Present Perfect):

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] ho avuto | I have had |
| [Tu] hai avuto | You have had |
| Egli (ella) ha avuto | He/she has had |
| [Noi] abbiamo avuto | We have had |
| [Voi] avete avuto | You have had |
| Essi [loro] hanno avuto | They have had |

### Trapassato Prossimo (Past Perfect):

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] avevo avuto | I had had |
| [Tu] avevi avuto | You had had |
| Egli (ella) aveva avuto | He/she had had |
| [Noi] avevamo avuto | We had had |
| [Voi] avevate avuto | You had had |
| Essi [loro] avevano avuto | They had had |

### Trapassato Remoto (Past Anterior):

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] ebbi avuto | I had had |

[Tu] avesti avuto          You had had
Egli (ella) ebbe avuto     He/she had had
[Noi] avemmo avuto         We had had
[Voi] aveste avuto         You had had
Essi [loro] ebbero avuto   They had had

## Futuro Anteriore (Future Perfect):

[Io] avrò avuto            I will have had
[Tu] avrai avuto           You will have had
Egli (ella) avrà avuto     He/she will have had
[Noi] avremo avuto         We will have had
[Voi] avrete avuto         You will have had
Essi [loro] avranno avuto  They will have had

## Condizionale Passato (Past Conditional or Conditional Perfect):

[Io] avrei avuto           I would have had
[Tu] avresti avuto         You would have had
Egli (ella) avrebbe avuto  He/she would have had
[Noi] avremmo avuto        We would have had
[Voi] avreste avuto        You would have had
Essi [loro] avrebbero avuto                    They would have had

## Passato del Congiuntivo (Past Subjunctive):

che io abbia avuto          that I have had
che tu abbia avuto          that you have had
che egli (ella) abbia avuto that he/she has had
che noi abbiamo avuto       that we have had
che voi abbiate avuto       that you would have had
che essi [loro] abbiano avuto                        that they would have had

## Trapassato del Congiuntivo (Past Perfect Subjunctive):

che io avessi avuto         that I had had
che tu avessi avuto         that you had had
che egli (ella) avesse avuto       that he/she had had
che noi avessimo avuto     that we had had
che voi aveste avuto        that you had had
che essi [loro] avessero avuto    that they had had

## ESSERE

## Presente dellIndicativo (Present Indicative)

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] sono | I am |
| [Tu] sei | You are |
| Egli è | He/she is |
| [Noi] siamo | We are |
| [Voi] siete | You are |
| Essi [loro] sono | They are |

## Imperfetto dellIndicativo (Imperfect)

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] ero | I was |
| [Tu] eri | You were |
| Egli era | He/she was |
| [Noi] eravamo | We were |
| [Voi] eravate | You were |
| Essi [loro] erano | They were |

## Passato Remoto (Simple Past or Past Absolute) :

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] fui | I was |
| [Tu] fosti | You were |
| Egli fu | He/she was |
| [Noi] fummo | We were |
| [Voi] foste | You were |
| Essi [loro] furono | They were |

## Futuro (Future) :

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] sarò | I will be |
| [Tu] sarai | You will be |
| Egli (ella) sarà | He/she will be |
| [Noi] saremo | We will be |
| [Voi] sarete | You will be |
| Essi [loro] saranno | They will be |

## Condizionale Presente (Present Conditional) :

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] sarei | I would be |
| [Tu] saresti | You would be |
| Egli (ella) sarebbe | He/she would be |
| [Noi] saremmo | We would be |
| [Voi] sareste | You would be |
| Essi [loro] sarebbero | They would be |

## Presente del Congiuntivo Present Subjunctive):

| | |
|---|---|
| che io sia | that I am |
| che tu sia | that you are |

che egli (ella) sia      that he/she is
che noi siamo        that we are
che voi siate        that you are
che essi [loro] siano    that they are


## Imperfetto del Congiuntivo (Imperfect Subjunctive):

che io fossi         that I was
che tu fossi         that you were
che egli (ella) fosse    that he/she was
che noi fossimo       that we were
che voi foste        that you were
che essi [loro] fossero   that they were


## Passato Prossimo (Present Perfect):

[Io] sono stato       I have been
[Tu] sei stato        You have been
Egli (ella) è stato/a          He/she has been
[Noi] siamo stati            We have been
[Voi] siete stati       You have been
Essi [loro] sono stati    They have been


## Trapassato Prossimo (Past Perfect):

[Io] ero stato        I had been
[Tu] eri stato        You had been
Egli (ella) era stato/a         He/she had been
[Noi] eravamo stati          We had been
[Voi] eravate stati      You had been
Essi [loro] erano stati   They had been


## Trapassato Remoto (Past Anterior):

[Io] fui stato        I had been
[Tu] fosti stato       You had been
Egli (ella) fu stato/a          He/she had been
[Noi] fummo stati            We had been
[Voi] foste stati       You had been
Essi [loro] furono stati   They had been


## Futuro Anteriore (Future Perfect):

[Io] sarò stato        I will have been
[Tu] sarai stato       You will have been

Egli (ella) sarà stato/a          He/she will have been
[Noi] saremo stati               We will have been
[Voi] sarete stati          You will have been
Essi [loro] saranno stati   They will have been


<span style="color:green">**Condizionale Passato**</span> **(Past Conditional or Conditional Perfect):**

[Io] sarei stato          I would have been
[Tu] saresti stato        You would have been
Egli (ella) sarebbe stato/a       He/she would have been
[Noi] saremmo stati              We would have been
[Voi] sareste stati        You would have been
Essi [loro] sarebbero stati  They would have been


**Passato del Congiuntivo (Past Subjunctive):**

che io sia stato          that I have been
che tu sia stato          that you have been
che egli (ella) sia stato/a        that he/she has been
che noi siamo stati                that we have been
che voi siate stati        that you would have been
che essi [loro] siano stati   that they would have been


<span style="color:green">**Trapassato del Congiuntivo**</span> **(Past Perfect Subjunctive):**

che io fossi stato        that I had been
che tu fossi stato        that you had been
che egli (ella) fosse stato/a     that he/she had been
che noi fossimo stati             that we had been
che voi foste stati        that you had been
che essi [loro] fossero stati                          that they had been


All **transitive** verbs are conjugated with the auxiliary **avere**.   In all the forms with the Auxiliary **essere** the Past Participle always agrees with its subject:

**Mia sorella è uscita con gli amici.**
My sister has gone out with friends.

**Molti palazzi erano stati distrutti.**
Many buildings had been destroyed.

**Siamo arrivati in ritardo.**
We have arrived late.

**Si sono smarrite.**
They (f.) got lost.

**È venuta mia sorella?**
Has my sister come?

In the active forms with the Auxiliary avere the Past Participle **does not** inflect **unless** the direct object is a **pronoun**.   The past participle **must** agree in gender and number when the direct object is a pronoun.

**Loro hanno usato la mia bicicletta.**
They used my bicycle.¤

**Loro l'hanno usata.**
They used it.

**<u>Li</u> ho mangiati tutti.**
I ate them all.

**<u>Le</u> ho viste ieri.**
I saw them yesterday.

**Avete letto la rivista?**
Have you read the magazine?

Sì, **l'abbiamo letta.**
Yes, we read it.

There are also some intransitive verbs that are conjugated with avere, although most are conjugated with essere.   The following are conjugated with avere:

| | |
|---|---|
| camminare | to walk |
| parlare | to talk |
| dormire | to sleep |
| passeggiare | to walk |
| vivere | to live |
| viaggiare | to travel |
| nuotare | to swim |

Verbs conjugated with essere:

• Verbs which express movement:

È andato a Roma.
He went to Rome.

• Reflexive verbs:

Questa mattina mi sono alzato tardi.
This morning I woke up late

• Verbs which express a change:

È morto ieri.
He died yesterday

• Impersonal verbs:

> Si è parlato in inglese, alla conferenza.
> English was spoken at the conference

• Verbs in the passive form:

> Il libro è stato pubblicato da Random House.
> The book has been published by Random House.

# Idiomatic Use of Fare (To do)

Besides its idiomatic uses in expressions of weather, the verb fare, followed by an infinitive, conveys the idea of having something done (the past participle of any verb), or causing someone to do something. The object pronoun(s), if any, precede(s) the inflected form of fare, and not the infinitive.   For example:

Che tempo **fa** oggi?
How **is** the weather today?
**Faceva** freddo quando uscii.
It **was** cold when I went out.
Gli ho **fatto** dire una bugia.
I have **made** him say a lie.
Me l'ha già **fatto** ripetere due volte.
He **has** already made me repeat it twice.
Glielo **feci** vedere l'altro giorno.
I **had** him see it yesterday.
Ha **fatto** chiamare Suo fratello?
**Have** you sent for your brother?
Glielo **farò** ammettere, non dubiti.
I **will** make him admit it, do not doubt it.

# PRESENT TENSE (Presente Indicativo)

The Italian Present Tense (Presente dell'Indicativo) is formed by changing the _infinitive_ **-are / -ere / -ire** to the following endings for **regular** verbs:

|  | -are verbs | -ere verbs | -ire verbs |
|---|---|---|---|
| io | -o | -o | -o |
| tu | -i | -i | -i |
| egli, ella, lui, lei | -a | -e | -e |
| noi | -iamo | -iamo | -iamo |
| voi | -ate | -ete | -ite |
| essi [loro] | -ano | -ono | -ono |

**EXAMPLES:**

### PARL**ARE** _(FIRST CONJUGATION)_

| [Io] parl**o** | I speak |
|---|---|
| [Tu] parl**i** | You speak [fam.] |
| Egli (lui, essa) parl**a** | He (she, it) speaks |
| [Noi] parl**iamo** | We speak |
| [Voi] parl**ate** | You speak [pl., fam.] |
| Essi [loro] parl**ano** | They speak |

### SCRIV**ERE** _(SECOND CONJUGATION)_

| [Io] scriv**o** | I write |
|---|---|
| [Tu] scriv**i** | You write [fam.] |
| Egli scriv**e** | He (she, it) writes |
| [Noi] scriv**iamo** | We write |
| [Voi] scriv**ete** | You write [pl., fam.] |
| Essi [loro] scriv**ono** | They write |

The **ire** verbs are of several types: two common types are the ones in which the endings are added directly to the stem (as avvertire, partire, aprire etc) and those that insert **-isc** between the stem and the ending in the first, second and third person singular and third person plural forms of the present indicative, imperative and subjunctive tenses.

### APR**IRE** _(THIRD CONJUGATION)_

| [Io] apr**o** | I open |
|---|---|
| [Tu] apr**i** | You open [fam.] |
| Egli apr**e** | He (she, it) opens |
| [Noi] apr**iamo** | We open |
| [Voi] apr**ite** | You open [pl., fam.] |

Essi [loro] apr**ono**          They open


Type 2 of **-ire** verbs: **finire**


    [Io] fin**isc**o          I finish
[Tu] fin**isc**i          You finish [fam.]
Lei fin**isc**e          You finish [formal]
Egli (ella,esso) fin**isc**e          He (she, it) finishes
[Noi] fin**iamo**          We finish
[Voi] fin**ite**          You finish [pl., fam.]
Essi [loro] fin**isc**ono          They finish


Irregular verbs have conjugations of their own that can be easily found in Italian dictionaries.

### *Irregular verbs: ANDARE*

[Io] vado          I go
[Tu] vai          You go [fam.]
Egli (ella) va          He (she, it) goes
[Noi] andiamo          We go
[Voi] andate          You go [pl., fam.]
Essi [loro] vanno          They go


**USAGE:**


The Present Tense is equivalent to the English Simple Present + Present <u>Continuous</u> (Present Indicative).   It is used to state:

1.  A general fact that is permanently true:

    Il sole **è** la stella più vicina alla terra.
    The sun *is* the closest star to the earth.


2.  A present action or state of being:

    [Io] **lavoro** in ufficio.
    *I work* in the office.

3.  An action that will occur in the near future:

    Mi **visitano** alle tre.
    *They will visit* me at three o'clock.

4.  An habitual action within a specified period of time.

    **Vado** in chiesa tutte le domeniche**.**

*I go* to church   every Sunday.

5.  The English Present Continuous (most of the time):

    [Io] **leggo** le istruzioni.
    *I am reading* the instructions.

6.  A sentiment that may extend indefinitely into the past or the future (called the universal present):

    Dio **è** misericordioso.
    God *is* merciful.


**Related Topics:**
**Summary of Tenses**

# Preterite Tense (Passato Remoto)

The preterite tense (passato remoto) expresses an action that was completed in the distant past.

The Simple Past Tense or Preterite Tense (Passato Remoto) of regular verbs is formed by changing the infinitive

**-are** / **-ere** / **-ire** to the following endings after the infinitive ending has been dropped:

|  | **-are verbs** | **-ere verbs** | **-ire verbs** |
|---|---|---|---|
| io | -ai | -ei | -ii |
| tu | -asti | -esti | -isti |
| egli, ella | -ó | -é | -í |
| noi | -ammo | -emmo | -immo |
| voi | -aste | -este | -iste |
| Essi [loro] | -arono | -erono | -irono |

**EXAMPLES:**

PARL**ARE**

| [Io] parl**ai** | I spoke |
|---|---|
| [Tu] parl**asti** | You spoke [fam.] |
| Egli, ella parl**ó** | He (she, it) spoke |
| [Noi] parl**ammo** | We spoke |
| [Voi]   parl**aste** | You spoke [fam., pl.] |
| Essi [loro] parl**arono** | They spoke |

RIFLETT**ERE**

| [Io] riflett**ei** | I reflected |
|---|---|
| [Tu] riflett**esti** | You reflected |
| Egli, ella riflett**è** | He (she, it) reflected |
| [Noi] riflett**emmo** | We reflected |
| [Voi]   riflett**este** | You reflected |
| Essi [loro] riflett**erono** | They reflected |

APR**IRE**

| [Io] apr**ii** | I opened |
|---|---|
| [Tu] apr**isti** | You opened |
| Egli apr**ì** | He (she, it) opened |
| [Noi] apr**immo** | We opened |
| [Voi] apr**iste** | You opened |
| Essi [loro] apri**rono** | They opened |

**USAGE:**

The Simple Past Tense is equivalent to the English Simple Past.   It is used to describe:

1.      An action completed in the past:

        Non **feci** colazione ieri.
        I *did* not *eat* breakfast yesterday.

        Debora **andò** al ginnasio la settimana scorsa.
        Debora *went* to the gymnasium last week.

2.      An action completed within a definite period of time:

        Il film **durò** piú di due ore.
        The movie *lasted* more than two hours.


**Related Topics:**
Summary of Tenses
Present Tense

# Imperfect Indicative (Imperfetto dell'Indicativo)

The imperfect indicative is a past tense.   Because "imperfect" implies incomplete, the imperfect tense describes an action which was continuous in the past but whose state of completion is unknown or ambiguous.

The Imperfect Tense (Imperfetto dellIndicativo) is formed by changing the infinitive **-are** / **-ere** / **-ire** to the following endings:

|            | *-are verbs* | *-ere verbs* | *-ire verbs* |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| io         | -avo       | -evo       | -ivo       |
| tu         | -avi       | -evi       | -ivi       |
| egli, ella | -ava       | -eva       | -iva       |
| noi        | -avamo     | -evamo     | -ivamo     |
| voi        | -avate     | -evate     | -ivate     |
| Essi [loro]| -avano     | -evano     | -ivano     |

## EXAMPLES:

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] parl**avo** | I was speaking |
| [Tu] parl**avi** | You were speaking [fam.] |
| Lei parl**ava** | You were speaking [formal] |
| Egli (ella) parl**ava** | He (she, it) was speaking |
| [Noi] parl**avamo** | We were speaking |
| [Voi] parl**avate** | You were speaking [pl., fam.] |
| Loro parl**avano** | They were speaking |

Italian employs it to describe:

• A past state of mind, opinion or emotion:

> **Sapevo che ai miei amici non piacevano le mie idee.**
> I knew my friends didn't like my ideas.

• A description of a scene in the past:

> **Nel parco, il tempo era bello e gli uccelli cantavano**.
> In the park, the weather was beautiful and the birds were singing.

• An habitual action that took place in the past.

> **Quando ero al liceo, lavoravo tutti i week-ends.**
> When I was in college, I worked every weekend.

• Mental, emotional, and physical conditions in the past as well as other past conditions such as weather, time, and age.

> **L'amava molto.**
> He loved her very much.
> **Faceva molto caldo.**
> It was very hot.

**Related Topics:**

# Future Tense (Futuro)

To form the future tense in Italian two things must be done.   For the -ARE verbs, the infinitive ending -are is changed to -er and then -ò, -ai, -à, -emo, -ete, -anno is added.   Both the -ERE and the -IRE verbs are formed as follows.   First, the final e is dropped from the infinitive ending, changing -ere to -er and -ire to -ir.   Next, one of the following future endings is added onto the word, -ò, -ai, -à, -emo, -ete, or -anno.

**EXAMPLE:**

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] parl**erò** | I will speak |
| [Tu] parl**erai** | You will speak [fam.] |
| Lei parl**erà** | You will speak [formal] |
| Egli (ella) parl**erà** | He (she, it) will speak |
| [Noi] parl**eremo** | We will speak |
| [Voi] parl**erete** | You will speak [pl., fam.] |
| Essi [loro] parl**eranno** | They will speak |

**USAGE:**

The **Future Tense** is equivalent to the English Future Tense using **will** or **shall**.   It is used to describe actions or states that, it is assumed, will take place at a time future to the present:

Il balletto **avrá** luogo sabato prossimo.
The ballet will take place next Saturday.

To use the future on present intent or determination.

**Andrò** a vederlo domani.
I will go to see him tomorrow.

Use of the future after quando (when).   When the main clause is in the future, and the subordinate clause is introduced by quando, the subordinate clause will be in the future:

Lo **vedrò** quando arriverò.
I will see him when I (will) arrive.

Present probability:
**Saranno** probabilmente a casa.
*They are probably* already home.

**Related Topics:**
Summary of Tenses
Future Perfect Tense

# Conditional (Condizionale)

Like the indicative, the imperative, and the subjunctive, the conditional is a mood, with its own endings for various tenses.   The root of the verb is the same as the future root.   The -ARE verb ending changes to -er and a conditional ending is added -ei, -esti, -ebbe, -emmo, -este, -ebbero.   The -ERE and -IRE verbs drop their final e before adding one of the following conditional endings, -ei, -esti, -ebbe, -emmo, -este, -ebbero.

**EXAMPLE:**

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] parl**erei** | I would speak |
| [Tu] parl**eresti** | You would speak [fam.] |
| Lei parl**erebbe** | You would speak [formal] |
| Egli (ella) parl**erebbe** | He (she, it) would speak |
| [Noi] parl**eremmo** | We would speak |
| [Voi] parl**ereste** | You would speak [pl., fam.] |
| Essi [loro] parl**erebbero** | They would speak |

The **Present Conditional** is equivalent to the English construction **would** + **infinitive**. It has four major uses:

• To express the result of a hypothetical situation, the verb in the conditional follows the conjunction se plus a verb in the past subjunctive:

> Se fossi in te, non lo **farei.**
> If I were you, I would not do it.

• To express a probability in the future:

> **Andrei** in Italia domani.
> I would go to Italy tomorrow.

• To express politeness, and in sentences where there is only one verb what is expressed in English by, I would . . .:

> Lo **farei** con piacere.
> I'd do that with pleasure.
> **Vorrei** una tazza di caffè.
> I would like a cup of coffee.

**Related Topics:**
Summary of Tenses
Present Tense
Future Perfect Tense
Clauses

# Present Subjunctive (Congiuntivo Presente)

The subjunctive mood is rarely used in English but is frequently used in Italian.   A verb takes the subjunctive when it is preceded by certain verbs or certain expressions that indicate a subjective situation.

The present subjunctive tense is formed by dropping the final o found at the end of the present indicative and then adding a present subjunctive ending.   For -ARE verbs, add **-i, -i, -i, -iamo, -iate, -ino**.   For -ERE and -IRE verbs, add **-a, -a, -a, -iamo, -iate, -ano**.

|              | *-are verbs* | *-ere / -ire verbs* |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| io           | -i           | -a                  |
| tu           | -i           | -a                  |
| egli, ella   | -i           | -a                  |
| noi          | -iamo        | -iamo               |
| voi          | -iate        | -iate               |
| Essi [loro]  | -ino         | -ano                |

**EXAMPLES:**

### *Parlare (To speak - First Conjugation)*

| [ io] parl**i**        | that I may speak          |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| [tu] parl**i**         | that you may speak [fam.]  |
| Egli (ella) parl**i**  | that he (she, it) may speak |
| [Noi] parl**iamo**     | that we may speak         |
| [Voi] parl**iate**     | that you may speak [pl., fam.] |
| [Essi, loro] parl**ino** | that they may   speak   |

### *Scrivere (To write - Second Conjugation)*

| [io] scriv**a**         | that I may write          |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| [tu] scriv**a**         | that you may write [fam.]  |
| Egli (ella) scriv**a**  | that he (she, it) may write |
| [Noi] scriv**iamo**     | that we may write         |
| [Voi] scriv**iate**     | that you may write [pl., fam.] |
| [Essi, loro] scriv**ano** | that they may   write   |

### *Aprire (To open - Third Conjugation)*

| [io] apr**a**          | that I may open           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| [tu] apr**a**          | that you may open [fam.]   |
| Egli (ella) apr**a**   | that he (she, it) may open |
| [Noi] apr**iamo**      | that we may open          |
| [Voi] apr**iate**      | that you may open         |
| [Essi, loro] apr**ano** | that they may   open     |

After an expression of personal sentiment (emotion, will, or desire):

**Sono contento che voi siate qui.**
I am happy that you are here.
**Desidero che tu arrivi presto.**
I wish that you arrive early.

After an expression of necessity, doubt or possibility:

**È necessario che tu venga con me.**
You must come with me.
**È possibile che noi andiamo a Parigi.**
It is possible that we're going to Paris.

After verbs of opinion (pensare, credere, sperare, sentire) when they are in the negative or interrogative:

**Lei non pensa che sia freddo in Alaska.**
She doesn't think it is cold in Alaska.
**Le sembra che io sia malato?**
Does it seem to you that I am sick?

After certain conjunctive phrases that express the idea of unaccomplished goal or aim:

| | |
|---|---|
| benchè | so that; in order that |
| affinchè | so that; in order that |
| in modo che | so that; in order that |
| prima che | before (that) |
| per paura che | out of fear that |
| a meno che | unless |
| fino a che | until |
| benchè | although |

After chiunque (whoever), qualunque (whatever), dovunque (wherever):

| | |
|---|---|
| Chiunque Lei sia . . . | Whoever you are . . . |
| Qualunque cosa io faccia. . . | Whatever I do . . . |
| Dovunque si vada . . . | Wherever one goes . . . |

After a superlative adjective when there is an idea of doubt, probability, but not certainty:

**Tu sei forse il miglior amico che io abbia.**
You are maybe the best friend that I have.

In subordinate clauses, following an impersonal expression only when the subordinate clause contains a subject.

**È** *importante* **che i bambini mangino la verdura**.
It is important that the children *eat* vegetables.

### *Impersonal Expressions*

| | |
|---|---|
| è   importante | it's important |
| è impossibile | it's impossible |
| è necessario | it's necessary |
| è possibile | it's possible |

è probabile     it's probable, likely

**Related Topics:**
[Summary of Tenses](Summary of Tenses)
[Present Tense](Present Tense)
[Clauses](Clauses)
[Negation](Negation)

# IMPERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE (Congiuntivo Imperfetto)

The past subjunctive is a literary tense whose modern use is rare, even in literature.   It may be used in sentences where the subjunctive is called for but the verb of the **main clause** is in the past tense or conditional mood.   To form the past subjunctive for **-ARE** verbs add **-assi, -assi, -asse, -assimo, -aste, assero**.   For **-ERE** verbs, add **-essi, -essi, -esse, -essimo, -este, -essero**.   For **-IRE** verbs, add **-issi, -issi, -isse, -issimo, -iste, -issero**.

The imperfect subjunctive:

> **Volevo che tu lo facessi.**
> I wanted you to do it.

The present subjunctive:

> **Voglio che tu lo faccia.**
> I want you to do it.

## EXAMPLES:

### Parlare (To speak - First Conjugation)

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] parl**assi** | that I might speak |
| [Tu] parl**assi** | that you might speak [fam.] |
| Egli (ella) parl**asse** | that he (she, it) might speak |
| [Noi] parl**assimo** | that we might speak |
| [Voi] parl**aste** | that you might speak [pl., fam.] |
| Essi [loro] parl**assero** | that they might speak |

### Scrivere (To write - Second Conjugation)

| | |
|---|---|
| [io] scriv**essi** | that I might write |
| [tu] scriv**essi** | that you might write [fam.] |
| Egli (ella) scriv**esse** | that he (she, it) might write |
| [Noi] scriv**essimo** | that we might write |
| [Voi] scriv**este** | that you might write [pl., fam.] |
| [Essi, loro] scriv**essero** | that they might   write |

### Aprire (To open - Third Conjugation)

| | |
|---|---|
| [io] apr**issi** | that I might open |
| [tu] apr**issi** | that you might open [fam.] |
| Egli (ella) apr**isse** | that he (she, it) might open |
| [Noi] apr**issimo** | that we might open |
| [Voi] apr**iste** | that you might open |
| [Essi, loro] apr**issero** | that they might   open |

## USAGE:

The Imperfect Subjunctive expresses uncertainty, possibility, a feeling, or a wish, as does

the Present Subjunctive.

The subjunctive must be used in subordinate clauses in which there is a change of subject and when there is doubt in the mind of the speaker or writer as to the absolute truth or future fulfillment of his statement.

If the verb in the main clause is in the Imperfect Indicative, Simple Past, Conditional, or Past Perfect, the Imperfect Subjunctive is used in the subordinate clause.

The Subjunctive is used:

1.  In subordinate clauses that follow verbs of desire, command, emotion, doubt, and uncertainty.

> Avevano paura che lui lo **facesse**.  [change of subject]
> *They feared* that he *might do* it.
>
> Lei insistì che [io] lo **facessi**.
> She *insisted* that I *do it*.

2.  In subordinate clauses that follow an impersonal expression only when the subordinate clause contains a subject.

> Era importante che **ascoltassimo** i dettagli.
> *It was important* that we listened to the details.

3.  In subordinate clauses, when the noun modified by the subordinate clause does *not* refer to a specific person or thing.

> Volevo parlare con qualcuno che **conoscesse** bene la Francia.
> I wanted to speak with *someone* who *knows* France well.

4.  After the subordinating conjunction "**come se**," to express a contrary-to-fact condition. "**Come se**" *always* takes the Imperfect Subjunctive.

> Parla come se mi **conoscesse**.
> He speaks *as if* he *knew* me.
>
> Mi tratta   come se **fossi** un cretino.
> He treats me as if I *were* a fool.


**Related Topics:**
Summary of Tenses
Imperfect Tense

# COMPOUND TENSES

The Compound Tenses of all verbs are formed from the various tenses of the conjugated auxiliary verb **avere** (to have) or **essere** (to be) plus the past participle of the main verb.

**Sono venuti**?          *Have* they *come*?

**Hai visto...?**          *Have* you *seen*...?

**Abbiamo** sempre **detto...**   We *have* always *said*...

**Related Topics:**
Summary of Tenses
Present Perfect Tense
Past Perfect Tense
Future Perfect Tense
Conditional Perfect
Past Perfect Subjunctive

# PRESENT PERFECT TENSE (Passato Prossimo)

The **present perfect**, or conversational past (**passato prossimo**):
The present perfect tense, along with the imperfect tense, is the main past tense in Italian.   It is formed with the present tense of the auxiliary verb (**avere** or **essere**) plus the past participle of the main verb.

The Past Participle of regular verbs is formed by dropping the infinitive ending **-are** and adding the ending **-ato** for regular first conjugation verbs; dropping the infinitive ending **-ere** and adding **-uto** for regular second conjugation verbs; and dropping the infinitive ending **-ire** and adding **-ito** for regular third conjugation verbs. Look at the following examples of regular past participles:

**ballare**          **ballato**

**cantare**          **cantato**

**avere**             **avuto**

**cadere**            **caduto**

**sapere**            **saputo**

**partire**           **partito**

**capire**            **capito**

Study the following model and then look at the examples:

| io | **ho** | + past participle |
|---|---|---|
| tu | **hai** | + past participle |
| egli, ella ,etc | **ha** | + past participle |
| noi | **abbiamo** | + past participle |
| voi | **avete** | + past participle |
| Essi | **hanno** | + past participle |

| io | **sono** | + past participle |
|---|---|---|
| tu | **sei** | + past participle |
| egli, ella ,etc | **è** | + past participle |
| noi | **siamo** | + past participle |
| voi | **siete** | + past participle |
| Essi | **sono** | + past participle |

**EXAMPLES:**

| [Io] **ho parlato** | I have spoken |
|---|---|
| [Tu] **hai parlato** | you have spoken [fam.] |

| | |
|---|---|
| Egli(ella) **ha parlato** | he (she, it) has spoken |
| [Noi] **abbiamo parlato** | we have spoken |
| [Voi] **avete parlato** | you have spoken [pl., fam.] |
| Essi,loro **hanno parlato** | they have spoken |
| | |
| [Io] **sono andato** | I have gone |
| [Tu] **sei andato** | you have gone [fam.] |
| Egli (ella) **è andato/a** | he (she, it) has gone |
| [Noi] **siamo andati** | we have gone |
| [Voi] **siete andati** | you have gone [pl., fam.] |
| Essi, loro **sono andati/e** | they have gone |

The **present perfect** (passato prossimo) has two major uses:

• To express an action or a state of mind, emotion, or opinion at a precise or sudden moment in the past:

**Quando mi ha visto, ho avuto paura.**
When he saw me, I was afraid.

• To express a completed action, thought, or statement:

**Ella ha aperto la porta e io sono entrato.**
She opened the door and I entered.

The conjugation of the "passato prossimo" with the present tense of avere or essere depends on whether the following verb is transitive or intransitive.   **Transitive verbs** are conjugated with **avere**.   **Intransitive verbs** are conjugated with **essere**.

**Transitive verbs** take a direct object that answers the question what or whom.   The      object can be a noun or a verb.

**Ha mangiato una pizza**.
He ate a pizza.
**Ha guardato la TV.**
He watched TV.
**Ha voluto cantare**.
He wanted to sing.

**Intransitive verbs** do not take a direct object or answer the question what.   They usually express movement.

**È andato a Roma**.
He went to Rome.
**Sono partiti ieri.**
They left yesterday.

**Important!**
Remember that the Past Participle of verbs conjugated with essere must agree in number and gender with the subject of the sentence.

**La ragazza è andata a scuola**.
The girl has gone to school.

**I ragazzi sono andati a scuola.**
The boys have gone to school.

**Related Topics:**
[Summary of Tenses](#)
[Present Tense](#)
[Passive Voice](#)

# Past Perfect Tense (Trapassato Prossimo)

The past perfect tense, (trapassato prossimo) may be used in writing to indicate the relationship between two successive past actions. It is a compound tense formed by combining the auxiliary verb (essere or avere) in the imperfect tense with the past participle of the main verb.

Using the preterite perfect tense:

**Non eravamo usciti perché già avevamo comprato i regali.**
We had not gone out because we had already bought the presents.

## AVERE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| io | **avevo** | + past participle |
| tu | **avevi** | + past participle |
| egli, ella | **aveva** | + past participle |
| noi | **avevamo** | + past participle |
| voi | **avevate** | + past participle |
| Essi, loro | **avevano** | + past participle |

## ESSERE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| io | **ero** | + past participle |
| tu | **eri** | + past participle |
| egli, ella | **era** | + past participle |
| noi | **eravamo** | + past participle |
| voi | **eravate** | + past participle |
| Essi, loro | **erano** | + past participle |

## EXAMPLES:

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] **avevo parlato** | I had spoken |
| [Tu] **avevi parlato** | you had spoken |
| Egli(ella) **aveva parlato** | he (she, it) had spoken |
| [Noi] **avevamo parlato** | we had spoken |
| [Voi] **avevate parlato** | you had spoken |
| Essi, loro **avevano parlato** | they had spoken |

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] **ero andato** | I had gone |
| [Tu] **eri andato** | you had gone [fam.] |
| Egli (ella) **era andato/a** | he (she, it) had gone |
| [Noi] **eravamo andati** | we had gone |
| [Voi] **eravate andati** | you had gone [pl., fam.] |
| Essi, loro **erano andati/e** | they had gone |

**Related Topics:**

# Preterite Perfect Tense (Trapassato Remoto)

The preterite perfect tense, (trapassato remoto) like the preterite tense, is limited in modern Italian to literary or historical contexts.   It may be used in writing to indicate the relationship between two successive past actions.   The preterite perfect is generally found in a subordinate clause, introduced by a conjunction Conjunction of time:   appena, quando.   It is formed by combining the auxiliary verb (essere or avere) in the perfect tense with the past participle of the main verb.

The Italian Preterite Perfect Tense is used to express an action that occurred in the past before another past action.

Using the preterite perfect tense:


**Quando il re ebbe finito, fece un discorso.**
After the king had finished, he gave a speech.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| io | **ebbi** | + past participle |
| tu | **avesti** | + past participle |
| egli, ella | **ebbe** | + past participle |
| noi | **avemmo** | + past participle |
| voi | **aveste** | + past participle |
| Essi, loro | **ebbero** | + past participle |


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| io | **fui** | + past participle |
| tu | **fosti** | + past participle |
| egli, ella | **fu** | + past participle |
| noi | **fummo** | + past participle |
| voi | **foste** | + past participle |
| Essi, loro | **furono** | + past participle |


**EXAMPLES:**

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] **ebbi parlato** | I had spoken |
| [Tu] **avesti parlato** | you had spoken [fam.] |
| Egli(ella) **ebbe parlato** | he (she, it) had spoken |
| [Noi] **avemmo parlato** | we had spoken |
| [Voi] **aveste parlato** | you had spoken [pl., fam.] |
| Essi, loro **ebbero parlato** | they had spoken |


| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] **fui andato** | I had gone |
| [Tu] **fosti andato** | you had gone [fam.] |
| Egli (ella) **fu andato/a** | he (she, it) had gone |
| [Noi] **fummo andati** | we had gone |
| [Voi] **foste andati** | you had gone [pl., fam.] |
| Essi, loro **furono andati/e** | they had gone |

**Related Topics:**

# Future Perfect Tense (Futuro Anteriore)

The future perfect tense is a compound tense formed with the future of the auxiliary (avere or essere) plus the past participle of the verb you have in mind.   In Italian and in English, this tense is used to express a future action that will happen before another future action.   In English, this tense is formed by using shall have or will have plus the past participle of the verb you have in mind.

| io | **avrò** | + past participle |
| tu | **avrai** | + past participle |
| egli ella | **avrà** | + past participle |
| noi | **avremo** | + past participle |
| voi | **avrete** | + past participle |
| Essi, loro | **avranno** | + past participle |

Auxiliary **essere**

| io | **sarò** | + past participle |
| tu | **sarai** | + past participle |
| egli ella | **sarà** | + past participle |
| noi | **saremo** | + past participle |
| voi | **sarete** | + past participle |
| Essi, loro | **saranno** | + past participle |

**EXAMPLES:**

| [Io] **avrò parlato** | I will have spoken |
| [Tu] **avrai parlato** | you will have spoken |
| Egli(ella) **avrà parlato** | he (she, it) will have spoken |
| [Noi] **avremo parlato** | we will have spoken |
| [Voi] **avrete parlato** | you will have spoken |
| Essi, loro **avranno parlato** | they will have spoken |

| [Io] **sarò andato** | I will have gone |
| [Tu] **sarai andato** | you will have gone |
| Egli(ella) **sarà andato** | he (she, it) will have gone |
| [Noi] **saremo andati** | we will have gone |
| [Voi] **sarete andati** | you will have gone |
| Essi, loro **saranno andati** | they will have gone |

**USAGE:**

The Future Perfect Tense is used to express a simple action in the future completed before another future action:

Quando Lei avrà terminato, me lo dirà.
When you (will) have finished, you'll tell me.

**Related Topics:**
Summary of Tenses
Future Tense
Passive Voice

# Conditional Perfect (Condizionale Passato)

The conditional perfect is formed with the conditional of the auxiliary verb (essere or avere) plus the past participle of the main verb.   It is used to express the result of a hypothetical condition or supposition in the past.   Only the auxiliary is conjugated.

### -are / -ere / -ire verbs

| io | **avrei** | + past participle |
|---|---|---|
| tu | **avresti** | + past participle |
| egli ella | **avrebbe** | + past participle |
| noi | **avremmo** | + past participle |
| voi | **avreste** | + past participle |
| Essi, loro | **avrebbero** | + past participle |

Auxiliary **essere**

| io | **sarei** | + past participle |
|---|---|---|
| tu | **saresti** | + past participle |
| egli ella | **sarebbe** | + past participle |
| noi | **saremmo** | + past participle |
| voi | **sareste** | + past participle |
| Essi, loro | **sarebbero** | + past participle |

**EXAMPLES:**

| [Io] **avrei parlato** | I would have spoken |
|---|---|
| [Tu] **avresti parlato** | you would have spoken [fam.] |
| Lei **avrebbe parlato** | you would have spoken [formal] |
| Egli(ella) **avrebbe parlato** | he (she, it) would have spoken |
| [Noi] **avremmo parlato** | we would have spoken |
| [Voi] **avreste parlato** | you would have spoken [pl., fam.] |
| Essi, loro **avrebbero parlato** | they would have spoken |

| [Io] **sarei andato** | I would have gone |
|---|---|
| [Tu] **saresti andato** | you would have gone |
| Egli(ella) **sarebbe andato** | he (she, it) would have gone |
| [Noi] **saremmo andati** | we would have gone |
| [Voi] **sareste andati** | you would have gone |
| Essi, loro **sarebbero andati** | they would have gone |

**USAGE:**

The conditional perfect is only used when the other verb is in the past perfect (trapassato prossimo).

The Conditional Perfect is used to express an action that *would* have occurred *if* something

else had been possible.

Se voi foste venuti, noi **saremmo stati** molto contenti.
If you had come, we would have been very happy.

**Saremmo usciti** più presto se avessimo saputo che i negozi chiudevano presto.
We *would have left* earlier if we had known (that) the stores closed early.

**Related Topics:**
Summary of Tenses
Present Conditional
Present Perfect Tense
Clauses

# Present Perfect Subjunctive (Passato del Congiuntivo)

The present perfect subjunctive tense (congiuntivo passato) is formed by using the **present subjunctive** of the auxiliary verb (essere or avere) plus the past participle of the main verb.   It is used when the action in the subordinate clause has come before the action in the main clause (and all other conditions requiring the use of the Present Subjunctive are met).

Use the present perfect subjunctive when the subordinate action precedes the main action:

> Non credo che Lei **abbia pagato** il ragazzo per i fiori.
> I don't believe you have paid the boy for the flowers.
> Sono contento che **siano venuti** a trovarmi.
> I am glad that they came to see me.

### -are / -ere / -ire verbs

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| io | **abbia** | + past participle |
| tu | **abbia** | + past participle |
| egli, ella ,etc | **abbia** | + past participle |
| noi | **abbiamo** | + past participle |
| voi | **abbiate** | + past participle |
| Essi | **abbiano** | + past participle |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| io | **sia** | + past participle |
| tu | **sia** | + past participle |
| egli, ella ,etc | **sia** | + past participle |
| noi | **siamo** | + past participle |
| voi | **siate** | + past participle |
| Essi | **siano** | + past participle |

**USAGE:**

The Indicative is used to state a fact, and the Subjunctive is used to express uncertainty, possibility, a feeling, or a wish.

The Subjunctive must be used in subordinate clauses in which there is a change of subject and when there is doubt in the mind of the speaker or writer as to the absolute truth or outcome of the situation his statement describes.

> Sono felice che Maria **sia venuta**.    (Notice the agreement of the Past Participle with its subject).
> I am happy that Maria *has come.*

**Related Topics:**
Summary of Tenses
Present Subjunctive

# PAST PERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE (Trapassato del Congiuntivo)

The past perfect subjunctive tense is a tense reserved for literary contexts.   It is similar in use to the imperfect subjunctive, and consists of the imperfect subjunctive form of the auxiliary verb followed by a past participle.   Modern usage exists only in the third person.

Using the pluperfect subjunctive:

Ero contento che Maria **fosse arrivata**.
I was happy that Mary had arrived.

The Subjunctive  (Trapassato del Congiuntivo) of the auxiliary verbs **avere** or **essere** is used in a subordinate clause when the verb in the main clause   is in a past tense and the action in the subordinate clause has already taken place.

The Past Perfect Subjunctive is formed with the imperfect subjunctive of the auxiliary **avere** (to have) or **essere (**to be**) + past participle**   of the main verb.

### -are / -ere / -ire verbs

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| io | **avessi** | + past participle |
| tu | **avessi** | + past participle |
| egli, ella ,etc | **avesse** | + past participle |
| noi | **avessimo** | + past participle |
| voi | **aveste** | + past participle |
| Essi | **avessero** | + past participle |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| io | **fossi** | + past participle |
| tu | **fossi** | + past participle |
| egli, ella ,etc | **fosse** | + past participle |
| noi | **fossimo** | + past participle |
| voi | **foste** | + past participle |
| Essi | **fossero** | + past participle |

**EXAMPLES:**

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] **avessi parlato** | I might have spoken |
| [Tu] **avessi parlato** | you might have spoken [fam.] |
| Egli(ella) **avesse parlato** | he (she, it) might have spoken |
| [Noi] **avessimo parlato** | we might have spoken |
| [Voi] **aveste parlato** | you might have spoken [pl., fam.] |
| Essi, loro **avessero parlato** | they might have spoken |

| | |
|---|---|
| [Io] **fossi andato** | I might have gone |
| [Tu] **fossi andato** | you might have gone [fam.] |
| Egli (ella) **fosse andato/a** | he (she, it) might have gone |
| [Noi] **fossimo andati** | we might have gone |
| [Voi] **foste andati** | you might have gone [pl., fam.] |

Essi, loro **fossero andati/e**     they might have gone


**USAGE:**

The Indicative is used to state a fact, and the Subjunctive is used to express uncertainty, possibility, a feeling, or a wish.

The Subjunctive must be used in  subordinate clauses
in which there is a change of subject and when there is doubt in the mind of the speaker or writer as to the absolute truth or outcome of the situation his statement describes.

Non era possibile che tutti **avessero comprato** i biglietti.
It was not possible that everyone *had bought* the tickets.

Il datore di lavoro dubitò che gli impiegati **avessero completato** il progetto.
The boss doubted that the employees *had completed* the project.

**Related Topics:**

Summary Of Tenses
Present Subjunctive

# PASSIVE VOICE

The Active Voice is a construction in which the subject performs the action described by the verb.   In the Passive Voice, the  subject receives the action of the verb.   The person or entity
performing the action is called the agent.   The Passive Voice *always* involves an action that is
being done *to* the subject.

> Active Voice:   L'università concederà una borsa di studio.
> The university will grant a scholarship.
>
> Passive Voice: Una borsa di studio sarà concessa dall'università.
> A scholarship will be granted by the university.

In Italian the Passive Voice construction parallels that of English.   The past participle agrees with the subject   in gender and number.

**Subject        + essere      + Past Participle + PREPOSITIONS      +Agent**

> La canzone              fu                                scritta  da             Lucio Battisti.
> The song          was                              written   by          Lucio Battisti.

> Il presidente **era** rispettato **da** tutti.
> The president *was* respected *by* everyone.

> La posta **è stata distribuita** dal postino.
> The mail **has been delivered** by the mailman.

The impersonal *they* may be used as an alternate to the true Passive Voice:

> Dicono **che fumare fa male alla salute.**
>
> It is said *(they say)* that smoking is dangerous to the health.

When the doer of the action is not stated, Italian forms the passive voice by using the reflexive pronoun **si** with the third-person singular or plural form of the verb.

> **Si** pensa che la casa sia stata venduta un anno fa.
> It is thought that the house *was sold*   a year ago.

> Qui **si** parla italiano.
> Italian is spoken here.

**Related Topics:**

**Summary of Tenses**
**Reflexive Verbs**

# Imperative Forms

The imperative mood expresses commands, strong advice and calls to action.   In Italian, there are forms of the imperative mood for formal and familiar discourse.

Familiar imperative:
The familiar imperative uses the tu or voi forms of the present indicative.
>      Scrivi la lettera!
>      Write the letter!
>
>      Finite il compito!
>      Finish the homework!

The second person singular, familiar (tu) form of regular verbs with infinitives in ARE uses the third person singular, indicative verb ending.
>      Mangia la frutta!
>      Eat the fruit!

Four short verbs with infinitives in ARE have frequently-used irregular tu imperative forms: andare, dare, fare, and stare.
>      Va' con lui!
>      Go with him!
>
>      Da' il libro a Maria!
>      Give the book to Maria!
>
>      Fa' il lavoro oggi!
>      Do the work today!
>
>      Sta' a casa questa settimana!
>      Stay home this week!

Dire has just one familiar imperative form: di'.
>      Di' la storia ai ragazzi!
>      Tell the story to the boys!

Formal imperative:
The Italian formal (Lei/Loro) imperative uses the same verb forms as the third person present subjunctive mood.   If a verb is irregular in the subjunctive, it will also be irregular in the formal imperative.
>      Finisca di leggere!
>      Finish reading!
>
>      Paghi in contanti, per favore!
>      Pay in cash, please!
>
>      Dica la verità al professore!
>      Tell the truth to the teacher!

First person plural imperative:
Italian has an imperative form corresponding to the English let's.   It is identical to the first person plural, indicative inflection of the Italian verb.
>      Andiamo al cinema!
>      Let's go to the movies!

Negative imperative:

To negate any Italian verb in the imperative mood, simply precede the imperative with non.   To negate the tu imperative, use non followed by the infinitive of the verb.

> Non andiamo al cinema stasera!
> Let's not go to the movies tonight!
>
> Non dormite in quel letto!
> Don't sleep in that bed!
>
> Non parlare mentre la professoressa parla!
> Don't talk while the teacher is talking!

**Related Topic:**
Summary of Tenses

# Definite Article

Italian articles exist in both masculine and feminine, singular and plural, and definite and indefinite forms.

The definite article has seven forms, used as follows:

| Masculine | | Singular | Plural |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Before "pure" consonant | il | i |
| | Before "impure" consonant | lo | gli |
| | Before vowel | l' | gli |
| **Feminine** | | | |
| | Before consonant | la | le |
| | Before vowel | l' | le |

An "impure" consonant is an s followed by another consonant (sb, sc, sp, st), z, ps or gn.   Examples:

| | |
|---|---|
| lo stato | gli stati |
| the state | the states |
| | |
| lo zio | gli zii |
| the uncle | the uncles |
| | |
| lo psicologo | gli psicologi |
| the psychologist | the psychologists |
| | |
| lo gnosticismo | gli gnosticismi |
| agnosticism | agnosticisms |

A pure consonant is any other consonant or group of consonants.

The Italian definite article is used with all general or abstract nouns.   Examples:

I libri sono importanti.
Books are important.

L'amore fa bene a tutti.
Love is good for everyone.

The definite article must be used with titles when talking about someone. The article is omitted, however, in direct address.

La signora Savorelli abita a Roma

but

Buona sera, signora Savorelli

The definite article is usually used with the following geographical names:
• continents
• countries
• islands
• regions.

Note, however, that the definite article is omitted when the name of the continent, country, island, or region is preceded by the preposition di or in, unless the name of the country is masculine. The article is also omitted if the name of the continent, country, island or region is modified in any way.

**NAMES OF COUNTRIES & CITIES**

The definite article is used with names of certain countries:

| | |
|---|---|
| **l** Argentina | **il** Giappone |
| **il** Brasile | **la** Repubblica di Panama |
| **il** Canada | **il** Paraguay |
| **la** Cina | **il** Perú |
| **l** Ecuador | **il** Salvador |
| **l** India | **l** Uruguay |

**<u>Related Topics:</u>**

<u>Indefinite Article</u>

# INDEFINITE ARTICLE

The Italian indefinite article has four forms, as follows:

**Masculine**

| | |
|---|---|
| Before "pure" consonant | un |
| Before "impure" consonant | uno |
| Before vowel | un |

**Feminine**

| | |
|---|---|
| Before consonant | una |
| Before vowel | un' |

Examples:

un treno
a train

uno specchio
a mirror

un ufficio
an office

una donna
a woman

un'eccezione
an exception

The use of the Italian indefinite article is similar to the English indefinite article a/an.

## OCCUPATION / RACE / NATIONALITY / SOCIAL STATUS / RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL BELIEFS

If the speaker intends to classify the subject according to occupation, race, nationality, social status, religious or political beliefs, the indefinite article is omitted.

Antonio non è **italiano**, è **boliviano**.
Anthony is not Italian, he is Bolivian.
Essere **cattolico** o **protestante**.
To be *a* Catholic or *a* Protestant.

**Related Topics:**
Definite Article
Nouns

# PLURAL AND GENDER

All Italian nouns occur in either masculine or feminine gender and have both singular and plural forms.

Most Italian nouns are inflected according to one of the five following patterns

| Pattern | Singular | Plural | Example |
|---------|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 | -o | -i | ragazzo, ragazzi (boy) |
| 2 | -o | -a | uovo, uova (egg) |
| 3 | -a | -e | sorella, sorelle (sister) |
| 4 | -a | -i | turista,turisti (tourist) |
| 5 | -e | -i | cane, cani (dog) |

When a noun ending in -co, -go, -ca or -ga forms its plural by adding -i or -e and there is no change in the pronunciation of the "hard" -c or -g of the stem, the plural is spelled with -chi, -ghi, -che or -ghe respectively to retain the hard sound.   Examples:

albergo (m. sg.)
hotel

alberghi (m. pl.)
hotels.

Nouns ending in -io with a stressed -i form a regular plural, that is the final -o is replaced by -i.   Example:

**zio      zii**
uncle     uncles

Nouns ending in -io with an unstressed -i, lose the -i of the root.   Example:

**bacio       baci**
kiss          kisses

**occhio occhi**
eye         eyes

Almost all nouns not belonging to Patterns 1 - 5 above are invariable in the plural, including:
• nouns ending in a stressed vowel

la città
the city

le città
the cities

• nouns of one syllable

il re
the king

i re
the kings

• nouns ending in -i

la crisi
the crisis

le crisi
the crises

- nouns ending in a consonant

  l'autobus
  the bus

  gli autobus
  the buses

- abbreviations

  l'auto
  the car

  le auto
  the cars

- family names

  i Marcenaro
  the Marcenaro's

- foreign loan-words

  lo sport
  the sport

  gli sport
  the sports

The gender of Italian nouns cannot be determined based on either morphology or meaning, except that all nouns of PATTERN 2 above are masculine in the singular and feminine in the plural (e.g. il ginocchio the knee, le ginocchia the knees) and nouns in PATTERN 4 are masculine (l'artista the artist, gli artisti the artists). Most nouns in pattern 1 are masculine (except for la mano the hand, le mani the hands). Nouns ending in -e in pattern 5 are about equally distributed between masculine and feminine.

Many masculine nouns ending in -o or -e have a corresponding feminine form ending in -a.   Examples:

  zio
  uncle
  zia
  aunt

  signore
  gentleman
  signora
  lady

Certain nouns have a special form for the feminine.   Examples:

  attore
  actor
  attrice
  actress

  dottore
  doctor
  dottoressa (female)
  doctor

  eroe
  hero
  eroina

Most nouns ending in **o** are masculine and most ending in **a** are feminine.

| Masculine | English | Feminine | English |
|---|---|---|---|
| **il** gatt**o** | cat | **la** blus**a** | blouse |
| **il** poll**o** | chicken | **la** camici**a** | shirt |
| **il** formaggi**o** | cheese | **la** candel**a** | candle |
| **il** cappell**o** | hat | **la** cas**a** | house |
| **il** telefon**o** | telephone | **la** gonn**a** | skirt |
| **il** lavor**o** | work | **la** donn**a** | female |
| **il** tempi**o** | temple | **la** lotteri**a** | lottery / raffle |
| **il** maestr**o** | teacher | **la** maestr**a** | teacher |
| **il** ragazz**o** | boy | **la** ragazz**a** | girl |
| **il** denar**o** | money | **la** monet**a** | coin |

## EXCEPTIONS

A few nouns that end in **o** are feminine:

**la** man**o**         hand
**la** fot**o**         photo     (abbreviation of **la** fotografi**a**)

Some nouns ending in **a** are masculine.   Some frequently used nouns belonging to this group are:

**il** programm**a**  program
**il** pianet**a**                         planet

Many nouns ending in **ma** are masculine:

| **il** cli**ma** | climate | **il** dra**mma** | drama |
|---|---|---|---|
| **il** siste**ma** | system | **il** te**ma** | theme / subject |
| **il** poe**ma** | poem | **il** proble**ma** | problem |
| **il** teore**ma** | theorem | | |

However, the following common words ending in **ma** are always feminine:

**la** for**ma**         form
**la** tra**ma**         plot / scheme
**la** vitti**ma**       victim

## INFINITIVES AS NOUNS

Where the infinitive is used as a noun it is always masculine:

| **il** viaggi**are** | traveling | **il** contribu**ire** | contributing |
|---|---|---|---|
| **il** cammin**are** | walking | **il** pens**are** | thinking |

## NOUNS ENDING IN -zione

Nouns ending in **-zione** are always feminine:

**la** benedizione  blessing

| | |
|---|---|
| **la** cauzione | warning |
| **la** costituzione | constitution |
| **la** funzione | function |
| **la** liberazione | liberation |

## NOUNS ENDING IN -tá

Nouns ending in **-tá** always feminine.   Note the correlation between Italian **-tá** and English **-ty**:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **la** liber**tá** | liberty | | |
| **la** bon**tá** | goodness | **la** mal**vagitá** | wickedness |
| **la** cari**tá** | charity | **la** cit**tá** | city |
| **la** comuni**tá** | community | **la** santi**tá** | holiness |
| **la** difficol**tá** | difficulty | | |
| **la** vani**tá** | vanity | | |

Note that these nouns are invariable in the Plural.

## NOUNS DENOTING PERSONS / ANIMALS

Nouns denoting persons or animals can be masculine or feminine and are formed by adding **o** or **a** to a common stem:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **il** nonn**o** | grandfather | **la** nonn**a** | grandmother |
| **lo** spos**o** | bridegroom | **la** spos**a** | bride |
| **il** gatt**o** | cat | **la** gatt**a** | cat |

## NOUNS DENOTING PROFESSION / SOCIAL POSITION

Nouns denoting a person's profession or social position often end in **-ista**, **-ante**, or **-ente**. Gender is indicated by the article preceding the noun and the noun endings do not change:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **l'**artist**a** | artist | **la** artist**a** | artist |
| **il** cantant**e** | singer | **la** cantant**e** | singer |
| **il** dentist**a** | dentist | **la** dentist**a** | dentist |

Gender for some common-stem nouns is indicated only by their articles.   Note the meanings of common-stem nouns may *not* be related.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **il** capit**ale** | capital (money) | **la** capit**ale** | capital city |
| **il** front**e** | military front | **la** front**e** | forehead |

**Related Topics:**
Definite Article
Indefinite Article

# GROUP NOUNS

The masculine plural form can include both the female and male members of a group:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **i bambini** | = | boys / boy + girl / boys + girls / children |
| **i figli** | = | sons / son + daughter / sons + daughters |
| **I signori** | = | gentlemen / Mr. and Mrs. |

**Related Topics:**
Nouns
Compound Noun

# COMPOUND NOUNS

The article preceding some compound nouns changes from singular to plural to indicate a change in number, but the noun itself does not change its ending. Compound nouns are always masculine.

| *Singular* | | *Plural* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **il** lavapiatt**i** | dishwasher | **i** lavapiatt**i** | dishwashers |
| **il** giradisch**i** | record player | **i** giradisch**i** | record players |

**Related Topics:**
**GROUP NOUNS**
**Nouns**

# DIMINUTIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE FORMS

Diminutive in Italian convey an idea of lesser size. The most common diminutive suffixes are:

| Masculine | Feminine |
|-----------|----------|
| -ino | -ina |
| -etto | -etta |

**un ragazzo**      **un ragazzino**

a boy      a little boy

**una donna**      **una donnina**

a woman      a little woman

**un libro**      **un libretto**

a book      a little book

**una casa**      **una casetta**

a house      a little house

A diminutive may be used to convey an idea of affection as in the examples above and in the following:

| -ello, ella | asino, asinello | little donkey |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| -olo, -ola | figlio, figliolo | dear son |
| -uccio, -uccia | bocca, boccuccia | pretty little mouth |

The ending **-ONE** is added to nouns to make them augmentative.

Feminine Nouns generally become *masculine* when made augmentative:

**un ragazzo**      **un ragazzone**

a boy.      a big boy.

**una caserma**      **un casermone**

barracks      big barracks

Alternatively, a **deprecative diminutive** may convey an idea of something undesirable, ugly or hateful.
Some examples:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| -accio, -accia | libro, libraccio | horrible book |
| -astro, -astra | poeta, poetastro | terrible poet |
| -onzolo, -onzola | medico, mediconzolo | awful doctor |
| -ucolo, -ucola | paese, paesucolo | horrible little town |

**Related Topics:**
**Interjection**
**Nouns**

# Personal Pronouns

Like their English counterparts, Italian personal pronouns exist in singular and plural forms for the first, second, and third persons. Unlike English, Italian personal pronouns include both formal and informal forms of the second person pronouns.   As do many European languages, Italian distinguishes between a formal (Lei) and informal (tu) second person pronoun. The use of one or the other is determined by the social relations between the speakers.

**Subject forms**

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
|---|---|---|
| **First Person** | io (I) | noi (we) |
| **Second Person** | tu (you) | voi (you pl.) |
| **Third Person (m. or f.)** |  | loro (they) |
|  | lui, egli, esso (he) | essi (they, m) |
|  | lei, ella, essa (she) | esse (they, f) |
| **Formal** | Lei (you) | Loro (you pl.) |

**In modern spoken Italian lui, lei** and **loro** are most frequently used for he, she, they.   In Italian the verb ending indicates the subject, and for this reason it is very common to drop the subject pronoun.

## SUBJECT PRONOUNS FOR EMPHASIS

The adjective **stesso** (**-a**), *self,* is used with the subject pronouns to add emphasis:

| | |
|---|---|
| **io stesso -a** | I myself |
| **tu stesso -a** | you yourself (thou thyself) |
| **lui stesso** | he himself |
| **lei stessa** | she herself |
| **noi stessi -e** | we ourselves (masc. and fem.) |
| **voi -stessi -e** | you yourselves (masc. and fem.) |
| **loro stessi -e** | they themselves (masc.and fem.) |

**Io stessa** aggiustai la macchina.
*I, myself,* repaired the car.

Labbiamo detto **noi stessi**.
We have said it ourselves.

**Related Topics:**
**Personal Object Pronouns**
**Conjunctive Pronouns**

# Lei/Tu

There are more pronouns in Italian for the expression of the subject you than in English, because Italian observes a distinction between styles of direct address that does not now exist in English.

**Tu** is second person form of the verb, and is employed when the relationship between speaker and person spoken to is intimate or familiar (close friends and family).  **Lei** is used when the relationship is more formal and requires the verb in third person.

FAMILIAR
**Tu hai molti figli, vero?**
You have many children, true?

FORMAL
**Lei ha molti figli, vero?**
You have many children, true?

**Related Topics:**
**Personal Pronouns**
**Personal Object Pronouns**

# Conjunctive Pronouns

Italian has a group of pronouns, called conjunctive pronouns, used only in conjunction with verbs.   These pronouns follow imperative, infinitive and participle forms and are written together with the verb form. In the first and second person, singular and plural, the pronoun has the meaning of both direct and indirect object. In the third person, the pronouns have different forms for direct and indirect objects.

|  | Singular | Plural |
|---|---|---|
| **First Person** | mi (me; to me) | ci (us; to us) |
| **Second Person** | ti (you; to you) | vi (you; to you) |
| **Third Person** | lo (him; it) | li (them, m) |
|  | gli (to him; to it) |  |
|  | la (her; it) | le (them, f) |
|  | le (to her; to it) |  |
| **Formal** | La (you, m) | Li (you,f) |
|  | Le (to you, f) |  |
|  | La (you, f) | Le (you, f) |
|  | Le (to you, f) |  |

Note that lo and la are contracted to l' before a verb beginning with a silent h or a vowel.

Italian has no third person plural indirect conjunctive pronoun for to them or to you (formal, plural). In their place, loro (to them) and Loro (to you formal plural) are used.   This is not a conjunctive pronouns and, therefore, does not precede the verb.

Direct object pronouns may be placed after the verb for emphasis, in this case the following forms are used:

|  | Singular | Plural |
|---|---|---|
| **First Person** | me (me) | noi (us) |
| **Second Person** | te (you) | voi (you pl.) |
| **Third Person** | lui (him) | loro (them) |
|  | lei (her) | loro (them) |
| **Formal** | Lei (you) | Loro (you pl.) |

**Related Topics:**
**Personal Pronouns**
**Personal Object Pronouns**

# Personal Object Pronouns

|  | **Direct Object** | | **Indirect Object** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Singular:** | mi | me | mi | to me |
|  | ti | you | ti | you |
|  | lo | him, it | gli | to him, to it |
|  | la | her, it | le | to her, to it |
|  | La | you (m,f) | Le | to you |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Plural:** | ci | us | ci | to us |
|  | vi | you | vi | to you |
|  | li | them (m) | loro | to them |
|  | le | them (f) |  |  |
|  | Li | you (m) |  |  |
|  | Le | you (f) | Loro | to you |

Note:   The final vowel of mi, ti, lo, la, La may be elided before a vowel.   Ci and vi lose their i only before another i.

Order of personal object pronouns:
Two personal pronouns used as the objects of the same verb have the following order:   indirect-direct.

• Mi, ti, ci and vi and the reflexive si change respectively to me, te, ce, ve and se when followed by lo, la, li, le and ne (of it, of them, any, some, about it, about them).

• Gli and le(Le) change to glie before lo, la, li, le, and ne are written as one word.

• Me lo, te lo, ce lo, etc. are written as one word when joined to a verb form.

• Loro always follows the verb, but is not joined to it.

Examples:

Me lo farà sapere.
He will let me know (it).
Glielo porterò io.
I shall bring it to him (her, you).
Se la farà mandare.
He will have it sent (to himself).
Me ne parlerà più tardi.
He will speak to me about it later.
Vuole darcene un po?
Will you give us some?
Ve lo manderò domani.
I shall send it to you tomorrow.
Non me ne vuole dare.
He won't give me any.

**Related Topics:**
**Personal Pronouns**
**Prepositional Pronouns**

# Prepositional Pronouns

The personal pronouns used as objects of prepositions are as follows:

|  | Singular |  | Plural |
|---|---|---|---|
| me | me | noi | us |
| te | thee (you) | voi | you |
| lui, esso | him | loro, essi | them (masc) |
| lei, essa | her | loro, esse | them (fem.) |
| Lei | you | Loro (m,f) | you |

Reflexive = sè

Examples:

Non lo farebbe per sè, e molto meno per te.
He would not do it for himself and much less for you.
Per me non è mai in casa.
He is never at home to me.
Parla a lui, non a Lei.
He is speaking to him, not to you.

Notes:
• The forms esso, essa, essi, esse, are used for both persons and things, though not commonly.

• For the sake of emphasis, prepositional pronouns are used instead of the direct object form.   Lo disse a me is more emphatic than Me lo disse.

Parlo a voi, Signore.
I am speaking to you, Sir.

• To show contrast, prepositional pronouns are used in the objective case after the verb:

Interrogherò Lei, non lui.
I shall question you, not him.

**Related Topics:**
**Personal Pronouns**
**Personal Object Pronouns**

# Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns

Possessives are sometimes referred to in traditional grammar as pronouns or possessive adjectives. They convey a sense of ownership, or inherent quality and occur in both simple and emphatic forms corresponding to the personal pronouns.   The possessive adjectives agree in both number and gender with the following noun or noun phrase.   The possessive pronouns agree in gender and number with the noun or noun phrase they represent.

| | m. sg. | m.pl. | f. sg. | f. pl. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **first person sing.** | mio | miei | mia | mie |
| **second person sing.** | tuo | tuoi | tua | tue |
| **third person sing.** | suo | suoi | sua | sue |
| **third person sing. Formal** | Suo | Suoi | Sua | Sue |
| **first person pl.** | nostro | nostri | nostra | nostre |
| **second person pl.** | vostro | vostri | vostra | vostre |
| **third person pl.** | loro | loro | loro | loro |
| **third person pl. Formal** | Loro | Loro | Loro | Loro |

Note that the role of the third person plural (their and your plural formal) possessive adjective is filled by the possessive pronoun loro and Loro respectively.   **This shows no gender or number variation.**

Unlike English, the Italian possessive is preceded by a definite article, an indefinite article, a demonstrative, a quantifier which also agrees in number and gender with the following noun or noun phrase.   The possessive may also be preceded by a cardinal number, but this is invariable.   Examples:

il mio libro
my book

la nostra casa
our house

i vostri libri
your (plural) books

le loro scuole
their schools

la mia amica
my friend

una mia amica
a friend of mine

questa mia amica
this friend of mine

tre mie amiche
three friends of mine

alcune mie amiche
some friends of mine

But,

> Questo è il mio, quello il Suo.
> This one is mine, that one yours.

In the case of the possessive adjective, for a small group of nouns indicating a family relationship the definite article is **omitted** under the following conditions:
• the noun is singular
• the noun is unmodified
• the noun has no suffixes (diminutives etc.)
• the possessive adjective is not loro

Examples:

> mio padre
> my father
>
> tua cognata
> your sister-in-law
>
> nostro padre
> our father
>
> i miei fratelli
> my brothers
>
> la mia cugina francese
> my French cousin
>
> il nostro fratellino
> our little brother
>
> il loro padre
> their father

The emphatic form of the possessive pronoun behaves in the same way as the simple form with regard to the article.   Examples:

> Questo è il mio
> This is mine (sing. masc. noun)
>
> Ho perso le mie
> I've lost mine (fem. pl. noun)

**It is important to remember that, in Italian, the number and gender agreement is determined by the noun or noun phrase that is modified or represented by the possessive**.   *The possessive forms tell the listener or reader nothing about the gender of the possessor involved*.

**Related Topics:**
**Personal Pronouns**
**Prepositional Pronouns**

# Relative Pronouns

The relative pronouns are:   che, cui, il quale.   Che refers to persons and things and is used as the subject and the object of verbs.   It is <u>never</u> omitted in Italian.

> Il libro **che** è sulla tavola.
> The book that is on the table.
> Il denaro **che** ho ricevuto.
> The money (that) I received.
> Sono io **che** l'ho fatto.
> It is I who did it.
> È tuo padre **che** voglio vedere.
> It is your father whom I wish to see.

Cui is used chiefly as the object of prepositions:

> Il signore a **cui** parlo.
> The gentleman to whom I speak.

But we can also say:
> Il signore **al quale** parlo.
> The gentleman to whom I speak.

The two forms are interchangeable.

English whose, is il (la,etc.) cui or del (della, etc.) quale, both forms being inflected.

> È un uomo **il cui** ingegno tutti ammirano.
> He is a man **whose** intelligence all admire.
> È un uomo **del quale** tutti ammirano l'ingegno.
> He is a man **whose** intelligence all admire.

Il quale and its inflected forms la quale, i (le) quali, are used instead of che when clearness demands it. They are used as subjects of verbs and objects of prepositions.

> Il fratello di Anna, **il quale** venne a vedermi, è un bravo giovanotto.
> Anna's brother who came to see me, is a fine young man.

He who (without an antecedent) is generally rendered by chi.   Those who is rendered by quelli (quelle) che.   The one which and those which by quello (quella) che and quelli (quelle) che respectively.

> **Chi** l'ha detto non sa nulla.
> **He who** said it knows nothing.
> **Quello che** ho io è migliore del suo.
> **The one** I have is better than his.
> Preferisco **quelli che** ho visto ieri.
> I prefer **the ones** I saw yesterday.

**Related Topics:**
**Interrogative Pronouns**
**Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns**

# Interrogative Pronouns

The interrogative pronouns for direct and indirect questions are:

Chi?                          who, whom?
Che? che cosa? cosa?   What?
Quale (quali)?          Which one(s)?

Examples:

**Chi** mi stava cercando?
**Who** was looking for me?
Non so **chi** voglia dire.
I do not know **who** he means.
**Che cosa** vuole che gli dica?
**What** do you wish me to tell him?

Chi? is never used as a subject in the plural except with the verb essere.

**Chi** sono costoro?
**Who** are these fellows?

Che? is used as the object of verbs and prepositions, and refers to things only.

**Che** vuol fare, signore?
**What** do you wish to do, Sir?
Di **che** parla quell'uomo?
**What** is that man talking about?

Note:   In an indirect question che (what) is used as the object of a dependent infinitive.

Non saprei **che** dire.
I would not know **what** to say.

Quale (quali) as pronouns, are used as the subjects and objects of both verbs and prepositions, and refer to persons and things.

**Quale** delle due è preferibile?
**Which** one of the two is preferable?
**Quale** dei due arrivò primo?
**Which** of the two arrived first?
**Quale** desidera?
**Which** do you desire?

Interrogative whose is rendered by di chi?

**Di chi** è quella bella casa?
**Whose** beautiful house is that?

Interrogative adjectives:
The interrogative adjectives are che and quale (quali).   They precede the noun and modify both persons and things.

**Che** modo di agire è questo?
**What** kind of behavior is this?
**Quale** barca preferisce, Lei?
**Which** boat do you prefer?
**Quale** maestro vuol dire, Lei?
**Which** teacher do you mean?

Note:   In exclamations che means what a...! and quale simply means what...!.   Examples:

**Che** bella giornata!
**What a** beautiful day!
**Quale** avvenire sarebbe stato il suo!
**What** future his would have been!

**Related Topics:**
**Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns**
**Relative Pronouns**

# Reflexive Pronouns

|  | Singular | Plural |
|---|---|---|
| **First Person** | mi (myself) | ci (ourselves) |
| **Second Person** | ti (yourself) | vi (yourselves) |
| **Third Person** | si (himself, herself, itself) | si (themselves) |
| **Formal** | si (you) | si (yourselves) |

## USAGE

Italian uses Reflexive Pronouns when the action of the verb is reflected back on the subject.

## EXAMPLES:

**Mi lavo**.
I wash myself.

**Ci laviamo.**
We wash ourselves.

**Ti lavi**.
You wash yourself.

**Vi lavate.**
You wash yourselves.

**Si lava**.
He/she washes himself/herself.

**Si lavano.**
They wash themselves.

Note that reflexive structures are more commom in Italian than in English since they sometimes express ideas that are not commonly expressed in English with reflexive structures.

**Mario si siede.**
Mario sits down.

**Mi alzo alle otto.**
I get up at eight.

In the Present Perfect Tense (Passato Prossimo) Reflexive Verbs always take the auxiliary **essere,** therefore the Past Participle agrees with the subject.

**Le ragazze si sono lavate. sette.**
The girls havent washed themselves.

**I bambini si sono svegliati alle**
The children have woken up at seven.

In sentences like: *I like to wash myself* the reflexive pronoun attaches to the infinitive:
**Mi piace lavarmi**.

**Related Topics:**
**Relative Pronouns**
**Subject Pronouns**

# Adjective Formation

Most Italian adjectives are regularly formed, and follow the model of alto (tall):

|  | Masculine | Feminine |
|---|---|---|
| **Singular** | alto | alta |
| **Plural** | alti | alte |

Other common models are:
• Adjectives ending in -e (masculine and feminine forms the same)

|  | Masculine | Feminine |
|---|---|---|
| **Singular** | elegante | elegante |
| **Plural** | eleganti | eleganti |

• Adjectives ending in -ista (masculine and feminine forms the same)

|  | Masculine | Feminine |
|---|---|---|
| **Singular** | communista | communista |
| **Plural** | communista | communista |

Most adjectives regularly form their comparatives with più and their superlatives with the appropriate article and più:

Questo ragazzo è alto.
This boy is tall

Questo ragazzo è più alto degli altri.
This boy is taller than the others

Questo ragazzo è il più alto della famiglia.
This boy is the tallest in the family


**Related Topics:**
**ADVERBS**
**Nouns**

# Comparatives

The comparative degree of adjectives:

The comparative degree of adjectives is formed by placing più (meaning more) and meno (meaning less) before the adjective. Example :

The following adjectives, in addition to the regular comparative degree, have an irregular one:

| | |
|---|---|
| alto | high |
| più alto or superiore | higher |
| basso | low |
| più basso or inferiore | lower |
| buono | good |
| più buono or migliore | better |
| cattivo | bad |
| più cattivo or peggiore | worse |
| grande | big |
| più grande or maggiore | bigger |
| piccolo | small |
| più piccolo or minore | smaller |

The forms maggiore, minore, superiore, inferiore are rarely used except to mean older, younger, superior, and inferior respectively.   Migliore and peggiore are preferable to più buono and più cattivo.

**Related Topics:**
**Adjective Formation**
**Superlatives**

# Superlatives

The superlative degree of adjectives:
The superlative degree is formed by placing the definite article before the comparative.   For example  :

Note:   When the superlative immediately follows the noun, the article is omitted.   For example:

> Napoli è la città **più popolosa** d'Italia.
> Naples is the **most crowded** city in Italy.

English in after a superlative is expressed by di.

> Il più bello **di** tutto il mondo.
> The most beautiful **in** the whole world.

By dropping the final vowel from an adjective and adding the suffix -issimo (inflected), we get a form that is an emphasis of an adjective in English.   The same meaning results from prefixing the adverbs molto or assai (both mean very) to the adjective.   This is called **absolute superlative (superlativo assoluto)** , since it does not involve any idea of comparison.

> È un *brav***issim**o ragazzo.
> Or:   È un ragazzo **molto** *bravo*.
> He is a **very** fine boy.

The word than is expressed in the following three ways:
By che before an adjective, an infinitive, an adverb and after piuttosto (meaning rather).   For example:

> Sono più furbi **che** intelligenti.
> They are shrewder **than** smart.
> Meglio tacere **che** dire troppo.
> Better to keep still **than** say too much.
> Meglio tardi **che** mai.
> Better late **than** never.
> Prendo questo **piuttosto che** quello.
> I take this **rather than** that.

By di before a numerical expression, a noun, or a pronoun.

> Ne ha fatto più **di** venti.
> He has made more **than** twenty.
> Lo so fare meglio **di** Lei.
> I can do it better **than** you.
> Come cibo, il pane è migliore **del** cavolo.
> As food, bread is better **than** cabbage.

By di quello che (than, that, which), before an inflected verb.

Spende più **di quello che** *guadagna*.
He spends more **than** he *earns*.


Some very common adjectives have irregular comparative and superlative forms.   These include:

> buono   migliore   il migliore
>
> grande   maggiore         il maggiore

Unlike English, Italian adjectives usually follow the noun or noun phrase which they modify.   A few adjectives, commonly buono, grande and bello, may also occur before the noun or noun phrase, often with a slight change of meaning.   Such adjectives often require special endings for the masculine

singular which parallel the definite or indefinite article.

The substitution of an adjective for a noun referring to a person or object with a particular quality is more widespread in Italian than in English.

**La vecchia** voleva comprare del latte.
The old woman wanted to buy some milk.

**Il giovane** è bello.
The young man is handsome.

**Related Topics:**
**Adjective Formation**
**Comparatives**

# Quantifiers

In Italian, as in English, there are three major types of quantifiers: **cardinal numbers**, **ordinal numbers** and **general quantifiers**.

Cardinal Numbers
Cardinal or counting numbers (uno, due, tre etc.)   may either stand alone or before a following noun or noun phrase
> Dieci e dieci fanno venti
> Ten and ten are twenty
>
> Ci sono tre ragazzi sulla strada
> There are three boys in the street

They are invariable in form with several exceptions:
The final vowel of venti, trenta, quaranta etc. is dropped when uno and otto are added, giving trentuno, quarantotto etc.   Note too that tre becomes accented when added to a multiple of ten, giving sessantatré etc.

The final -o of compound numbers ending in uno (ventuno, sessantuno) is usually dropped before nouns.

Examples:
> ventun ragazzi
> twenty-one boys
>
> ottantun libri
> eighty-one books

The word cento is invariable and the compounds of cento are attached (seicento, settecento). Mille, milione, miliardo on the other hand, do have plural forms and the compounding element is not attached.
Examples:
> tre milioni
> quattro miliardi

Note too that one hundred and one thousand in Italian are cento and mille respectively, never un cento or un mille.   In the higher numbers milione and miliardo, un is used, giving un milione and un miliardo respectively.

Ordinal Numbers
Ordinal or ordering numbers (primo, secondo, terzo etc.) stand before a following noun or noun phrase, and agree in both number and gender.
> il primo cane
> the first dog
>
> la terza volta
> the third time

From the number undici (eleven) and up the final vowel of the cardinal number is dropped and the suffix -esimo is added.   Examples:

| dodici | dodicesimo | twelfth |
| ottanta | ottantesimo | eightieth |

All compound cardinal numbers ending in tré are an exception to this rule, as they simply drop the accent and add the suffix   -esimo.   Example:

| ventitré | ventitreesimo | twenty-third |

General Quantifiers

The program may classify as general quantifiers words such as all, some, and last which carry a quantifying or ordering meaning.

**Related Topics:**

**Contents**

**THE CLOCK AND THE CALENDAR**

# Demonstrative Adjectives And Pronouns

Demonstrative adjectives agree in gender and number with their nouns, and demonstrative pronouns with their antecedents.

| Singular | | Plural | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Masculine** | **Feminine** | **Masculine** | **Feminine** | |
| questo | questa | questi | queste | this, these |
| quello | quella | quelli | quelle | that, those |

Questo and questa are usually written quest' before a vowel.

> **Quest**'uomo     **this** man
> **Quest**'aria     **this** air

Quello (as an adjective) is inflected as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| quel | before a noun beginning with any consonant except z, s impure, ps and gn |
| quello | before z and s impure, ps and gn |
| quei | the plural of quel |
| quegli | the plural of quello |

Ciò (this, that), represents a whole idea and not a single word.

> **Ciò** si capisce.
> **That** is understood.
> **Ciò** è chiaro.
> **That** is clear.

When what may logically be rendered by that which, use quello che or ciò che:

> **Ciò che** Le dico è la pura verità.
> What I tell you is the pure truth.

That which may be omitted in English, but never in Italian:

> Non è tutto oro quello che luccica.
> Not all that glitters is gold.
> Tutto quello che disse si è avverato.
> Everything (**that**) he said has come true.

This man is translated by questi; that man is translated by quegli.   These two forms are invariable, refer only to a person, and are used in the subjective case exclusively.

English former and latter are rendered by quegli and questi respectively when referring to a person; otherwise by quello and questo.

That of, those of, are frequently omitted in English, but never in Italian:

> **Il mio** e **quello di** Roberto.
> Mine and Robert's
> **La mia** casa e **quella di** tuo fratello.
> My house and your brother's.

The forms costui (this man), costei (this woman) costoro (these people), are used, if not to express contempt, certainly indifference and aloofness:

> Chi è **costui**?
> Who is **this fellow**?

Che ardire hanno **costoro**!
What boldness **these people** have!

**Related Topics:**
**Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns**
**Articles**

# ADVERBS

Most adverbs of manner are formed by adding -mente to the feminine singular of the corresponding adjective.   Adjectives ending in -le and -re drop final e before adding -mente.   For example:

| | |
|---|---|
| franco | frank |
| francamente | frankly |
| debole | feeble |
| debolmente | feebly |
| facile | easy |
| facilmente | easily |
| maggiore | greater |
| maggiormente | more greatly |

Adverbs are compared like adjectives.   For example:

facilmente
più facilmente
il più facilmente

The following adverbs, however, have an irregular comparison:

| | |
|---|---|
| bene | well |
| male | badly |
| meglio | better |
| peggio | worse |
| il meglio | the best |
| il peggio | the worst |
| molto | much |
| poco | little |
| più | more |
| meno | less |
| il più | the most |
| il meno | the least |

Adverbs not ending in -mente may add -issimo after dropping the final vowel, and the result is the superlative equivalent of molto (very) + adverb.   For example:

| | |
|---|---|
| bene | well |
| molto bene | very well |
| benissimo | very well |
| piano | softly |
| molto piano | very softly |
| pianissimo | very softly |

Adverbs generally follow the verb.   Non, however, always precedes.   In compound tenses the adverb invariably follows the past participle, except that già (already), mai (ever, never), più (more) and sempre (always) are usually placed between the auxiliary and the past pariciple.   For example:

Ha **già** finito?
Have you **already** finished?
Sono **sempre** stato così.
I have **always** been that way.
Vi è **mai** stato?

Have you **ever** been there?
Non ha **più** voluto saperne.
He hasn't wanted to hear of it any **more**.
Non ha **mai** voluto ascoltarmi.
He has **never** wanted to listen to me.

## NOUN + con AS ADVERB

Adverbs are frequently formed by using the prepositional phrase con + the singular form of the noun.

con + noun     -menteEnglish

con ansietà      ansiosamente     anxiously
con gusto       gustosamentegladly
con affetto      affettuosamente lovingly
con pazienza   pazientemente      patiently
con rapidità    rapidamente   rapidly

**USAGE**
**ADVERBS THAT MODIFY ADJECTIVES + OTHER ADVERBS**

Adverbs such as **molto**, **poco**, **abbastanza,** and **troppo** are used to convey intensity.
Adverbs that express degree include **relativamente**, **straordinariamente**, **enormemente**, **estremamente**, and **realmente**.

Words such as **poco**, **molto**, and **abbastanza** can be used as both adverbs and adjectives. Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.   Adverbs *never* change their form. Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns and *must agree* with the words they modify in number and, if possible, in gender.

Adverbs *do not* change form.

Studio **troppo rapidamente**.    I study *too rapidly.*
Loro studiano **troppo rapidamente**.       They study *too rapidly.*

Adjectives change form.

Tengo **troppe** riviste.       I have *too many magazines.*
Comprai **troppi** vestiti.       I bought too many dresses.

**MODIFICATION OF ADVERBS BY OTHER ADVERBS**

*Affirmative*

Disegna **molto, molto bene**.    He (she) draws *very, very well.*
Canta **veramente bene**.       He (she) sings *really well.*
Corre **abbastanza male**.       He (she) runs *quite badly.*

*Negative*

Anna *non* parla **proprio bene**.    Anna does *not* speak *at all well.*
Paolo *non* canta **molto bene**.    Paul does *not* sing *very well.*

**MODIFICATION OF ADJECTIVES BY ADVERBS**

Roberto è **abbastanza alto**.    Roberto is *quite tall*.
Maria si sente **troppo stanca**.    Mary feels *too tired.*

**Related Topics:**
ADVERBS
Adjective Formation

# PREPOSITIONS

The simple prepositions in Italian are:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **a** | at, to | **mediante** | through |
| **con** | with | **meno** | except, but |
| **contro** | against | **di** | of, from |
| **per** | for, by | **da** | from, since |
| **durante** | during | **in** | in, to, at, on |
| **senza** | without | **tra** | among, between |
| **su** | on, about | **eccetto** | except |
| **dopo** | after | | |

## VERB + PREPOSITION

Prepositions complete the meaning of verbs in different ways:

| | |
|---|---|
| **pensare** | think, intend |
| **pensare di** | to think of, have an opinion about |
| **pensare a** | to think of, meditate on |

## PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

Some commonly used prepositional phrases include:

| | |
|---|---|
| **a causa di** | on account of |
| **al fine di** | at the end of |
| **a forza di** | by dint of |
| **al punto di** | about to |
| **davanti a** | in front of |
| **invece di** | instead of |

The preposition **a** means **to** or **at** in English. But when used in front of the name of a town can mean **in**.

**Related Topics:**
Adjective Formation
Adverbs

# CONJUNCTIONS

The simple conjunctions uniting coordinate clauses are:

| | |
|---|---|
| **e** | and |
| **o** | or |
| **nè** | nor |
| **però** | but nevertheless |
| **ma** | but |

The simple conjunctions introducing *subordinate clauses* are:

| | |
|---|---|
| **come** | as, as soon as |
| **quando** | when |
| **mentre** | while |
| **che** | that |
| **se** | if |

## PERÒ

**Però** means *but* or *nevertheless:*

> Questa medicina è cattiva però fa bene.
> This medicine tastes bad, *but* it is good for the health.

## MA

**Ma** is more rhetorical than **però** and is sometimes used for euphony:

> È un libro difficile, ma interessante.
> It is a difficult book, but it is interesting.

## CHE

**Che** serves as a conjunction and is required after affirmations or oaths and before adverbs and clauses, though redundant in English:

| | |
|---|---|
| Dubito **che** venga. | I doubt that he will come. |
| Credo **che** non sia vero. | I believe *(that)* it is not true. |


**Related Topics:**
PREPOSITIONS
Clauses

# INTERJECTIONS

Interjections are more numerous and important in Italian than in English:

Divine names as exclamations are common and are *not* usually regarded as profane:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Dio!** | God! |
| **Per Dio!** | For goodness' sake! |
| **Dio mio!** | Dear me! |
| **Oh Dio mio!** | Oh dear me! |
| **Mamma mia!** | Oh Dear! |

Nouns and adjectives may become interjections:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Bravo!** | Good! |
| **Attenzione!** | Take care!   Look out! |
| **Al Fuoco!** | Fire! |
| **Aiuto!** | Help! |

**Related Topics:**
Imperative Form
Negative Statements

# Participles

The Infinitive, Past Participle   and Present Participle are grouped together for functional reasons. These verb forms do not inflect for person and number in the same way as all the other tenses.

**Related Topics:**
**Adjectives**
**Nouns**
**SUMMARY OF TENSES**

# Past Participles

The Past Participle of regular verbs is formed by dropping the infinitive ending **-are** and adding the ending **-ato** for regular first conjugation verbs; dropping the infinitive ending **-ere** and adding **-uto** for *regular* second conjugation verbs; and dropping the infinitive ending **-ire** and adding **-ito** for *regular* third conjugation verbs. English equivalents are formed by adding **-ed**, **-t**, **-en**, etc. (i.e., park**ed**, kep**t**, froz**en**). They are used in the compound tenses and in passive voice and they can also stand alone as adjectives.

Look at the following examples of regular past participles:

| | |
|---|---|
| **ballare** | **ballato** |
| **cantare** | **cantato** |
| **avere** | **avuto** |
| **cadere** | **caduto** |
| **sapere** | **saputo** |
| **partire** | **partito** |
| **capire** | **capito** |

**EXAMPLE:**  Il pollo era stato **cucinato**.
The chicken *had been cooked.*

**Related Topics:**
**SUMMARY OF TENSES**
**Present Participles**

# Present Participles

The Present Participle   (equivalent to the English "ing" form) is called so because it participates in the sentence assuming the functions of the adjective, in which case it must agree in number and gender with the noun(s) they modify.

:
**Le squadre concorrenti alla coppa dei campioni.**
The teams competing for the championship.

It has two forms: Participio Presente (Present Participle) and Participio Passato (Past Participle). The Present Participle is formed by dropping the ending: **-are** and adding **-ante** (for first conjugation verbs) and for **-ere and -ire** verbs adding the suffix **-ente.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Infinitive* | **amare** | (to love) |
| *Present Participle* | **amante** | (loving) |
| *Past Participle* | **amato** | (loved) |

**EXAMPLES:**

una poesia **commovente**  (commuovere)
a *moving* poem

una conversazione **stimolante** (stimolare)
a *stimulating* conversation

delle notizie **sorprendenti** (sorprendere)
some *surprising* news

**Gerunds:**

In Italian the **gerund** (also equivalent to the English -ing form) expresses an action that is linked to another through a **causal**  relationship:

Lo incontrai **andando** al teatro.
I met him (while) going to the theatre.

**Mi divertivo cantando.**
I had fun (while) singing.

It has two forms: present (cantando) and past (avendo cantato).

**Related Topics:**
**Past Participles**
**SUMMARY OF TENSES**

# NOTES ON PIACERE

The literal translation of **piacere** is *to be pleasing,* but the English meaning is *to like.*
**Piacere** is almost always used with the indirect object pronouns, **mi**, **ti**, **le**, **gli**, **ci**, **vi,** and **a loro**.


      Mi **piace** il caffè.
      Coffee is *pleasing to me*.    =      I *like* coffee.

      Ti **piacciono**   i fiori.
      Flowers are *pleasing to you*. =     You *like* flowers.

      A loro **piace** sciare.
      Skiing is *pleasing to them*.   =     They *like* skiing (to ski).


Notice that the pattern is Indirect Object (mi), Verb (piacere), Subject (caffè) instead of the common one: Subject, Verb, Direct Object.

## PIACERE + INFINITIVE

When the subject is an infinitive, **piacere** is always singular even if more than one infinitive is included:

      Le **piace** *pescare e nuotare*.
      Fishing and swimming are *pleasing to her*.
      She *likes* fishing and swimming.


**Related Topics:**
**VERB SEQUENCE**
**SUMMARY OF TENSES**

# DECLARATIVE SENTENCES

## ACTIVE VOICE

The active voice is a construction in which the subject performs the action described by the verb.   In both English and Italian, sentences in the active voice are constructed in the subject-verb-object pattern.

**EXAMPLE:**

Il meccanico / ripara / la macchina.   The mechanic repairs (is repairing) the car.
**subject**    **verb**    **object**

## SUBJECT

The subject of a sentence can be a noun, pronoun, proper name, or a noun phrase.   A clause, gerund, gerund phrase, or infinitive phrase can also function as the subject.   The simple subject is a noun or pronoun, whereas the complete subject consists of the noun or pronoun plus all its modifiers.   A compound subject consists of two or more nouns, pronouns, or noun phrases.

## POSITION OF SUBJECT

In Italian, the subject does not always occur before the verb as it does in English.   A variety of constructions is therefore possible, including complete omission of the subject:

*Subject at end:*
Comincia **la lezione**.
The *lesson* begins.

*Subject (egli / he) omitted:*
Riparó la macchina.
*He* repaired the car.

The subject is often placed at the end of a sentence when it contains new information, as in answer to the question   **Chi?**

Chi riparò la macchina?              *Who* repaired the automobile?
La riparò **un buon meccanico**.    *A good mechanic* repaired it.

## INFINITIVE AS SUBJECT

When the subject is an infinitive (or more than one), the verb is always singular:

Gli piace *pescare e nuotare*.
He *likes*  fishing and swimming.

**Related Topics:**
VERB SEQUENCE
SUMMARY OF TENSES

# PREDICATE

A predicate consists of a verb or verbal phrase, including any complements, objects, and modifiers of a sentence or clause.   The predicate always contains a verb and can consist of a verb and complement (nouns, pronouns, prepositional phrases, adjectives, and verb phrases).   The predicate can either be an inflected verb form or a combination of inflected auxiliary and past participle or infinitive verb forms.

A sentence can include more than one verb, object, or complement.

**Related Topics:**
VERB SEQUENCE
Subject

# OBJECT

The object of a sentence can be a noun, pronoun, proper name, or a noun phrase.
A subordinate clause may also function as an object.

**POSITION OF OBJECT**

The Object usually directly follows the verb:

> Il ragazzo mangia **la pizza**.
> The boy eats the pizza.

But, in some cases can also be preceded by the partitive article di:
> Ho mangiato **della pizza.**
> I have eaten some pizza.

To avoid the risk of confusion between the direct object with similar constructions, it is sufficient to verify that it answers the question: who? what?

**TWO OBJECT PRONOUNS**

When two object pronouns are used with the same verb, the indirect object pronoun occurs first.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Me** lo diede. | He gave it to *me*. |
| Da**mme**lo. | Give it to *me*. |

**TWO THIRD-PERSON PRONOUNS**

When two pronouns of the third person occur together, the indirect object pronouns **lo** and **gli** assume the form **glielo**.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mandai un regalo a mio padre. | I sent a present to my father. |
| **Gli** mandai un regalo. | I sent *him* a package. |
| Lo mandai a mio padre. | I sent it to my father. |
| **Glielo** mandai. | I sent it to *him*. |

**Related Topics:**
Personal Object Pronouns
Prepositional Pronouns

# VERB SEQUENCE

Whenever a  subordinate clause occurs after a main verb in a past tense, the verb of the subordinate clause must be put in the Imperfect Subjunctive.   However, meaning can also dictate that the Present Perfect Tense and the Conditional be followed by a present tense.

| *Main Clause* | *Subordinate Clause* |
| --- | --- |
| Present | Present Subjunctive |
| Future | Present Subjunctive |
| Present Conditional | Present or Imperfect Subjunctive |
| Present Perfect | Present or Imperfect Subjunctive |
| Imperfect | Imperfect Subjunctive or Past Perfect Subj. |
| Past | Imperfect Subjunctive or Past Perfect Subj. |

### EXAMPLES:

Sono felice che **vadano**.
    present        present subj.
I *am happy* that they *are going*.


 **Giocherei** con loro se mi **invitassero**.
   conditional          present subj.
I *would play* with them if they *invited* me.


**Volevo** che John **venisse** al concerto con noi.
  imperfect           imperfect subj.
I wanted John to come to the concert with us.


**Related Topics:**
QUESTIONS
SUMMARY OF TENSES
Syntax

# REFLEXIVE VERBS

Verbs that are intransitive in English are often expressed in Italian by the reflexive:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| sposare | to marry (off), join in marriage | sposar**si** | to get married, marry |
| lavare | to wash (something or someone) | lavar**si** | to get washed, wash (oneself) |
| sedere | to seat (somebody) | seder**si** | to sit down |
| vestire | to dress (somebody) | vestir**si** | to get dressed, dress (onself) |

The reciprocal reflexive is used to indicate that two or more persons are doing the action to each other:

**Ci scriviamo** spesso.
We often *write to each other* from time to time.

**Si amano** molto.
*They love each other* a lot.

**Related Topics:**
**Contents**
Reflexive Pronouns

# NEGATION

The negative **non** is always placed directly before the verb, except in sentences that contain a reflexive verb and/or object pronoun.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Parlo* italiano. | **Non** *parlo* italiano. |
| I speak Italian. | I *don't* speak Italian. |
| | |
| *Si lavano* le mani. | **Non** *si lavano* le mani. |
| They are washing their hands. | They are *not* washing their hands. |

In sentences containing an object pronoun, **non** precedes the object pronoun.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lo chiamo. | **Non** lo chiamo. |
| I call him. | I don't call him. |

In Reflexive verb constructions, **non** precedes the reflexive pronoun.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Mi* lavo. | **Non** *mi* lavo. |
| I wash myself. | I don't wash myself. |
| | |
| *Ci* alziamo. | **Non** *ci* alziamo. |
| We get up. | We don't get up. |

The position of **non** in the sentence can vary. When the negative word (in this case **mai)** precedes the verb, **non** is omitted**.**

**mai - never**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Non** parliamo **mai**. | We never speak. |
| **Mai** parliamo. | |

Notice that when a verb appears in a compound tense (ex. Past Participle) **mai** can appear between the auxiliary and the past participle of the verb.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Non** abbiamo **mai** parlato. | We never spoke. |
| **Mai** abbiamo parlato. | |

Negatives other than **non** may be also be placed before the verb.

## Nessuno

The italian adjective **Nessuno** (equivalent to the English **no** / **none** / **not any** / **not one** / **neither**) is declined as follows:

### *SINGULAR*

| **Masculine** | **Feminine** |
|---|---|
| nessuno | nessuna |

**NOTE:** The adjective **nessuno** has no plural form.

**Nessun**

**Nessuno** drops the final **o** when it modifies a masculine noun:

> Non hai **nessun** motivo per criticarlo.
> You dont have *any* reason to criticize him.

Nessun(o) (no one, none, nobody) is invariable when used as a pronoun.   When used as an adjective, it is inflected and means no, not...any.

> **Nessuno** l'avrebbe fatto così.
> *No one* would have done it that way.
> **Nessuno** l'ha visto
> **Nobody** saw him.
> **Nessun** aiuto mi gioverà.
> **No** help will do me any good.
> **Nessuna** spiaggia è più pittoresca di questa.
> **No** beach is more picturesque than this.
> > > **Nessuno** andò con lei.
> > > **Nobody** went with her.

Niente and nulla are synonymous.   They mean nothing, not....anything.   The rule for their position is the same as for nessuno.

> **Non** *desidero* **nulla**, grazie.
> I do not *want* **anything**, thank you.
> **Nulla** è buono per Lei.
> **Nothing** is good for you.
> **Non** *vuole* **nulla**, Lei?   No, grazie.
> Don't you *want* **anything**?   No thanks.
> *Vuole* **nulla**, Signore? Sì.
> Do you *want* **anything**, Sir?   Yes.

**NÉ**

| né | not even |
|---|---|
| né...né | neither...nor |
| non...né | neither...nor |

> **Né questo, né quello**.
> **Neither** this **nor** that.

> **Non** lo disapprovo **né** lo giustifico.
> I *neither* disapprove of it *nor* I justify it.

**Related Topics:**
Punctuation
Negative Statements

# QUESTIONS

In Italian a statement can be changed into a question by placing a question mark at the end of it.
In spoken language it is sufficient to change the intonation.

| *Question* | *Statement* |
|---|---|
| John **ha** due figli? | John **ha** due figli. |
| Does John have two children*?* | John has two children*.* |

Sometimes questions are asked in Italian by placing the verb before the subject.   The subject may be placed directly after the verb or at the end of the question.

| *Question* | *Statement* |
|---|---|
| **Viene** a casa Roberto? | Roberto **viene** a casa. |
| *Is* Robert *coming?* | Robert *is coming.* |

**OR**

| *Question* | *Statement* |
|---|---|
| **Viene** Roberto a casa? | Roberto **viene** a casa. |
| *Is* Roberto *coming?* | Robert *is coming.* |

## RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

Affirmative and negative statements may be turned into questions by adding a question word or phrase at the end.

Vuoi accompagnarmi, **vero?**
You want to accompany me, *right?*

Non sei andato al concerto, **vero?**
You didn't go to the concert, *right?*

Ti piacciono i dolci, **no?**
You like pastries, *right?*

**Related Topics:**
**Interrogative Pronouns**
Punctuation

# CLAUSES

A sentence may consist of a main clause containing, at a minimum, subject and a predicate.

> **È piccante**.
> *It is spicy.*

Or it may consist of a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

> Mi piace **anche se è piccante**.
> I like it *although it is spicy.*

## MAIN CLAUSES

A main clause may begin with the subject of the sentence, one of the objects, an adverb / adverbial phrase, or a subordinate clause.   The first position in the sentence is generally one of emphasis.

## SUBORDINATE CLAUSES

By definition, a subordinate clause is always dependent on a main clause and cannot stand by itself.   The statement made in a subordinate clause does not have the same weight as that made in the main clause.
Subordinate clauses are separated from the main clause by commas.

> **Se il mio bilancio lo permettesse**, mi comprerei una casa in campagna.
> *If my budget permitted*, I would buy a house in the country.

**Related Topics:**
QUESTIONS
Subjunctive/Noun Clauses
Subjunctive/Adjective Clauses

# Subjunctive/Noun Clauses

The verb of a noun clause (introduced by che) is in the subjunctive in the following two cases:
• After the verbs or expressions that imply doubt, denial, probability, possibility, and the like.   For example:

> Dubito che sia vero.
> I doubt that it is true.
> Non posso ammettere che sappia farlo.
> I cannot admit that he can do it.
> È probabile che l'abbia ricevuto.
> It is probable that he has received it.
> È possible che se ne sia andato?
> Is it possible that he has gone away?

• After verbs of thinking and believing when doubt or uncertainty is implied.   For example:

> Veramente non credo che abbia ragione.
> I really do not think that he is right.
> Credi che me ne importi?
> Do you think I care?

Note:   The future, however, is used when there is no uncertainty.

> Credo che mi ascolterà.
> I believe he will listen to me.

**Related Topics:**
Subjunctive/Adjective Clauses
Subordinate Clause

# Subjunctive/Adjective Clauses

The verb of an adjective clause is in the subjunctive in the following two cases:

• After a relative pronoun the antecedent of which is indefinite.   For example:

> Me ne dia un altro che non sia troppo caro.
> Give me another that is not too expensive.
> Cerco qualcuno che sia capace di farlo.
> I am looking for someone who can do it.

But,

> Ne ho visti parecchi che sono a buon mercato.
> I have seen several that are cheap.
> Ho trovato un individuo che sa fare qualunque cosa.
> I have found a person who can do anything.

• After a superlative or one of the following adjectives having a superlative force:   primo, ultimo, solo, unico (first, last, only, only).   For example:

> È il più antico che esista.
> It is the oldest one there is.
> Sono stati i primi che l'abbiano fatto.
> They have been the first to do it.
> È l'unico che non sia riuscito.
> He is the only one who has not succeeded.

## Related Topics:
Subjunctive/Noun Clauses
Subordinate Clause

# Subjunctive After Impersonal

The verbs of a subordinate clause, introduced by che, after impersonal verbs or expressions implying possibility, probability, necessity, usefulness, uselessness, right, wrong, fairness, seeming, and the like, are in the subjunctive.   For example:

> È probabile che non ne sappia nulla.
> He probably knows nothing about it.
> È possible che me lo dia.
> It is possible that he may give it to me.
> Bisogna (è necessario) che Lei agisca subito.
> It is necessary that you act at once.
> È inutile che gliene parli
> It is useless for me to talk to him about it.
> Non è giusto che anche Lei s'incomodi.
> It is not proper that you too should inconvenience yourself.
> Sembra che si sia deciso.
> He seems to have made up his mind.
> È giusto che ognuno riceva la sua parte.
> It is fair that each receive his share.
> E facile che ci faccia questo favore.
> Very likely he will do us this favor.

This rule does not apply, however, to affirmative impersonal expressions such as è vero, si vede, è chiaro, è perchè, etc., in which the indicative is used.   For example:

> È chiaro che non ha voglia di fare nulla.
> It is clear that he has no desire to do anything.
> È perchè lo dico io.
> It is because I say so.
> È vero che lo disse.
> It is true that he said it.

The infinitive is used when the subordinate clause has no expressed subject.   For example:

> È possible farlo.
> It is possible to do it.
> È inutile proseguire.
> It is useless to continue.
> Bisogna parlare chiaramente.
> We (one, they) must speak clearly.

**Related Topics:**
Summary of Tenses
Imperfect Subjunctive
Reflexive Verbs

# THE CLOCK AND THE CALENDAR

## TIME OF DAY

The third person forms of **essere** are used to indicate time of day:

Following are some common expressions dealing with time.

**Che ora è?**
What time is it?
**È l'una.**
It is one o'clock.
**Sono le due.**
It is two (o'clock).
**Sono le sei e dieci.**
It is ten after six.
**Sono le otto meno venti**.
It is twenty to eight.
**Sono le tre e mezzo.**
It is half past three.

The names of the days, months, and seasons are usually not capitalized.

## DAYS OF THE WEEK

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **lunedì** | Monday | **venerdì** | Friday |
| **martedì** | Tuesday | **sabato** | Saturday |
| **mercoledì** | Wednesday | **domenica** | Sunday |
| **giovedì** | Thursday | | |

The <u>definite article</u> is required before expressions of time that are modified by an <u>adjective</u>.

**la** settimana scorsa...          **il** prossimo sabato...
last week...                     next Saturday...

In expressions of time the <u>definite article</u> appears where English uses the <u>preposition</u> "**on**":

**il** venerdì...                     **i** giovedì...
*on* Friday...                    *on* Thursdays...

L' aereo parte **il** quattordici.
The plane leaves *on the* fourteenth.

**l**'ultimo giorno del mese...
*on the* last day of the month...

## MONTHS OF THE YEAR

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **gennaio** | January | **luglio** | July |
| **febbraio** | February | **agosto** | August |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **marzo** | March | **settembre** | September |
| **aprile** | April | **ottobre** | October |
| **maggio** | May | **novembre** | November |
| **giugno** | June | **dicembre** | December |

## SEASONS OF THE YEAR

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **la primavera** | spring | **l'autunno** | autumn |
| **l'estate** | summer | **l'inverno** | winter |

## DIVISIONS OF THE DAY

| | |
|---|---|
| **la mattina** | morning |
| **il giorno** | day |
| **di giorno** | by day |
| **la notte** | night, evening |
| **il pomeriggio** | afternoon |
| **ieri notte** | last night |
| **l'altro ieri** | the day before yesterday |
| **ieri** | yesterday |
| **stanotte** | tonight |
| **oggi** | today |
| **domani** | tomorrow |
| **domani mattina** | tomorrow morning |

## REPETITION

Repetition is expressed using **volta** (one time) and **per, alla**, or the <u>definite article</u>. It answers the question "How often?".

Quante volte alla settimana, al giorno, all'anno?...
How often a week, a day, a year?...

| | |
|---|---|
| **una volta** | once |
| **una volta che** | once, as soon as, when |
| **due volte** | twice |
| **a volte** | at times, sometimes, occasionally |
| **alla volta** | at the same time, simultaneously |
| **a sua volta** | in turn; in his turn; for his, her, or one's part |
| **qualche volta** | occasionally, once in a while, sometimes |
| **due volte più grande** | twice as big |
| **ogni volta** | each time |
| **quante volte** | how often |
| **una volta e per tutte** | once and for all |
| **una volta ogni tanto** | from time to time |
| **c'era una volta** | once upon a time |
| **la prima volta** | the first time |
| **molte volte** | many times, often |
| **poche volte** | seldom, rarely |
| **rare volte** | seldom |

**Related Topics:**
<u>Contents</u>

[Syntax](#)

# CARDINAL & ORDINAL NUMBERS

## CARDINAL NUMBERS

The cardinal numbers are:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | = zero | | 10 | = dieci |
| 1 | = uno | | 11 | = undici |
| 2 | = due | | 12 | = dodici |
| 3 | = tre | | 13 | = tredici |
| 4 | = quattro | | 14 | = quattordici |
| 5 | = cinque | | 15 | = quindici |
| 6 | = sei | | 16 | = sedici |
| 7 | = sette | | 17 | = diciassette |
| 8 | = otto | | 18 | = diciotto |
| 9 | = nove | | 19 | = diciannove |

20 = venti
21 = ventuno
22 = ventidue

30 = trenta
40 = quaranta
50 = cinquanta
60 = sessanta
70 = settanta
80 = ottanta
90 = novanta

100 = cento
1000 = mille
2000 = duemila

100.000 = centomila
200.000 = duecentomila

## ORDINAL NUMBERS

The ordinal numbers are:

1st = primo -a
2d = secondo -a
3d = terzo -a
4th = quarto -a
5th = quinto -a
6th = sesto -a
7th = settimo -a
8th = ottavo
9th = nono -a

10th = decimo -a
11th = undicesimo -a
12th = dodicesimo -a
13th = tredicesimo -a

14th = quattordicesimo -a
15th = quindicesimo-a
16th = sedicesimo -a
17th = diciassettesimo -a
18th = diciottesimo -a
19th = diciannovesimo -a

20th = ventesimo -a
21st = ventunesimo -a
22d = ventiduesimo -a

30th = trentesimo -a
40th = quarantesimo -a
50th = cinquantesimo -a
60th = sessantesimo -a
70th = settantesimo -a
80th = ottantesimo -a
90th = novantesimo -a

100th = centesimo -a
101st = centunesimo -a
111th = centoundicesimo -a
121st = centoventunesimo -a

200th = duecentesimo, -a
300th = trecentesimo, -a
400th = quattrocentesimo -a
500th = cinquecentesimo, -a
600th = seicentesimo, -a
700th = settecentesimo, -a
800th = ottocentesimo, -a
900th = novecentesimo, -a

1000th= millesimo -a
2000th= duemillesimo-a

100,000th =centomillesimo -a
200,000th =duecentomillesimo -a

## FRACTIONS

Fractional numerals:

one half      =  un mezzo

one third     =  un terzo
two thirds    =  due terzi

one fourth    =  un quarto
three fourths =  tre quarti

one fifth     =  un quinto
one sixth     =  un sesto
one seventh   =  un settimo
one eighth    =  un ottavo
one ninth     =  un nono

one tenth       =    un decimo

Fractional numerals above **decimo** are formed by adding **-esimo** to the cardinals.   The final
**i** of a cardinal (except those containing **sette** and **nove**) may be dropped before **-esimo**.

                    one eleventh       =    un undic**esimo**
                    one twelfth        =    un dodic**esimo**
                    one thirteenth     =    un tredic**esimo**
                    one fourteenth     =    un quattordic**esimo**
                    one fifteenth      =    un quindic**esimo**
                    one sixteenth      =    un sedic**esimo**
                    one seventeenth  =    un diciassett**esimo**
                    one eighteenth     =    un diciott**esimo**
                    one nineteenth     =    un diciannov**esimo**
                    one twentieth      =    un vent**esimo**
                    one thirtieth      =    un trent**esimo**
                    one hundredth      =    un cent**esimo**
                    one thousandth     =    un mill**esimo**


Fractional numerals are also commonly formed with the feminine form of the ordinals
modifying the word **parte**:

                    third              =    terza **parte**
                    twentieth          =    ventesima **parte**

The numerator of a fraction is a cardinal:

                    two-ninths         =   2/9    = **due** noni
                    fourteen-thirtieths   =      14/30   = **quattordici** trentesimi

## NUMERICAL NOTATION

### WHOLE NUMBERS

   The *period* is used to divide *whole numbers*:

        10.000  =  ten thousand

### DECIMALS

   The *comma* is used for the *decimal point*:

        1,2    =   one and two-tenths

**Related Topics:**
THE CLOCK AND THE CALENDAR
Adjectives

# PUNCTUATION

The Italian names of the marks of punctuation are:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **.** | punto | **...** | puntini sospensivi | **¨** | dieresi |
| **,** | virgola | **?** | punto interrogativo | **<< >>** | virgolette |
| **;** | punto e virgola | **!** | punto esclamativo | **-** | trattino |
| **:** | due punti | **( )** | parentesi | | |

The *period* is used to divide whole numbers and the *comma* is used for the decimal point:

      10**.**000 = ten thousand (10,000)

      1**,**4     = one and four tenths (1.4)

**<u>Related Topics:</u>**
<u>CARDINAL & ORDINAL NUMBERS</u>
<u>Contents</u>

# Non-Grammatical Forms

The term, Non-Grammatical, is applied to words and expressions that do not fit into any other lexical category.   Non-grammaticals do not inflect for gender, number, person or tense.   Common Italian non-grammaticals are: **sì**, **no** and **grazie**.

**Related Topics:**
**Contents**
**Title Forms**

# Title Forms

Common Italian titles applied to persons are Signore, Signora, signorina, and their associated abbreviations.   These words typically occur before proper nouns and have certain restrictions concerning co-occurance with articles. In Italian, the definite article is always used with titles, with the exception of direct address:

**Il dottor Rossi è bravo.**
Doctor Rossi is good.

Direct address:

**Buongiorno dottor Rossi.**
Good morning Doctor Rossi.

Titles ending in -e such as dottore, professore, signore, drop the **-e** when followed by proper names:

 **Il professore spiega la lezione**.
The teacher explains the lesson.

**Il professor Bianchi spiega la lezione.**
Professor Bianchi explains the lesson.


**Related Topics:**
**Non-Grammatical Forms**
**Nouns**

# GLOSSARY

**ADJECTIVES** describe or qualify nouns.   They answer the question "**What sort of...?**".   Italian adjectives always agree in number and gender with the nouns they modify.   Unlike English, Italian adjectives can be placed before or after the noun for special emphasis or meaning.

**ADVERBS** describe or qualify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb and answer the questions "**How...?**",
"**When...?**",
"**Where...?**", or "**In what manner...?**".   In Italian, most "**how**" adverbs are formed by adding **-mente** to the feminine singular form of the adjective.

An **AUXILIARY VERB** helps in the conjugation of a main verb.   The Italian auxiliary verbs **avere** (to have) and **essere** (to be) are used to form the compound tenses.

> **EXAMPLES:**   **Ho parlato** con la professoressa.
> I *have spoken* with the teacher.
>
> **Sono andato** a scuola.
> I *have gone* to school.

A **CLAUSE** is a phrase or group of words that includes at least a subject and a verb and forms part of a larger sentence.   Italian uses relative pronouns to introduce clauses.

> **EXAMPLE:**   La donna **che vende   fiori**   venne qui oggi.
> The woman *who sells flowers* came by here today.

The **COMPARATIVE FORM** indicates a difference in degree or quality (e.g., more than, less than).   In English, the comparative is formed by adding the ending **-er** to the adjective.   In Italian, it is formed by placing **più** (more) or **meno** (less) before the adjective.

> **EXAMPLE:**   *Descriptive*          *Comparative*
> **il** libro **interessante  un** libro **più interessante**

A **COMPOUND NOUN** is a noun that consists of two or more independent elements.   In Italian, the article preceding some compound nouns changes in number, but the noun does not.   Compound nouns are always masculine.

> **EXAMPLE:**    **cavatappi (corkscrew)**                                        **il cavatappi**
> **i   cavatappi**
>                                                       **accallappiacani**
> **l'accallappiacani**            **gli accallappiacani**

**(dog-catcher)**

**Note:**     **cavare** = to extract     il **tappo** = cork
                            **accallappiare** = to catch          il **cane** = dog


**COMPOUND TENSES** consist of a conjugated auxiliary verb plus the past participle of the main verb.   They occur in the Present Perfect, Past Perfect, Past Anterior, Future Perfect, as well as the Conditional Perfect, Past Subjunctive, and Past Perfect Subjunctive.

**EXAMPLE:**     Appena **ebbero terminato** il progetto, uscirono.
                    As soon as they *had finished* the project, they left.


A **CONDITIONAL CLAUSE** is a phrase or group of words that states the condition under which the action described by the main clause may be realized.

**EXAMPLE:**     **Se avessi una macchina,** potrei andare in Messico.
                    *If I had a car,* I could drive to Mexico.


The **CONDITIONAL MOOD** uses the construction "**If...then....**"   It expresses the hypothetical, unreal, or speculative, and states the condition under which another action or event may be realized.


A verb is **CONJUGATED** when it is listed according to person (1st, 2nd, 3rd), number (singular / plural), tense (present, past, future, etc.), and/or conditional or subjunctive mood.


A **CONJUNCTION** serves as a link between words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.
                    **EXAMPLE:**     Mio padre **e** mia madre.
                                        My father *and* my mother.


**CONTINUOUS TENSES** are used in English and Italian to indicate that an action or condition is in progress or ongoing, or that an action was in progress when another one took place.   They occur in the Present, Past, Present Perfect, Past Perfect, and Future Tenses, and the Conditional Mood.   In Italian, alternate continuous tenses may be formed using the auxiliaries **andare**, **venire**, or **stare** + **present participle**.

**EXAMPLES:**     **Ho parlato**  con la professoressa.
                    I *have spoken* with the teacher.

                    **Venne correndo**...
                    He *came running*...


A **CONTRACTION** is formed by omitting and/or combining some of the sounds of longer words.   In Italian, **a + il** is contracted to **al**; **di + il** becomes **del, su +il** becomes **sul**.


**EXAMPLES:**     Andammo **al** mare.              We went to the beach.
                    Andammo a casa   **del** Sr. Rossi      We went to Mr. Rossi's house.


 A **CONTRARY-TO-FACT STATEMENT** describes a condition or set of conditions that do not actually exist.   It includes a second clause in which these conditions are described as fulfillable.

**EXAMPLE:**     **Se l'automobile non fosse così cara, potremmo comprarla**.
                    *If the automobile were not so expensive,* we could buy it.


**COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS** link two independent clauses in a sentence.


**DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES** point to a definite person or object.   English uses **this**, **these**, **that**, and **those**. A demonstrative is either an adjective or a pronoun and must agree with the noun it modifies.   Italian uses:

|  | Singular | |  | Plural | |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Masc.* | *Fem.* |  | *Masc.* | *Fem.* |  |
|  | **questo** | **questa** | this (near me) | **questi** | **queste** | these |
|  | **quello** | **quella** | that (over there) | **quelli** | **quelle** | those |

**DIMINUTIVE ENDINGS** are added to nouns to imply a smaller form or lesser quality.   They can also express affection or endearment.   The most common diminutive endings are **-ino(a)**, **-etto(a)**, **-ello(a)**, and **-uccio(a)**.

> **EXAMPLES:**  la casa / **la casetta**
> the house / the *little* house
>
> la bocca / **la boccuccia**
> the mouth / the *little* mouth

The **DIRECT OBJECT** is the person, place, or thing that is the direct recipient of the action described by a verb.

> **EXAMPLE:**  Lesse **la poesia**.   He read *the poem*.

 In English, a **GERUND** is a noun that is formed from a verb and ends in **-ing**.   In Italian, the infinitive serves as the gerund.

> **EXAMPLE:**   **Fumare**  fa male alla salute.
> **Smoking** is bad for the health.

The **IMPERATIVE FORM** of a verb is used to give a command or make a suggestion.   These forms are short and derived from the verb stem.   Their spellings vary.

> **EXAMPLES:**  **Va** a casa!  *Go* home!
> **Dammi**  il quaderno! *Give* me the notebook!

The **INDICATIVE** is the mood of the verb used in objective statements or questions.   By contrast, the *conditional mood* indicates that a person would do something if something else were possible or that he would have done something if something else had been possible.   The *subjunctive mood* expresses a request, a supposition, or an emotion such as a wish, a fear, a joy, etc.   The *imperative mood* expresses a command or polite request.

An **INDIRECT OBJECT** is the person or thing "**to whom**" or "**for whom**" an action is performed.

> **EXAMPLE:**  John  **le** regaló un vestito.
> John gave *her* a dress.

**INDIRECT SPEECH** is the reporting of the words of an unknown speaker.   Italian uses the pronoun **si** with the third person singular verb form to express "**it is...**," "**people...**," "**they...**," and "**one...**."

> **EXAMPLES:**

| *Indirect Speech:* | **Lui dice che il progetto è   terminato**. | |
|---|---|---|
|  | *He believes that (says that.... / knows that...) the project is completed.* | |
| *Indirect Speech with "si":* | **Si crede che**... | It is believed that... People believe that... They believe that... One believes that... ...the project is completed. |
|  | **Si dice che**... | It is said that...  People say that... They say that...  One says that... ...the project is completed. |
|  | **Si sa che**... | It is known that...  People know that... |

An **INFINITIVE** is the basic form of a verb.   It reflects no person, number, or tense.   There are three infinitive endings
in Italian: **-are**, **-ere**, and **-ire**.


An **INFINITIVE CLAUSE** with **per** (in order to) indicates purpose or intent.

> **EXAMPLE:**      Conservo i soldi **per comprare una casa**.
> I am saving money *(in order) to buy a house*.


An **INFLECTED VERB** is one that has been identified as singular or plural and assigned endings for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd person.

> **EXAMPLE:**     **viaggia**      (sing., 3rd person, Present Tense)
> *(he) travels*


An **INTERJECTION** briefly expresses an emotional reaction to a situation, e.g., concern, approval, surprise, etc.

> **EXAMPLES:**     **Attenzione!**          Watch out!
> **Poverino**!     Poor little thing!
> **Mamma mia!**          Oh dear!

An **INTRANSITIVE VERB** does not describe an action, but merely expresses a state of affairs, change, or natural process.   It therefore does not take an object.

> **EXAMPLE:**     **Cammina** tutti i giorni.
> he *walks* every day.


**IRREGULAR VERBS** show deviations from the usual pattern of inflection (spelling) in the stem as well as the endings.

> **EXAMPLE:**      **ANDARE (To go)**
> **Vado** a casa.
> I *go* home.


A **MAIN CLAUSE** is the independent or principal clause in a sentence.   It does not depend on another clause for its meaning and can stand on its own as a full sentence.

> **EXAMPLE:**     Quando viene, **ti avviso**.
> When he comes, *I will let you know*.


A **NOUN** names a person, place, or thing.


The **OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION** is a noun that follows a preposition.

> **EXAMPLE:**     Questo libro è per **Giacomo**.
> This book is for *Giacomo.*


An **OBJECT PRONOUN** receives the action of the verb.   A pronoun can also be the object of a preposition.   The preposition **di** is repeated before each proper name and object pronoun in a series.

> **EXAMPLES:**     **Ci** visitarono.          Vennero con **me**.
> They visited *us.*          They came *with me.*

A **PARTICIPIAL ADJECTIVE** is an adjective derived from a verb. It must agree in number with the noun it modifies.

    **EXAMPLE:**
        Serviamo la salsa **piccante**.
        We serve hot sauce.

In **PASSIVE VOICE**, the order of subject and object are reversed, i.e., the subject receives the action of the verb. Passive voice conveys a sense of anonymity or objectivity. There are two passive constructions in Italian: (1) the impersonal subject **si**, and (2) **essere** + **past participle**.

    **EXAMPLES:**   *Active:*     Lui **terminò** il contratto.     *He ended* the contract.
                   *Passive:*   **Si terminò** il contratto.     The contract *was ended.*
                   *Passive:*   Il contratto **fu terminato.**    The contract *was ended.*

**PAST PARTICIPLES** are formed by adding **-ato** or **-ito** to the present perfect stem of the verb. English equivalents are formed by adding **-ed**, **-t**, **-en**, etc. (i.e., park**ed**, kep**t**, froz**en**). They are used in the compound tenses and in passive voice and they can also stand alone as adjectives.

 **PAST PARTICIPLES** are used in the compound tenses and in passive voice and they can also stand alone as adjectives.

    **EXAMPLE:**     Il pollo era **stato cucinato**.
                 The chicken *had been cooked.*

**POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES** modify nouns and answer the question "**Whose...?**". They must be repeated before each noun they modify.

    **EXAMPLE:**     **mio** padre e **mia** madre...
                 *my* father and mother...

A **POSSESSIVE PRONOUN** is a pronoun that answers the question "**Whose...?**".

    **EXAMPLE:**     Usiamo la mia macchina o **la tua**?
                 Will we use my car or *yours*?

A **PREDICATE** modifies a subject and includes the verbs, objects, or phrases governed by the verb. It can also be a verb or linking verb (**essere** = "to be") that connects the elements of a sentence.

    **EXAMPLE:**     Carmen / guidava la macchina.
                 Carmen / drove the car.
                 *subject / predicate*

A **PREDICATE ADJECTIVE** describes the subject of a predicate.

    **EXAMPLE:**     Lui è molto   **bello**.      He is *very handsome*.

A **PREDICATE NOUN** is equivalent in meaning to the subject and is linked to it by a predicate.

    **EXAMPLE:**     Lui è **ingegnere.**      He is *an engineer.*

A **PREPOSITION** introduces a noun, pronoun, adverb, infinitive, or present participle and can indicate spatial or temporal relationships. Italian prepositions include the "personal **a**," **per**, **di**, **con**, **su**, **sopra**, **prima di**, and others.

    **EXAMPLE:**     Si presentó **davanti al** giudice.
                 He appeared *before* the judge.

A **PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE** consists of a preposition and its object and modifies the subject or verb.

Prepositional phrases are often used instead of adverbs of manner.

**EXAMPLE:**     Il libro fu scritto **da** Umberto Eco.
The book was written *by Umberto Eco.*

In English, a **PRESENT PARTICIPLE** is a verb form ending in **-ing**.   It may also be used as an adjective or a noun.
In Italian, present participles end in **-ando** or **-endo**.   They may only be used as verbs.

Stavano **parlando** del terremoto.
They were *talking* about the earthquake.

**Avendo ricordato** il suo indirizzo, cominciai a scriverle una lettera.
*Having* remembered her address, I started writing her a letter.

A **PRONOUN** can substitute for a noun.   Like Italian nouns, pronouns have gender and number.

A **REFLEXIVE PRONOUN** is the object of a verb or preposition and refers back to the subject as "**myself**,"
"**yourself**," "**himself**," etc.

A **REFLEXIVE VERB** is accompanied by the pronoun **se**, which refers back to the subject, i.e., the subject is also
the object of the verb.

 **EXAMPLES:**      **Si ruppe il braccio.**
*He broke his arm*.

**Mi lavo le mani**.
I am washing *my hands*.

A **RELATIVE CLAUSE** is a subordinate clause introduced by a relative pronoun that describes or qualifies the
subject or object of a sentence.   It answers the question "**What sort of...?**".   The relative clause can contain a
subject, verb, and/or object(s).

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

Indossò il vestito **che** comprò recentemente
She put on the hat *that she recently bought*.

**RELATIVE PRONOUNS** introduce relative clauses.   Italian relative pronouns include:

| | |
|---|---|
| **chi** | who, whom, the ones who |
| **che** | who, that, which, whom |
| i**l quale** (i **quali**) | the one(s) which |
| **la quale** (**le quali**) | the one(s) which |
| **dove** | where |

"**Chi**" means "**who**," "**whom**," and occasionally "**the one**(**s**) **who**."
"**Che**," the most frequently used relative pronoun, means "**who**," "**that**," or "**which**," and, as direct object
of a verb, "**whom**."   It refers to both persons and things, singular and plural, and its form is invariable.

**EXAMPLE:**

Vedemmo l'uomo **che** ci visitò la settimana scorsa.
We saw the man *who* visited us last week.

**SIMPLE TENSES** consist of a conjugated main verb only.   They occur in the Present, Imperfect, Past, Future,
Present Conditional, Present Subjunctive, and Imperfect Subjunctive.

**STEM-CHANGING VERBS** are regular and irregular verbs that take spelling changes in the stem when conjugated.

The **SUBJECT** of a sentence performs the action described by the verb.

A **SUBJECT COMPLEMENT** is a word or words used after a verb to complete a predicate.   It modifies the noun, noun phrase, or pronoun in a sentence or clause.

> **EXAMPLES:**
> Loro avevano fretta.
> They were *in a hurry*.
>
> Ci piace camminare **per il vicinato**.
> We like to walk *through the neighborhood*.

**SUBJECT PRONOUNS** refer to the person or thing that makes up the subject.   The subject pronoun is expressed by the verb ending.   The forms i**o**, **tu**, **egli (o lui), ella (o lei) , noi, voi, loro (o essi)**   are therefore usually required only for emphasis.

> **EXAMPLES:**    Avevo fretta.          I was in a hurry.
> **Io** avevo fretta.     *I* was in a hurry.
>
> **Lui** è professore, e **lei** è ragioniera.
> *He* is a teacher, but *she* is an accountant.

The **SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD** is used in subordinate clauses in which there is a change of subject and indicates that a situation is hypothetical, unreal, wished or hoped for, or somehow speculative in nature.   The subjunctive mood is used in direct commands (except familiar) in which third persons are usually introduced by **che**.   Italian uses special verb forms to indicate the subjunctive (Present, Past, Imperfect, and Past Perfect Subjunctives). The Future Subjunctive is used in clauses implying a supposition and is found only in legal style or antiquated phrases.

A **SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** is a secondary clause.   Its meaning depends on the independent or main clause.

> **EXAMPLE:**             Volevo ritornare all'università per finire gli studi.
> I wanted to return to the university *in order to finish my degree*.

A **SUPERLATIVE** is an adjective or adverb that expresses the third and highest level of comparison (e.g., most, least).   In English it is formed by adding the ending **est** to the adjective. In Italian, it is formed by placing **il più** (the most) before the adjective.

> **EXAMPLES:**    **l**'edificio **più alto**...          the *tallest*   building...
> **il più alto**...                    *the tallest*...

**SYNTAX** is the order in which words are put together to form phrases, clauses, or sentences.

A **TRANSITIVE VERB** expresses an action that directly affects someone or something.   It therefore takes a direct object.

> **EXAMPLE:**       **L**e **regaló** dei fiori per il suo compleanno.
> For her birthday, he *gave* her some flowers.

A **VERB** is a word that expresses an action.

## Related Topics:

# Adjectives

**ADJECTIVES** describe or qualify nouns.   They answer the question "**What sort of...?**".   Italian adjectives always agree in number and gender with the nouns they modify.   Unlike English, Italian adjectives can be placed before or after the noun for special emphasis or meaning.

# Adverbs

**ADVERBS** describe or qualify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb and answer the questions "**How...?**", "**When...?**",
"**Where...?**", or "**In what manner...?**".   In Italian, most "**how**" adverbs are formed by adding **-mente** to the feminine singular form of the adjective.

# Augmentative Endings

**AUGMENTATIVE ENDINGS** on nouns imply a larger form or greater quality.   They can also express disrespect or scorn.   The most common augmentative endings   are   **-one** and **-accio(a)**.

      **EXAMPLE:**

il libro **/ il librone**
the book **/** *the big book*

il libro / **il libraccio**
the book / the *ugly* book

# Auxiliary Verb

An **AUXILIARY VERB** helps in the conjugation of a main verb. The Italian auxiliary verbs **avere** (to have) and **essere** (to be) are used to form the compound tenses.

**EXAMPLES:** **Ho parlato** con la professoressa.
I *have spoken* with the teacher.

**Sono andato** a scuola.
*I have gone* to school.

# Clause

A **CLAUSE** is a phrase or group of words that includes at least a subject and a verb and forms part of a larger sentence.   Italian uses relative pronouns to introduce clauses.

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                                   The woman *who sells flowers* came by here today.

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|  | *Descriptive* | *Comparative* |
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| **EXAMPLE:** | il libro **interessante** | un libro **più interessante** |

# Compound Noun

A **COMPOUND NOUN** is a noun that consists of two or more independent elements.   In Italian, the article preceding some compound nouns changes in number, but the noun does not.   Compound nouns are always masculine.

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# Compound Tenses

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                                    As soon as they had finished the meal, they left.

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                           My father *and* my mother.

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|  | **Venne correndo**...<br>He *came running*... |

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| **questo** | **questa** | this (near me) | **questi** | **queste** | these |
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                           the house / the *little* house

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                            the mouth / the *little* mouth

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The **INDICATIVE** is the mood of the verb used in ordinary, objective statements or questions.   By contrast, the *conditional mood* indicates that a person would do something if something else were possible or that he would have done something if something else had been possible.   The *subjunctive mood* expresses a request, a supposition, or an emotion such as a wish, a fear, a joy, etc.   The *imperative mood* expresses a command or polite request.

# Indirect Object

An **INDIRECT OBJECT** is the person or thing "**to whom**" or "**for whom**" an action is performed.

**EXAMPLE:**     John  **le** regaló un vestito.
                 John gave *her* a dress.

# Indirect Speech

**INDIRECT SPEECH** is the reporting of the words of an unknown speaker.   Italian uses the pronoun **si** with the third person singular verb form to express "**it is...**," "**people...**," "**they...**," and "**one...**."

      **EXAMPLES:**

*Indirect Speech:*           Lui dice che il progetto è   terminato.
*He believes that (says that.... / knows that...) the project is completed.*

*Indirect Speech with "si":*    **Si crede che**...  It is believed that... People believe that...
They believe that... One believes that...
...the project is completed.

                                         **Si dice che**...  It is said that...   People say that...
They say that...     One says that...
...the project is completed.

                                         **Si sa che**...  It is known that... People know that...
They know that...  One knows that...
...the project is completed.

# Infinitive

An **INFINITIVE** is the basic form of a verb.   It reflects no person, number, or tense.   There are three infinitive endings
in Italian: **-are**, **-ere**, and **-ire.**

# Infinitive Clause

An **INFINITIVE CLAUSE** with **per** (in order to) indicates purpose or intent.

    **EXAMPLE:**    Conservo i soldi **per comprare una casa**.
                                   I am saving money *(in order) to buy a house*.

# Inflected Verb

An **INFLECTED VERB** is one that has been identified as singular or plural and assigned endings for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd person.

      **EXAMPLE:**      viaggia      (third person, Present Tense)
                                 (he) travels

# Interjection

An **INTERJECTION** briefly expresses an emotional reaction to a situation, e.g., concern, approval, surprise, etc.

**EXAMPLES:**     **Attenzione!**     Watch out!
                               **Poverino**!     Poor little thing!
                                              **Mamma mia!**     Oh dear!

# Intransitive Verb

An **INTRANSITIVE VERB** does not describe an action, but merely expresses a state of affairs, change, or natural process.   It therefore does not take an object.

      **EXAMPLE:**      **Cammina** tutti i giorni.
                                     he *walks* every day.

# Irregular Verbs

**IRREGULAR VERBS** show deviations from the usual pattern of inflection (spelling) in the stem as well as the endings.

# Main Clause

A **MAIN CLAUSE** is the independent or principal clause in a sentence. It does not depend on another clause for its meaning and can stand on its own as a full sentence.

|  |  |
|---|---|
| **EXAMPLE:** | Quando viene, **ti avviso**. |
|  | When he comes, *I will let you know*. |

# Noun

A **NOUN** names a person, place, or thing.

# Object of a Preposition

The **OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION** is a noun that follows a preposition.

      **EXAMPLE:**      Quesro libro è per **Giacomo**.
                            This book is for *Giacomo.*

# Object Pronoun

An **OBJECT PRONOUN** receives the action of the verb.   A pronoun can also be the object of a preposition.   The preposition **di** is repeated before each proper name and object pronoun in a series.

|  |  |  |
|---|---|---|
| **EXAMPLES:** | **Ci** visitarono. | Vennero con **me**. |
|  | They visited *us.* | They came *with me.* |

# Participial Adjective

A **PARTICIPIAL ADJECTIVE** is an adjective derived from a verb.   It must agree in number with the noun it modifies.

       **EXAMPLE:**
                Serviamo la salsa **piccante**.
                We serve hot sauce.

# Passive Voice

In **PASSIVE VOICE**, the order of subject and object are reversed, i.e., the subject receives the action of the verb. Passive voice conveys a sense of anonymity or objectivity.   There are two passive constructions in Italian:   (1) the impersonal subject **si**, and (2)  **essere** + **past participle**.

|  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|
| **EXAMPLES:** | *Active:* | Lui **terminó** il contratto. | *He ended* the contract. |
|  | *Passive:* | **Si terminó** il contratto. | The contract *was ended.* |
|  | *Passive:* | Il contratto **fu terminato.** | The contract *was ended.* |

# Past Participles

**PAST PARTICIPLES** are used in the compound tenses and in passive voice and they can also stand alone as adjectives.

**EXAMPLE:**

Il pollo era **stato cucinato**.

The chicken *had been cooked.*

# Personal Pronouns

**PERSONAL PRONOUNS** take the place of nouns.   They usually accompany a verb and can be either the subject or the object of the verb.

# Possessive Adjectives

**POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES** modify nouns and answer the question "**Whose...?**".   They must be repeated before each noun they modify.

      **EXAMPLE:**      **mio** padre e **mia** madre...
                                  *my* father and mother...

# Possessive Pronoun

A **POSSESSIVE PRONOUN** is a pronoun that answers the question "**Whose...?**".

      **EXAMPLE:**      Usiamo la mia macchina o **la tua**?
                                    Will we use my car or *yours*?

# Predicate

A **PREDICATE** modifies a subject and includes the verbs, objects, or phrases governed by the verb.   It can also be a verb or linking verb (**essere** = "to be") that connects the elements of a sentence.

      **EXAMPLE:**      Carmen / guidava la macchina.
                                Carmen / drove the car.
                                *subject / predicate*

# Predicate Adjective

A **PREDICATE ADJECTIVE** describes the subject of a predicate.

       **EXAMPLE:**      Lui  è **intelligente**.     He is *intelligent*

# Predicate Noun

A **PREDICATE NOUN** is equivalent in meaning to the subject and is linked to it by a predicate.

**EXAMPLE:**   John è **dottore**.       He is *a doctor.*

# Preposition

A **PREPOSITION** introduces a noun, pronoun, adverb, infinitive, or present participle and can indicate spatial or temporal relationships.   Italian prepositions include **a**, **per**, **di**, **da, con, in**, **su**, **davanti a**, and others.

        **EXAMPLE:**        Si presentó **davanti al** giudice.
                                     He appeared *before* the judge.

# Prepositional Phrase

A **PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE** consists of a preposition and its object and modifies the subject or verb. Prepositional phrases are often used instead of adverbs of manner.

**EXAMPLE:** Il libro fu scritto **da** Umberto Eco.
The book was written *by Umberto Eco.*

# Prepositional Pronouns

**PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS** follow prepositions.   Except for the first, second, and third persons singular (**me**, **te**, and **se**), the prepositional pronouns are the same as the subject pronouns.

# Present Participle

In English, a **PRESENT PARTICIPLE** is a verb form ending in **-ing**.   It may also be used as an adjective or a noun.
In Italian, gerunds   end in **-ando** or **-endo**.   They may only be used as verbs.

Stavano **parlando** del terremoto.
They were *talking* about the earthquake.

**Avendo ricordato** il suo indirizzo, cominciai a scriverle una lettera.
*Having* remembered her address, I started writing her a letter.

# Pronoun

A **PRONOUN** can substitute for a noun.

| *Singular* | | *Plural* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **io** | I | **noi** | we |
| **tu** | you (familiar) | **voi** | you (familiar) |
| **Lei** | you (formal) | **Loro** | you (formal) |
| **egli (ella)** | he/she | **Essi** | they (masculine) |
| | | **Esse** | they (feminine) |

# Reflexive Pronoun

A **REFLEXIVE PRONOUN** is the object of a verb or preposition and refers back to the subject as "**myself**," "**yourself**," "**himself**," etc.

# Reflexive Verb

A **REFLEXIVE VERB** is accompanied by the pronoun(s) **mi, ti, si, ci vi**, which refers back to the subject, i.e., the subject is also the object of the verb.

> **EXAMPLES:** **Si ruppe il braccio.**
> *He broke his arm*.
>
> **Mi lavo le mani**.
> I am washing *my hands*.

# Relative Clause

A **RELATIVE CLAUSE** is a subordinate clause introduced by a relative pronoun that describes or qualifies the subject or object of a sentence.   It answers the question "**What sort of...?**".   The relative clause can contain a subject, verb, and/or object(s).

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

                                        Indossò il vestito **che** comprò recentemente
                                        She put on the hat *that she recently bought*.

# Relative Pronouns

**RELATIVE PRONOUNS** introduce relative clauses.   Italian relative pronouns include:

| | |
|---|---|
| **chi** | who, whom, the ones who |
| **che** | who, that, which, whom |
| **il quale** (**i quali**) | that which, those which |
| **la quale** (**le quali**) | that which, those which |
| **dove** | where |

"**Chi**" means "**who**," "**whom**," and occasionally "**the one**(**s**) **who**."
"**Che**," the most frequently used relative pronoun, means "**who**," "**that**," or "**which**," and, as direct object of a verb, "**whom**."   It refers to both persons and things, singular and plural, and its form is invariable.

**EXAMPLES:**

Vedemmo luomo **che** ci visitò la settimana scorsa.
We saw the man *who* visited us last week.

# Simple Tenses

**SIMPLE TENSES** consist of a conjugated main verb only.   They occur in the Present, Imperfect, Past, Future, Present Conditional, Present Subjunctive, and Imperfect Subjunctive.

# Stem-Changing Verbs

**STEM-CHANGING VERBS** are regular and irregular verbs that take spelling changes in the stem when conjugated.

# Subject Complement

A **SUBJECT COMPLEMENT** is a word or words used after a verb to complete a predicate.  It modifies the noun, noun phrase, or pronoun in a sentence or clause.

**EXAMPLES:**   Loro avevano fretta.
They were *in a hurry*.

Ci piace camminare **per il vicinato**.
We like to walk *through the neighborhood*.

# Subject Pronouns

**SUBJECT PRONOUNS** refer to the person or thing that makes up the subject.   The subject pronoun is expressed by the verb ending.   The forms i**o**, **tu**, **egli (o lui), ella (o lei) , noi, voi, loro (o essi)**  are therefore usually required only for emphasis.

       **EXAMPLES:**    Avevo fretta.       I was in a hurry.
                                **Io** avevo fretta.    *I* was in a hurry.

                                Lui è professore, e lei è ragioniera.
                                *He* is a teacher, but *she* is an accountant.

# Subjunctive Mood

The **SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD** is used in subordinate clauses in which there is a change of subject and indicates that a situation is hypothetical, unreal, wished or hoped for, or somehow speculative in nature.   The subjunctive mood is used in direct commands (except familiar) in which third persons are usually introduced by **che**.   Italian uses special verb forms to indicate the subjunctive (Present, Past, Imperfect, and Past Perfect Subjunctives). The Future Subjunctive is used in clauses implying a supposition and is found only in legal style or antiquated phrases.

# Subject

The **SUBJECT** of a sentence performs the action described by the verb.

# Subordinate Clause

A **SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** is a secondary clause.   Its meaning depends on the independent or main clause.

**EXAMPLE:**   Volevo ritornare alluniversità **per finire gli studi.**
I wanted to return to the university *in order to finish my degree*.

# Superlative

A **SUPERLATIVE** is an adjective or adverb that expresses the third and highest level of comparison (e.g., most, least).   In English it is formed by adding the ending **est** to the adjective. In Italian, it is formed by placing **il più** (the most) before the adjective.

|  |  |  |
|---|---|---|
| **EXAMPLES:** | **il** palazzo **più alto**... | the *tallest* building... |
|  | **il più alto**... | *the tallest*... |

# Syntax

**SYNTAX** is the order in which words are put together to form phrases, clauses, or sentences.

# Transitive Verb

A **TRANSITIVE VERB** expresses an action that directly affects someone or something.   It therefore takes a direct object.

**EXAMPLE:**   Le **regalò** dei fiori per il suo compleanno.
For her birthday, he *gave* her some flowers.

# Verb

A **VERB** is a word that expresses an action.