

# 3 MINUTE ITALIAN COURSE 2 RECAP NOTES



# Table of **CONTENTS**

- 01**    **What's a verb?**  
**To pay (for)**  
**Quanto costa?**
  
- 02**    **At what time?**  
**The breakfast**  
**Da**
  
- 03**    **Telling the time in Italian**
  
- 04**    **di & a**  
**The Saxon genitive**  
**di + il = del**  
**di vs. d'**
  
- 05**    **More contractions**  
**Contractions key**  
**Some & any**  
**More examples of the Saxon genitive**
  
- 06**    **sono le vs. alle**  
**Addresses**  
**Costa**  
**Television**

## WHAT'S A VERB?

In course 2, we started to learn a few different verbs, but what is a verb? A verb is a word that describes some sort of action, and in English, you often see them with the word "to" in front of them:

**to try, to pay, to make**

In Italian, verbs can end in either the letters "are", "ire" or "ere"

**provare** - (to) try

**bere** - (to) drink

**partire** - (to) leave

## OPTIONAL "TO"

In English, the word "to" sometimes appears in front of a verb, but sometimes you don't need it:

*I would like **to** try the wine*  
*Can I try the wine?*

In Italian, however, you always just use the verb:

*I would like **to try** the wine*  
**Voglio provare il vino**

*Can I **try** the wine?*  
**Posso provare il vino?**

## TO PAY (FOR)

In Italian, you don't **pay FOR** something; you simply **pay**. What I mean is that you don't have to use the word "per" with "pagare", unlike English; we have to say "pay for"

**Posso pagare il vino?**

*Can I pay for the wine?*

**Vorrei pagare il cibo**

*I would like to pay for the food*

**Voglio pagare tutto**

*I want to pay for everything*

## QUANTO COSTA?

The phrase "Quanto costa?" is a useful way to ask how much something is. You can use it by itself to simply mean, "How much is it?", but you can also put things after it. In this case, you can think of it as meaning, "How much is...?"

**Quanto costa?**

*How much is it?*

**Quanto costa quello?**

*How much is that?*

**Quanto costa il vino?**

*How much is the wine?*

**Quanto costa una bottiglia d'acqua?**

*How much is a bottle of wine?*





## AT WHAT TIME? 🕒

In English, we can either use the phrase “**at what time**” or just “**what time**”. In Italian, however, you always have to use the phrase “**a che ora**”.

**A che ora è la prenotazione?**

*What time is the reservation?*

*At what time is the reservation?*

## THE BREAKFAST

In English, we can say things like:

**What time is breakfast?**

**Lunch is delicious**

**I would like dinner here**

However, in Italian, before all the words for the different meals of the day, you have to put the word for “**the**” (*il, la*).

**A che ora è la colazione?**

*What time is breakfast?*

**Il pranzo è squisito**

*Lunch is delicious*

**Vorrei la cena qui**

*I would like dinner here*

## **DA** 🏠

The word “**da**” is a useful word in Italian, but we don’t really have an equivalent in English.

You can use “**da**” to mean either “*the house of*”, “*at the house of*” or “*to the house of*”

**da Paolo**

*at Paolo’s house*

**da me**

*at my house*

**sono da me**

*I’m at home*

**sono da Paolo**

*I’m at Paolo’s house*

**vorrei andare da Maria**

*I would like to go to Maria’s house*

You can also use it with certain professions to mean “at the place” where they work:

**dal dottore**

*at the doctor’s*

**dal fornaio**

*at the baker’s*

**dal parrucchiere**

*at the hairdresser’s*

# TELLING THE TIME IN ITALIAN

**CHE ORE SONO?** WHAT TIME IS IT?

**A CHE ORA È...?** (AT) WHAT TIME IS...?

**ALLE ...** AT ... O'CLOCK

**SONO LE ...** IT IS ... O'CLOCK



**12-HOUR CLOCK**

1 o'clock	<b>l'una</b>
2 o'clock	<b>le due</b>
3 o'clock	<b>le tre</b>
4 o'clock	<b>le quattro</b>
5 o'clock	<b>le cinque</b>
6 o'clock	<b>le sei</b>
7 o'clock	<b>le sette</b>
8 o'clock	<b>le otto</b>
9 o'clock	<b>le nove</b>
10 o'clock	<b>le dieci</b>
11 o'clock	<b>le undici</b>
12 o'clock	<b>le dodici</b>

**24-HOUR CLOCK**

1 o'clock	<b>le tredici</b>
2 o'clock	<b>le quattordici</b>
3 o'clock	<b>le quindici</b>
4 o'clock	<b>le sedici</b>
5 o'clock	<b>le diciassette</b>
6 o'clock	<b>le diciotto</b>
7 o'clock	<b>le diciannove</b>
8 o'clock	<b>le venti</b>
9 o'clock	<b>le ventuno</b>
10 o'clock	<b>le ventidue</b>
11 o'clock	<b>le ventitré</b>
12 o'clock	<b>le ventiquattro</b>

**del mattino**  
am (in the morning)

**del pomeriggio**  
pm (in the evening)

## DI & A

The words **di** and **a** have two meanings each:

**di** of / from      **a** at / to

**vorrei andare a Milano**  
I would like to go to Milan

**sono al ristorante**  
I am at the restaurant

**il souvenir è di Milano**  
the souvenir is from Milan

**è una bottiglia di vino**  
it's a bottle of wine

## THE SAXON GENITIVE

The **Saxon Genitive** is the proper name for the **apostrophe s** in English, which we use to show whom something belongs to. In Italian, however, the **apostrophe s** doesn't exist, so you have to use another way of showing belonging. In Italian, you use the word **di**, which means **of**.

So, instead of saying, "Maria's address", you have to say, "the address of Maria".

**l'indirizzo di Maria**  
Maria's address  
(literally: the address of Maria)

**la macchina di Paolo**  
Paolo's car  
(literally: the car of Paolo)

## DI + IL = DEL

There's one thing to keep in mind when saying whom something belongs to in Italian: the word **di** contracts with the words for **the**:

**di + il = del**  
**di + la = della**  
**di + i = dei**  
**di + le = delle**

**l'indirizzo del ristorante**  
the restaurant's address  
(literally: the address of the restaurant)

**il cibo dei bambini**  
the children's food  
(literally: the food of the children)

**il cane della ragazza**  
the girl's dog  
(literally: the dog of the girl)

## DI VS. D'

Remember how we learnt in course 1 that the words **IL** and **LA**, meaning **the** contract to **L'** in front of words that start with **a vowel**? Well, the same thing happens with **DI**. If you place it in front of a word that starts with a **vowel**, it contracts to **D'**

**una bottiglia d'acqua**  
a bottle of water

**un museo d'arte**  
an art museum (a museum of art)



## SOME & ANY

Here's a brief snippet from course 3:

If you place the word "di" in front of any word for "the" in Italian, you get the word for "some" or "any" (it's the same word in Italian). And don't forget about the "di" contractions (**del, della, dei & delle**)

## MORE CONTRACTIONS

Similar to the "di" contractions, there are also two contractions that take place with the Italian word "a", meaning "to" or "at" when you place them in front of the words for "the" (il, la, i, le):

a + il = al  
a + la = alla  
a + i = ai  
a + le = alle

**sono al ristorante**

I'm at the restaurant

**vorrei andare alla chiesa**

I would like to go to the church

**sono ai negozi**

I'm at the shops

**vado al lavoro**

I'm going to work (to the work)

## CONTRACTIONS KEY

di + il = del  
di + la = della  
di + i = dei  
di + le = delle

— of the / from the

a + il = al  
a + la = alla  
a + i = ai  
a + le = alle

— at the / to the

**del pane**

some bread / any bread

**delle macchine**

some cars / any cars

**della pizza**

some pizza / any pizza

**dello zucchero**

some sugar / any sugar

**delle pizze**

some pizzas / any pizzas

**della carne**

some meat / any meat

## MORE EXAMPLES OF THE SAXON GENITIVE

Here are just a few more examples of the **Saxon Genitive**, you can really get your head around it.

**la macchina della donna**

the woman's car

**la macchina dell'uomo**

the man's car

**il cane della ragazza**

the girl's dog

**la casa di Paolo**

Paolo's house

## SONO LE VS. ALLE

Let's just briefly head back to the topic of time in Italian. The two phrases "**sono le**" and "**alle**" can sometimes cause a bit of confusion.

In Italian, if you want to tell somebody what the time is right now, you would say "**sono le...**" followed by whatever time it is. You can use this in answer to the question, **Che ore sono?**

**sono le due** - *it's two o'clock*

**sono le tre e mezzo** - *it's half past three*

**sono le due meno cinque** - *it's five to two*

If you want to say what time something is at, such as a reservation, you can use the phrase "**è alle ...**" to mean, "**it's at ...**". You can use this in answer to any question that starts with **A che ora è ...?**

**è alle due** - *it's at two o'clock*

**è alle tre e mezzo** - *it's at half past three*

**è alle due meno cinque** - *it's at five to two*

## ADDRESSES

Addresses in Italian are a tiny bit different to addresses in English. In English, we tend to put the number first, but in Italian, the number goes after the street name.

**Via Mario, 2**  
**Viale Manzoni, 15**  
**Via Frangipane, 3**

## COSTA

In Italian, it's not really correct to use "è" when giving the price of something. Instead, you can use the word "**costa**", which literally means "**it costs**".

So, don't say, "**è dieci euro**"; say, "**costa dieci euro**".

**costa dieci euro**

*it's ten euros*

*(it costs ten euros)*

**la bottiglia costa quindici euro**

*the bottle is fifteen euros*

*(the bottle costs fifteen euros)*

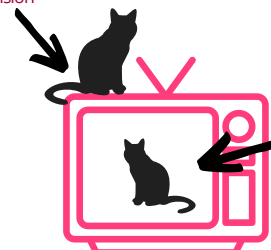
## TELEVISION

We've learnt that "**television**" in Italian is "**televisore**", but I just wanted to point out that there are actually two words for "**television**".

The word "**un televisore**" means the actual television set - the appliance, or the box that sits on the wall or on the side.

The second word is, "**televisione**". This means the medium of television. So, you can say things like, "**in televisione**", which means "**on television**".

**sul televisore**  
*on the television*



**in televisione**  
*on television*