

3 MINUTE ITALIAN COURSE 4 RECAP NOTES



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HOW ARE YOU?

Here's how to ask how somebody is in Italian:

Come sta (Lei)? / Come va (Lei)?
How are you?

If you want to answer these questions, you can either use the word, "**sto**" or "**vado**"

Sto bene / Vado bene
I'm well / I'm fine

There is an alternative to asking "**How are you?**" You can say, "**Va bene?**"

Va bene?
Are you OK?

You can add anything before or after "**Va bene...?**" to ask how that thing or person is.

Va bene Paolo?
Is Paolo OK?

Va bene il pollo?
Is the chicken OK?

Tutto va bene?
Is everything OK?

A + TIME

You can put any time phrase after the word "**a**", in Italian, to mean: "**see you ...**"

a domani - see you tomorrow
a più tardi - see you later
a dopo - see you soon
a lunedì - see you Monday
a stasera - see you tonight

COME È (LEI)?

To ask somebody how they are, in Italian, we can either say, "**Come sta (Lei)?**" or "**Come va (Lei)?**". But, the phrase "**è (Lei)**" is how you literally say "**are you**", so why can't we say "**Come è (Lei)?**"

Well, if you say "**Come è (Lei)?**", it means something different.

Come è (Lei)?

What do you look like?

So, "**Come è (Lei)?**" is a question used to ask somebody what they look like. Literally, "**How (in terms of eye colour, hair colour or personality) are you?**"

If you want to ask somebody how they're feeling, you have to use one of these two phrases:

Come sta (Lei)? / Come va (Lei)?
How are you (feeling)?

THE FUTURE

The phrase “**(io) vado**” (*I’m going*) can be used to say where you’re going, or even when you’re going:

(io) vado a Roma

I’m going to Rome

(io) vado domani

I’m going tomorrow

However, unlike in English, you can’t use “(io) vado” with another verb to say what you’re going to be doing in the future. You can’t say things like this:

(io) vado provare il vino

I’m going to try the wine

If you want to say that you’re going to do something, you need to use another phrase, instead.

(io) sto per...

I’m about to...

(io) sto per provare il vino

I’m about to try the wine

(io) sto per fare una prenotazione

I’m about to make a reservation

(io) sto per fare tutto ora

I’m about to do everything now

(io) sto per pagare il conto

I’m about to pay the bill

I’M GOING TO ITALY

The phrase “**(io) vado**” means “**I’m going**”, and you can use it to say where you’re going. Have a look at these two sentences in English:

I’m going to Rome

I’m going to Italy

The words for “to” would be different in each of those in Italian. If you’re going to a town or a city, you use “a”. If you’re going to a country, you use “in”.

(io) vado a + town / city

(io) vado in + country

(io) vado a Roma

I’m going to Rome

(io) vado a Milano

I’m going to Milan

(io) vado in Italia

I’m going to Italy

(io) vado in Inghilterra

I’m going to England

If you’re talking about going to places like a shop or a restaurant, you can use “a”. However, don’t forget that “a” joins onto the words for “the”

vado al ristorante

I’m going to the restaurant

vado al negozio

I’m going to the shop

FARE

The verb **"fare"** has two translations; it can mean **"to make"** or **"to do"**.

vorrei fare una prenotazione
I would like to make a reservation

vorrei fare quello domani
I would like to do that tomorrow

posso fare quello ora?
Can I make that now?

ILL

There are two words for **"ill"** in Italian: **male** and **malato**. You can use **"malato"** with **"(io) sono"** and you can use **"male"** with **"mi sento"**, which means **"I feel"**

mi sento male - *I feel ill*
sono malato - *I am ill*

They both have the same meaning, so just choose whichever you prefer.

WHAT

There are three ways to say **"what"** in Italian:

che / cosa / che cosa
what

che ha? / cosa ha? / che cosa ha?
what do you have?

They all mean the same thing, so you can choose the one you prefer.

Lei vs. lei

The two words **"Lei"** and **"lei"** mean different things. When it has a **capital L**, **"Lei"** means **"you"**. When it has a **lower case l**, **"lei"** means **"she"** or **"her"**.

Lei è qui domani - *you are here tomorrow*
lei è qui domani - *she is here tomorrow*

quello è per Lei - *that is for you*
quello è per lei - *that is for her*

Just note that when you put **"lei"** meaning **"she"** or **"her"** at the start of a sentence, it gets a capital L like any other word would. Unfortunately, that makes it harder to tell whether it means **"she"** or **"you"**. To work it out, you would have to use the wider context of the conversation.

Questa è Maria. Lei è qui per una settimana
This is Maria. She is here for one week



MORE ADJECTIVES

We've had a few more adjectives in course 4, so let's just break them down into their masculine, feminine, plural and singular forms.

BUSY	impegnato	impegnati	impegnata	impegnate
TIRED	stanco	stanca	stanchi	stanche
IN A RUSH	di fretta	di fretta	di fretta	di fretta

HONORIFICS

Let's have a look at three honorifics in Italian, along with their abbreviations.

Mr **signor** (sig.)

Mrs **signora** (sig.ra)

Miss **signorina** (sig.na)

(IO) SONO I AM

The phrase “(io) sono” comes from the verb “**essere**”, which means, “**to be**”. The word “io” is optional. We learnt a few more phrases, too, and we saw them in the positive, negative and as questions:

POSITIVE

(io) sono *I am*

(Lei) è *you are*

(lui) è *he is*

(lei) è *she is*

NEGATIVE

(io) non sono *I am not*

(Lei) non è *you aren't*

(lui) non è *he isn't*

(lei) non è *she isn't*

QUESTIONS

è (Lei)? *are you?*

è (lui)? *is he?*

è (lei)? *is she?*



ITALIAN "IT"

We learnt in course 3 that the word for "it" in Italian is "lo", and you can place it in front of a verb. However, "lo" can only be used if the noun it's replacing is masculine; if it's replacing a feminine noun, you should use "la" for "it", instead

lo vorrei - *I would like it* (masculine)

la vorrei - *I would like it* (feminine)

If you have more than one verb, you put the word for "it" on the end of the second verb (*the infinitive*).

posso cambiarlo? / posso cambiarla?

Can I change it?

vorrei pagarlo / vorrei pagarla

I would like to pay for it

(Lei) vuole provarlo?

Do you want to try it?

sto per farlo ora / sto per farla ora

I'm about to do it now

dove posso pagarlo?

where can I pay for it?

(IO) SONO KIERAN

You can use "(io) sono" as a way of giving your name:

(io) sono Paolo - *I am Paolo*

But, there is an alternative phrase that you can use, "(io) mi chiamo". It means "I'm called", or literally, "I call myself".

(io) mi chiamo Paolo - *I'm called Paolo*

(io) mi chiamo Maria - *I'm called Maria*

È VS. È STATO

The word "est" means "is", and in this course, we learnt the past tense version of this, which is, "è stato". All the phrases we've learnt that contain the word "è" can be used with the word "è stato".

è - *it is*

è stato - *it was*

non è - *it isn't*

non è stato - *it wasn't*

quello è - *that is*

quello è stato - *that was*

tutto è buono - *everything is good*

tutto è stato buono - *everything was good*

If you have a feminine noun, you should say "è stata" for "was"

la pizza è stata squisita

the pizza was delicious

THE SAME THING

The phrase, "la stessa cosa" means "the same thing", and if you place the word "di" after it, it means, "the same thing as"

la stessa cosa di me

the same thing as me

la stessa cosa di Paolo e Maria

the same thing as Paolo and Maria

vorrei la stessa cosa di Lei

I would like the same thing as you

la stessa cosa di ieri

the same thing as yesterday

I (HAVE) ORDERED

In English, there are two ways to talk about the past tense. So, whenever you have a past-tense phrase in Italian, you can translate it in two ways. One way will have the word “have”, and the other way won't.

(io) ho ordinato - *I ordered / I have ordered*

(io) ho mangiato - *I ate / I have eaten*

This is something we'll be looking at in more detail in a later course, and you'll see that it happens quite often, not just with the past tense.

ANOTHER

There are two ways to say, “another” in Italian, and it depends on what sort of “another” you want.

un altro - *another* (a different sort)

ancora - *another* (the same sort)

So, if you've had some wine, and you want to order another glass of the same sort of wine, you can say, “**ancora un vino**”. However, if you want a different sort of wine, you can say, “**un altro vino**”

vorrei ancora un vino

I would like another wine (the same sort)

vorrei un altro vino

I would like another wine (a different one)

The phrase “**un altro**” changes to “**un'altra**” in front of a feminine noun.

MY + BODY PARTS

In English, when we're talking about our body parts, we tend to use the word “my”:

I've broken my leg

I've hurt my foot

my head is hurting



However, this isn't true in Italian. In Italian, instead, you use the word “**the**” in front of body parts. After the phrases “**mi fa male**” and “**mi sono rotto**”, you can use a body part with the word “**the**” in front of it.

mi fa male la gamba

my leg hurts

mi sono rotto il braccio

I've broken my arm



Just note, that the phrase “**mi sono rotto**” changes to “**mi sono rotta**” if you're a woman.

mi sono rotta il braccio

I've broken my leg (if you're female)

MI FA MALE...

You can use the phrase “**mi fa male**” plus a body part to mean “**my ... hurts**”. It literally means “**to me it makes pain**”

mi fa male il naso

my nose hurts

However, if you're using a plural body part, then “**mi fa male**” changes to “**mi fanno male**”, which literally means, “**to me they make pain**”

mi fanno male le gambe

my legs hurt