

3 MINUTE ITALIAN COURSE 7
RECAP NOTES

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DA DOVE FROM WHERE

If you want to ask, “**Where do you come from?**”, in Italian, you have to literally say, “**From where do you come?**”

“**From where**” in Italian is “**Da dove**”:

Da dove vieni?

Where do you come from?

Da dove viene (Lei)?

Where do you come from?

Da dove venite?

Where do you come from?



ABROAD

There are two expressions to say “**abroad**” in Italian, and they have slight different meanings:

dall'estero - *from abroad*

all'estero - *abroad / (to) abroad*

You use “**dall'estero**” to mean “**from abroad**”, but if you want to imply that somebody is going “**to abroad**”, you say “**all'estero**”. You can also use “**all'estero**” to imply “**in abroad**”.

(tu) vieni dall'estero

you come from abroad

(io) sono all'estero

I am abroad

(io) vado all'estero

I'm going abroad

VENGO DA...

If you want to say where you come from, you can use the phrase “**vengo da**”

vengo da Roma - *I come from Rome*

If you want to say what country you come from, you need to put the word for “**the**” in front of the country. Also, the word “**da**” joins onto the word for “**the**”:

da + il = dal

da + la = dalla

da + l' = dall'

vengo dall'Italia - *I come from Italy*

vengo dalla Francia - *I come from France*

vengo dall'estero - *I come from abroad*

In English, we can say “**I come from...**” or “**I am from...**”. But, in Italian, you can never say “**sono di**”; it just sounds a little odd to Italians. Instead, you can simply give your nationality using “**sono**”:

sono italiano - *I'm Italian*

sono inglese - *I'm English*

sono francese - *I'm French*

BY CAR

If you want to say that you're travelling somewhere “**by car**”, there are three different phrases that you can use:

in auto

in automobile

in macchina

They're all used in everyday conversation, so just pick whichever one you like best.

IN VS. A

GOING TO OR GOING INTO?

Most of the time, if you want to say that you're going **"to"** a place, you can use **"a"** as the word for **"to"**.

vado al negozio

I'm going to the shop

andiamo al ristorante

we're going to the restaurant

However, if the place is somewhere you would generally go **"into"**, you tend to use **"in"** instead of **"a"**.

vado in banca

I'm going to the bank (and going inside)

vado alla banca

I'm going to the bank (and waiting outside)

in biblioteca - to the library

in classe - to class

in città - to town / to the city

in campagna - to the countryside

in piscina - to the swimming pool

Secondly, places that end in **-eria** use **"in"** instead of **"a"**

vado in libreria - *I'm going to the book shop*

in macelleria - to the butcher's

in panetteria - to the bakery

in pasticceria - to the patisserie

in pescheria - to the fishmonger

COUNTRIES & TOWNS

The two words **"in"** and **"a"** can both mean **"to"** and they can both mean **"in"**, but you can't use them interchangeably.

IN is used in front of countries

(io) sono in Italia

I'm in Italy

(tu) vai in Francia?

are you going to France?

(io) abito in Spagna

I live in Spain

A is used in front of towns or cities

(io) sono a Milano

I'm in Milan

(tu) vai a Roma?

are you going to Rome?

(io) abito a Londra

I live in London

AMERICA

If you want to say you're going to America, you can just use the word **"America"**

vado in America - *I'm going to America*

However, if you want to say that you're going to the **USA**, you say this:

vado negli Stati Uniti (d'America)

I'm going to the United States (of America)

NEGATIVES

You can make any verb negative by putting “**non**” in front of it:

(io) vado - *I'm going*

(io) non vado - *I'm not going*

mi piace - *I like*

non mi piace - *I don't like*

(tu) vai? - *are you going?*

(tu) non vai? - *aren't you going?*

(tu) vieni? - *are you coming?*

(tu) non vieni? - *aren't you coming?*

PIACE / PIACCIONO

The phrase “**mi piace**” can be used to mean “**I like**” with any singular noun. If you have a plural noun, you have to use “**mi piacciono**” instead.

mi piace la macchina

I like the car

mi piacciono le macchine

I like the cars

The reason is because, literally, “**mi piace**” means “**it pleases me**”, whereas “**mi piacciono**” means “**they please me**”.



I LIKE

If you want to say that you like something in general, in Italian, you have to use the word for “**the**” (*the definite article*) in front of the noun.

I like wine - **mi piace il vino**

I like cheese - **mi piace il formaggio**

This is also true in the negative

I don't like wine - **non mi piace il vino**

And it's the same if you're asking somebody if they like something in general:

do you like wine? - **¿te gusta el vino?**

do you like cheese? - **¿te gusta el queso?**

As well as nouns, you can put verbs after any form of “**like**”. In English, the verb tends to end in the letters **-ing**, but in Italian, you use the whole form of the verb (which ends in **are, ire** or **ere**)

mi piace viaggiare

I like travelling

ti piace andare in vacanza?

do you like going on holiday?

ti piace venire a Londra?

do you like coming to London?

non mi piace fare quello

I don't like doing that

non ti piace parlare italiano?

don't you like speaking Italian?

THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF YOU

Every verb has three forms for “you”: a singular informal (**tu**), a singular formal (**Lei**) and a plural (**voi**).

DO YOU COME?

(tu) vieni?

(Lei) viene?

(voi) venite?

DO YOU SPEAK?

(tu) parli?

(Lei) parla?

(voi) parlate?

DO YOU WANT?

(tu) vuoi?

(Lei) vuole?

(voi) volete?

ARE YOU GOING?

(tu) vai?

(Lei) va?

(voi) andate?

ARE YOU ABOUT TO...?

(tu) stai per...?

(Lei) sta per...?

(voi) state per...?

ARE YOU?

(tu) sei?

(Lei) è?

(voi) siete?

DO YOU LIKE?

SINGULAR NOUN

ti piace?

le piace?

vi piace?

PLURAL NOUN

ti piacciono?

le piacciono?

vi piacciono?

VOI

A quick tip for forming the “**voi**” form of any verb in Italian is simply to change the last “**R**” in the infinitive to a “**T**”

parlare - to speak

(voi) **parlate** - you speak

andare - to go

(voi) **andate** - you go

finire - to finish

(voi) **finite** - you finish

mangiare - to eat

(voi) **mangiate** - you eat

The only exception to this rule is the verb “**essere**”, which means “**to be**”.

essere - to be

(voi) **siete** - you are

I WENT

The phrase “**I went**” in Italian is, “**(io) sono andato**”. However, if you’re a woman, you have to change “**andato**” to “**andata**”

(io) sono andato

I went / I have gone (masculine)

(io) sono andata

I went / I have gone (feminine)

IS IT...?

You can turn “**è**” and “**è stato**” into questions in Italian, simply by putting a question mark at the end of any sentence they’re in.

è...? - *is it...?*

non è...? - *isn't it...?*

è stato...? - *was it...?*

non è stato...? - *wasn't it...?*

è buono?

is it good?

è stato squisito?

was it delicious?

non è qui?

isn't it here?

LAST, THIS, NEXT

In course 7, we learnt how to use the words for “**last**”, “**this**” and “**next**” with various time phrases.

LAST	
<i>last week</i>	la settimana scorsa
<i>last month</i>	il mese scorso
<i>last year</i>	l'anno scorso

THIS	
<i>this week</i>	questa settimana
<i>this month</i>	questo mese
<i>this year</i>	quest'anno

NEXT	
<i>next week</i>	la settimana prossima
<i>next month</i>	il mese prossimo
<i>next year</i>	l'anno prossimo

DAYS *of the* WEEK

Here are the days of the week in Italian:

lunedì (on) Monday
martedì (on) Tuesday
mercoledì (on) Wednesday
giovedì (on) Thursday
venerdì (on) Friday
sabato (on) Saturday
domenica (on) Sunday

You can add different things to the days of the week. Here they all are with “**giovedì**” as an example, but you can replace the “**giovedì**” with any day of the week

giovedì (on) Thursday
giovedì scorso last Thursday
giovedì prossimo next Thursday
il giovedì on Thursdays
ogni giovedì every Thursday
tutti i giovedì every Thursday
giovedì mattina (on) Thursday morning
giovedì sera (on) Thursday evening

MONTHS *of the* YEAR

Here are the months of the year in Italian:

gennaio January
febbraio February
marzo March
aprile April
maggio May
giugno June
luglio July
agosto August
settembre September
ottobre October
novembre November
dicembre December

If you want to give a date in Italian, you put “**il**” plus a number, followed by a month:

il 10 aprile - the 10th April
il 12 ottobre - the 12th October

If you want to say “**next**” or “**last**” plus a month, in Italian, you literally have to say “**in the next...**” or “**in the last...**”

nel gennaio prossimo - next January
nel settembre scorso - last September

FINO A (UNTIL)

The word “**until**” in Italian is “**fino a**”. And, because “**fino a**” ends in “**a**”, don’t forget it will join to the words “**il**”, “**la**”, “**i**” and “**le**”

fino a domani - until tomorrow
fino al 5 maggio - until the 5th May
fino alla vacanza - until the holiday

In front of months, you have to use “**fino a**”, plus the word for “**the**”

fino al maggio - until May
fino al giugno prossimo - until next June
fino all’agosto scorso - until last August

FA AGO

The word “**fa**” has two meanings. It comes from the verb “**fare**” meaning “**to do**” or “**to make**”, but it can also mean “**ago**”.

You can use “**fa**” in the same way we use the word “**ago**” in English; you simply put an amount of time followed by the word “**fa**”

due giorni fa - *two days ago*
una settimana fa - *a week ago*
un'ora fa - *an hour ago*

ABBASTANZA

The word “**abbastanza**” has a few meanings. It can mean “**enough**”, “**quite**” or “**rather**”. You can use it by itself, you can use it in front of adjectives, or in front of nouns.

è abbastanza per me
it's enough for me

è abbastanza buono
it's quite good / it's rather good

la macchina è abbastanza cara
the car is quite / rather expensive

You can use it in any tense, for example, in the past tense after a past participle.

ho mangiato abbastanza
I've eaten enough

non abbiamo comprato abbastanza
we haven't bought enough

UN'ORA

The feminine word for “**a**” is “**una**”, and it goes in front of feminine nouns. However, if you have a feminine noun that starts with a vowel, the word *una* shortens to *un'*

un'ora - *an hour*
un'idea - *an idea*
un'introduzione - *an introduction*
un'antilope - *an antelope*
un'organizzazione - *an organisation*

È + ADJ + VERB

If you want to say something like, “**it's difficult to learn Italian**”, you can use the expression:

è + adjective + verb
it's + adjective + verb

You can put an infinitive after the adjective.

è difficile imparare l'italiano
it's difficult to learn Italian

è facile fare quello
it's easy to do that

non è possibile noleggiare quello
it's not possible to hire that

non è necessario chiamare Paolo
it isn't necessary to call Paolo

è sempre caro andare a Roma
it's always expensive to go to Rome

è importante bere abbastanza acqua
it's important to drink enough water

THE PRESENT TENSE

To form the present tense, in Italian, all you have to do is remove the last three letters from a verb (**are**, **ire** or **ere**), and put an “**i**” on the end instead.

parlare - (to) speak

parli - you speak

partire - (to) leave

parti - you leave

vendere - (to) sell

vedi - you sell

There are then some “**ire**” verbs that have a different rule. Instead of adding an “**i**”, we add “**isci**” once we’ve removed the “**ire**”

finire - to finish

finisci - you finish

preferire - to prefer

preferisci - you prefer

NEGATIVES

You can turn the present tense negative simply by putting a “**non**” in front of the verb.

(tu) mangi - you eat

(tu) non mangi - you don't eat

(tu) parti - you leave

(tu) non parti - you don't leave

IRREGULARS

There are quite a few verbs that don't follow the present tense rule.

INFINITIVE	PRESENT TENSE
andare to go	vai you go
dare to give	dai you give
fare to do / to make	fai you do / you make
stare to stay	stai you stay
avere to have	hai you have
sapere to know	sai you know
essere to be	sei you are
bere to drink	bevi you drink
dire to say / to tell	dici you say / you tell
venire to come	vieni you come
uscire to go out	esci you go out
mangiare to eat	mangi you eat
cambiare to change	cambi you change
scegliere to choose	scegli you choose
studiare to study	studi you study

QUESTIONS

You can turn the present tense into questions by putting a question mark at the end of the sentence.

(tu) mangi - you eat

(tu) mangi? - do you eat?

(tu) parti - you leave

(tu) parti? - do you leave?

THE PRESENT TENSE

TWO MEANINGS

Just like with the past tense, there are two ways that you can translate the present tense from Italian into English. There's always one with that ends in **-ing**, and another way that doesn't:

(tu) mangi

you eat / you're eating

(tu) bevi

you drink / you're drinking

(tu) parli

you speak / you're speaking

This is the same in the negative and also with questions in the present tense

(tu) non mangi

you don't eat / you're not eating

(tu) non bevi

you don't drink / you're not drinking

(tu) parli?

do you speak? / are you speaking?

(tu) finisci?

do you finish? / are you finishing?

(tu) non prendi?

don't you take? / aren't you taking?

(tu) non parti

you don't leave / you're not leaving

COMMANDS

You can make a command in Italian simply by using the present tense verbs for **"ere"** and **"ire"** verbs. However, if you have an **"are"** verb, you need to change the **"i"** on the end of the present tense to an **"a"**.

parti ora, per favore

leave now, please

bevi il vino

drink the wine

parla in italiano con me

speak in Italian with me

vieni a Roma con noi

come to Rome with us

If you want to form a negative command, you have to take the infinitive of the verb, and put **"non"** in front of it.

non partire, per favore

don't leave, please

non bere il vino

don't drink the wine

non parlare in italiano con me

don't speak in Italian with me

non venire a Roma con noi

don't come to Rome with us

non fare quello, per favore

don't do that, please



DA

You can use the word “**da**”, which means “**since**”, with the present tense to say how long you’ve been doing something.

(io) abito qui da due settimane

I’ve been living here for two weeks
(literally: I live here since two weeks)

(io) sono qui da un’ora

I’ve been here for an hour
(literally: I am here since one hour)

If you want to ask how long somebody has been doing something, you can use “**da quando**” (since when) plus the present tense.

da quando (tu) abiti qui?

how long have you been living here?
(literally: since when do you live here?)

da quando (tu) aspetti l’autobus?

how long have you been waiting for the bus?
(literally: since when do you wait for the bus)

da quando (tu) vieni a Londra?

how long have you been coming to London?
(literally: since when do you come to London?)

THE HOLIDAYS



If you want to say “the holidays” in Italian, you say “le vacanze”, and there are a couple of phrases you can use with it:

passare le vacanze

to spend the holidays

essere in vacanza

to be on holiday

You can conjugate the verbs “**passare**” or “**essere**” into any tense or person:

vorrei passare le vacanze qui

I would like to spend the holidays here

dove (tu) passi le vacanze?

where are you spending the holidays?

(io) sono in vacanza domani

I am on holiday tomorrow

(tu) sei in vacanza ora?

are you on holiday now?

(tu) passi le vacanze all’estero?

are you spending the holidays abroad?

vorrei essere in vacanza

I would like to be on holiday

(tu) non sei in vacanza?

aren’t you on holiday?

SPEAKING TO

In English, we say things like, “I’m speaking to Maria” or “they want to speak to me”. However, in Italian, rather than saying, “speak to”, they say “speak with”.

parlare con - *to speak to (speak with)*

voglio parlare con Enrico
I want to speak to Enrico

(io) parlo con Maria
I’m speaking to Maria

SECONDS

The word for “seconds” in Italian is “secondi”

sono qui da dieci secondi
I’ve been here for ten seconds

Whilst we’re looking at seconds, we might as well do minutes and hours, too:

un secondo - *one second*
un minuto - *one minute*
un’ora - *one hour*
mezz’ora - *half an hour*

JUST

The two words “giusto” and “solo” both mean “just”, but in slightly different ways.

GIUSTO

The word “giusto” means “just” as in “fair”

non è giusto
it isn’t fair

ABITARE VS. VIVERE

There are two ways to say “to live” in Italian: **abitare** and **vivere**

If you’re talking about where you live, the most common verb to use is “**abitare**”. You can use “**vivere**” to talk about where you live, but it’s not used as often. Instead, **vivere** tends to be reserved for talking about *how* you live.

abito in Italia - *I live in Italy*

vivo molto bene - *I live very well*

vivo da solo - *I live alone*

Let’s have a quick look at both verbs conjugated into the present tense for “I” and “you”:

(io) abito / (io) vivo - *I live / I’m living*
(tu) abiti / (tu) vivi - *you live / you’re living*
(Lei) abita / (Lei) vive - *you live / you’re living*
(voi) abitate / (voi) vivete - *you live / you’re living*

So, **abitare** can be used to talk about **where you live**, whereas **vivere** can be used to talk about both **where you live** and also **how you live**.

SOLO

The word “solo” means “just” as in “only”

costa solo cinque euro
it costs just (only) five euros

sono solo io
it’s just me / it’s only me