3 MINUTE ITALIAN
COURSE 8

3 MINUTE ITALIAN COURSE 8
RECAP NOTES

3 MINUTE LANGUAGES

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THE PRESENT TENSE

We learnt the present tense for "you" in course 7. In course 8, we learnt how to form the present tense for other people.

ENDINGS

The general rule for forming the present tense with any verb is to remove the last two letters, and then add the appropriate endings. The appropriate endings depend on what sort of verb you have. Just note there are two types of "**ire**" verbs.

	are	ere	ire	
io	o	o	o	isco
tu	i	i	i	isci
lui / lei	a	e	e	isce
Lei	a	e	e	isce
noi	iamo	iamo	iamo	iamo
voi	ate	ete	ite	ite
loro	ano	ono	ono	iscono

are	ere	ire	
(io) parlo *I speak*	**(io) vedo** *I see*	**(io) parto** *I leave*	**(io) finisco** *I finish*
(tu) parli *you speak*	**(tu) vedi** *you see*	**(tu) parti** *you leave*	**(tu) finisci** *you finish*
(lui) parla *he speaks*	**(lui) vede** *he sees*	**(lui) parte** *he leaves*	**(lui) finisce** *he finishes*
(Lei) parla *you speak*	**(Lei) vede** *you see*	**(Lei) parte** *you leave*	**(Lei) finisce** *you finish*
(noi) parliamo *we speak*	**(noi) vediamo** *we see*	**(noi) partiamo** *we leave*	**(noi) finiamo** *we finish*
(voi) parlate *you speak*	**(voi) vedete** *you see*	**(voi) partite** *you leave*	**(voi) finite** *you finish*
(loro) parlano *they speak*	**(loro) vedono** *they see*	**(loro) partono** *they leave*	**(loro) finiscono** *they finish*

IRREGULAR VERBS

andare *to go*	**avere** *to have*	**essere** *to be*
(io) vado (tu) vai (lui / lei) va (Lei) va (noi) andiamo (voi) andate (loro) vanno	(io) ho (tu) hai (lui / lei) ha (Lei) ha (noi) abbiamo (voi) avete (loro) hanno	(io) sono (tu) sei (lui / lei) è (Lei) è (noi) siamo (voi) siete (loro) sono

fare *to make / to do*	**dire** *to say / to tell*	**uscire** *to go out*
(io) faccio (tu) fai (lui / lei) fa (Lei) fa (noi) facciamo (voi) fate (loro) fanno	(io) dico (tu) dici (lui / lei) dice (Lei) dice (noi) diciamo (voi) dite (loro) dicono	(io) esco (tu) esci (lui / lei) esce (Lei) esce (noi) usciamo (voi) uscite (loro) escono

bere *to drink*	**salire** *to go up*	**tenere** *to hold*
(io) bevo (tu) bevi (lui / lei) beve (Lei) beve (noi) beviamo (voi) bevete (loro) bevono	(io) salgo (tu) sali (lui / lei) sale (Lei) sale (noi) saliamo (voi) salite (loro) salgono	(io) tengo (tu) tieni (lui / lei) tiene (Lei) tiene (noi) teniamo (voi) tenete (loro) tengono

venire *to come*	**scegliere** *to choose*
(io) vengo (tu) vieni (lui / lei) viene (Lei) viene (noi) veniamo (voi) venite (loro) vengono	(io) scelgo (tu) scegli (lui / lei) sceglie (Lei) sceglie (noi) scegliamo (voi) scegliete (loro) scelgono

THE IMPERATIVE

We learnt that you can use the present tense as **the imperative**, in Italian. However, there is one verb that is irregular in the imperative (but not the negative):

SII

"**Sii**" is the imperative form of "**essere**"

sii qui - *be here*
non essere in ritardo - *don't be late*

ALL ABOUT THE IMPERATIVE

The imperative in Italian is probably one of the trickiest aspects of the language. I'm going to break it down into the three forms of the imperative: informal singular, formal singular and plural. And then, within each of those forms, we'll discuss how to form it in the positive and negative, and we'll also look at how to use object pronouns with it. Before we do that, though, I just wanted to show you the "**infinitive imperative**".

INFINITIVE

In situations where the imperative is written down on signposts or notices, you can simply use the infinitive of the verb.

aspettare qui - *wait here*
spegnere la luce - *turn off the light*

SINGULAR INFORMAL

POSITIVE
Just use the present tense. However, with "**are verbs**", you change the "**i**" on the end to an "**a**"

parti ora - *leave now*
vendi la casa - *sell the house*
parla italiano - *speak Italian*

NEGATIVE
Just use the infinitive with "**non**" in front

non partire ora - *don't leave now*
non vendere la casa - *don't sell the house*
non parlare italiano - *don't speak Italian*

WITH AN OBJECT PRONOUN
Add "**lo**" or "**mi**" to the end of the verb in the positive. If it's one syllable, add "**llo**" or "**mmi**" instead

vendilo domani - *sell it tomorrow*
fallo ora - *do it now*
aiutami - *help me*
dammi tutto - *give me everything*

In the negative, you can put "**mi**" or "**lo**" either before or after the verb.

non venderlo - *don't sell it*
non lo vendere - *don't sell it*
non mi mostrare - *don't show me*
non mostrarmi - *don't show me*

THE IMPERATIVE

SINGULAR FORMAL

POSITIVE

Change the last letter of the present tense: "**a**" becomes an "**i**", and "**i**" becomes an "**a**"

parta ora - *leave now*
venda la casa - *sell the house*
parli italiano - *speak Italian*

NEGATIVE

Just put "**non**" in front of the imperative

non parta ora - *don't leave now*
non venda la casa - *don't sell the house*
non parli italiano - *don't speak Italian*

WITH AN OBJECT PRONOUN

Put "**lo**" or "**mi**" in front of the verb in the positive.

lo venda domani - *sell it tomorrow*
lo faccia ora - *do it now*
mi auti - *help me*
mi dia tutto - *give me everything*

In the negative, you also put the words "**mi**" or "**lo**" in front of the verb.

non lo venda - *don't sell it*
non lo faccia - *don't do it*
non mi mostri - *don't show me*
non mi dica - *don't tell me*

PLURAL

POSITIVE

Just use the present tense.

partite ora - *leave now*
vendete la casa - *sell the house*
parlate italiano - *speak Italian*

NEGATIVE

Just put "**non**" in front of the imperative

non partite ora - *don't leave now*
non vedete la casa - *don't sell the house*
non parlate italiano - *don't speak Italian*

WITH AN OBJECT PRONOUN

Add "**lo**" or "**mi**" to the end of the verb in the positive.

vendetelo domani - *sell it tomorrow*
fatelo ora - *do it now*
aiutatemi - *help me*
datemi tutto - *give me everything*

In the negative, you can put "**mi**" or "**lo**" either before or after the verb.

non vendetelo - *don't sell it*
non lo vendete - *don't sell it*
non mostratemi - *don't show me*
non mi mostrate - *don't show me*

THE IMPERATIVE

IRREGULARS

SIX IRREGULARS

There are six verbs that are irregular in the imperative. Let's go through them now:

DARE
to give

dai / dà *(singular informal)*
dia *(singular formal)*
date *(plural)*

DIRE
to say / to tell

dì *(singular informal)*
dica *(singular formal)*
dite *(plural)*

ESSERE
to be

sii *(singular informal)*
sia *(singular formal)*
siate *(plural)*

FARE
to do / to make

fai / fa *(singular informal)*
faccia *(singular formal)*
fate *(plural)*

ANDARE
to go

vai / va *(singular informal)*
vada *(singular formal)*
andate *(plural)*

VENIRE
to come

vieni *(singular informal)*
venga *(singular formal)*
venite *(plural)*

So, that's the irregular verbs, and it brings to an end the section about the imperative. I will just say again that the imperative is one of the trickiest aspects of the Italian language, simply because there's so much to remember. So, don't worry if you can't quite remember everything. Just practise, and you'll gradually get better acquainted with it.

OBJECT PRONOUNS

The word "**mi**" can mean "**me**" or "**to me**", and we've seen lots of that it can be used with:

darmi - *to give me*
chiamarmi - *to call me*
portarmi - *to bring me*
chiedermi - *to ask me*
lasciarmi - *to leave me*

If you conjugate these verbs into the present tense, the word "**mi**" goes in front of the verb:

lui mi da la chiave - *he's giving me the key*
Maria mi chiama - *Maria is calling me*
lei mi porta quello - *she's bringing me that*

If you conjugate the verbs into the past tense, the word "**mi**" goes in front of the auxiliary verb:

mi ha dato la chiave - *he gave me the key*
Maria mi ha chiamato - *Maria called me*
mi ha portato quello - *she brought me that*

In the negative, the word "**non**" always has to come in front of the word "**mi**" whether in the present tense or past tense:

lui non mi chiama - *he isn't calling me*
lei non mi ha chiamato - *she didn't call me*
lui non mi ha chiesto - *he didn't ask me*

TI, LE & VI

The same rules that apply to "**mi**" also apply to the object pronouns "**ti**", "**Le**" and "**vi**", which all mean "**you**":

darti - *to give you*
chiamarvi - *to call you*
portarle - *to bring you*
chiederti - *to ask you*
lasciarvi - *to leave you*

In the present tense, the words "**ti**", "**Le**" and "**vi**" go in front of the verb:

lui ti da la chiave - *he's giving you the key*
lui Le da la chiave - *he's giving you the key*
Maria vi chiama - *Maria is calling you*
Maria ti chiama - *Maria is calling you*
lei Le porta quello - *she's bringing you that*

In the past tense, the objects "**ti**", "**Le**" and "**vi**" both go directly in front of the auxiliary verb:

ti ha dato la chiave - *he gave you the key*
Maria vi ha chiamato - *Maria called you*
Le ha portato quello - *she brought you that*

And, finally, in the negative, the word "**non**" goes in front of the object pronoun both in the past tense and the present tense:

lui non ti chiama - *he isn't calling you*
io non vi ho chiamato - *I didn't call you*
lei non Le ha chiesto - *she didn't ask you*
io non ti lascio - *I'm not leaving you*
lui non vi ha chiesto - *he didn't ask you*
io non ti porto - *I'm not bringing you*

TO PAY FOR

We learnt a while back that, in Italian, you don't pay "**for**" something, you simply pay it. So, you don't say, "**pagare per qualcosa**"; you just say, "**pagare qualcosa**"

vorrei pagare il vino
I would like to pay for the wine

Well, there are other verbs that need the word "**for**" in English, but which, in Italian, you don't use "**per**".

pagare - *to pay for*
aspettare - *to wait for*
chiedere - *to ask for*

So, in Italian, you don't "**wait for the bus**"; you just, "**await the bus**".

(io) aspetto l'autobus
I'm waiting for the bus

(io) chiedo al cameriere del vino
I'm asking the waiter for some wine

(lui) ha chiesto il conto
he asked for the bill

(lei) ha pagato tutto
she paid for everything

(noi) aspettiamo l'autobus qui
we're waiting for the bus here

(lei) aspetta il treno da un'ora
she's been waiting for the train for an hour

(loro) hanno chiesto un'altra bottiglia
they asked for another bottle

CHIEDERE

The verb "**chiedere**" means "**to ask**" or "**to ask for**", but it's used differently in Italian to how we use it in English.

chiedere qualcosa a Paolo
to ask Paolo for something

In Italian, you always put the word "**a**" in front of the person you're asking.

(io) ho chiesto del vino a Maria
I asked Maria for some wine

chiedere a Paolo di fare quello
to ask Paolo to do that

You can ask somebody to do something in Italian, but again, you have to put the word "**a**" in front of the person you're asking, and then you put the word "**di**" in front of the verb.

(io) ho chiesto a Maria di partire
I asked Maria to leave

(loro) chiedono a Paolo di aiutare
they're asking Paolo to help

The same can be done with the verb "**dire**"

dire qualcosa a Paolo
to tell Paolo something

dire a Paolo di fare qualcosa
to tell Pierre to do something

(io) ho detto a Paolo di partire
I told Paolo to leave

I WONDER

If you want to say, "**I wonder**" in Italian, you literally have to say, "**I ask myself**". We know that the verb, "**chiedere**" means "**to ask**", so "**I ask myself**" would be:

(io) mi chiedo
I wonder

You can put question words on the end of "**(io) mi chiedo**"

(io) mi chiedo perché - *I wonder why*
(io) mi chiedo dove - *I wonder where*
(io) mi chiedo quando - *I wonder when*
(io) mi chiedo chi - *I wonder who*

(io) mi chiedo perché Paolo è qui
I wonder why Paolo is here

(io) mi chiedo dov'è il ristorante
I wonder where the restaurant is

(io) mi chiedo quando quello comincia
I wonder when that starts

READY and EARLY

We learnt the adjectives "**pronto**" and "**presto**" ("**ready**" and "**early**") in course 3. Let's just have a look at the different forms of each adjective: the masculine singular, masculine plural, feminine singular and feminine plural

READY	**pronto**	**pronti**	**pronta**	**pronte**
EARLY	**presto**	**presti**	**presta**	**preste**

PARTIRE VS. LASCIARE

There are two ways to translate the verb "**to leave**" into Italian, but they're used in slightly different ways: **partire** and **lasciare**

PARTIRE this means "**to leave**" in the sense of departing or leaving a place

(io) vorrei partire domani
I would like to leave tomorrow

(noi) partiamo alle sette
we're leaving at seven o'clock

LASCIARE this means "**to leave**" in the sense of leaving something or somebody somewhere

puoi lasciarmi qui?
can you leave me here?

ho lasciato la chiave laggiù
I've left the key over there

IT AS A SUBJECT

If you want to say something like, "**it starts tomorrow**" or "**it finishes soon**", the "**it**" can be translated using the third person singular form of the verb (i.e. the **he** or **she** form of the verb).

it starts soon
comincia subito

it isn't working
non funziona

it is here
è qui

QUESTIONS WITH NAMES OR NOUNS

If you want to ask a question, in Italian, with a name or with a noun, it normally goes after the verb if there's a question word at the start, or, if there's no question word, the name or noun can go to the start.

Cosa fa Paolo?
What is Paolo doing?

Dove abita Maria?
Where does Maria live?

Marco vuole venire?
Does Marco want to come?

Gianna beve il vino?
Does Gianna drink wine?

TRY AND...

In English, we can say things like, "I'll try and arrive early" or "I'll try and speak Italian". But, in Italian, you don't say "try and"; you say, "try to" with "cercare di"

(io) cerco di arrivare presto
I'll try and arrive early
(literally: I'll try to arrive early)

(io) cerco di parlare italiano
I'll try and speak Italian
(literally: I'll try to speak Italian)

vuoi cercare di parlare italiano?
do you want to try and speak Italian?
(lit: do you want to try to speak Italian?)

C'È VS. CI SONO

The word "**c'è**" means "**there is**", and "**ci sono**" means "**there are**". You can turn them negative and into questions.

c'è	*there is*
non c'è	*there isn't*
c'è...?	*is there...?*
non c'è...?	*isn't there...?*
ci sono	*there are*
non ci sono	*there aren't*
ci sono...?	*are there...?*
non ci sono...?	*aren't there...?*

C'ERA VS. C'ERANO

The word "**c'era**" means "**there was**", and "**c'erano**" means "**there were**". You can turn them negative and into questions.

c'era	*there was*
non c'era	*there wasn't*
c'era...?	*was there...?*
non c'era...?	*wasn't there...?*
c'erano	*there were*
non c'erano	*there weren't*
c'erano...?	*were there...?*
non c'erano...?	*weren't there...?*

THIS MORNING

The word "**questa**" in "**questa mattina**" and "**questa sera**" can shorten to "**sta**", which then hooks onto the next word:

questa mattina / stamattina
this morning

questa sera / stasera
this evening

READY TO...

If you want to say that you're ready to do something, you can use the phrase "**pronto a**" followed by a verb.

(io) sono pronto a partire
I'm ready to leave

i bambini sono pronti a mangiare
the children are ready to eat

(io) sono pronto a tutto
I'm ready for anything

On the other hand, if you want to say something like, "**the cake is ready to eat**", this has a slightly different meaning.

In the sentence, "**the children are ready to eat**", it's the children who are eager to do the eating. In the sentence, "**the cake is ready to eat**", it means that the cake is ready to be eaten. To say this, in Italian, we say "**pronto da**" rather than "**pronto a**".

la torta è pronta da mangiare
the cake is ready to eat

questi abiti sono pronti da indossare
these clothes are ready to wear

il vino non è pronto da bere
the wine isn't ready to drink

The difference between "**pronto a**" and "**pronto da**" is only small, but it can cause very different meanings if you get it wrong

i bambini sono pronti a mangiare
the children are ready to eat

i bambini sono pronti da mangiare
the children are ready to be eaten