### Hello and Welcome!

Yes, anyone can speak... practically every language! We'll try to make it as easy and enjoyable as possible for you. Our goal is modest ... to give you a chance to become familiar with basic words and common sentences, so that you can already understand what people want from you and even chat a bit, or at least say the right thing at the right time. That's something, isn't it!

You'll do most of it yourself by listening to the language, reading the text and of course repeating what you hear. That's why every word and every sentence is repeated twice... to give you a chance to read... to absorb... and to speak! And by the way, if it doesn't work for you the first time, it will work the second time or maybe the third. Practice as often as you want! The most important thing is never to be afraid to talk. Ok, so others will guess it's not your native language... so what? Language brings people together, and people always appreciate it when you try to speak their language, even if you make mistakes.

We're learning to speak and to express ourselves, because it's important to tell the person we're talking to what we mean and what we want. The English translations of the sentences I read are not always a literal translation of the words, but they are certainly sufficient to get the message across.

We have also tried to be politically correct when it comes to masculine and feminine forms, though sometimes giving all the possibilities in every sentence makes learning more burdensome. In any case, the language is meant both for males and for females, and if here and there only the masculine form is used, it's just to make learning and reading easier.

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OK. Let's start our journey together by learning the word "yes."..



## 1. Things you need to know

E' indispensabile da sapere!

Yes, it's great to begin with a word of agreement: Yes

Sì

After saying "yes", sometimes there's no choice but to say "no"... From the tone you can tell that no means **No**!

No

3.

Now that we've mastered "yes" and "no", it's time to ask for something, and say **Please** 

Per favore / per piacere / prego

4

If we get what we asked for, we probably want to say thanks: you can just say **Thank You** 

Grazie

5.

And you can also add emphasis by saying **Thanks a Lot**Molte grazie / Grazie mille

Usually you'll get a standard response, such as "my pleasure", "no problem", or a modest response like: You're welcome

Non c'è di che

7.

Now we already know how to put words together and say: **Yes**, **please** 

Sì, grazie

8.

Or: No, thank you

No, grazie

"Excuse me" is an interesting phrase. When we want to be polite, get someone's attention, make a comment, ask for something, the correct phrase is "excuse me". For example, "Excuse me please, you're stepping on my foot!" – Excuse me

Scusi

\_10.

There is also a way to ask for forgiveness – "Ooh, I beg your pardon, I didn't mean it!" If we accidently hurt someone, we can say I beg your pardon

Scusi / scusa

11.

When we want to express true sorrow or to apologize, the appropriate phrase is: **Sorry** 

**Spiacente** 

And when everything is fine, you can say: It's okay
Va bene

13.

12.

Moving on to some "dating phrases". The first word you'll probably say at the beginning of the date is: **Hello**Salve / Ciao

14.

And when you part ways? It's always nice to say, I had a great time, hope to see you soon, **Goodbye** 

Arrivederci / Ciao

15.

Sometimes you do want to see that person again, and sometimes you say "see you" just to be polite... in either case, we say: **See you** 

Arrivederci!

16.

I wonder why almost every language has a special greeting for mornings. When you meet someone in the morning, you say: **Good morning!** 

**Buongiorno!** 

17.

And there is also a special greeting for the afternoon: **Good afternoon!** 

**Buon pomeriggio!** 

18.

When you meet someone in the evening, you say: **Good evening!** 

Buona sera!

19.

And at night, when you are ready to go to sleep, you guessed right! – we say **Good night!** 

**Buona notte!** 

20.

After a good night's sleep, we're ready to start the new day. Or maybe we want to welcome a guest, or maybe someone is happy to meet us and says: "Good to see you... **Welcome!**"

Benvenuto!

21.

When people meet each other, they usually exchange "small talk". They aren't always interested in a specific answer, but they show interest: What's new?

Come va?

22.

How are you today?

Come sta oggi?

23.

Some people simply ask, How are you doing today?

Most people expect a polite answer and not a list of complaints...

You can simply say: Fine, thanks

Bene, grazie

25.

Everything's fine with me. What about you?

Da me va tutto bene. E da lei?

26.

And if everything was okay, or at least no one complained, you can say politely: I enjoyed myself, I had a lovely time

E' stato un vero piacere

27.

And your host will probably reply: "It's my pleasure".

Yes, it's always a good idea to be polite... It's my pleasure

Il piacere è tutto mio

28.

And so, continuing to be polite, let us part by saying: I wish you...

Le auguro...

29.

You could also say "best wishes", or "all the best", and maybe even wish someone **Good luck** 

buona fortuna

30.

You could, of course, add a little more detail, such as: **Good** health and happiness

salute e felicità

31

And there's also **Happy Holiday**buone feste

32.

And of course Happy New Year buon anno

33.

Another way of saying goodbye is **Bon voyage**buon viaggio

34.

Hey, kid, how old are you?! Happy birthday buon compleanno

**35**.

And to mark a wedding anniversary, you would say **Happy** anniversary

buon anniversario

36.

Have a good time, **Enjoy your stay**buon soggiorno

And you could always add this greeting: All the best ogni bene!





## 2. Starting to Speak

Cominciamo a parlare

39.

[2] In a foreign country and unfamiliar surroundings you need words to ask questions ... to find out how and where and what and who and when... OK so let's learn some question words:

When something isn't clear, or you didn't hear or understand, just ask: **What?** 

Che cosa? / Che?

40.

Or you might want to know: Who?

Chi?

41.

Let's learn some useful pronouns, so we'll be able to introduce ourselves or talk about our friends. First there's I or me:

ic

42.

Then there's you in the singular.

Lei

tu

[פניית כבוד]

43.

And what about us or we?

noi

44.

And you in the plural.

voi

**45**.

Then there's the third person: **he** and **she** or **him** and **her** 

lui / lei

46.

And them

loro

47.

What about everybody?

tutti

48.

Or nobody?..

nessuno

49.

Let's talk a bit about time, a topic we'll talk about later as well. Our first word is the question: **When?** 

There are lots of possible answers to the question "When?" If I don't know the exact time, I can give an answer relative to something else: "Before the trip" or "After the meal." Let's start with **before** 

prima di

**51**.

And go on to after

dopo di

**52**.

When some people ask "When?" they hope the answer will be right away, **now** 

adesso

53.

Then there are those people who always put things off until **later**dopo

54.

If not now, when? When will it be? Will it be sooner or will it be later? **sooner** 

fra poco

**55**.

or later

più tardi

56.

You probably want to get to more complex sentences... **not yet... non ancora / fra poco** 

57.

If you're impatient you'll say, "now or never!" If you have no faith you'll say, "no way, it will never happen to me!" And if you like to complain you'll say, "Darn it! It always happens to me!" always sempre

**5**8.

Compared to never

mai

**59**.

Can I take a break? Just a minute. I'll be right back... Just a minute!

un momento!

60.

Let's go over some other useful question words. "How I am doing?" **How?** 

Come?

61.

Why is it so hot in the summer? Why?

Perché?

When I ask "why" I expect an explanation. Often the explanation 8 begins with **Because** Perché... The word "where" is important to every tourist: Where is the museum? Where's the restaurant? Where? Dove? 64. As with time, with space it's easiest to give answers relative to something else: behind the tower, in front of the museum: in front of davanti 65. Compared to: **behind** dietro 66. We looked and looked, and it was right in front of our noses: here it is ecco People, unlike GPS, tend to give approximate explanations: "It's right here," or "Go over there." Whether it's here or there, you usually find it in the end: here qui 68. Or there ľì 69. Everyone who visits a big city looks for a high spot for a panoramic view. But when we went up, it was overcast and we couldn't see a thing... so we came down. First up in alto / su 70. And then down in basso / giù 71. The museum was impressive from the outside, but on the inside it wasn't much to speak of: inside dentro 72. Compared to: outside **Fuori** What's on top of the table? And what are you hiding underneath? on top of sopra

Sotto

74.

and underneath

Here's another question word to help you make up your mind. For example, when you go shopping the salesperson may ask which item you want to buy. Which one?

Quale?

76.

Now we can start confusing the salesperson: "This one! No, that one, the one over there!" Soon we'll know the words for colors to make things easier... but in the meantime: **this one** 

questo qui

77.

Or that one

quello lì

78.

And in the plural: "Actually I want those.": **those**questi / quelli





### 3. How Much, How Many?

# Tutto nella giusta misura

Let's learn a few words for sizes and amounts. "How much water is in the bottle?" (Not very much...) "How much money is in your wallet?" (Not enough...) "How many sugars do you take in your coffee?" (a few more..." How much food did you bring?" (Lots!) You're right, these questions all begin with How much / How many?

Quanto

80.

"How much?" is often short for "How much does it cost?" Though between you and me, everything here is beautiful, but at these prices... you're out of your mind!.. I'm not buying anything. Nothing! nothing

Niente / nulla

81.

Compared to: everything

tutto

82.

We bought a little and we paid a lot: a little

poco

83.

or a lot

molto

84.

The salesperson said it cost him more... Get real, usually salespeople pay less and we pay more. That's the nature of commerce... **less** 

meno

85.

compared to more

più

86.

Do you want to go up to the top of the tower? Sorry... I'm staying down here. I've had enough. I've climbed too many stairs today already. **enough** 

abbastanza

87.

Compared to too much

troppo

88.

They're going up the tower and I'm staying here. I want to do just a bit more shopping... a bit more

It will take them around half an hour, not exactly but about... **around, about** 

all'incirca

90.

Wait, let me count. How much change do I have left? Is it enough for coffee and cake? I think so, more or less

più o meno

91.

I'm sitting in the café, with all my purchases in front of me. I was sure I'd bought a lot more. **Is that all?** 

è tutto?

92.

For today, that's enough!

è sufficiente

93.

They're back from the tower. How was it? Was it especially nice? ... Too bad you missed it, they say. **Really?..** 

Veramente?..

94.

Maybe I'll come back tomorrow morning. Maybe

**Forse** 

95.

Is it possible to take a shortcut and get there from this street? Sure it's possible. What do you mean? It's impossible. Note the difference: **possible** 

è possibile

96.

compared to Impossible

non è possibile

97.

Are you certain? Yes, Sure

certamente

98.

As always, you're right ... Of course!

Ovviamente

99.

Sure, no doubt. Certainly!

sicuramente

100.

I think there's no way this can be even considered. **No way!** sta scherzando!



### 4. Common Questions

# **Domande frequenti**

Tourists usually have a list of prepared questions. You can get along very well with these questions, provided you can understand the answers. So let's get started.

We're nobody's fools and we've brought money for shopping, so what we want to know is: **How much does it cost?** 

Quanto costa?

102.

But we also want to do some touring. Can you go there on foot or do you need to take the bus? **How far is it to...?** 

Quanto dista?

103.

Do I have enough time? When does it open?

Quando apre?

104.

When does it close?

Quando chiude?

105.

Can someone here kindly tell me: What time is it?

Che ore sono / Che ora è?

106.

I've never seen anything as interesting as this. What is this?

Che cos'è?

107.

When you can't manage on your own, you can always ask someone: Can you tell me...?

Può dirmi...?

108.

Here's another useful opening for a request question: Can I please have...? For example, a menu or the check or anything else you might want: Can I please have...?

Per favore potrei avere...?

109.

This isn't what I'm looking for. I know what I need... **Do you have...?** 

per caso avete

110.

There's something I like in the shop window... Can you show it to me please? Can you show me...?

Può mostrarmi (per favore)?

Just a moment. I'm a bit lost. What is that over there? Where am I? I'd better ask someone. Where am I?

Dove mi trovo?

112.

Here's a word I don't understand. What does this word mean? What does... mean?

Che significa? / Che cosa vuol dire?

113.

I thought I'd be able to find my way more easily, but I got mixed up and I'm having trouble figuring out where I am. I'll ask for help. Excuse me... Can you help me please?

Scusi, può aiutarmi per favore?

114.

Someone here noticed I was a bit confused and offered me help: "May I help you?" In stores, you are often asked the same question: "May I help you?"





## 5. Important Words

Parole importanti

Every language has its "little words" - prepositions and conjunctions - that are in almost every sentence. There's no avoiding it - you have to know them. True, they can't be picked up just like that, and they usually have different meanings in different contexts. But we're not going to give in just because learning these words is hard, because without them ... you cannot speak!

116

First of all, there's the definite article "the" used when we're referring to something specific: I read a book, but <u>the</u> book you gave me was really good; <u>the</u> hotel where we're staying is far; <u>the</u> trip was interesting; <u>the</u> coffee is hot: <u>the</u>

il [la]

117.

Then there's the coordinating conjunction <u>and</u> for great combinations such as coffee and cake: <u>and</u>

e

118.

Hello! Yes, we're in our hotel room: in

in

119.

Call us tonight at the hotel: at

a / per

120.

We're going to my sister. She's been living there for two years: to verso / a

121.

Where are you from? We are from the USA. from

da

**122**.

It'll take us <u>about</u> an hour: **about** 

123

We need to go back. I left my glasses on the table at the restaurant... on

sopra / su

124.

But why does this keep happening to me... but

```
125.
What do you prefer? Coffee or tea? hot or cold? or
 126.
I <u>only</u> drink tea. only
                                solo
 127.
I also like tea. But I drink coffee too: also / too
 128.
Little Red Riding Hood went for a walk in the woods. Then the wolf
showed up... and then he asked her... then
 129.
I heard that story, and since then I've been worried about my
grandmother... since then
                             da allora
 130.
I was really in suspense until the hunter showed up... until
                               finché
 131.
On this diet, you don't eat ice cream during the week, only on the
weekend... during
                              durante
 132.
The museum is near the hotel. And the hotel is close to the
museum: near, close to
                          vicino / accanto
 133.
They may be close... but my car broke down between the
museum and the hotel: between
                              fra, tra
 134.
Now let's learn a few useful words related to what we have and
what we don't have: I have
                                 ho
 135.
```

Compared to: I don't have

non ho

136.

This watch is mine: mine

mio [mia]

137.

It was mine, but now it's yours: yours tuo [tua]

138.

This car is ours: ours

Wait, this is really an important verb. Let's go over it again: I have io ho

140.

He has a boyfriend. Does he have a girlfriend? He has lui ha

141.

Does she have a boyfriend? Yes, **she has** 

142.

Luckily, we have a bit of money: We have noi abbiamo

143

Let's review again. What's the opposite of "I have"?... I don't have

non ho

144.

This isn't mine... Excuse me, is this yours? Excuse me, is this yours?

Scusi, è suo [sua]?

145.

What are you talking about?.. No, it's not mine. No, it's not mine No, non è mio [mia]

146.

I've lost my shoe. Does anyone know where my shoe is? **Where's my...?** 

Dov'è il mio [la mia]...?

147

Not every Cinderella has a Prince Charming to find her shoe. In most cases the answer is: "I don't know where your shoe is" or "I have no idea!" I don't know!

non lo so



### 6. Adjectives

# Aggettivi

Adjectives help us describe nouns... sometimes according to our own taste – beautiful or ugly – and sometimes according to their attributes: large or small, dark or light, young or old.

149.

Is it cold or hot there? Do I need to wear long sleeves or short sleeves? long

lungo [lunga]

150.

Or short

corto [corta]

151.

He's tall and I'm short, but it's okay. We're a good match... tall alto [alta]

152.

or short

basso [bassa]

We packed a big suitcase and a small bag. big / large grande

154.

compared to small / little

piccolo [piccola]

My bag is already old. I've decided to buy a new one on this trip. new

nuovo [nuova]

156.

compared to old

vecchio [vecchia]

157.

Sir, how do you take your coffee? strong forte

158.

or maybe weak

debole

159.

It's hot during the day and cold at night. During the day it's hot caldo [calda]

and at night it's **cold** 

freddo [fredda]

161.

The book was good, but the movie was bad... The book was good

buono [buona]

162.

but unfortunately the movie was **bad**cattivo [cattiva]

163.

We eat together at the restaurant, but when it comes to paying, we each get a separate bill: **together** 

insieme

164.

but separate when it comes to money... **separate separatamente** 

165.

How can you explain the concept of right and left to children who don't wear wristwatches? **right** 

destra

166. or **left** 

sinistra

167.

Now I'll try to speak like the GPS: "Turn to the right at the traffic circle. Then turn to the left at the traffic light..." to the right a destra

168.

and then turn to the left

a sinistra

169.

When it comes to preferences, as the saying goes, "different strokes for different folks..." Yet it seems to me that we know what's beautiful and what's ugly. **beautiful** 

bello [bella]

170.

and ugly

brutto [brutta]

171.

Strange... some people think that expensive clothes are prettier... **expensive** 

caro [cara]

172.

I prefer... cheap

economico [economica]

173.

I wish I could afford a dark colored car in the winter and a light

compared to light

chiaro [chiara]

175.

Were you ever told that you must wait an hour after eating before swimming? Well, today we know that's just an old wives' tale. You don't need to wait to digest your lunch before you go swimming. Swimming on a full stomach will not cause cramps.... before prima

176.

or after

dopo

177.

I want you to line up in a row. The first person should stand in front of the second, and the third should stand behind the second and in front of the fourth, and so on... in front of dayanti

178.

or **behind** 

dietro

179.

All the cars are going fast on this superhighway. What's a slow car doing here? **fast** 

veloce

180.

compared to slow

lento [lenta]

181.

Am I speaking too quickly? I'll try to speak more slowly and to emphasize every word... **quickly** 

velocemente

182.

as opposed to **slowly** 

**lentamente** 

183

My guests left late. Too bad they didn't leave... early presto

184.

They left... late

tardi

185.

Excuse me, is smoking permitted here? No way.. smoking's forbidden! **permitted** 

permesso

```
187.
I got the car with a full tank of gas, but I returned it empty... full
                           pieno [piena]
 188.
but I returned it empty
                           vuoto [vuota]
 189.
What's right is right! right
                           giusto [giusta]
 190.
Or wrong
                           errato [errata]
 191.
Is your room clean? Ours is still dirty! The room is clean
                           pulito [pulita]
 192.
The room is dirty
                          sporco [sporca]
 193.
I brought a gift but without a card... with
                                 con
 194.
compared to without
                                senza
 195.
Is the restroom on the plane vacant?
                           libero [libera]
 196.
It was vacant before, but now you'll have to wait. It's occupied
                       occupato [occupata]
 197.
The restaurant is closed. I can't wait until it's open. open
                           aperto [aperta]
 198.
But now it's closed
                          chiuso [chiusa]
 199.
Old people have interesting stories, but young people don't have the
patience to listen... young
                              giovane
 200.
old
                         vecchio [vecchia]
```

```
202.
```

OK, I saw it. You can go **forward**avanti

203.

Don't you get it? Is it complicated for you? I'll explain once more, and you'll see that it's simple... **simple** 

semplice

204.

You only thought it was complicated complicato [complicata]

205.

Can't you hear me? You're standing too far away. Come stand near me and you'll hear every word... **near** 

vicino [vicina]

206.

or far

Iontano [lontana]

207.

What's better? One heavy suitcase or two light ones? **light** leggero [leggera]

208.

Or heavy

pesante

209.

Tell the truth. So far has it been easy or difficult? **easy** facile

210.

It really wasn't difficult

difficile

211.

This towel is wet? Can I have a dry towel? wet bagnato [bagnata]

212.

I prefer dry

asciutto [asciutta]

213.

Who hasn't seen movies about a fat guy and a skinny guy? fat grasso [grassa]

214.

skinny

magro [magra]



### 7. Numbers

Numeri

Knowing how to count and recognize numbers is basic in any language. Let's learn together. We'll start with examples and our fingers, and when we run out of fingers we'll count out loud together.

216.

Zero is round, made by placing your thumb against your index finger: **zero** 

zero

217.

They say that 'one bad apple spoils the barrel': **one**uno [una]

218.

How many legs? Two. How many eyes? two due

219.

Two's company but three's a crowd. three

tre

220.

Someone who wears glasses is called "four eyes": **four quattro** 

221

People usually have five fingers on each hand: **five cinque** 

222.

six

sei

223.

seven

sette

224.

eight

otto

225.

nine

nove

226.

ten

dieci

```
227.
Before we go on... let's repeat the numbers one through ten!
   uno, due, tre, quattro, cinque, sei, sette, otto, nove... dieci!
 228.
OK let's go on: eleven
                               undici
 229.
twelve
                               dodici
 230.
thirteen
                               tredici
 231.
fourteen
                            quattordici
 232.
fifteen
                              quindici
 233.
sixteen
                               sedici
 234.
seventeen
                            diciassette
 235.
eighteen
                              diciotto
 236.
nineteen
                            diciannove
 237.
This is easy, right? OK, let's go on: twenty
                                venti
 238.
And, naturally: twenty-one
                              ventuno
 239.
twenty-two
                              ventidue
```

ventitré

ventiquattro

240.

241.

twenty-three

twenty-four

```
venticinque
 243.
twenty-six
                             ventisei
 244.
twenty-seven
                            ventisette
 245.
twenty-eight
                            ventotto
 246.
twenty-nine
                            ventinove
 247.
OK, let's move on to the multiples of ten: thirty
                              trenta
 248.
forty
                            quaranta
 249.
fifty
                            cinquanta
 250.
sixty
                            sessanta
 251.
seventy
                             settanta
 252.
eighty
                             ottanta
 253.
ninety
                             novanta
 254.
And finally we've reached one hundred
                              cento
 255.
two hundred
                            duecento
 256.
Now, can you say this number: two hundred forty-seven
                     duecentoquarantasette
 257.
three hundred
```

twenty-five

```
258.
four hundred
                          quattrocento
 259.
five hundred
                           cinquecento
 260.
Let's jump ahead to one thousand
 261.
And of course to two thousand
                             duemila
 262.
three thousand
                             tremila
 263.
four thousand
                           quattromila
 264.
five thousand
                           cinquemila
 265.
ten thousand
                            diecimila
 266.
Soon we'll be finished. one hundred thousand
                            centomila
 267.
Let's finish with one million
                           un milione
 268.
That wasn't too bad, was it? Now let's learn the ordinal numbers
to help us put first things first and last things last. We'll start with
first
                          primo [prima]
 269.
second
                       secondo [seconda]
 270.
third
                           terzo [terza]
 271.
fourth
                         quarto [quarta]
```

```
fifth
                          quinto [quinta]
 273.
sixth
                           sesto [sesta]
 274.
seventh
                         settimo [settima]
 275.
eighth
                          ottavo [ottava]
 276.
ninth
                           nono [nona]
 277.
tenth
                         decimo [decima]
 278.
How many times will you need to practice the ordinal numbers until you
know them by heart? once?
                             una volta
 279.
Or maybe twice?
                             due volte
 280.
Don't feel bad if it takes you three times
                              tre volte
 281.
Let's toast our accomplishments... Give me a half a glass of wine
please... half
                           mezzo / metà
 282.
Actually, a quarter of a glass is enough... quarter
                             un quarto
```



### 8. Colors

Colori

283.

Every place in the world has the same colors, and they look the same in all languages... Interesting?.. **Colors** 

Colori

284.

What's your favorite color? Maybe red? rosso [rossa]

285.

yellow

giallo [gialla]

286.

blue

blu

287.

black

nero [nera]

288.

white

bianco [bianca]

289.

Maybe orange, like the fruit with the same name? **orange arancione** 

290.

brown

marrone

291.

purple

viola

292.

green

verde

293.

pink

rosa

294.

gray

grigio [grigia]

295.

Is this ring silver? silver

296

No, it's actually gold. **gold** 

oro





# 9. Days of the Week

Giorni della settimana

297.

Now that we've learned to count and learned the colors, we should learn the days of the week. Every language has a separate name for each day. Days of the Week

Giorni della settimana

298.

What day is it? Today is...

Oggi è...

299.

Sunday

**Domenica** 

300.

**Monday** 

Lunedì

301.

**Tuesday** 

Martedì

302.

Wednesday

Mercoledì

303.

**Thursday** 

Giovedì

304.

**Friday** 

Venerdì

305.

Saturday

Sabato

306.

When did you get back? We came back yesterday. **yesterday** ieri

307.

There's also the day before yesterday

l'altro ieri

308.

I'm going today. today

oggi

and coming back tomorrow. tomorrow domani

310

Or if I'm having a good time, the day after tomorrow dopodomani

311.

Isn't his birthday this week? Wow! What's today's date?

Che data è oggi?

312.

When is your birthday?

Quand'è il tuo compleanno?

313.

Thanks for the good wishes, but it was... last week

La settimana scorsa

314.

There's still time. It's next month

Il mese prossimo

315.

When will you come for a visit? Next year?? Too bad, I'd hoped you'd come this year.

Quest'anno



## 10. Telling the Time

**L'ora** 

316.

OK, since we now know the numbers, it's time to learn about time and how to say what time it is...

317.

What's the most popular question asked? Of course... **Excuse** me, what time is it?

Scusi, che ore sono?

318.

The answer usually begins with.. The time is...

Sono le... / è...

319.

Let's start with one o'clock and add a little something each hour to make things interesting and to review. Here we go: **one o'clock in the morning** 

l'una di notte

320.

two o'clock in the afternoon le due del pomeriggio

321.

Three-thirty is the same thing as half past three: three-thirty or half past three

le tre e mezzo

322.

Four-fifteen is the same as a quarter after four: **four-fifteen** or **quarter after four** 

le quattro e un quarto

323.

When will my coffee be ready? It's already... quarter to five le cinque meno un quarto

324.

six-twenty

le sei e venti

325.

seven in the evening

le sette di sera

326.

eight minutes to seven

otto alle sette

327.

The next bus leaves in another ten hours entro dieci ore

329.

It's late. It's eleven p.m.

le undici di sera

330.

When do lazy people get up? At twelve noon or at noon Mezzogiorno

331.

Time is counted by the **second**, **minute** and **hour**. **secondo** / **minuto** / **ora** 

332.

I'm sure you remember, but since it's important let's review: **quarter / half** 

un quarto / mezzo [mezza]

333.

Now it's midnight

Adesso è mezzanotte

334.

Finally, let's review again: day / week
Giorno / settimana

335.

and of course month / year

Mese / anno



### 11. Personal Details

# Dati personali

We've just about finished all the basic concepts and topics. Now we'll concentrate on more practical matters: hotels, restaurants, roads, stores and markets. Let's start by filling in a form with our personal details... very important to know how to do. Usually these forms begin with: **First name** 

Nome

337.

And then: Last name

Cognome

338.

Usually you need to write the address where you'll be staying: **Address** 

Indirizzo

339.

Including the street name

Via

340.

house number

**Numero civico** 

341.

city

Città

342.

postal code

**Codice postale** 

343.

And of course, the name of the country: **country**Paese

344.

They usually also want to know your marital status: single or married, divorced or widowed: **Marital status**Stato civile

345.

They're also interested in your nationality: Nationality
Nazionalità

346.

Sometimes they also want to know about your occupational training, even though many people don't work in the profession

Of course everyone has a ... Date of birth

Data di nascita

348.

Even if you've visited lots of countries on your trip, they usually want to know where you started: Origin of trip

Provenienza

349.

And of course they want to know your destination: **Destination**Destination

**350**.

You'll need to indicate the purpose of your visit... business or pleasure... Purpose of your visit

Scopo del viaggio

351.

You should know your passport number by heart or at least write it down somewhere for safekeeping: Passport number

Numero di passaporto

352.

Flight number

Numero del volo

353.

The date is usually at the end of the form: **Date**Data

354.

Yes, it's OK to sign in any language!.. **Signature**Firma



#### 12. Hotels

**Albergo** 

355.

Now that we've landed safely, filled in all the forms and set out as tourists... let's think about the most common situations we may encounter. We'll begin at the hotel. Make a reservation in advance to make sure there's a room... Making Hotel Reservations

Prenotazione di una camera d'albergo

356.

If you didn't make a reservation, your first question to the hotel clerk is: **Hello**, **do you have a vacancy?** 

Buongiorno, avete una camera libera?

357.

Here's the answer you don't want to hear: Sorry, everything's taken

Spiacenti. E' tutto occupato

358.

If you did make a reservation, you can say: I have a reservation

Ho una prenotazione

359.

And if not, try your luck and hope for the best: I don't have a reservation

Non ho la prenotazione

360.

Maybe you need to give more information: I need a room...

Ho bisogno di una stanza...

361.

for one night

Per una notte

362.

for two adults and two children

Per due adulti e due bambini

363.

This may sound odd, but based on experience it's a good idea to add: with a bathroom

con servizi

364

with a single bed or a double bed con letto singolo / letto matrimoniale

365.

Where is the room? on the first floor

Or maybe on the top floor

All'ultimo piano...

367.

Do I need to take the stairs to get upstairs
Salire le scale

368.

Or to get downstairs

Scendere le scale

369.

But I have suitcases... Is there an elevator? **elevator**Ascensore

370.

The hotel's location is important for tourists and also affects the price. A hotel can be downtown, near the train station or in the suburbs. It's always good to know the hotel's exact address.

Where are you located?

Dove vi trovate?

371.

If the location isn't clear, you can always ask: **How do I get there** from...?

Come arrivo da voi da...?

372.

And of course, to avoid any surprises... **How much does it cost?**Per favore qual è il prezzo?

373.

This is not always obvious... **Does the price include breakfast?**Il prezzo comprende la prima colazione?

374

Let's review meals! first, breakfast

Prima colazione

375.

lunch

**Pranzo** 

376.

supper

Cena

377.

We've almost forgotten the hotel clerk on the phone... what should we tell him? We'll take the room! **Thank you, I'll be there by... 4** 

Grazie. Arriverò entro le... 4

378.

Most countries that welcome tourists have tourist information offices. Most hotels also have a tourist desk to answer tourists' questions... **Tourist Information** 

Fill in the following question as needed: Excuse me, where can I find...?

Scusi, dove c'è un [una]...?

380.

Maybe we'll separate to shop in the market. We need a... **meeting point** 

punto d'incontro

381.

Perhaps you have a free map of the city mappa della città

382.

Can you help me find ... a car rental agency autonoleggio

383.

Actually, maybe I'd prefer a taxi stand or a bus stop stazione di taxi / fermata d'autobus

384.

A train to...

treno per...



#### 13. Car Rentals

Noleggio auto

Let's assume we're seasoned travelers who know how to get along. We don't need any favors. After arranging a hotel, of course we need a car. **Car Rental** 

Noleggio d'auto

386.

The clerk at the car rental agency welcomes us and asks how she can help us. What should we say? Hello, my name is...

Buongiorno, mi chiamo...

387.

Of course I didn't just drop in. I reserved a car Ho prenotato un'auto

388.

Here's my voucher and driver's license

Ecco la ricevuta e la mia patente di guida

389.

If you didn't arrange everything in advance.... What cars do you have available?

Quali auto disponibili avete?

390.

"<u>I'd like</u> a small automatic car"... "<u>I'd like</u> to return it at the airport"... This is a simple, polite and common request form: **I'd** like...

Vorrei...

391.

l'd like to rent a car for a day / two days noleggiare un'auto per un giorno / due giorni

392.

Or maybe... to rent a car for a week noleggiare l'auto per una settimana

393.

You also need to arrange for returning the car: to return the car on...

restituire l'auto in...

**394**.

l'd like to pay by credit card pagare con carta di credito

395.

What happens if the car agency only has small cars that can't

Sometimes you need extras, like a baby car seat or a bicycle carrier. **Does this car have...?** 

Quest'auto è...?

397.

or, for example: automatic transmission or airconditioning automatica / climatizzata

398.

Let's move on to the price... **Does the price include...?**Il prezzo comprende...?

399.

Of course you're not planning to have an accident. You've come to have a good time. Still, you need to know about **insurance**Assicurazione

400.

What's included in the price?.. unlimited kilometrage (mileage)

Senza limite di chilometraggio

401.

Sometimes the answer is: This price doesn't include...

Questo prezzo non comprende...

402.

And sometimes you need to put down a deposit. After all, it is a car... a deposit of...

una cauzione di...

403.

To avoid future unpleasantness, make sure to check the car. "Please make a note that this car has a scratch on the front, a broken headlight and no spare tire..." Please make a note that the car has...

Tenga presente per favore che l'auto ha...

404.

a scratch / dent on...

un graffio / una botta sul...

405.

no spare tire

Manca la ruota di scorta

406.

Is the tank half full... or maybe it's half empty? Just be sure to check... half a tank of gas

Il serbatoio è pieno a metà

407.

Before we leave: Here's a map and a list of our branch offices Ecco una mappa e l'elenco delle nostre filiali

408.

Oops, what have we forgotten? Where's the car?.. The car is...

Bon voyage!

Buon viaggio!

410.

Another way of saying this... Have a good trip!

Buona gita!





### 14. Friends and Businesses

Amici e affari

411.

We've left the airport, the weather is great, the car is a dream... and we're on our way to meet people. Let's learn a little about **Friends, People and Business** 

Amici, persone e affari

412.

How to present other people and how they present us is the topic of **Introductions** 

**Presentazione** 

413.

I'd like you to meet Mr. [Mrs. / Miss / Ms.]...
Le presento il signore [la signora]...

414.

Nice to meet you

Molto piacere

415.

How are you?

Come sta?

416.

Usually this doesn't require a detailed answer but just a polite response: Fine, thank you. And you?

Bene, grazie. E lei?

417.

If you want to be less formal, try this: What's new? / How's it going?

Come va? / Come vanno le cose?

418.

**Everything's okay** 

Va tutto bene

419.

Sometimes it's good to show interest in close family or friends: **How's... your wife / your husband?** 

Come sta sua moglie / suo marito?

420

Usually a general answer is sufficient: **Thanks for taking an interest** 

Grazie per l'interessamento

421.

Someone may ask you this: What's your name?

```
422.
```

You can answer like this: My name is...
Mi chiamo...

423.

Ask the following questions only if you feel comfortable and want to get to know someone better: **How old are you?**Quanti anni ha [hai]?

424.

For years I've been answering like this: I'm 20 years old
Ho vent'anni

425.

I was born in 1980

Sono nato [nata] nel 1980

426.

Where are you from?

Di dov'è lei?

427.

Me? I'm from... (the) ...

Vengo...

428.

Sometimes the conversation flows, and we feel we've known the other person for years: What do you do for a living?

Lei di cosa si occupa?

429.

How many children do you have?

Quanti figli ha?

430.

Here's a possible answer: I have a son and a daughter

Ho un maschio e una femmina

431.

Are you here by yourself?

Lei è qui da solo [sola]?

432.

You can go on to tell who came with you... I came with...
Son venuto [venuta] qui con...

433.

my wife / my husband

Mia moglie / mio marito

434.

my parents / my children

i miei genitori / i miei figli

435.

Sometimes you need to reveal your marital status: I'm... married
Sono sposato [sposata]

Or... I'm... single

437. divorced

divorziato [divorziata]

438.

widowed

Vedovo [vedova]

439.

Perhaps they want to know whether you have enough time to have dinner with them: How long will you be here? Per quanto tempo si trattiene?

440.

Remember? a day / a week / a month un giorno / una settimana / un mese

441.

So you can explain why you came, start like this: I came... Sono venuto [venuta]...

442.

And now the explanation: for a vacation / a visit per vacanza / in visita

443.

to tour / on business

in gita / per affari

They may want to know where you are staying: Where are you staying?

Dove alloggia?

They may propose going out with you: What are you doing this evening?

Cosa fa questa sera?

446.

At the end of the conversation, usually mutual friends are mentioned... Regards to...

Saluti a...



## 15. A New Language

## Una nuova lingua

447.

OK, so we've met our friends and said goodbye. Now let's try to cope with problems in the new language. Clearly we won't always be able to make ourselves understood, and we don't really understand everything said to us... we need to know a few sentences to get us out of "jams"!

448.

First, let's find out if you have a language in common: **Do you speak...?** 

Lei parla...?

449.

Do you speak English / French?
inglese / francese

**450**.

Spanish / German

spagnolo / tedesco

451.

Italian / Arabic

italiano / arabo

452.

Don't be afraid to say: I speak...

lo parlo...

453.

Asking if anyone speaks your language may seem useless. You may think no one speaks your language, but it never hurts to try: **Does anyone here speak...?** 

C'è qualcuno che parla...?

454.

Here's a sentence that may elicit sympathy and clearer answers: I understand a bit

Capisco poco

455.

Don't be shy about asking this: Please speak more slowly

Per favore, parli più lentamente

456.

What did he say? What does this sign mean? Can you translate this for me?

Potrebbe tradurmelo?

457.

Indicate exactly what you didn't understand: word / sentence / sign

parola / frase / cartello

Just a moment, I'm trying to understand... Can you repeat that?

Potrebbe ripetere?

459.

When you don't understand, don't hesitate to ask someone you trust: What did he/she say?

Che cosa ha detto?

460.

I thought I knew this language, but I see no one can understand my accent. This question will do the trick: **Am I pronouncing this correctly?** 

Pronuncio bene?

461.

And finally: Do you understand me?

Lei mi capisce?

462.

It's great to be able to answer: I understood everything

Ho capito tutto

463.

And how sad to say: I didn't understand a thing
Non ho capito niente

464.

Sometimes it's easier when it's written down, like when you need to remember an address or a brand name: Please write it down

Lo scriva per favore

465.

If it can't be written down, for example over the phone... a topic we'll come to soon... you can ask: Can you please spell that Può compitarlo?

466.

To make everyone feel at ease, you can say thank you and... **Now I understand** 

Adesso ho capito!



### 16. Phone Conversations

#### **Telefonata**

467

In face-to-face conversations, ...use your hands or facial expressions, or even ask a casual passerby to translate for you... but what can you do on the phone? **Telephone Conversations** 

#### **Telefonata**

468

Here's how a phone conversation goes: the phone rings and someone answers (pay attention to how they say "hello"). When you're looking for someone specific: **Hello, may I please speak with...?** 

Pronto, per piacere, potrei parlare con...?

469.

Maybe you want to identify yourself first: **Hello**, **this is... Pronto**, **parla...** 

470.

Things don't always go as smoothly as you'd like: **Excuse me**, **but**...

Mi scusi, ma...

471.

I'm having trouble hearing you: I can't hear you

Non la sento

472.

Here, too, you can always ask the other person to speak slower: please speak more slowly

Per favore, parli più lentamente

473.

Sometimes you need to call the operator, who might ask: What is the dialing code for...?

Qual è il prefisso per...

474.

It's always good to know how they pronounce the name of your country... (the) ...

475.

Sometimes you need to leave a message: May I please leave a message for Mr. [Mrs./ Ms.]...?

Per favore è possibile lasciare un messaggio al signor [alla signora] ...?

476.

What should you say? Please tell him that Mr.... called him Comunichi per favore che il signor... l'ha cercato

Here's another option, for the women among us: Please say that 47

Mrs. / Ms.... called her

Comunichi per favore che la signora... l'ha cercata

478.

Are you managing? How's it doing? Can we continue? OK, let's go on!

479.

And how could we ever do without our... **Mobile** or **Cellular Phones** 

Telefono cellulare

480.

At the end of a meeting, if you want to stay in touch: What's your mobile phone number?

Qual è il suo numero di cellulare?

481.

Mobile or land line? Where are you? Where are you calling from?.. - I'm calling from the airport. I'll be at the hotel in an hour... Right now I'm speaking from...

Adesso sto parlando...

482.

I'm speaking from my car dalla mia macchina

483.

the airport

dall'aeroporto

484.

the hotel lobby

dalla lobby dell'albergo

485.

The reception here is bad. I can barely hear you Non sento bene!

486.

It's important to know how to find someone's phone number and emergency numbers. What's the phone number of...?

Qual è il numero di telefono di...

487.

What's the phone number of... the police department della polizia

488.

What's the phone number of... the fire department dei vigili del fuoco

489.

Don't stand on the sidelines if you hear someone crying out: **Help!** 

Aiuto!

dell'ambulanza della rianimazione

491.

Don't panic, but... This is an emergency!

Questa è un'emergenza!





#### 17. Restaurants and Food

#### Ristoranti e cibo

492.

Now that we have all the words for emergencies, we can relax and finally begin our trip. What's on the agenda? food, travel, shopping... Where should we begin? With food, of course! **Restaurants and Food** 

Ristoranti e cibo

493.

It's a good idea to make a reservation: Making Reservations

Prenotare un tavolo

494.

It can be over the phone: Hello, is there a table available this evening?

Buongiorno, avete un tavolo libero per questa sera?

495.

Usually you'll be asked: For how many?

Per quante persone?

496.

For example: I'd like to reserve a table for... eight o'clock for... four people

Vorrei prenotare un tavolo per le... otto, per... quattro persone

497.

Too bad: Sorry, everything's taken
Spiacente, siamo al completo

498.

Sometimes it's easier after the rush: They have a table but **Only** at... nine o'clock

Solo per le nove...

499.

Today in many countries this question is no longer relevant: **Smoking or non-smoking?** 

Fumatori o non fumatori?

**500**.

OK, we've finally arrived and we've reserved a table. How do we make ourselves known: We have a reservation

Abbiamo un tavolo prenotato

501.

The hostess or waitress will lead us to our table: Please have a seat here

Prego, accomodatevi

502.

Before we sit down, maybe we'll want to ask: Where's the

```
503.
```

We've been sitting here for twenty minutes... where did the waiter disappear to? **Waiter!** 

**Cameriere! Cameriera!** 

504.

The menu, please

Il menù, per favore

505.

For some reason we trust the waiter, and we ask him what he recommends... What do you recommend?

Lei cosa ci raccomanda?

**506**.

On the other hand, he might ask: What would you like to order?

Cosa desiderate ordinare?

**507**.

Even though each person has different preferences, the waiter will usually say: This is highly recommended!

Questo ve lo consiglio caldamente!

**508**.

I'll have soup... Before going into detail, you usually say I'll have...

Prenderò...

**509**.

What did you order? That's what I want too... I'll have the same...

Prendo lo stesso...

**510**.

That's all for now. If we want more, we'll order it later... **That's all for now** 

Per ora, è tutto

511.

This restaurant has more than food... What would you like to drink?

Cosa desiderate bere?

**512**.

I'll have...

Per me...

**513**.

mineral water

acqua minerale (liscia)

514.

cold tap water

acqua fresca (del rubinetto)

515.

orange juice / apple juice

succo d'arancia / di mela

These drinks sound the same all over the world: **cola / soda / lemonade** 

coca / acqua gasata / limonata

517.

Wow, that was good. **Another glass please!**Un altro bicchiere per favore!

518.

And if you want some more: I'd like some more...

Ne vorrei ancora...

519.

Have you had enough? Yes. That will be all, thank you E' tutto, grazie

520.

There are two expressions that always set a good tone for a meal. One is: **Cheers!** 

Alla salute!

521.

And the other is: bon appétit!

**Buon appetito!** 

522.

We've eaten our fill, and the chef wants to know how it was: **How** was it?

Com'era?

**523**.

What should we say?.. Excellent!
Ottimo!

524.

It won't hurt to make him feel good: The meal was delicious
Il pasto è stato molto gustoso

**525**.

The hand motion to ask for the check is universal. Still, it's more polite to ask for it: **The check**, **please** 

Il conto, per favore

526.

How much is the bill?

Quanto le devo?

527.

If this is written on the check, you'll understand the hint: **Service not included** 

Non comprende il servizio

**528**.

You can personally give your tip to the waiter: **This is for you. Thanks** 

Questo è per lei, grazie



## 18. Taxis

Tassì 529.

We enjoyed our meal, but now it's raining outside and we want to go back to the hotel. What do we look for? Of course... a taxi

Tassí

530.

Before we leave the restaurant we can ask at the desk: **Please** order me a taxi

Per favore, mi chiami un tassí

531.

When ordering a taxi, you usually need to say where you want to go: Where do you want to go?

Dove deve arrivare?

532.

The answer: I'm going to...

Devo arrivare a...

533.

How far away is it? How far is it to...?

Qual'è la distanza per...?

534.

How long will it take to get to...?

Quanto tempo richiede arrivare a...?

535.

It's a good idea to find out the taxi fare in advance: **How much** will it cost to get to...?

Quanto costerà arrivare a...?

**536**.

What's the fare?

Qual è la tariffa?

**537**.

And don't let anyone cheat you: Please turn on the meter

Per favore, azioni il tassametro

538.

Please take me to... the national museum: Please take me...

Per piacere, mi porti...

539.

Please take me to this address: to this address a questo indirizzo

**540**.

downtown

```
541.
to the airport
                           all'aeroporto
 542.
to the... hotel
                           all'albergo...
 543.
Sometimes you need to give the driver directions: Go... straight
                           Vada... dritto
 544.
Turn... right
                            Giri a destra
 545.
No! Sorry... Turn... left
                           Giri a sinistra
 546.
Keep going straight... until the next turn
                     fino alla prossima svolta
 547.
I'm in a big hurry. Go straight to the hotel. I'm in a hurry
                          Ho molta fretta
 548.
But between you and me, it's more likely you'll say: Please drive
more slowly
                    Guidi più piano, per favore
 549.
Thanks, we're here. Please stop...
                        Si fermi, per favore
 550.
Where exactly?... here
                                qui
 551.
after the traffic light
                         dopo il semaforo
 552.
at the corner
                          dietro l'angolo
 553.
near that house
                       vicino a questa casa
 554.
Before getting out of the taxi: How much do I owe you?
                      Quanto devo pagare?
```

555.
If you want to tip the driver: Thanks. Keep the change!





# 19. Public Transportation

## Mezzi pubblici

556.

When you don't have a car, and even when you do, there's nothing like public transportation for getting to know a city. For example, take the train or the bus. **Train / Bus** 

Treno / autobus

557.

If you can't find something, the simplest thing is to ask: Where's the... train / bus station, please?

Per favore, dov'è la stazione del... treno / dell'autobus?

**558.** 

How do I get to the flea market? How do I get to the opera house? **How do I get to...?** 

Come arrivo a...?

559.

You'll usually get a direct answer: Take train / bus number...

Deve prendere il treno / l'autobus numero...

**560**.

When does the *last* bus leave? When does the *next* bus leave? When does the... bus leave?

Quando parte l'autobus...?

561.

Here are some useful words, some of which we learned as ordinal numbers: next / first / last il prossimo / il primo / l'ultimo

562.

Sometimes the transport maps are so complicated, and all I want to know is: Where should I get off?

Dove devo scendere?

**563**.

If I missed my stop: What's the next stop?

Qual è la prossima fermata...?

564.

This is usually a question children ask on any trip that's longer than 10 minutes. But when you're abroad you can ask it as well: When will we get to...?

Quando arriviamo a...?



# 20. Shopping

Acquisti

565.

A trip abroad without going shopping? No such thing! **Shopping**Acquisti

566.

You can shop in a store, in a stall at the market, or at a mall: **store** 

negozio

567.

shopping center

Grande magazzino/ centro comerciale

**568**.

market

mercato

569.

If there's a flea market, it offers the most amazing shopping experience: **flea market** 

"mercato delle pulci"

570.

Who can help us? The salesperson

Il venditore / la venditrice

571.

And who can help us if we have complaints? The manager

Il direttore / la direttrice

**572**.

Most signs usually have clear international symbols, but it's still good to know how to say: **entrance** 

entrata

573.

exit

Uscita

574.

And especially important: emergency exit uscita di emergenza

**575**.

Here's a few more useful terms when you're shopping: **display** window

Vetrina

**576**.

checkout

We need help. Here's someone who doesn't look like a tourist... You can politely ask: Excuse me, do you work here? Scusi... lei lavora qui?

578.

Sometimes you need advice from the salesperson: Can you help me for a moment?

posso consigliarmi un momento con lei?

579.

Professional salespeople will usually ask you first: How can I help you sir? How can I help you madam? Come posso aiutarla, signore [signora]?

580.

And perhaps the salesperson will be a bit more blunt: What are you looking for?

Che cosa cerca?

Now it's time to describe exactly what we want, exactly what we had in mind: I'm looking for something... smaller Cerco qualcosa di... più piccolo

582.

Or maybe... something larger più grande

583.

Here's another possibility: Something... less expensive più economico

584.

Or something... of higher quality di qualità migliore

585.

Or simply: just like I saw in the window come quello che ho visto in vetrina

And then there's that typical shopper's answer that I'm sure you've often said: I'm just looking

Sto solo guardando...

587.

If you're lucky: This is exactly what I've been looking for! E' proprio quello che cercavo!

588.

You can simply admit: I like this

Questo mi piace

589.

There's no shame in saying politely: I don't like this Questo non mi piace

**590**.

Grazie, ma non è quello che cerco

**591.** 

At some point you'll have to pay, and what a price! **How much does it cost?** 

Quanto costa?

592.

You can hope they'll take a subtle hint:... Is there a discount?

Si può avere uno sconto?

**593**.

What different does the price make, so long as it's on sale? Is it on sale?

È in vendita?

594.

Too bad! It's too expensive for me
E' troppo caro per me!

595.

On second thought, why not? We're not here every day. Let's go for it... especially after the salesperson took the trouble to take it down, put it back, take it out again... I'll take it, I'll buy it!

Prendo questo / lo compero

596.

Where can I pay?

Dove posso pagare?

597.

The checkout is... over there

La cassa è... li

**598**.

I'll pay with a credit card

Pago con carta di credito

**599**.

Here's your change

Prego, ecco il resto

**600**.

Here's your receipt

Prego, ecco la ricevuta (fattura)