

Lesson 1:1

Introduction and Overview of CD1: The Basics

Welcome to *Italian For Dummies Audio Set*. On Disc One, you start off with the pronouns, followed by the basics of introductions and greetings, common words and phrases, and finally words and phrases that you just can't live without. We encourage you to listen, repeat, and have fun!

Lesson 1:2

Personal Pronouns and Formalities

The personal pronouns in Italian are

I	<i>Io</i>
you (S/Informal)	<i>tu</i>
you (S/Formal)	<i>Lei</i>
he	<i>lui</i>
she	<i>lei</i>
we	<i>noi</i>
you (P/Informal)	<i>voi</i>
you (P/Formal)	<i>Loro</i>
they	<i>loro</i>



Use the informal *tu* (singular you) and *voi* (plural you) for friends, relatives, younger people, and people you know well. Use the formal *Lei* (singular you) when speaking to people you don't know well; in situations such as in stores, restaurants, hotels, or pharmacies); and with professors, older people, and your friends' parents. The formal *Loro* (plural you) is rarely used and is gradually being replaced by the informal *voi* when addressing a group of people.

Italians tend to use titles whenever possible. Use the *Lei* form when using any of the following titles:

Miss	<i>Signorina</i>
Mrs.; Madam	<i>Signora</i>
Mister; Sir	<i>Signore</i>
doctor	<i>dottore</i> (M); <i>dottoressa</i> (F)
professor	<i>professore</i> (M); <i>professoressa</i> (F)
engineer	<i>ingegnere</i>



When addressing someone without using his or her last name, use the entire title as it's listed here. (In Italian, *dottore* is used if the person has a university degree even though it's not a medical degree.) But when you add the person's last name to the title, you drop the final *-e* in the title.

Lesson 1:3

Saying “Hello” and “Goodbye”

Hi; Bye (Informal)	<i>Ciao!</i>
Hi; Bye (Formal/Informal)	<i>Salve!</i>
Bye-bye!	<i>Ciao! Ciao!</i>
Hello; Good morning; Goodbye (Formal)	<i>Buon giorno!</i>
Hello; Good evening; Goodbye (Formal)	<i>Buona sera!</i>
Good night! (Formal/Informal)	<i>Buona notte!</i>
Goodbye! (Informal)	<i>Arrivederci!</i>
Goodbye! (Formal)	<i>Arrivederla!</i>
See you later! (Formal/Informal)	<i>A dopo!</i>
See you soon! (Formal/Informal)	<i>A presto!</i>
See you tomorrow! (Formal/Informal)	<i>A domani!</i>
See you in a bit.	<i>A fra poco.</i>



Ciao! is the most common way of saying hello and goodbye informally. You should never use it with someone with whom you're using *Lei*. Use the longer *Buon giorno* and *Buona sera* in more formal situations, like when you enter a store. Use *Buona notte!* only when it's bedtime and when you're taking leave of people at night and you think that everyone is going to bed.

Lesson 1:4

Saying and Replying to "How are you?"

How are you? (Informal)	<i>Come stai?</i>
How are you? (Formal)	<i>Come sta?</i>
I'm well!	<i>Sto bene!</i>
Very well, thanks.	<i>Molto bene, grazie.</i>
Pretty well, thanks.	<i>Abbastanza bene, grazie.</i>
Pretty well, thanks.	<i>Non c'è male.</i>
I'm well, thanks, and you? (Informal)	<i>Sto bene grazie, e tu?</i>
I'm well, thanks, and you? (Formal)	<i>Sto bene, grazie, e Lei?</i>
I can't complain.	<i>Non mi posso lamentare.</i>
Great!	<i>Benissimo!</i>
How nice it is to see you! (Informal)	<i>Che piacere vederti!</i>
I'm not well.	<i>Non sto bene.; Sto male.</i>
Not well at all!	<i>Malissimo!</i>
So so.	<i>Così così.</i>
How are things?/ How's it going?	<i>Come va?</i>

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Things are going well.

Va bene.

Everything's going well.

Va tutto bene.

Things are going great!

Va benissimo!

Things aren't going well.

Va male.

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Introducing Yourself and Talking about Where You're From



What's your name? (Informal)

Come ti chiami?

What's your name? (Informal)

Come si chiama?

My name is Teresa.

Mi chiamo Teresa.

And you? (Informal)

E tu?

And you? (Formal)

E Lei?

Nice to meet you!/It's a pleasure
to meet you!

Piacere!

Where are you from? (Informal)

Di dove sei?

Where are you from? (Formal)

Di dov'è Lei?

I'm from the United States.

Sono degli Stati Uniti.

Lesson 1:6

Indispensable Words and Phrases

Everyday words and phrases

Help!	<i>Aiuto!</i>
yes	<i>sì</i>
no	<i>no</i>
I need	<i>Mi serve/Ho bisogno di</i>
here (you go, it is, you are)	<i>ecco</i>
please	<i>per favore; per piacere; per cortesia</i>
thank you	<i>grazie</i>
thank you very much	<i>molte grazie</i>
You're welcome!	<i>Prego!</i>
by all means	<i>prego</i>

People

man	<i>uomo</i>
woman	<i>donna</i>
boy	<i>ragazzo</i>
girl	<i>ragazza</i>
child/baby	<i>bambino (M); bambina (F)</i>
adult	<i>grande; adulto</i>

Places and directions

city	<i>città</i>
in the city	<i>in città</i>
in the country	<i>in campagna</i>
in the mountains	<i>in montagna</i>
police	<i>la polizia</i>
American consulate	<i>il consolato Americano</i>
hotel	<i>l'albergo</i>
hospital	<i>l'ospedale</i>
restaurant	<i>il ristorante</i>
house	<i>la casa</i>

Useful adjectives

big	<i>grande</i>
small	<i>piccolo</i>
fast	<i>veloce</i>
slow	<i>lento</i>

Medical terms

emergency	<i>un'emergenza</i>
doctor	<i>un medico; un dottore</i>
pharmacy	<i>una farmacia</i>

Lesson 1:7

Useful Expressions and Phrases

Excuse me. (Formal)	<i>Mi scusi.</i>
I don't speak Italian well.	<i>Non parlo bene l'italiano.</i>
Do you speak English? (Formal)	<i>Parla inglese?</i>
I speak English.	<i>Parlo inglese.</i>
I'm lost.	<i>Mi sono perso. (M); Mi sono persa. (F)</i>
I'm looking for my hotel.	<i>Sto cercando il mio albergo.</i>
Yes, I know.	<i>Sì, lo so.</i>
I don't know.	<i>Non lo so.</i>
I don't know where it is.	<i>Non so dove sia.</i>
I don't understand.	<i>Non capisco.</i>
I understand, thanks.	<i>Capisco, grazie.</i>
Can you repeat, please? (Formal)	<i>Può ripetere, per cortesia?</i>

Lesson 1:8

Introducing Question Words

Question words

Who?	<i>Chi?</i>
What?	<i>Che?; Cosa?; Che cosa?</i>
Where?	<i>Dove?</i>
Why?	<i>Perchè?</i>
When?	<i>Quando?</i>
How?	<i>Come?</i>
Which?	<i>Quale?</i>
Is there?	<i>C'è?</i>
Are there?	<i>Ci sono?</i>
How many?	<i>Quante?; Quanti?</i>



Cosa c'è means “What is there?” or “Is there . . . ?,” but it can also mean “What’s wrong?”

Here are some examples of question words in action:

How much?	<i>Quanto?</i>
How much does it cost?	<i>Quanto costa?/Quanto è?</i>
Excuse me, how much is this?	<i>Scusi, che prezzo fa questo?</i>
Anything else?	<i>Altro?</i>
Would you like anything else?	<i>Desidera altro?</i>

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Hello! Who's speaking?
(Answering your phone.)

Pronto! Chi parla?

What is this?

Che cosa è questo?

What are you doing?

Cosa fai?

Where is the covered market?

Dov'è il mercato coperto?

Which street should I take?

*Quale strada devo
prendere?*

Where are my friends?

Dove sono i miei amici?

How's that restaurant?

Com'è quel ristorante?

Is there a problem?

C'è un problema?

Lesson 1:9

Useful Questions

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Excuse me. Do you speak English?	<i>Scusa. parli inglese?</i> (Informal); <i>Scusi. parla inglese?</i> (Formal)
Will you translate it for me, please?	<i>Me lo traduce, per cortesia?</i> (Formal); <i>Me lo traduci, per cortesia?</i> (Informal)
Excuse me. Where is the bathroom?; The bathroom, please.	<i>Scusi/Scusa. dov'è il bagno?</i>
Where is . . . ?	<i>Dove si trova . . . ?</i>
What is the exchange rate today?	<i>Qual è il cambio di oggi?</i>
Can you show me where it is?	<i>Può mostrarmi dov'è?</i> (Formal)
What time is checkout time?	<i>A che ora bisogna lasciare la camera?</i>
Where is an ATM machine?	<i>Dov'è un Bancomat?</i>
Where is the train station?	<i>Dov'è la stazione?</i>
Can you speak more slowly?	<i>Può parlare più lentamente?</i> (Formal)
Can you please repeat that?	<i>Può ripetere, per favore?</i> (Formal)
What time do you close?	<i>A che ora chiudete?</i>
What are the store's hours?	<i>Che orario fate?</i>



Although I haven't included the courteous "excuse me" and "please" in all the preceding examples, you should get into the habit of beginning your sentences with *scusi* (formal) or *scusa* (informal), and then adding *per favore* or *per cortesia* at the end.

Lesson 1:10

You Can Count on Me: An Overview of Numbers

Numbers

1	<i>uno</i>
2	<i>due</i>
3	<i>tre</i>
4	<i>quattro</i>
5	<i>cinque</i>
6	<i>sei</i>
7	<i>sette</i>
8	<i>otto</i>
9	<i>nove</i>
10	<i>dieci</i>
11	<i>undici</i>
12	<i>dodici</i>
13	<i>tredici</i>
14	<i>quattordici</i>
15	<i>quindici</i>
16	<i>sedici</i>
17	<i>diciassette</i>

18	<i>diciotto</i>
19	<i>diciannove</i>
20	<i>venti</i>



For the numbers in the twenties, thirties, forties, and so on, just add the number to the ten, with the exception of when you add “1” and “8.” Drop the final “i.” Venti, *ventuno*, *ventidue*, *venticinque*, *ventotto*. When you add the *tre*, the *-e* takes an accent: *ventitrè*.

21	<i>ventuno</i>
22	<i>ventidue</i>
30	<i>trenta</i>
31	<i>trentuno</i>
40	<i>quaranta</i>
41	<i>quarantuno</i>
50	<i>cinquanta</i>
60	<i>sessanta</i>
70	<i>settanta</i>
80	<i>ottanta</i>
90	<i>novanta</i>
100	<i>cento</i>
101	<i>centuno</i>
102	<i>centodieci</i>
150	<i>centocinquanta</i>
1,000	<i>mille</i>
2,000	<i>duemila</i>



The plural of *mille* is *mila*.

Useful number questions (and answers)

How old are you?

Quanti anni hai?

I'm 23 years old.

Ho ventitrè anni.

How much does it come to?

Quanto viene?

6 euros and 60 cents.

Sei euro sessanta.

How much is it for a single
room?

*Quanto è per una camera
singola?*

120 euros

Centoventi euro.

Lesson 1:11

Telling Time

Italy commonly uses a 24-hour clock to list the times of trains, planes, and movies as well as store and museum hours, so it's a good idea to get familiar with that system. For every hour after 12 noon, just add an hour. So 1 p.m. becomes 13, and 6 p.m. becomes 18.

Answering questions regarding the time

It's 1 a.m.	<i>È l'una.</i>
It's 1:10 a.m.	<i>È l'una e dieci.</i>
It's noon.	<i>È mezzogiorno.</i>
It's 12:30 p.m.	<i>È mezzogiorno e mezzo.</i>
It's midnight.	<i>È mezzanotte.</i>
It's 2 a.m.	<i>Sono le due.</i>
It's 2:15 a.m.	<i>Sono le due e un quarto.</i>
It's 3 p.m.	<i>Sono le quindici.</i>
It's 9:50 p.m.	<i>Sono le ventidue meno dieci.</i>



To indicate a certain amount of time past the hour, add on *e un quarto* (and a quarter), *e mezzo* (thirty), *e ventitrè* (and 23), and so on. When you get past the 30 mark on the clock, it's a good idea to say *meno un quarto* (a quarter to) and *meno dieci* (ten minutes to).

Asking and answering “At what time. . . ?”

At what time does the train leave?	<i>A che ora parte il treno?</i>
It leaves at 1.	<i>Parte all'una.</i>
At what time does the opera begin?	<i>A che ora inizia l'opera?</i>
It begins at 8 p.m.	<i>Inizia alle venti.</i>
At what time does the hostel close?	<i>A che ora chiude l'ostello?</i>
It closes at 12:30 a.m.	<i>Chiude a mezzanotte e mezzo.</i>

The time of day

in the morning	<i>di mattina</i>
in the afternoon	<i>del pomeriggio</i>
in the evening	<i>di sera</i>
in the middle of the night (until about 5 a.m. or so)	<i>di notte</i>

Lesson 1:12

Going through the Calendar and Forming Dates

The days of the week (I giorni della settimana)

Monday	<i>lunedì</i>
Tuesday	<i>martedì</i>
Wednesday	<i>mercoledì</i>
Thursday	<i>giovedì</i>
Friday	<i>venerdì</i>
Saturday	<i>sabato</i>
Sunday	<i>domenica</i>

Day-related questions and answers

What day is today?	<i>Che giorno è oggi?</i>
Today is Friday.	<i>Oggi è venerdì.</i>
What day are you leaving?	<i>Che giorno parti? (Informal); Che giorno parte? (Formal)</i>
I'm leaving on Monday.	<i>Parto lunedì.</i>

The months (I mesi)

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

Month-related questions and answers

What month are you going to Italy?	<i>In che mese vai in Italia? (Informal)</i>
In August.	<i>Ad agosto.</i>
When's your birthday?	<i>Quando è il tuo compleanno? (Informal)</i>
November 7.	<i>Il sette novembre.</i>
What's the date?	<i>Che giorno è oggi?</i>
It's September 5.	<i>È il cinque settembre.</i>

Lesson 1:13

Directions

Useful words and phrases

nearby	<i>qui vicino</i>
in front of	<i>davanti a</i>
next to	<i>accanto a</i>
adjacent to	<i>di fianco a</i>
it's very near	<i>è proprio qui vicino</i>
far	<i>lontano</i>
it's far	<i>è lontano</i>
right	<i>a destra</i>
left	<i>a sinistra</i>
turn right	<i>giri a destro</i> (Formal)
go straight	<i>va sempre dritto</i> (Formal)
go all the way to the end of . . .	<i>va fino in fondo . . .</i> (Formal)
at the corner	<i>all'angolo</i>
around the block; around the corner	<i>dietro all'angolo</i>

Direction questions and answers

Excuse me, how far is the Uffizi Gallery?	<i>Scusi, quanto dista la Galleria degli Uffizi?</i>
It's about 200 meters away.	<i>Dista duecento metri.</i>

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Excuse me, do you know where the train station is? *Scusi, sa dov'è la stazione?*

Excuse me, is there a pharmacy nearby? *Scusi, c'è una farmacia qui vicino?*



If you ask for directions in Italian, you may hear the standard reply *Va sempre dritto* (just keep going straight). When giving this response, it's common for the speaker to extend one arm straight out from his or her head and move his or her hand in such a way that it looks like it's shaking some invisible person's hand.