1 Basic Expressions

Buon giorno, signore.
Buona sera, signora.
Buona notte, signorina.
Come sta?
Sto bene, grazie. E Lei?
Non c’è male, grazie.
Come si chiama Lei?
Mi chiamo Giovanni Rossi.
Dove abita, signor Rossi?
Abito a Milano.
Di dov’è Lei, signora Jones?
Sono di Chicago.
ArrivederLa, signor Martini.
Arrivederci.
A domani.
Ciao, Maria, come stai?
Benino, e tu?
Così così. Ciao.

Good morning, sir.
Good evening, ma’am.
Good night, miss.
How are you?
I’m fine, thank you. And you?
Not too bad, thank you.
What is your name?
My name is Giovanni Rossi.
Where do you live, Mr. Rossi?
I live in Milan.
Where are you from, Mrs. Jones?
I am from Chicago.
Goodbye, Mr. Martini.
Goodbye.
See you tomorrow.
Hi, Maria, how are you?
Pretty well, and you?
So-so. Bye.

1. The titles signore, signora, and signorina are to be used when addressing a person you do not know. Remember that signore becomes signor before a man’s last name.

2. ArrivederLa is a formal salutation used with only one person at a time.
   Arrivederci can be used with a person you have already met or with a group of people.

3. Ciao is an informal salutation used when meeting or parting—the equivalent of hi or bye or so long.
4. The conjunction e (and) and the preposition a (at, to) may become ed and ad before a word beginning with a vowel.

**EXERCISE**

1. It's 10:00 A.M. You meet a gentleman you have never seen before. How do you greet him? _______________
2. How do you say How are you? _______________
3. In late afternoon, do you use buona sera or buona notte? _______________
4. How do you greet an old friend? _______________
5. What is your reply to the question Come sta Lei? _______________
6. Your name is Robert Smith. Introduce yourself in Italian. _______________
7. Ask someone the question Where are you from? _______________
8. In saying goodbye to a group of people, do you use arrivederLa or arrivederci? _______________
9. How do you say Not too bad, thank you? _______________
10. Ask Miss Bianchi where she lives. _______________

**PAROLE DA RICORDARE (Words to Remember)**

- aeroplano: airplane
- anno: year
- autobus: bus
- automobile: automobile, car
- bambina (f.): child, little girl
- bambino (m.): child, little boy
- bar: bar
- borsa: purse
-caffè: coffee, café
-casa: house, home
-città: city, town
-classe: class
-dottore: doctor, physician
-film: film, movie
-giorno: day
-hotel: hotel
-lezione: lesson
-libro: book
-madre: mother
-matita: pencil
-nome: noun, name
-notte: night
-padre: father
-penna: pen
-piatto: plate, dish of food
-piazza: square
-professore (m.): professor
-professoressa (f.): professor
-quaderno: notebook
-ragazza: girl
-ragazzo: boy
-ristorante: restaurant
-sera: evening
-settimana: week
-signora: lady, married woman; ma’am, Mrs.
-signore: man, gentleman; sir, Mr.
-signorina: young lady, unmarried woman; Miss
-sport: sport
- stanza: room
-stazione: station
GRAMMAR I  Gender and Number of Italian Nouns

Italian nouns are either masculine or feminine. The gender is generally determined by the final letter of the word.

1. Most singular nouns end in o or a. Nouns ending in o are usually masculine; those ending in a are usually feminine. The plural of these nouns is formed by changing o to i and a to e.

2. Some nouns ending in e are masculine, and some are feminine. The appropriate gender is learned through usage. The plural is formed by changing e to i.

3. Nouns ending with an accented vowel do not change in the plural. Usually nouns ending in è, ì, and ò are masculine, and those ending in à and ù are feminine.

4. Nouns ending in a consonant do not change in the plural. Most are of foreign origin and, unless otherwise indicated, are masculine.

EXERCISE

Determine the gender of each of the following nouns; then form the plural and give the English meaning.

Example: bambino  m.; pl. bambini; child, children

1. anno _______________  9. ristorante _______________
2. matita _______________ 10. signora _______________
3. nome _______________  11. automobile _______________
4. città _______________  12. sera _______________
5. vacanza _______________ 13. ragazzo _______________
6. zucchero _______________ 14. tassi _______________
7. via _______________  15. stazione _______________
8. ragazza _______________ 16. università _______________
17. bar _______________ 24. classe _______________
18. libro _______________ 25. professoressa _______________
19. lezione _______________ 26. autobus _______________
20. piazza _______________ 27. vino _______________
21. notte _______________ 28. bambina _______________
22. film _______________ 29. sport _______________
23. aeroplano _______________ 30. hotel _______________

**GRAMMAR II  The Indefinite Article**

In Italian the indefinite article has four forms:

- **un** before masculine nouns beginning with a vowel or a consonant (except s + consonant or z)
- **uno** before masculine nouns beginning with s + consonant or z
- **un’** before feminine nouns beginning with a vowel (attaches to the following noun: un’automo
  bile)
- **una** before feminine nouns beginning with a consonant

Note that the indefinite article is omitted when the noun refers to a person’s occupation, profession, nationality, or religion. It is retained when the noun is modified by an adjective or other qualifying phrase.

Antonio è dottore. Anthony is a doctor.
Antonio è un buon dottore. Anthony is a good doctor.

**EXERCISE**

Place the appropriate indefinite article before the following nouns.

1. _______________ automobile 15. _______________ signore
2. _______________ stazione 16. _______________ bar
3. _______________ signorina 17. _______________ sera
4. _______________ borsa 18. _______________ zucchero
5. _______________ casa 19. _______________ studente
6. _______________ caffè 20. _______________ madre
7. _______________ stanza 21. _______________ nome
8. _______________ autobus 22. _______________ studentessa
9. _______________ settimana 23. _______________ ristorante
10. _______________ treno 24. _______________ hotel
11. _______________ giorno 25. _______________ classe
12. _______________ quaderno 26. _______________ città
13. _______________ virtù 27. _______________ film
14. _______________ piatto 28. _______________ notte
GRAMMAR III  The Definite Article

A. In English, there is only one form of the definite article: the. In Italian, the definite article has several different forms.

1. With Masculine Nouns
   il (sing.) and i (pl.) before a noun beginning with a consonant (except s + consonant or z)
   l’ (sing.) and gli (pl.) before a noun beginning with a vowel
   lo (sing.) and gli (pl.) before a noun beginning with s + consonant or z
   l’anno   gli anni
   il dottore   i dottori
   lo studente   gli studenti

2. With Feminine Nouns
   la (sing.) and le (pl.) before a noun beginning with a consonant
   l’ (sing.) and le (pl.) before a noun beginning with a vowel
   l’automobile   le automobili
   la ragazza   le ragazze

B. With very few exceptions, the definite article is always required before a noun. In contrast to English usage, the article is required when referring to a person by title.

   Il dottor Rossi abita a Roma.  Dr. Rossi lives in Rome.

   It is omitted, however, when addressing people by their titles.

   Come sta, signora Jones?  How are you, Mrs. Jones?
   Buon giorno, professor Betti.  Good morning, Professor Betti.

   Note that as with signore, the last vowel of the titles dottore and professore is dropped before a person’s last name.

EXERCISES

A. Place the correct definite article before the following singular nouns.

1. ___________ casa  
2. ___________ tassì  
3. ___________ autobus  
4. ___________ sera  
5. ___________ caffè  
6. ___________ stazione  
7. ___________ matita  
8. ___________ aeroplano  
9. ___________ padre  
10. ___________ signora  
11. ___________ bar  
12. ___________ stanza  
13. ___________ città  
14. ___________ zucchero
B. Give the plural forms of each of the following:

1. il quaderno _______________ 8. l'università _______________
2. la piazza _______________ 9. il film _______________
3. il ristorante _______________ 10. il professore _______________
4. l'anno _______________ 11. il nome _______________
5. la settimana _______________ 12. l'hotel _______________
6. la virtù _______________ 13. il treno _______________
7. la lezione _______________ 14. la classe _______________

GRAMMAR IV Subject Pronouns

The most commonly used subject pronouns are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>io  (I)</td>
<td>noi (we)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>tu  (you)</td>
<td>voi (you)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>lui (he)</td>
<td>loro (they)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lei</td>
<td>lei (she)</td>
<td>loro (they)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lei</td>
<td>you (formal sing.)</td>
<td>Loro (formal pl.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note the following:

1. The tu and voi forms of address are used with relatives, friends, and children.
2. Voi can also be used with a group of people, a class, or an audience.
3. Lei and Loro are the formal forms to be used with people whom you do not know or with whom you are not very familiar.
4. In writing, the pronouns egli (he) and ella (she) replace lui and lei. Although generally used with reference to animals and inanimate objects, esso, essi (it, they; m.) and essa, esse (it, they; f.) may at times replace the personal pronouns lui, lei, and loro.
5. Although the L in Lei/Loro is not always capitalized in writing, in this book it is capitalized to distinguish those words from the lowercased lei (she) and loro (they).

EXERCISES

A. Fill in the blanks.

1. When talking with the grandchild of an Italian acquaintance of yours, what pronoun form of address would you use? _______________
Basic Expressions

2. What is the difference in meaning between loro and Loro? _______________
3. When writing to a friend about la casa you just bought, would you use the pronoun lei or essa? _______________
4. How would you address Mr. and Mrs. Bianchi? Lei, voi, or Loro? _______________
5. What are the English equivalents of egli and ella? _______________
6. You have been invited to talk to a large group of Italian business people. How will you address them? _______________

B. Write the pronouns in Italian.
1. we _______________ 7. she and I _______________
2. you (fam. sing.) _______________ 8. you (fam. pl.) _______________
3. she (la madre) _______________ 9. I _______________
4. it (l’automoibile) _______________ 10. he (lo studente) _______________
5. they (i ragazzi) _______________ 11. they (i libri) _______________
6. you (Dr. Smith) _______________ 12. they (le penne) _______________

GRAMMAR V Present Indicative of avere and essere

A. The verbs avere (to have) and essere (to be) are irregular, and their forms must be memorized.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>avere</th>
<th>to have</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>io</td>
<td>ho</td>
<td>I have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu</td>
<td>hai</td>
<td>you have (fam. sing.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lui, lei, Lei</td>
<td>ha</td>
<td>he, she, it has, you have (form. sing.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noi</td>
<td>abbiamo</td>
<td>we have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voi</td>
<td>avete</td>
<td>you have (fam. pl.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loro, Loro</td>
<td>hanno</td>
<td>they, you have (form. pl.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Note that the h in ho, hai, ha, and hanno is never pronounced; it is used only to distinguish between the verb form and other words with the same pronunciation but different meaning—for example, hanno (they have) and anno (year).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>essere</th>
<th>to be</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>io</td>
<td>sono</td>
<td>I am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu</td>
<td>sei</td>
<td>you are (fam. sing.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lui, lei, Lei</td>
<td>è</td>
<td>he, she, it is, you are (form. sing.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noi</td>
<td>siamo</td>
<td>we are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voi</td>
<td>siete</td>
<td>you are (fam. pl.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loro, Loro</td>
<td>sono</td>
<td>they, you are (form. pl.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXERCISE

Complete the following sentences, conjugating the verbs in parentheses.

1. (avere) Noi _____________ un libro.
2. (essere) Tu _____________ di Roma.
3. (essere) I ragazzi _____________ studenti.
4. (avere) Voi _____________ un’automobile.
5. (avere) Lei, signor Rossi, _____________ una casa a Milano?
6. (essere) Io _____________ professore.
7. (avere) Maria _____________ la madre a New York.
8. (essere) Il signore e la signora Bianchi _____________ a Pisa.
9. (essere) Luisa e Anna _____________ studentesse.
10. (avere) Tu _____________ una borsa.
11. (avere) Loro e io _____________ una lezione.
12. (essere) Il vino _____________ buono.
13. (avere) Le bambine _____________ la penna e la matita.
14. (essere) Dove _____________ gli aeroplani?

GRAMMAR VI  Numbers from 0 to 1,000

Memorize the numbers in Italian.

0   zero  20   venti
1   uno   21   ventuno
2   due   22   ventidue
3   tre   23   ventitré
4   quattro   25   venticinque
5   cinque   28   ventotto
6   sei   29   ventinove
7   sette   30   trenta
8   otto   31   trentuno
9   nove   33   trentatré
10  dieci   40   quaranta
11  undici   50   cinquanta
12  dodici   60   sessanta
13  tredici   70   settanta
14  quattordici   80   ottanta
15  quindici   90   novanta
16  sedici   100   cento
17  diciassette   101   centouno, cento uno
18  diciotto
19  diciannove
110 centodieci, cento dieci 600 seicento
122 centoventidue, cento ventidue 700 settecento
123 centoventitré, cento ventitré 800 ottocento
200 duecento 801 ottocentouno, ottocento uno
300 trecento 816 ottocentose dici, ottocento sedici
400 quattrocento 900 novecento
500 cinquecento 1000 mille

1. Note that: When the word uno precedes a noun, it has the same form as the indefinite articles uno, un’, and una. The other number words do not change form.

   Maria ha una borsa, un’automobile e un piatto.
   L’università ha otto cento studenti e quarantadue professori.

2. With multiples of ten from twenty to ninety, drop the final vowel before adding uno and otto.

   venti + uno = ventuno
   trenta + otto = trentotto

3. The number element tre is always accented when combined with other numbers.

   trentatré ducenotritre novecento ventitré

4. When a number word combined with uno is followed by another word, the final o of uno is usually dropped.

   Noi abbiamo ventun quaderni e sessantun libri.

EXERCISES

A. Give the numbers in parentheses in word form in Italian.

   1. (100) Noi abbiamo _____________ penne.
   2. (21) La città ha _____________ piazze.
   3. (344) L’università ha _____________ professori.
   4. (15) Il signor Battisti ha _____________ hotel.
   5. (365) L’anno ha _____________ giorni.
   6. (189) Il ristorante Alfredo ha _____________ piatti.
   7. (6) Il dottor Lucchesi ha _____________ bambini.
   8. (42) La classe d’italiano ha _____________ studenti.
   9. (1,000) La città ha _____________ vie.
  10. (3) Il numero 1000 ha _____________ zeri.

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B. Translate the following sentences, writing the numbers in word form.

1. Dr. Belli has 715 books.
2. The book has forty-one lessons.
3. I have a car, a house, and five daughters.
4. Professor Zatti has eleven male and nineteen female students.