

ITALIAN HANDBOOK

For travellers, students and immigrants to get basic knowledge of italian language

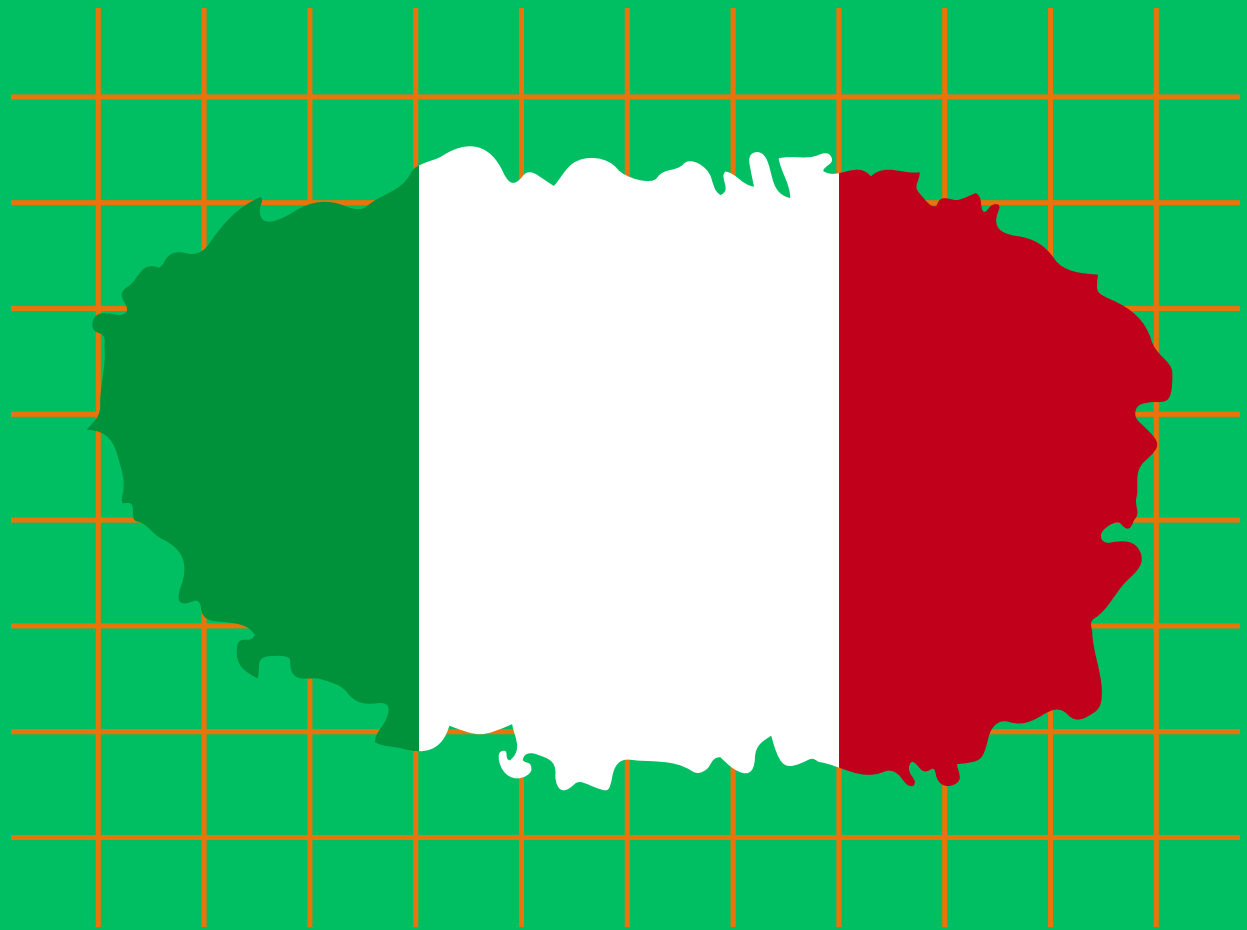


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BENVENUTO IN ITALIA

WELCOME TO ITALY



Learning a new language can be daunting, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. Italian is a beautiful and melodic language that is spoken by over 60 million people worldwide. It is also the official language of Italy, Switzerland, San Marino, and Vatican City.

If you are an English speaker, learning Italian can be a relatively easy task. The two languages share many similarities in terms of vocabulary and grammar. In fact, many English words are derived from Italian.

This quick guide will provide you with the basics of Italian grammar and vocabulary. It will also introduce you to some of the most common Italian phrases and expressions.



ALPHABET

Italian alphabet *L'alfabeto*

Learn how to pronounce the 21 letters in the Italian alphabet.

A

a  ah

B

bi  bee

C

ci  chee


D

di  dee

E

e  eh


F

effe  ehf-feh

G

gi  jee


H

acca  ahk-kah


I

i  ee


L

elle  ehl-keh

M

emme  ehm-meh

N

enne  ehn-neh

O

o  o


P

pi  pee

Q

cu  koo

R

erre  ehr-reh

S

esse  ehs-seh

T

ti  tee

U

u  oo

V

vi  voo/vee

Z

zeta  tseh-tah

Vowels

Italian vowels are pronounced very similarly to English vowels. The five Italian vowels are:

- **a**: pronounced like the "a" in "father"
- **e**: pronounced like the "e" in "bed"
- **i**: pronounced like the "i" in "machine"
- **o**: pronounced like the "o" in "hot"
- **u**: pronounced like the "oo" in "boot"



- **casa** (kah-sah): house
- **mela** (meh-lah): apple
- **vino** (vee-no): wine
- **fuoco** (fwo-co): fire
- **scuola** (skwoh-lah): school

Consonants

Most Italian consonants are pronounced similarly to their English counterparts. However, there are a few key differences:

- **c**:
 - before the vowels **a, o, u** is pronounced like the "k" in "kick"
 - before the vowels **e, i** is pronounced like the "ch" in "church"
- **g**:
 - before the vowels **a, o, u** is pronounced like the "g" in "go"
 - before the vowels **e, i** is pronounced like the "j" in "jump"
- **h**: is silent
- **s**:
 - between vowels is pronounced like the "z" in "zebra"
 - at the beginning of a word or before a consonant is pronounced like the "s" in "sit"
- **z**: is pronounced like the "dz" in "adze"



- **cane** (kah-neh): dog
- **città** (chee-tah): city
- **gatto** (gat-toh): cat
- **gelato** (jeh-lah-toh): ice cream
- **mare** (mah-reh): sea
- **sole** (soh-leh): sun
- **nero** (neh-roh): black

GREETINGS AND INTRO



BUONGIORNO!

(Good morning)

Ciao: Hello/Hi

- Come stai?: How are you?
- Sto bene, grazie: I'm fine, thank you
- Mi chiamo...: My name is...
- Piacere: Nice to meet you



BUONASERA!

(good afternoon)

Basic phrases for introducing yourself and asking about someone's well-being.

Examples:

- Ciao! Come stai? (Hi! How are you?)
- Sto bene, grazie! E tu? (I'm fine, thank you! And you?)
- Mi chiamo Paolo. Piacere! (My name is Paolo. Nice to meet you!)

BUONANOTTE!

(good night)

Italians value personal connections and use warmth in greetings.

- Handshakes are common, but friends may exchange kisses on the cheek.
- Maintain eye contact and use a friendly tone when speaking.



EXERCISE

****Exercise 1: Matching Greetings****

Match the English greetings with their Italian translations.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| a. Good morning | 2. Buonasera |
| b. Good evening | 1. Buongiorno |
| c. Good night | 4. Ciao |
| d. Hello/Hi | 3. Buonanotte |

Exercise 2: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the following Italian phrases with the appropriate words.

1. ___! Come stai? (Hi! How are you?)
2. Sto bene, grazie! ___ tu? (I'm fine, thank you! And you?)
3. Mi chiamo Paolo. ___! (My name is Paolo. Nice to meet you!)
4. ___! Mi chiamo Maria. (Hello! My name is Maria.)
5. ___! A presto! (Goodbye! See you soon.)

Exercise 3: Greeting Expressions

Translate the following phrases from English to Italian.

- How's it going?
- Goodbye!
- Nice to meet you!
- See you later!
- Have a nice day!

Italian numbers: 1 to 100

1

uno

/OO-noh

2

due

/DOO-eh

3

tre

/treh

4

quattro

/KWAH-troh

5

cinque

/CHEEN-kweh

6

sei

/sey

7

sette

/SET-teh

8

otto

/OH-toh

9

nove

/NOH-veh

10

dieci

/Dee-EH-chee

NUMBERS AND TIME

Telling Time

Learning:

- L'orario (The time): Learn how to tell time in Italian.
- Sono le... (It is...): Use this phrase to tell the time in Italian.

Explanation:

- Hours: Le ore
- Minutes: I minuti
- Half past: Mezzo
- Quarter past: Un quarto
- Quarter to: Meno un quarto

- 11: undici
- 12: dodici
- 13: tredici
- 14: quattordici
- 15: quindici
- 16: sedici
- 17: diciassette
- 18: diciotto
- 19: diciannove
- 20: venti



Examples:

- Sono le dieci (It is ten o'clock).
- È mezzogiorno (It is noon).
- Sono le quattro e venti (It is twenty past four).
- Sono le nove e quarantacinque (It is quarter to ten).

TIME

DAYS

- Today: Oggi
- Yesterday: Ieri
- Tomorrow: Domani
- Hour: L'ora
- Minute: Il minuto
- Second: Il secondo

EXAMPLES:

- Cosa hai fatto ieri? (What did you do yesterday?)
- Oggi è un bel giorno (Today is a beautiful day).
- Domani andremo al cinema (Tomorrow we will go to the cinema).
- L'esame dura due ore (The exam lasts two hours).

EXERCISE:

- Translate the following times from English to Italian:
 - 8:45
 - 11:30
 - 3:15
 - 6:00
 - 9:20
- Write the following numbers in Italian:
 - 15
 - 9
 - 20
 - 4
 - 12



La Mattina



Il pomeriggio

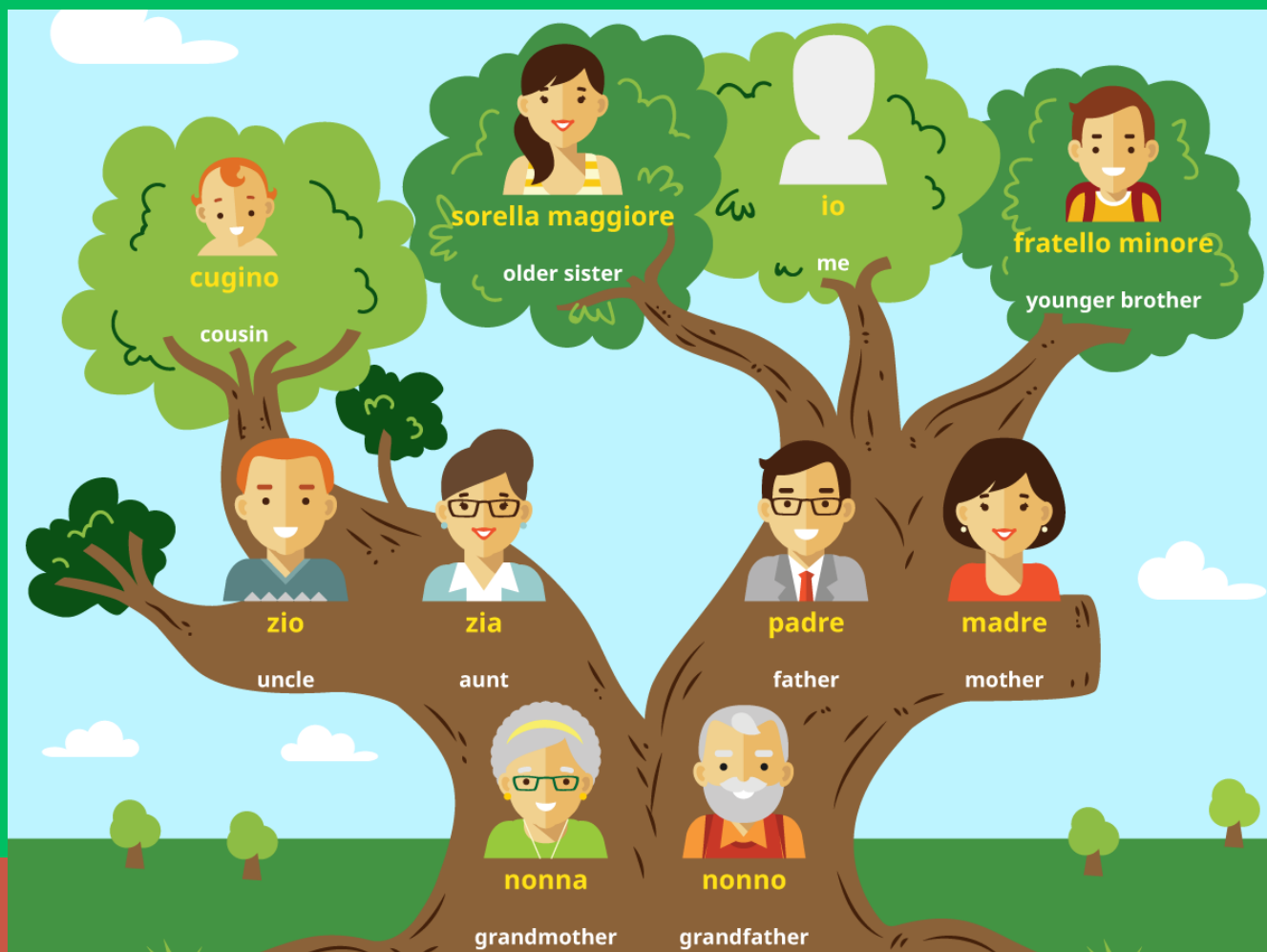


la sera



la notte

FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS



Examples:

• Mio padre si chiama Marco
(My father's name is Marco).

• La mia sorella è molto simpatica
(My sister is very nice).

• Ho due nonni
(I have two grandparents).

• I miei genitori sono molto gentili
(My parents are very kind).

• Ho tre fratelli e una sorella

(I have three brothers and one sister).

• Sono sposato da vent'anni

(I have been married for twenty years).

Parents: Genitori

• Siblings: Fratelli/Sorelle

• Relatives: Parenti

• Spouse: Coniuge

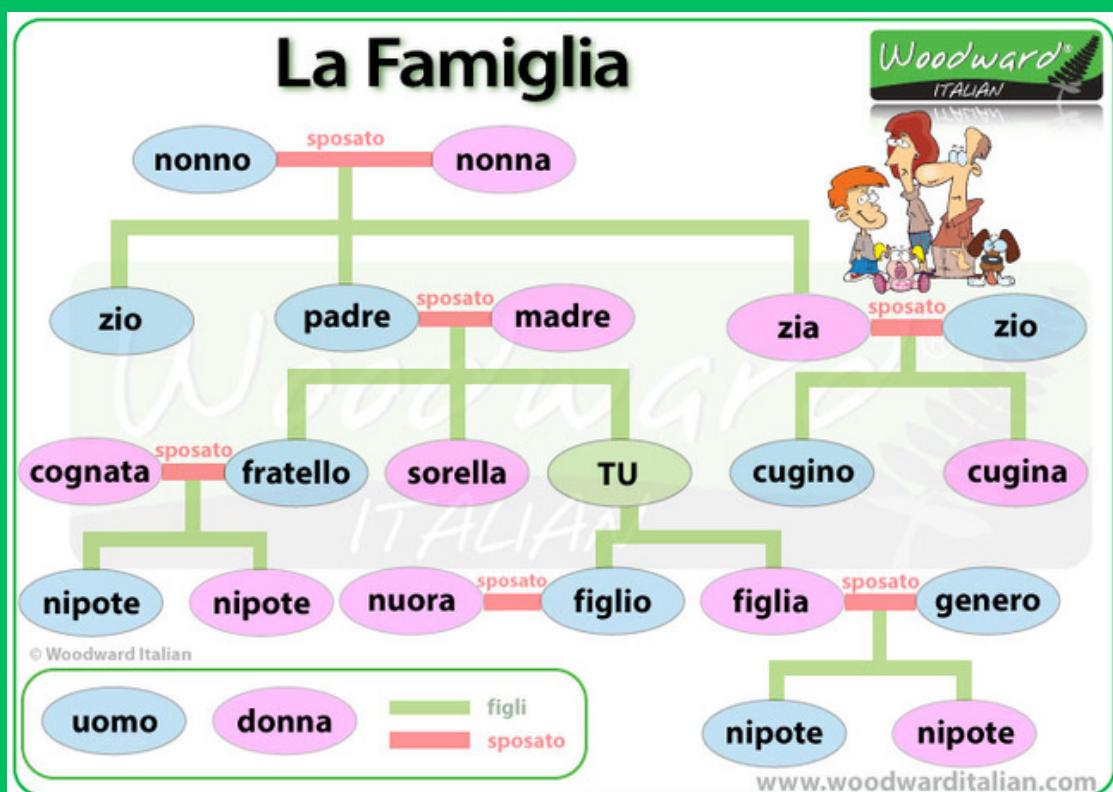
• Children: Figli

EXERCISE:

- Match the Italian family members with their English translations:

- Padre. _____
- Madre _____
- Figlio. _____
- Figlia. _____
- Fratello. _____
- Sorella. _____
- Nonno. _____
- Nonna. _____

- Fill in the blanks with the appropriate family member in Italian:
- Il mio _____ si chiama Giovanni. (My father's name is Giovanni.)
- Ho una _____ che si chiama Sofia. (I have a sister named Sofia.)
- La mia _____ è molto anziana. (My grandmother is very old.)



USEFUL ITALIAN PHRASES AND ETIQUETTE TIPS FOR GOING OUT TO EAT



Cosa desidera Lei?

★ What will you have? ★

la colazione
breakfast

le bevande
beverages

il pranzo
lunch

il contorno
side dish

l'antipasto
appetizer

il formaggio
cheese

la cena
dinner

il dolce
dessert

Non mangio...

I don't eat...

il pesce
fish

le uova
eggs

la carne
meat



etiquette



Don't expect the waiter to bring the bill.



Enjoy your meal slowly.



Don't cut spaghetti.



Arrive late.



Don't expect breakfast.



Go where the locals go!

Buon Appetito!

FOOD AND DINING

Learning:

- Cibo (Food).
- Bread: Pane
- Pasta: Pasta
- Cheese: Formaggio
- Meat: Carne
- Fish: Pesce
- Vegetables: Verdure
- Fruits: Frutta
- Dessert: Dolce
- Ristorante (Restaurant):
- Menu: Menu
- Table: Tavolo
- Waiter/Waitress: Cameriere/Cameriera
- Order: Ordinare
- Dish: Piatto
- Fork: Forchetta
- Knife: Coltello
- Spoon: Cucchiaino

EXAMPLES:

- Mi piace il pane fresco. (I like fresh bread.)
- Adoro la pasta al pomodoro. (I love pasta with tomato sauce.)
- Mangio formaggio ogni giorno. (I eat cheese every day.)
- Guardiamo il menu prima di ordinare. (Let's look at the menu before ordering.)
- Mi piace sedermi al tavolo vicino alla finestra. (I like to sit at the table near the window.)
- Vorrei ordinare il piatto del giorno, per favore. (I would like to order the dish of the day, please.)

EXERCISE:

Part 1: Food Vocabulary

- Match the Italian food items with their English translations:

- Pane _____
- Pasta _____
- Formaggio _____
- Carne _____
- Pesce _____
- Verdure _____
- Frutta _____
- Dolce _____

- Fill in the blanks with the appropriate food item in Italian:

- Mi piace mangiare la _____ al pomodoro. (I like to eat pasta with tomato sauce.)
- Oggi ho comprato del _____ per fare un panino. (Today I bought some cheese to make a sandwich.)
- Le _____ sono una fonte importante di vitamine. (Fruits are an important source of vitamins.)





















DIRECTION AND PLACES



- Where is...?: **Dov'è...?**
- Turn left: **Gira a sinistra**
- Turn right: **Gira a destra**
- Go straight: **Vai dritto**
- Stop: **Fermati**
- Here: **Qui**
- There: **Lì**

- Near: **Vicino**
- Far: **Lontano**
- Next to: **Accanto a**
- Across from: **Di fronte a**
- Between: **Tra**
- Behind: **Dietro**
- In front of: **Davanti a**

SCHOOL scuola		PARK parco	
CHURCH chiesa		BANK banca	
CITY HALL municipio		NEWSSTAND edicola	
MUSEUM museo		SHOP negoziò	
POST OFFICE ufficio postale		RESTAURANT ristorante	
HOSPITAL ospedale		CINEMA cinema	
PHARMACY farmacia		PETROL STATION benzinaio	
LIBRARY biblioteca		TRAIN STATION stazione	
SUPERMARKET supermercato		AIRPORT aeroporto	

- **Dov'è la stazione? (Where is the train station?)**
- **Gira a sinistra alla prossima strada. (Turn left at the next street.)**
- **La pizzeria è lì, alla tua destra. (The pizzeria is there, on your right.)**
- **Ho bisogno di andare in farmacia. (I need to go to the pharmacy.)**
 - **Il museo è chiuso oggi. (The museum is closed today.)**
- **L'ufficio postale è di fronte alla banca. (The post office is across from the bank.)**

EXERCISE:

- Fill in the blanks with the appropriate place in Italian:
- Ho bisogno di andare in __. (I need to go to the pharmacy.)
- Il museo è chiuso oggi. Il ____ è aperto? (The museum is closed today. Is the restaurant open?)
- L'ufficio postale è di fronte alla __. (The post office is across from the bank.)

'Part 2: Describing Locations

- Choose the correct preposition to complete the sentence:
 - Il parco è ____ al supermercato. (vicino / lontano)
 - La farmacia è ____ all'ospedale. (accanto a / di fronte a)
 - Il museo è ____ alla biblioteca. (dietro / davanti a)



WEATHER & SEASONS

Stagioni

Seasons

primavera

estate

autunno

inverno



marzo

aprile

maggio

giugno

luglio

agosto

settembre

ottobre

novembre

dicembre

gennaio

febbraio

Lawless Italian 


- Il tempo (Weather): Learn common weather terms in Italian.
 - Sunny: Soleggiato
 - Cloudy: Nuvoloso
 - Rainy: Piovoso
 - Windy: Ventoso
 - Snowy: Nevoso
- Temperature: Temperatura
 - Hot: Caldo
 - Cold: Freddo

Introducing the days of the week in Italian

lunedì

 **Monday**
 LOON-eh-DEE



martedì

 **Tuesday**
 MAHR-teh-DEE



mercoledì

 **Wednesday**
 MERH-kohl-eh-DEE



giovedì

 **Thursday**
 JOH-veh-DEE

venerdì

 **Friday**
 VEHN-ehr-DEE

sabato

 **Saturday**
 SAH-bah-TOH

domenica

 **Sunday**
 DO-meh-nee-KAH

example:

- In primavera i fiori sbocciano. (In spring, the flowers bloom.)
- Andiamo al mare in estate. (We go to the beach in summer.)
- In autunno le foglie cadono dagli alberi. (In autumn, the leaves fall from the trees.)
- Com'è il tempo oggi? - È nuvoloso. (What's the weather like today? - It's cloudy.)
- Sta piovendo, meglio prendere l'ombrello. (It's raining, better take an umbrella.)
- Fuori fa caldo, possiamo andare a fare una passeggiata. (It's hot outside, we can go

EX...

- Fill in the blanks with the appropriate season in Italian:
 - In _ i fiori sbocciano. (In spring, the flowers bloom.)
 - Andiamo al mare in _. (We go to the beach in summer.)
- In _ le foglie cadono dagli alberi. (In autumn, the leaves fall from the trees.)
- Durante l'_____ fa freddo e nevica. (During winter, it's cold and snowy.)

Part 2: Talking about the Weather

- Translate the following phrases from English to Italian:
 - What's the weather like today?
 - It's raining.
 - It's hot outside.
 - It's cold inside.
- Complete the sentences with the appropriate weather expression in Italian:
 - Oggi è una giornata molto _ . (Today is a very _____ day.)
 - Fuori fa molto _ . (Outside, it's very _.)
 - Dentro fa _ . (Inside, it's _.)



HOBBIES

leisure activities

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IL TEMPO LIBERO



FARE GIARDINAGGIO



LEGGERE



DIPINGERE



FARE FOTOGRAFIE



SUONARE LA CHITARRA



MANGIARE



CANTARE



GIOCARE AI VIDEOGIOCHI



CUCINARE



ASCOLTARE LA MUSICA



ANDARE IN BICI



GIOCARE A CALCIO

- Reading: Lettura
- Gardening: Giardinaggio
- Cooking: Cucinare
- Painting: Pittura
- Dancing: Danza
- Fishing: Pesca
- Hiking: Escursionismo
- Playing music: Suonare musica



EXAMPLE:

- **Mi piace leggere libri nel mio tempo libero.**
(I enjoy reading books in my free time.)
- **Mia nonna ama fare giardinaggio nel suo giardino.**
(My grandma loves gardening in her garden.)
- **Cucinare è un hobby divertente e gratificante.**
(Cooking is a fun and rewarding hobby.)

- **Attività ricreative (Leisure Activities):**
 - **Watching movies: Guardare film**
 - **Traveling: Viaggiare**
 - **Photography: Fotografia**
- **Birdwatching: Osservazione degli uccelli**
 - **Knitting: Lavorare a maglia**
- **Playing board games: Giocare a giochi da tavolo**
 - **Yoga: Yoga**
- **Birdwatching: Osservazione degli uccelli**

SHOPPING AND BARGAINING



Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II

- Shopping (Shopping):
 - Store: Negozio
- Shopping mall: Centro commerciale
 - Market: Mercato
- Cashier: Cassiere/Cassiera
 - Customer: Cliente
 - Sale: Saldi
 - Price: Prezzo
 - Discount: Sconto



• Dialogo di acquisto (Shopping Dialogue):

Customer: Buongiorno, posso aiutarla? (Good morning, can I help you?)

Shopkeeper: Buongiorno! Sto cercando un regalo per mia moglie. (Good morning! I'm looking for a gift for my wife.)

Customer: Che ne pensa di questo vestito? (What do you think about this dress?)

Shopkeeper: È molto elegante. Posso offrirle uno sconto se lo prende insieme alla borsa. (It's very elegant. I can offer you a discount if you take it together with the bag.)

Customer: Ottimo, lo prendo! (Great, I'll take it!)

EXERCISE:

Match the Italian shopping terms with their English translations.

- **Negozi**
- **Centro commerciale**
- **Mercato**
- **Cassiere/Cassiera**
- **Cliente**
- **Saldi**
- **Prezzo**
- **Sconto**

- a. Store**
- b. Shopping mall**
- c. Market**
- d. Cashier**
- e. Customer**
- f. Sale**
- g. Price**
- h. Discount**



see you in Italy

ci vediamo in Italia

CIAO!