

Italian Language

Syllabus

This is a single course divided into two parts, the intensive half and the consolidation half. Though adjustments may be made for the rate of progress of the students, ordinarily the first 6 units are covered in the intensive month, while the final 7 units are studied during the two months of the consolidation course.

Textbooks:

Mezzadri and Balboni, Italiano: pronti, via! (Guerra Edizioni)

Nocchi, Grammatica pratica della lingua italiana (Alma Edizioni)

Unit 1

Grammar: the alphabet, sounds, and numbers

Communicative module: greetings, asking names, introductions, saying goodbye

Vocabulary: greetings, Italian names

Unit 2

Review of previous unit

Grammar: the verbs *essere*, *avere*, *chiamarsi*, *stare*, subject pronouns, negatives

Communicative module: asking where someone comes from, asking after someone's health

Vocabulary: countries of the world and nationalities, health

Unit 3

Review of previous unit

Grammar: question words, regular nouns

Communicative module: speaking about one's work, knowing how to ask about other people's jobs

Vocabulary: jobs

Unit 4

Review of previous unit

Grammar: irregular nouns, first conjugation of regular verbs

Communicative module: asking the time, ordering in a café or restaurant, talking about one's birth date

Vocabulary: the hours of the day, the days of the week, the months of the year, food in Italy, restaurants and cafés in Italy

Unit 5

Review of previous unit

Grammar: regular *-ire* and *-ere* verbs, primary irregular verbs, courtesy forms of address

Communicative module: booking a hotel room, a table at a restaurant, or a train ticket, asking for information

Vocabulary: traveling in Italy, hotels and other accommodations, transportation in Italy, Italian trains

Unit 6

Review of previous unit

Grammar: determinate and indeterminate articles, the verb *piacere*, adverbs of frequency

Communicative module: speaking about hobbies and habits, favorite things, and things that one doesn't like

Vocabulary: sports, hobbies, music, and cinema in Italy, animals and nature

Unit 7

Review of previous unit

Grammar: modal verbs, the verb *sapere*, qualifying adjectives

Communicative module: describing a place, asking for information and understanding the answers, giving directions

Vocabulary: roads, piazzas, and layout of Italian cities, public spaces, street directions

Unit 8

Review of previous unit

Grammar: possessive adjectives

Communicative module: speaking about one's family, about relationships with other people, about one's hometown, house, and pets

Vocabulary: family members, houses, rooms, and furniture

Unit 9

Review of previous unit

Grammar: reflexive and reciprocal verbs, simple prepositions

Communicative module: talking about one's day, describing daily activities, daily habits

Vocabulary: Italian lifestyles, stereotypes and truths about Italians

Unit 10

Review of previous unit

Grammar: the past tense (*passato prossimo*)

Communicative module: speaking about and describing the past, past vacations, time phrases for the past

Vocabulary: tourism in Italy, travel, tourist destinations in Italy and the world

Unit 11

Review of previous unit

Grammar: direct and indirect pronouns

Communicative module: speaking about shopping, about one's preferences, shopping in a store and expressing one's relative wants and needs

Vocabulary: shops in Italy, fads and fashions in Italy, clothes, colors

Unit 12

Review of previous unit

Grammar: the imperfect tense, the past tense vs. the imperfect

Communicative module: speaking about one's childhood, making comparisons about life in the past and contemporary life, talking about the weather

Vocabulary: weather, school, styles and habits of life in the past

Unit 13

Review of previous unit

Grammar: the simple future tense, the simple conditional

Communicative module: speaking about the future, about one's hopes and desires, of probability and possibility, describing one's plans for the future

Vocabulary: horoscopes, the environment, retirement, famous old people in Italy