

Getting Started The Italian Alphabet

The Italian alphabet has only 21 letters, but there are names in Italian for all of the Latin letters, including those traditionally described as foreign to Italian. The letters which are foreign to Italian are listed in parenthesis and are included together with the Italian alphabet given below. The written form of each letter's name in Italian and the phonetic pronunciation are listed in separate columns.

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Italian Name</u>	<u>Phonetic Pronunciation</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>Italian Name</u>	<u>Phonetic Pronunciation</u>
a	a	ah	u	u	oo
b	bi	bee	v	vu/vi	voo/vee
c	ci	chee	(w)	doppia vu	doh-pee-ah voo
d	di	dee	(x)	ics	eeks
e	é	eh	(y)	ipilon	eep-see-lohn
f	èffe	ehf-feh		i greca	ee greh-ka
g	gi	jee	z	zèta	zeh-tah
h	àcca	ah-kah			
i	i	ee			
(j)	i lunga	ee loon-gah			
(k)	càppa	kahp-pah			
l	èlle	ehl-eh			
m	èmme	ehm-eh			
n	ènne	ehn-eh			
o	ò	oh			
p	pi	pee			
q	cu	koo			
r	èrre	ehr-reh			
s	èsse	es-seh			
t	ti	tee			

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The Italian Sound Combinations

Here is the Italian alphabet again, with an example word in Italian to represent how each written letter should sound, as well as an example of an English word that has an equivalent sound. If the sounds are identical in Italian and English, no explanation is given. Multiple examples will be given for a letter if the pronunciation can vary. Italian is one of the most phonetic (and beautiful) languages spoken, and a little time spent learning how to pronounce the letter combinations will make learning this language much easier!

Letters(s)	Italian Pronunciation	English Pronunciation Equivalent	
a	cane	father	(ah sound)
b	bene	bell	
ca/co/cu	casa	cat	(hard c sound)
ci	ciao	cheese	(soft ch with long ee sound)
ce	cena	cheddar	(soft ch with short e sound)
chi	chi	key	(hard c with long ee sound)
che	che	kennel	(hard c with sort e sound)
d	dado	dad	
e	era	bet	(eh sound)
e	vedi	bait	(ay sound)
f	farfalla	fan	
ga/go/gu	gusto	good	(hard g sound)
gi	giro	jeer	(soft j with long ee sound)
ge	gettare	jet	(soft j with short e sound)
gli	figlio	million	(gli is a unique Italian sound similar to the "lli" in million, pronounced like mil-lyee-on)*
gn	signora	onion	(sounds like the "ni" in onion)
h	--	--	(h is not pronounced in Italian)
i	vita	meet	(long ee sound)
l	luna	love	
m	mamma	mother	
n	non	no	
o	sole	soap	(oh sound)
o	modo	law	(aw sound)

*To form the sound that corresponds to the letter combination "gli" in Italian, place the tip of your tongue behind your upper teeth. Then, raise the back part of your tongue to the palate and roll your tongue forward to form the guttural "gl" sound that is a part of this combination. Finish with the "yee" sound. By listening, you will note the word **gli (the)** stresses the guttural sound, but when placed in the middle of the word, such as with **figlio (son)**, the "yee" part of the sound is stressed.

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The Italian Sound Combinations (cont'd)

Letters(s)	Italian Pronunciation	English Pronunciation Equivalent	
p	pasta	pasta	
qu	quanto	quest	(qu together makes the kw sound)
r	Roma	---	(r is always trilled in Italian)
s	rossa	toss	(hard s)
s	rosa	nose	(soft s)
sch	schivo	skeet	(s + chi makes hard skey sound)
sche	schema	skill	(s + che makes hard skeh sound)
sci	sciare	shield	(soft sh sound with long ee sound)
sce	scemo	shed	(soft sh sound with short e sound)
t	tu	to	
u	uva	boot	(oo sound)
v	vincere	vine	
z	zero	zero	(soft z)
z	pizza	pizza	(hard z, like tz sound)

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General Pronunciation and Stress for Italian Words

The Italian language is a phonetic language, and so each letter in an Italian word needs to be pronounced to create the final sound. If two vowels are written next to each other, both are pronounced, but the sound is a combined sound (referred to as a diphthong). There are many pronunciation rules, which include rules for consonants, pure vowels and semivowels, but the easiest thing to remember is just to pronounce what you see! Here is where listening will also be invaluable. First read the Italian word and then try to say it out loud. Listen to the *Conversational Italian Audio Dialogue Book* chapter that corresponds to the chapter you are working on in this textbook, and see if your pronunciation is correct. Try to pronounce the word again, and then listen once more!

Most Italian words will be stressed on the second to last syllable, which is easy to remember if the word contains only three syllables - just stress the syllable in the middle of the word. In general, a syllable in Italian is usually made up of a vowel or consonant group with its vowel. So, for many Italian words, just look for the vowel in the middle of the word and stress the syllable it goes with by making your intonation a little higher and more forceful. The word **ragazzo**, for instance, which means **boy**, will place the stress on the /gaz/ sound.

ragazzo: ra/GAZ/zo

There are many exceptions to this rule, however, and the first syllable is stressed instead in many cases for words with three syllables, while the second syllable is often stressed in words with four syllables, as in **sabato** (**Saturday**) and **domenica** (**Sunday**).

sabato: SA/ba/to
domenica: do/ME/ni/ca

A vowel alone can also form a complete syllable. **Abito** (**I live**), is a verb with three syllables where the first syllable, which happens to be the vowel /a/ is stressed.

abito: A/bi/to

In the few cases where the very last syllable is stressed, the vowel at the end of the word will be given a grave (`) accent, as in **città** (**city**) or **caffè** (**coffee**). Otherwise, accents are infrequently used in Italian, and pronunciation is learned by listening!

For words with double consonants, hold the original sound of the consonant a little longer. For similar words, this can change the meaning; **casa** (**house**) or **cassa** (**cash register**)!

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Masculine and Feminine Nouns and Definite Articles

Italian, and all of the romance languages, have what are called masculine and feminine nouns. When referring to a person, the ending of the noun for the person's name must match that person's gender. As we all know, nouns refer not only to people, but also to places and things. In Italian, even references to a place or an object will be either masculine or feminine, as assigned by the rules of linguistics. In Italian, all nouns will be either masculine or feminine.

The definite article - the word "the" in English - will change in Italian to reflect the gender of the noun that is being modified. It is necessary to learn both the definite article and the noun together in order to speak fluently, so the definite article will always be included with the nouns given in the vocabulary lists. In some cases where the definite article is followed by an apostrophe, the combined sounds create one spoken "word" instead of two.

Here are some general rules:

For the most part, Italian nouns that end in **-a** will be designated as feminine, and take the definite article **la**, which means **the**.

For the most part, Italian nouns that end in **-o** will be masculine, and take the definite article **il**, which also means **the**.

There are also Italian nouns that end in **-e**, and these can be *in some cases masculine*, and *in other cases feminine*, as assigned by the rules of linguistics. Feminine nouns that end in **-e** will take **la** and masculine nouns that end in **-e** will take **il** as their definite article.

If the noun begins with a vowel, whether it is masculine or feminine, **l'** will be used as the definite article.

For Italian masculine nouns that begin with **s + consonant, z, ps, gn**, or for foreign words incorporated into Italian that begin with the letters **x** or **y**, the definite article **lo** will be used.

For plural nouns, the definite articles will also change. Each noun, then, will have at least two forms, either singular or plural. For nouns that refer to people, this creates four different possibilities: masculine singular, masculine plural, feminine singular and feminine plural!

Please see the table and examples that summarize these rules on the following page.

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Masculine and Feminine Nouns and Definite Articles (cont'd - 2)

*****Italian Definite Article – The*****

	Masculine Definite Article (singular/plural)		Feminine Definite Article (singular/plural)
Noun begins with a consonant	il / i		la / le
Noun begins with s+consonant, z, ps,gn or x	lo / gli		
Noun begins with a vowel	l' / gli		l' / le

	Masculine Definite Article (singular/plural)		Feminine Definite Article (singular/plural)
Noun begins with a consonant	il ragazzo / i ragazzi the boy / the boys		la ragazza / le ragazze the girl / the girls
Noun begins with s+consonant, z, ps, gn x or y	lo zio / gli zii the uncle the uncles		
Noun begins with a vowel	l'amico / gli amici the (male) friend / the (male) friends		l'amica / le amiche+ the (girl) friend / the (girl) friends = the girlfriends

+Notice the letter "h" has been inserted in this case before the letter "e," but do not worry about this for now. Its function is just to maintain the correct sound.

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Masculine and Feminine Nouns and Definite Articles - Examples for Nouns That End in the Letter **E**

Nouns that end in **-ore**, **-one**, **-ale**, and **-ile** are masculine, so the letter **-e** will change to an **-i** in the plural, and the definite articles **il**, **l'** and **i** will be used to correspond to the masculine origin of the noun. Below is a list of commonly used words we will encounter later in the text that have an **-e** ending and are masculine.

il dottore	the doctor	i dottori	the doctors
l'attore	the actor	gli attori	the actors
il direttore	the manager	i direttori	the managers
lo scrittore	the writer	gli scrittori	the writers
l'albergatore	the hotel owner	gli albergatori	the hotel owners
il viaggiatore	the traveler	i viaggiatori	the travelers
il giornale	the newspaper	i giornali	the newspapers
il badile	the shovel	i badili	the shovels
il pallone	the soccer ball	i palloni	the soccer balls

Nouns that end in **-ione** and **-ice** are feminine, and will take the feminine definite articles in the singular and plural: **la**, **l'** and **le**. However, the **-e** ending of the noun will change to an **-i**. In this case, the definite article in the plural is a reminder of the feminine origin of the noun. Below is a list of commonly used words we will encounter later in the text that have an **-e** ending and are feminine. Notice that for the professions, the **-ice** ending is the feminine counterpart to the masculine **-ore**.

l'attrice	the actress	le attrici	the actresses
la direttrice	the manager	le direttrici	the directors
la scrittrice	the writer	le scrittrici	the writers
l'albergatrice	the hotel owner	le albergatrici	the hotel owners
la viaggiatrice	the traveler	le viaggiatrici	the travelers
la stagione	the season	le stagioni	the seasons

*Unit 1 -
Transportation*

*(Picture of Gondolas)
center*

*Other pictures of train stations, airplanes, taxis
and buses along perimeter*

Cultural Note - The World in Italian

When Americans travel, we travel to a place - to Italy, to Rome, to the northeast. Italians travel directly **in** (**in**) a country, region, or large island, but **to** (**a**) a city, town, or small island. (In Italian, the word for **in** is the same as in English... **in**!) For instance, Caterina lives **in America**, but **a Chicago**, as we have seen in our first dialogue. Here is a list of the Italian words for the continents and a selection of the countries of **the world** (**il mondo**), along with some capital cities. Notice that by convention the definite article (**the**) (**il**, **la**, or **l'**) is used to refer to countries, except when talking about traveling directly into them!

Europe	l'Europa	Africa	l' Africa
Austria	l'Austria	Asia	l'Asia
Belgium	il Belgio	Central America	l'America Centrale
<i>Brussels</i>	<i>Bruxelles</i>	Europe	l'Europa
Denmark	la Danimarca	Middle East	il Medio Oriente
England	l'Inghilterra	North America	l'America del nord
<i>London</i>	<i>Londra</i>	South America	l'America del sud
France	la Francia	Australia	l'Australia
<i>Paris</i>	<i>Parigi</i>		
Germany	la Germania	Argentina	l'Argentina
<i>Berlin</i>	<i>Berlino</i>	Brazil	il Brasile
Greece	la Grecia	Canada	il Canada
<i>Athens</i>	<i>Atene</i>	Chile	il Cile
Holland	l'Olanda	China	la Cina
<i>Amsterdam</i>	<i>Amsterdam</i>	Egypt	l'Egitto
Ireland	l'Irlanda	<i>Cairo</i>	<i>il Cairo*</i>
<i>Dublin</i>	<i>Dublino</i>	India	l'India
Italy	l'Italia	Indonesia	l'Indonesia
<i>Rome</i>	<i>Roma</i>	Japan	il Giappone
Norway	la Norvegia	Korea	la Corea
Poland	la Polonia	Mexico	il Messico
Portugal	il Portogallo	Pakistan	il Pakistan
<i>Lisbon</i>	<i>Lisbona</i>	Russia	la Russia
Scandinavia	la Scandinavia	<i>Moscow</i>	<i>Mosca</i>
Spain	la Spagna	Turkey	la Turchia
<i>Madrid</i>	<i>Madrid</i>	United States	gli Stati Uniti
Sweden	la Svezia	Viet Nam	il Vietnam
Switzerland	la Svizzera		

In this case, **il Cairo** is the name of the city, rather than the word **Cairo** alone, by convention.

Chapter 1 - At the Airport

Grammar Note - **Buono** and **Bello**

Buono is a word you will hear quite often - so many things are **good** in Italy! But, the form of this adjective will change according to the masculine or feminine form of the noun (person, place or thing) it modifies, and also according to where it is placed in the sentence.

For masculine nouns, **buono** is placed either *directly after* the noun, or at the end of the sentence, after the verb **è** for **is** (from the verb **essere**, which we will encounter in the next chapter). In the second case, the adjective **buono** will be separated from the noun it modifies, but both the noun and adjective will agree in gender.

Il giorno è buono The day is good
il giorno buono the good day

But, when the adjective **buono** is placed *before* a masculine noun, the letter **-o** is dropped from **buono** to make **buon**, as in, "**Buon giorno!**" The only exception to this will be if the Italian masculine noun begins with the letters: **s+consonant**, **z**, **ps**, or **gn**. The two most important masculine words to remember in this category are **studente** (**student**) and **zio** (**uncle**). In this case, we are back to our original word, and use **buono!**

Buon giorno! Good day!
il buono studente the good student
il buono zio the good uncle

And, of course, many things are **beautiful** in Italy...so **bello** is an adjective that will come up frequently! **Bello** is used often, not only to refer to things that are **beautiful**, but also with the meanings of **nice**, **fine**, **lovely**, or **handsome**. The rules are similar to those for **buono** - just drop the **-o** ending (and the extra "l" if writing) to make **bel** when it is placed before the noun, unless the noun happens to begin with **s+consonant**, **z**, **ps**, or **gn**.

Il giorno è bello. The day is beautiful.
il giorno bello the beautiful day

il bel giorno the beautiful day
il bello studente the fine student
il bello zio the handsome uncle

Grammar Note - Buona and Bella

For a feminine noun (person, place or thing), the words **buona** and **bella** are used to describe something **good** or **beautiful, nice, fine, lovely, or pretty**, whether placed before or after the noun these adjectives modify.

Buona sera! Good evening!
 La città è **buona**. The city is good.

La **bella** città. The beautiful city.
 La città è **bella**. The city is beautiful.

There is only one exception to this rule: if **buona** or **bella** is placed before a feminine noun that begins with the letter **-a**, simply drop the last letter from **buona** or **bella** and add an apostrophe to make **buon'** or **bell'** for smoother conversation. Since our focus is on conversational Italian, just remember to bring the two words together when speaking, without repeating the **-a** ending, and don't worry for now about the spelling!

la **buon'**amica the good friend
 la **bell'**amica the nice friend

Grammar Note - Buono/Buona and Bello/Bella Summary

Here is a summary of all the rules we've covered. Notice the similarities between **buono** and **bello**, and for now, focus on the most commonly used forms, which are given in bold. But most of all, try to remember the word combinations in our examples; say them out loud, and listen to how smoothly they flow together when the endings are changed to reflect the different forms of each noun and adjective!

Buono –good	Bello – beautiful, nice, fine, lovely, pretty, handsome
Masculine	Masculine
buono - after the noun before nouns that begin with: s+consonant, z, ps, gn	bello - after the noun before nouns that begin with: s+consonant, z, ps, gn
buon - before the noun	bel - before the noun
Feminine	Feminine
buona - before and after the noun	bella - before and after the noun
buon' - before nouns that begin with -a	bell' - before nouns that begin with -a

Grammar Point - Studying Italian Verbs and Italian Subject Pronouns

The action words, or verbs, are the heart of every language. One who knows a wide variety of verbs and how to conjugate them quickly has a much easier time understanding others and also expressing their own point of view. We learn verb conjugation - how to change the form of the verb to reflect the speaker - from our native language, naturally and gradually, over many years as we are growing up, simply by listening to the people around us. By the time we are teenagers, we know how to express present, past, and future tenses to describe both action and time. As adults, often the way we use verbs can denote where we are from as much as our accent does. A verb incorrectly conjugated just sounds wrong to our ears in our native language, and this will soon be the case the more we practice our Italian verbs.

At first, learning how to conjugate Italian verbs may seem complicated to the English speaker, and for good reason. In English, we rely on the subject pronouns - I, you, he, she, etc., to signal who is doing the talking. In Italian, however, the speaker is signaled by the verb endings themselves. A different ending must be learned for each speaker for each form of the verb! Since the Italian verb endings are different for each speaker, the subject pronouns are only included for emphasis in Italian. More often than not, subject pronouns are left out of the sentence in conversational Italian. As an example, in cases where the word "it" is the subject, the third person singular verb form is used, but the subject pronoun "it" is always omitted. But, with a little practice (that is with "verb drills," which are available in the *Conversational Italian Audio Dialogue Practice Book*), this way of speaking will become more easily understood and the correct conjugation of the verb alone will be easy to remember and just "sound right."

The table below shows the order in which all subject pronouns will be listed when learning each verb form, with the technical names (first, second, third person) for each type of conjugation. At first, when learning to conjugate a verb, try to focus only on the **io**, **tu**, and **noi** forms, as these forms will be used the most in conversation; and luckily, the endings will be the same in the present tense for all three major Italian verb forms!

***** Subject Pronouns *****

io	I	1st person singular
tu	you (familiar)	2nd person singular
Lei/lei/lui	you (polite)/she/he/(it)	3rd person singular
noi	we	1st person plural
voi	you all (familiar)	2nd person plural
Loro/loro	you all (polite)/they	3rd person plural

Grammar Point - The Many Forms of "You" in Italian - Singular Forms

In Italian, when we address someone as "you," different subject pronouns and verb endings are used. As we've seen already from the examples in the prior verb sections from this chapter, there are four different subject pronouns and verb endings in Italian that all mean "you" - for each verb! How do we know which is the correct form to use in a given situation? Since this is the first time we are studying verbs, we will go through the situations when each form of "you" is used. Also, throughout the text from here on, references to the familiar (fam.) and polite (pol.) forms of the Italian verbs may appear for clarity after the English translation of the verb.

Keep in mind that for conversational Italian, the familiar is used very commonly in Italy today, so if you can remember the verb endings for the **io**, **tu**, and **noi** forms (which will be the same for each subject pronoun in all three conjugations), you are well on your way to speaking Italian! Remember these forms when you speak; recognize the other forms when you are listening.

You familiar (singular) – tu with an –i ending for the –are, –ere, and –ire verbs is used for people you know well, or are familiar with – family (always with children), friends, or someone you would like to be a friend. For instance, "**Tu parli italiano?**" uses the "familiar you" form of the verb **parlare** to ask the question, "**Do you speak Italian?**" Remember this form for traveling, as it can be used in almost all situations.

You polite (singular) – Lei with an –a ending for the –are verbs is used for people you do not know or have just met, and to be respectful toward someone older than you. "**Lei parla italiano?**" also means, "**Do you speak Italian?**" but asks this question in a more polite way than the example given in the last paragraph. This form of the verb, called the "polite" or "formal form," is important to show respect to others. For the traveler, who is often a customer, the hotel personnel or the salespeople in a shop may use the polite form. You, in turn, may also want to use this polite form when making requests, and this will be emphasized throughout the text. Notice that in our dialogue, the stewardess Maria uses the "polite you" when she says to Caterina, whom she has just met, "**Lei parla italiano molto bene.**" The response may be in the familiar or polite form, and the situation will usually determine what form the rest of the conversation will continue in. We will focus on the appropriate use of the polite form and how and when to switch to the familiar form in Unit 2.

In written Italian, the subject pronoun **Lei** is capitalized in formal situations. In spoken Italian, the meaning of **Lei**, which means **polite you**, and **lei**, which means **she**, is, of course, understood from the situation.

Grammar Point - The Many Forms of "You" in Italian - Plural Forms

You familiar (plural) – voi with an –ate ending for the –are verbs is used when calling a group of people "you." In this text, this form will be referred to as the "you all" form, since the use of this subject pronoun is similar to the colloquial phrase used in the southern states of America. If speaking directly to a group of people you know, such as your family, use this form. Tour guides when addressing "all of you" on the tour will probably use this form, as they will become familiar with the members of the tour group.

When asking shop clerks, "Do you have...?" use this form for the "collective you" that includes owners and shopkeepers, and start your question with, "Avete...?" "Do you all have...? To ask a group of people if they speak Italian, we can say, "Voi parlate italiano?" which means, "Do you all speak Italian?"

You polite (plural) – Loro with an –ano ending for –are verbs. Loro is capitalized to distinguish the "polite plural you" from loro, which means they. Loro as the "polite you plural" is almost never used by Italians today, and it gives the language a very stiff feeling when it is occasionally used. In a very formal situation, Loro may be used to address a group of people, but it is unlikely one will encounter this use while traveling. So, the word Loro with a capital "L" to mean "polite you all" will not be included in the tables used to present verb conjugation after this section.

Finally, then, if we want to ask a group of people if they speak Italian in an extremely formal way, we could say, "Loro parlano italiano?" which, again, means, "Do you all (to a group) speak Italian?" When making a general statement about a group of people, one would also say, "Loro parlano italiano," to mean, "They speak Italian."

***** Subject Pronouns *****

io	I	1 st person singular
tu	you (familiar)	2 nd person singular
Lei/lei/lui	you (polite)/she/he/(it)	3 rd person singular
noi	we	1 st person plural
voi	you all (familiar)	2 nd person plural
Loro/loro	you all (polite)/they	3 rd person plural

Idiomatic Expressions - **Dove** and **Ecco**

As in English, many Italian expressions do not make sense if each word is translated literally, but together the words do have a significant meaning. These types of phrases can be called "idiomatic expressions." Note that many of the meeting/greeting phrases are idiomatic expressions in Italian, and just need to be memorized. Here are a few more. For instance, the interrogative expressions for **where is/where are** are **dov'è** and **dove sono**. The typical answer of **here/there is/are** is **ecco**. **Ecco** is a single word in Italian that encompasses both the adverbs **here/there** and the verbs **is/are**. Note that **ecco** is used to point out something in plain sight.

Students can practice together to enlarge their vocabulary in each section using these expressions. For instance, one student can ask the next, "**Dov'è l'Italia?**" for "**Where is the (country of) Italy?**" and the response will be, "**Ecco l'Italia!**" for "**Here Italy is!**" when pointing to the correct country on a map.

Dove?	Where?
Dov'è...?	Where is...?
Dove sono ...?	Where are...?
Ecco...	Here is.../Here are... There is.../There are...
Eccolo!/Eccola!	Here he is!/Here she is!/Here it is!
Eccomi!	Here I am!

To ask someone where they are from, combine the prepositions, **di (of/from)** or **da (from)** with **dove** and a verb, as in the examples below. Either of the two phrases below can be used. (The grammar for this will be covered in Chapter 2). To make it easy to remember the response, simply repeat the same preposition and verb you hear in the question when giving your answer! It should be noted that Italians often answer with the largest city nearest to their town of origin, so you might want to do that also, especially as most Italians are familiar with the names of the larger cities in America.

Di dov'è Lei?	Where are you (pol.) from? (lit. From where are you?)
Di dove sei?	Where are you (fam.) from? (lit. From where are you?)
Sono di Chicago.	I am of (from) Chicago.
Da dove viene?	Where (do) you (pol.) come from? (lit. From where do you come?)
Da dove vieni?	Where (do) you (fam.) come from? (lit. From where do you come?)
Vengo da Chicago.	I come from Chicago.

Grammar Point - **C'è** and **Ci sono** vs. **Ecco**

In the very first chapter, we learned that **ecco** is an expression that means both **here is** and **here are**. **Ecco** has been a very useful expression throughout our dialogues when Caterina is giving a document or payment to someone, or when Caterina is pointing out something that she has seen. In each instance, there is an object that is in plain sight.

Notice, however, that there is another common way to say "there is" from the dialogue in this chapter, when Pietro makes a general statement about the traffic: "**C'è molto traffico**," which translates as, "**There is a lot of traffic**." **C'è** is the elided (contracted) form of **ci** and **è**, which means **there is**. **Ci sono** is the form of this phrase that means **there are**. These expressions can be used when speaking of the existence of something whether it can be seen or not.

Along these lines, if you ask someone in Italy how they feel, or how things are going for them, they may reply, "**Non c'è male**," which is the equivalent of the English, "**Not too badly**." When you spend time in Italy, you will hear phrases that use **c'è** often, in many different situations, and we will continue to encounter them in the remainder of our text.

Numbers - Counting 0 - 10

We will focus on numbers in every chapter of the first two units. Numbers are important in the daily life of a traveler, as you can imagine, for making reservations or purchasing goods and services.

Flash cards that children use when learning their addition or multiplication can be a fun way to practice numbers in a group. Each student can take turns picking a card, any card, out of the pile, and say the number in Italian!

0	zero	Zero will change to the plural zeri when describing more than one of the numbers (i.e. 100 has two zeros , or due zeri).
1	uno	
2	due	
3	tre	
4	quattro	
5	cinque	
6	sei	

7 sette

8 otto

9 nove

10 dieci

Cultural Note - Describing Nationality

In order to explain where we are from, we must use adjectives that identify our country of origin. For men, adjectives of nationality end in **-o** and change to an **-i** in the plural, and for women, these same adjectives end in **-a** and change to **-e** in the plural. So, a man from Italy is **italiano**, but a woman is **italiana**. Adjectives of nationality that have only one form for both men and women usually end in **-ese**. What to do if the adjective describing nationality ends in an **-e**? Well, use the same **-e** ending for both men and women, and for the plural, change the letter **-e** to an **-i**. Adjectives of nationality always follow the noun, and are not capitalized.

European	uropeo(a)	African	africano(a)
Austrian	austriaco(a)	Asian	asiatico(a)
Belgian	belga(a)*		
Danish	danese	Central American	centroamericano(a)
Dutch	olandese	European	uropeo(a)
English	inglese	Middle Eastern	mediorientale
French	francese	North American	nordamericano(a)
German	tedesco(a)	South American	sudamericano(a)
Grecian	greco(a) <i>(plural greci, greche)</i>	Australian	australiano(a)
Irish	irlandese		
Italian	italiano(a)	Argentinian	argentino(a)
Norwegian	norvegese	Brazilian	brasiliano(a)
Polish	polacco(a)	Canadian	canadese
Portugese	portoghese	Chilean	cileno(a)
Scandinavian	scandinavo(a)	Chinese	cinese
Spanish	spagnolo(a)	Egyptian	egiziano(a)
Swedish	svedese	Indian	indiano(a)
Swiss	svizzero(a)	Indonesian	indonesiano(a)
		Japanese	giapponese
		Korean	coreano(a)
		Mexican	messicano(a)
		Pakistan	pachistano(a)
		Russian	russo(a)
		Turkish	turco(a)
		United States (of America)	statunitense
		Vietnamese	vietnamita(a)*

*These nationalities have an irregular singular form that ends in **-a** for both masculine and feminine, but they have a regular plural form that ends in **-i** for masculine and **-e** for feminine..

