



Smart-lesson Nr 17 - Italian, level 1

Topics:

- Present tense: conjugating -are, -ere, -ire verbs in full
- How to say "I", "you", "he/she", etc.
- Revision of "question" words (why, how, where, where to, what)
- How to say "who" and "with whom"
- Revision of all the verbs you have seen so far and how to use them in useful sentences
- Revision of the verb "essere" (to be), "andare" (to go) and comparison with regular verbs
- The remaining conjugations of the verb "fare" (to do) and comparison with regular verbs
- Some useful words (together, tonight, food, my sister, my brother, my mom, my dad, abroad, nothing) and verbs (to buy, to stay) that you can start using with what you already know
- Introduction to "in the"

Lesson:

I think you remember how to conjugate verbs in the present tense in Italian: take any regular verb in the basic form (infinitive), take away the last three letters (the ending), and add the ending(s) for the present tense. The great news is that by using different endings, you can actually form all regular verb forms (tenses) in Italian. Let's now go back to the present tense to learn all the other persons.

As you already know, there are three possible infinitive endings for regular verbs in Italian: -are, -ere, -ire.

E.g. parlar**are**, lavor**are**, cucinar**are**, ascoltar**are**, cammin**are** (to speak, to work, to cook, to listen, to walk)
viv**ere**, ved**ere**, cred**ere**, vend**ere** (to live, to see, to believe, to sell)
dorm**ire**, sent**ire**, part**ire** (to sleep, to hear, to leave for a trip)

The three conjugation types (-are, -ere, -ire) share the conjugation rules and some of the endings: take away **the last three letters** and add the ending -o for the first person singular ("I"), "-i" for the second person singular ("you"), and "**-iamo**" for the first person plural ("we"). E.g.:

ascoltar**e** (to listen) → ascolto (I listen), ascolti (you listen), ascolti**amo** (we listen)

pranzar**e** (to have lunch) → pranzo (I have lunch), pranzi (you have lunch), pranzi**amo** (we have lunch)

cenar**e** (to have dinner) → cen**o** (I have dinner), ceni (you have dinner), cen**iamo** (we have dinner)

camminar**e** (to walk) → cammino (I walk), cammini (you walk), cammini**amo** (we walk)

In the same way:

guardare (to look AND to watch) → guard**o**, guardi, guardi**amo**

vivere (to live) → vivo, vivi, viviamo

vedere (to see AND to watch) → vedo, vedi, vediamo

credere (to believe) → credo, credi, crediamo

vendere (to sell) → vendo, vendi, vendiamo

dormire (to sleep) → dormo, dormi, dormiamo

partire (to leave for a trip) → parto, parti, partiamo

sentire (to hear AND to feel) → sento, senti, sentiamo

N.B. Both “vedere” and “guardare” mean “to watch” (vedo la TV, guardo la TV) but “vedere” also means “I see” (vedo una casa, I see a house/I can see a house), and “guardare” also means “to look at” (guardo la casa = I am looking at the house)

Maybe you are wondering why Italian has 3 different conjugation types if the endings are the same... the endings are different for the remaining persons (he/she, you plural and they).

The good news is that “-ere” and “-ire” are identical apart from the you-plural ending. Let’s see it in practice!

-are

Has, according to its “a” in the infinitive, an -a in the third person singular (he/she), -ate in the second person plural (you plural), and -ano in the third person plural (they).

For example: parlare (to speak) → parla (he/she speaks), → parlate (you guys speak), → parlano (they speak)

-ere

Has, according to its “e” in the infinitive, an -e in the third person singular (he/she) and -ete in the second person plural (you plural).

For example: credere (to believe) → crede (he/she believes), → credete (you guys believe)

-ire

Has, according to its “i” in the infinitive, -ite in the second person plural (you plural).

For example: partire (to leave for a trip) → partite (you guys leave for a trip)

Here below you can find a table to clarify this concept. The table and its explanations are NOT included in the audio file.

	-are	-ere	-ire
I (= Io)		-o	
You (= Tu)		i	
he/she (= Lui/Lei)	-a	-e	-e
We (= Noi)		-iamo	

You plural (= Voi)	-ate	-ete	-ite
They (= Loro)	-ano	-ono	-ono

Letters highlighted in green are used in all 3 of the conjugation types!

Letters highlighted are easy-to-remember because you just need to remember the distinctive infinitive ending (a, e and i in -are, -ere, -ire)!

Letters highlighted in yellow are the exceptions (but they are the same for -ere and -ire!)

The audio starts again from this point.

Let's now look at the full conjugation of three verbs: parlare, vedere and partire.

Subject	-are parlare (to speak)	-ere vedere (to see/to watch)	-ire partire (to leave for a trip)
I (= Io)	parlo	vedo	parto
You (= Tu)	parli	vedi	parti
he/she (= Lui/Lei)	parla	vede	parte
We (= Noi)	parliamo	vediamo	partiamo
You plural (= Voi)	parlate	vedete	partite
They (= Loro)	parlano	vedono	partono

Try to remember one verb for each conjugation, this will serve as a reference every time you want to conjugate a different (regular) verb belonging to the same conjugation. There are hundreds of regular verbs that behave in the exact same way as in the tables above.

In any case, at a beginner level, the persons you will need most frequently are the first three (I, you singular and he/she. Why? Because instead of "we" you can always say things like "I go/went with my friends/wife/husband", and the "you plural" and "they" persons are less frequently used, especially at a beginner level.

If you have a look at the verb "essere" (to be) you will see that its endings are the same as for the verb "vedere" (although the verb "to be" has a very irregular stem). Highlighted in green are the common regular endings, highlighted in blue are the easy-to-remember endings because they are the same as the "ere" ending ("essere"):

I am = sono

You are = sei (one person, informal)

He/she/it is = è

We are = siamo

You are = siete (you plural, to address two or more people directly, both formal and informal)

They are = sono

Similar (but not identical) patterns exist in all the other irregular verbs. For example:

Andare (to go): vado, vai, va, andiamo, andate, vanno

Fare (to do): faccio, fai, fa, facciamo, fate, fanno

In the case of irregular verbs, what changes is mostly the stem.

Let's now revise the "question" words you already know:

How = **come** (as in "Come ti chiami?" = "How are you called")

Why (and "because") = **perché** (as in "Perché parli italiano?")

Where (and "where to") = **dove** (as in "Dove vivi?" and "Dove vai?")

What = **che** (as in "Che lingue parli?")

You know that "con" means "with", so let's learn "with whom": con chi

E.g. **Con chi** vai al mare? = With whom are you going to the beach (sea)?

Let's see everything in useful sentences. Try to understand the meaning by focusing on the verb ending (of course, you can look at the tables provided to you in this lesson).

Domani pranziamo insieme. (**insieme** = together)

Dove cenate domani?

Camminiamo spesso nel parco. (**nel** = in the, masculine singular)

Andiamo spesso al ristorante. (**al** = to the, masculine singular)

Compriamo una pizza? (**comprare** = to buy)

Paolo ascolta spesso la musica.

Vediamo un film stasera? (**stasera** = tonight)

Mia sorella vive a Hong Kong. (**mia sorella** = my sister)

Mio fratello vive in Giappone. (**mio fratello** = my brother)

Mia mamma guarda spesso la TV. (**mia mamma** = my mom)

Mia sorella e mio fratello vivono all'estero. (**all'estero** = abroad, learn it as an expression, it won't change)

Vendono cibo? (= Do they sell food?, **cibo** = food)

Dormono in un albergo (literally: they sleep/are sleeping in a hotel, meaning: they are **staying** in a hotel)

Domani partono alle sette.

Domani Francesca parte per la Spagna.

Non sento niente. (**niente** = nothing)

Maria non balla spesso.

Violetta cucina spesso.

Elisa studia spesso.

Mio fratello e mia sorella parlano portoghese.

Mia mamma e mio padre imparano l'inglese. (**l'inglese** = the English language)

→ Very soon you will be able to say much more!

Well done! Bravo! (or brava!)

Takeaways:

It's impossible to remember everything the first time round. Focus on recurrent and/or important words/structures.

Below are the important takeaways from this lesson (this is what you should try to remember/use/revise).

<p>Grammar points:</p>	<p>Revision:</p> <p><u>Essere</u>: sono, sei, è, siamo, siete, sono</p> <p><u>Andare</u> (to go): vado, vai, va, andiamo, andate, vanno</p> <p><u>Fare</u> (to do): faccio, fai, fa, facciamo, fate, fanno</p> <p>As you already know there are three possible infinitive endings of regular verbs in Italian: -are, -ere, -ire.</p> <p>E.g. parlare, lavorare, vivere, vedere, dormire, sentire</p>	<p>In order to conjugate all regular verbs in all the persons, you should remember the infinitive form. Three persons are common to all persons (“I”, “you singular”, “we”, respectively: -o, -i, -iamo), three persons change their ending according to the infinitive ending (“he/she”, “you plural”, “they”, respectively: lui/lei, voi, loro).</p> <p>Remember one verb for each conjugation:</p> <p><u>Parlare</u>: parlo, parli, parlaa, parliamo, parlate, parlano</p> <p><u>Vedere</u>: vedo, vedi, vede, vediamo, vedete, vedono</p> <p><u>Partire</u>: parto, parti, parte, partiamo, partite, partono.</p> <p>Concentrate on the differences and similarities between the conjugations.</p>
<p>Words:</p>	<p>Let's revise the question words you already know:</p> <p>How = come (as in “Come ti chiami?” = “How are you called”)</p> <p>Why (and “because”) = perché (as in “Perché parli italiano?”)</p> <p>Where (and “where to”) = dove (as in “Dove vivi?” and “Dove vai?”)</p> <p>What = che (as in “Che lingue parli?”)</p> <p>You know that “con” means “with”, so let's learn “with whom”: con chi E.g. Con chi vai al mare? = With whom are you going to the beach (sea)?</p> <p>Some useful words:</p> <p>Insieme = together Domani pranziamo insieme</p> <p>Nel = in the, masculine singular Camminiamo spesso nel parco</p> <p>Comprare = to buy</p>	<p>Mia sorella = my sister Mia sorella vive a Hong Kong.</p> <p>Mio fratello = my brother Mio fratello vive in Giappone.</p> <p>Mia mamma = my mom Mia mamma guarda spesso la TV.</p> <p>All'estero = abroad, learn it as an expression, it won't change Mia sorella e mio fratello vivono all'estero. (My sister and brother live abroad)</p> <p>cibo = food Vendono cibo? (Do they sell food?)</p> <p>Dormono in un albergo (literally: they sleep/are sleeping in a hotel, meaning: they are staying in a hotel)</p> <p>Niente = nothing Non sento niente. (I can't hear anything, e.g. when talking on the phone)</p>

	Compriamo una pizza? (<u>Shall we buy a pizza?</u>)	Stasera = tonight Vediamo un film stasera?
Sentences to remember:	Vivo all'estero (I live abroad) Ceniamo insieme domani? (Shall we have dinner together tomorrow?)	A che ora partite domani? (What time are you leaving tomorrow?) Addressed to more than one person. Dove dormite? (Where are you staying, literally: where are you sleeping)

Homework (Practice time!):

I don't expect you to remember new things straight away: you are of course welcome to have a look at the explanations in order to complete this part. Ideally, from the next lesson onwards, you will try to remember the vocabulary, verbs and structures from previous lessons, before looking them up.

Answer the following questions/Carry out the following tasks:

- Write out all the forms of the verb "parlare" in the present tense: a) (I) parlo, b) (you singular) parli c) (he/she) parla, d) (we) parliamo, e) (you plural) parlate, f) (they) parlano
- Write out all the forms of the verb "vedere" in the present tense: a) (I) vedo, b) (you singular) vedi c) (he/she) vede, d) (we) vediamo, e) (you plural) vedete, f) (they) vedono
- Write out all the forms of the verb "partire" in the present tense: a) (I) parto, b) (you singular) parti c) (he/she) parte, d) (we) partiamo, e) (you plural) partite, f) (they) partono

Translate the following sentences into English:

- Mangiamo insieme domani? Are we eating together tomorrow? (In most cases when Italians say such a sentence they are most likely talking about lunch)
- Come vai al lavoro? How do you get/go to work?
- È francese? Is he/she French?
- Parlano inglese? Do they speak English?

Translate the following sentences into Italian:

- Where are you from?
Di dove sei?

9. I am from London

_____ **Sono di Londra** _____

10. She speaks French

_____ **Parla francese** _____

11. We cook together

_____ **Cuciniamo insieme** _____

React to the following questions (in any way you can):

Ideally, this should be a speaking exercise. If you want to write your answers out, do this afterwards. The aim of this exercise is to train fluency, not accuracy. This means answering/reacting when people talk to you, rather than waiting to have the perfect sentence before responding (maybe the person will leave before you get the chance...!).

Your answer doesn't have to be perfect, just do your best with what you know.

Now it's your turn! React to the following questions:

As the questions in this section can be answered in many different ways (already from the first lesson but even more lesson after lesson), only sometimes answer options will be given. Any answer is good as long as you react!

12. Stefano parla giapponese? **e.g. No, parla cinese**

13. Andate al parco oggi?

14. Vivi in Francia?

15. Ceniamo insieme domani? **e.g. Sì! A che ora?**

**Well done! Bravo! (or brava!)
See you tomorrow!**