



Smart-lesson Nr 18 - Italian, level 1

Topics:

- How to say “Can you...” (or rather, the way to express it)
- How to ask “Where is...?”
- How to say “Do you know (someone, a place, a piece of information)?” and the two verbs to express that
- How to use the verb “fare” in useful conversations
- Difference between “vivere” and “abitare”
- How to say “Do you know where...?”
- How to say “How do you say..., How do you write..., How do you pronounce it?”
- Some useful words that you can already start using (your sister, your brother, not really, in English, bathroom, to ride a bike, to swim, railway station, hotel) and how to use them with what you already know

Lesson:

Listen and repeat: **Sai guidare?**

This means “Can you drive?”

“**Sai**” is the second person singular of the verb “to know” that in Italian is used to express the fact of being able to do something. In fact, Italians say: “Do you know how to drive?” (without saying “how”). It’s worth noting that when in English you want to ask things like “Can you drive?”, “Can you swim?”, “Can you write in Japanese?”, “Can you play the piano”, you should use the verb “to know” in Italian (“**sai**” if you want to ask a question, “**so**” if you are talking about yourself). For example:

Sai scrivere in giapponese? Sì, so scrivere **in** giapponese. (Can you write in Japanese?)

“in”, as in English, is used to explain in what language you say or write something: **in inglese**, in italiano, in francese, in russo.

Sai guidare? Sì, so guidare.

Sai cantare? **Insomma**... non so cantare molto bene... (“insomma”, in this example means “not really”)

Sai cucinare? Sì, so cucinare.

Sai ballare? Sai ballare la salsa? No, non so ballare la salsa.

In Italian there are two verbs “to know”:

1) “**sapere**” (**so, sai**) is used for skills or to say that you know a piece of information in sentences like “I know the address”, “I know his/her phone number”,

2) **“conocere” (conosco, conosci)** is mainly used when referring to people in sentences like “Do you know Maria?”, “Have you ever met Francesco?”.

As these verbs are irregular (“sapere” in the stem, and “conoscere” for the pronunciation), we are going to look at all persons at the same time (but we are going to use the first three persons in this lesson, and the others in future lessons).

The first “to know” verb is “sapere”.

Sapere: (infinitive form)

It is used with the meaning of “I can” or “can you” (and also “do you know where/how to...”)

So (I know)

Sai (You know)

Sa (He/she knows)

Sappiamo (We know)

Sapete (You know, plural)

Sanno (They know)

Have you noticed that “sapere” behaves a bit like a “are” verb and a bit like a “ere” verb? Fortunately, this pattern is very uncommon.

Some more examples with “sapere”:

Sai **nuotare**? (Can you swim?)

Sai cucinare? (Can you cook?)

Sai **andare in bicicletta**? (Can you ride a bicycle?)

You can combine “Sai” with other words like “come”, “dove”, “perché”, etc. to make longer and useful sentences:

Sai dove è il bagno? (Do you know where the toilet/restroom/bathroom is?)

Sai dov'è **la stazione**? (Do you know where the railway station is?)

Sai dov'è **l'albergo**? (Do you know where the hotel is?)

“Dov'è” is the abbreviated form of “dove è” and it means “where is”

Some examples:

Sai dove vive Antonio? (Do you know where Antonio live?)

Sai dove abita Antonio? (Do you know where Antonio live?)

“vivere” usually means “to live” in reference to countries, e.g. in which country you live

“**abitare**” is used when you want to know the actual address.

Sai **come si scrive**? (Do you know how to write it?, literally: do you how one writes it?)

Sai **come si pronuncia**? (Do you know how to pronounce it?, literally: do you how one pronounces it?)

Sai **come si dice** “table” in italiano? Sì: “tavolo”

(Do you know how to say “table” in Italian? Yes, “tavolo”)

Sai **come si cucina** il risotto? Sì, **certo!**

(Do you know how to cook/make “risotto”? Yes, of course!)

Sai **perché** Elisa studia russo? - **Perché** vive in Russia
 (Do you know why Elisa is studying Russian? Because she lives in Russia)
 Sai **dove va** Andrea questo weekend? - No, **non lo so**
 (Do you know where Andrea is going this weekend? No, I don't know)
 Sai **da quando** John studia spagnolo? - Sì, **da un anno**
 (Do you know since when John is studying Spanish? Yes, for one year)

The second “to know” verb is “conoscere”.

Conoscere: (infinitive form)

This verb is often followed by a noun or a name (“Do you know Jim?”)

Conosco (I know)
 Conosci (You know)
 Conosce (He/she knows)
 Conosciamo (We know)
 Conoscete (You know, plural)
 Conoscono (They know)

Pronunciation rule:

-**sc** followed by **o/a/u** is pronounced /sk/, e.g. conos**co**, conos**cono**;
 -**sc** followed by **e/i** is pronounced /sh/, e.g. conos**ci**, conos**ce**

Some examples with “conoscere”:

Conosco bene New York.
 Conosci Andrea?
 Conosci bene Roma?

→ 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><u>In Italian there are two verbs “to know”:</u></p> <p>The first “to know” verb is “sapere”.</p> <p>Sapere: (infinitive form)</p> <p>So Sai Sa</p>	<p>The second “to know” verb is “conoscere”.</p> <p>Conoscere: (infinitive form)</p> <p>Conosco Conosci Conosce Conosciamo Conoscete</p>
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	<p>Sappiamo Sapete Sanno</p> <p><u>Use it when:</u></p> <p>a) You want to say “can you” meaning “are you able to”:</p> <p>For example: Sai nuotare? (Can you swim?) Sai cucinare? (Can you cook?)</p> <p>b) When you mean “Do you know... (where/how to, etc.)”</p> <p>In this case you can combine “Sai” with other words like “come”, “dove”, “perché”, etc. to make longer and useful sentences. For example:</p> <p>Sai <u>dove è il bagno</u>? (Do you know where the toilet/restroom/bathroom is?)</p> <p>Sai dove <u>vive</u> Antonio? (Do you know where Antonio live?)</p> <p>Sai come si scrive? (Do you know how to write it?, literally: do you how one writes it?)</p> <p>Sai perché Elisa studia russo?</p> <p>Sai dove va Andrea questo weekend?</p>	<p>Conoscono</p> <p><u>Pay attention to the pronunciation:</u> -sc is pronounced /sk/ when followed by o/a/u, e.g. conosco, conoscono</p> <p>-sc is pronounced /sh/ when followed by e/i e.g. conosci, conosce</p> <p>Some examples with “conoscere”:</p> <p>Conosco bene New York. Conosci Andrea? Conosci bene Roma?</p>
<p>Words:</p>	<p>Sai andare in bicicletta? (Can you ride a bicycle?)</p> <p>Non lo so (I don't know)</p> <p>Stazione = railway</p> <p>Albergo = hotel (you can also say “hotel” /otel/ in Italian)</p> <p>E.g. Sai dov'è il bagno/la stazione/l'albergo?</p>	<p>Come si pronuncia? = How do you pronounce it? Or Sai come si pronuncia? = Do you know how to pronounce it?</p> <p>Come si dice? Sai come si dice “table” in italiano? = Do you know how to say “table” in Italian?</p> <p>Sai come si cucina il risotto? Sì,</p> <p>certo! = of course!</p>

	<p>Dove = where Dove è = where is Dov'è = where is (it is the abbreviated form of "dove è")</p> <p>Abitare = to live Vivere = to live Use "vivere" in reference to countries, e.g. In which country you live? Use "abitare" when you want to know the actual address.</p>	<p>Da quando John studia spagnolo? = How long has John been studying Spanish?</p> <p>Da un anno = For one year (as in "I have been learning German for one year")</p>
<p>Sentences to remember:</p>	<p>Sai cucinare? (Can you cook?)</p> <p>Come si scrive? (How do you write it?)</p> <p>Sai dov'è la stazione? (Do you know where the railway station is?)</p>	<p>Conosci Stefano? (Do you know Stefano)</p> <p>Come si dice "table" in italiano? (How do you say "table" in Italian?)</p> <p>Non lo so. (I don't know)</p>

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 try to remember the vocabulary, verbs and structures from previous lessons before you look them up.

Answer the following questions/Carry out the following tasks:

- Write out all the forms of the verb "sapere" in the present tense: a) (I) _____, b) (you singular) _____, c) (he/she) _____, d) (we) _____, e) (you plural) _____, f) (they) _____
- Write out all the forms of the verb "conoscere" in the present tense: a) (I) _____, b) (you singular) _____, c) (he/she) _____, d) (we) _____, e) (you plural) _____, f) (they) _____

Translate the following sentences into English:

- Sai guidare? _____
- Sai dov'è il bagno? _____
- Sai perché Francesca parla giapponese?

- Sai come si scrive? _____

Translate the following sentences into Italian:

7. Do you know where the bathroom is?

8. Can you play tennis?

9. How do you say "ristorante" in English?

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:

10. Perché parli italiano?

11. Sai suonare la chitarra?

12. Sai dove vive Andrea?

13. Conosci Nicolò?

14. Lavori molto?

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