



Smart-lesson Nr 20 - Italian, level 1

Topics:

- Present tense: the verb “to have” and how to use it in meaningful sentences
- How to say “I am hungry/thirsty/cold/hot” and “I am sleepy/I want to sleep”
- The clock, part 2 (half past seven, a quarter to eight, etc.)
- The numbers, from 13 to 100 and how to use them for phone numbers, age, price, etc.
- How to say “How much is it?”
- How to use everything in conversation

Lesson:

Listen and repeat: **ho una sorella**

(I have a sister)

“**Ho**” is the first person of the verb “to have” in the present tense.

As this verb is irregular, 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).

To have = “**avere**” (infinitive form)

I have = **ho** (pronounced exactly like the Italian word for “or”: “o”)

You have = **hai** (one person, informal)

He/she/it has = **ha**

We have = **abbiamo**

You have = **avete** (you plural, to address two or more people directly, both formal and informal)

They have = **hanno**

Let’s use it in useful short conversations:

Hai sorelle o fratelli?

Sì, ho un fratello e una sorella.

Hai un laptop?

Sì, ho un Mac.

(In Italian you can also ask “Hai un computer?” meaning both a laptop or a desktop)

Hai un numero di telefono italiano?

Sì: 349 282736

Hai una macchina?

Sì, ho una Ford.

Here are some useful expressions using the verb “to have”. Notice that in English you wouldn't use the verb “to have” here.

Ho fame = I am hungry (literally: “I have hunger”)

Ho sete = I am thirsty (literally: “I have thirst”)

Ho caldo = I am hot (literally: “I have hot”)

Ho freddo = I am cold (literally: “I have cold”)

Ho sonno = I am sleepy / I want to sleep (literally: “I have sleep”)

Hai fame?

Sì, ho fame.

Hai caldo?

No, non ho caldo.

Do you remember the numbers from 1 to 12?

Let's see them from 11 to 20:

Undici = 11

Dodici = 12

Tredici = 13

Quattordici = 14

Quindici = 15

Sedici = 16

Diciassette = 17

Diciotto = 18

Diciannove = 19

Venti = 20

From 11 till 16 put “-dici” at the end, from 17 to 19 put “dici-” at the beginning (“dici” is similar to “dieci”, which means 10).

What is underlined is identical or similar to the corresponding number (e.g. tredici)

The red parts are irregular and should just be remembered (you can start memorising the numbers relevant to you, e.g. if you are 18, remember the number 18; if you have children, remember how to say their age).

And now let's see the numbers from 30 till 100:

Trenta = 30

Quaranta = 40

Cinquanta = 50

Sessanta = 60

Settanta = 70

Ottanta = 80

Novanta = 90

Cento = 100

If you want to say numbers like 22, 34, etc. it's very easy: just say the "big number" (20, 30, 40, etc.) followed by the "small number" (2,3,4, etc.). For example: ventidue, ventitre, ventiquattro, trentacinque, trentasei, quarantasette, centodieci, centoquattro, centoventisette, etc.

Italians almost never write the numbers in full (e.g. twenty three), so their pronunciation is more important than their spelling.

Just remember that when you add the numbers 1 or 8 as a second number, as they start with a vowel (**uno**, **otto**), this makes the "big number" lose its last letter (a vowel): ventuno, ventotto, trentuno, trentotto, etc.

Let's use the numbers to ask and say something useful:

- PRICE:

Quanto costa?

Cento dollari, cento euro, cento sterline, cento yen

(How much does it cost?)

(100 dollars, euros, pounds, yens)

Or

Quanto costa?

Cinque euro e cinquanta (centesimi)

(5 euros and 50 cents)

- AGE:

Quanti anni hai?

Ho venticinque anni.

(How old are you? Literally: "How many years do you have?")

(I am 25 years old. Literally: "I have 25 years")

Notice that you can also answer by saying the number only (Quanti anni hai? 25), what you CANNOT do is to use the verb "to have" and not use the word "anni" (years) or its singular form ("anno": year).

Option 1: 25 (1 word)

Option 2: Ho 25 anni (3 words)

Be very careful with the pronunciation of “anno” and “anni”, you don’t want to be saying something completely different.

In Italian **double consonants** must always be pronounced as double consonants. First listen to the difference:

Ano (don’t say this word to people!), anno

Nono (ninth), nonno (grandfather)

Sono (I am), sonno (there is no one to one translation but it’s similar to “sleepy” or “sleep”)

In order to pronounce a double consonant, stay longer in the same position, that is: move your mouth and tongue in order to reach the position for the consonant, make the sound and stay in the same position for longer.

Let’s try again:

anno, anni, nonno, sonno

- TIME:

In a previous lesson, you learnt how to say “full” hours. Now it’s time to learn the rest.

Do you remember how to say “and”? _____

“E” is the word you need when you want to say “past” when talking about time. E.g.

Alle otto e cinque = at 8:05

Alle due e venti = at 2:20

Alle due e venticinque = at 2:25

Alle sei e trenta = at 6:30 but in spoken language Italians say “alle sei e mezza” (half past six, literally: “at six and half”)

From 40 minutes past an hour, you will need “meno” (literally: “minus”)

Alle cinque meno dieci = at ten to five

Alle dieci meno cinque = at five to ten

Alle undici meno un quarto = at quarter to eleven

Notice that in Italian, “quarter” is “**un** quarto”

Alle due e **un** quarto

Alle otto meno **un** quarto

Revision:

A mezzanotte

A mezzogiorno

(“a” and not “alle” because “mezzanotte” and “mezzogiorno” are not numbers)

Let's put everything into a conversation:

Quanti anni hai?

Venti.

Sai guidare?

Sì.

Hai la macchina?

Sì, ho una Toyota.

Ti va di andare al cinema?

Sì, va bene, a che ora?

Alle dieci meno un quarto.

A che ora finisce il film?

A mezzanotte.

→ 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).

Grammar points:

To have = **avere** (infinitive form)

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You have = **hai** (one person, informal)

He/she/it has = **ha**

We have = **abbiamo**

You have = **avete** (you plural, to address two or more people directly, both formal and informal)

They have = **hanno**

"Ho" (I have) is pronounced exactly like the Italian word for "or" ("o").

Grammar in use:

Hai sorelle o fratelli?

Sì, ho un fratello e una sorella.

(Do you have brothers or sisters? Yes, I have a brother and a sister.)

Hai un numero di telefono italiano?

Sì: 349 282736

Hai una macchina?

Sì, ho una Ford.

Here are some useful expressions with the verb "to have". Notice that in English you wouldn't use the verb "have" here.

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Ho sonno = I am sleepy / I want to sleep (literally: "I have sleep")

Hai fame?

Sì, ho fame.

Hai caldo?

No, non ho caldo.

Words:

The numbers from 11 to 20:

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From 11 till 16 put “**dici**” at the end, from 17 to 19 put “dici” at the beginning (“dici” is similar to “dieci”, which means 10).

Start memorising the numbers relevant to you, e.g. if you are 18, remember the number 18; if you have children, remember how to say their age.

The numbers from 30 till 100:

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Italians almost never write the numbers in full (e.g. twenty three), so their pronunciation is more important than their spelling.

Just remember that when you add the numbers 1 or 8 as a second number, as they start with a vowel (**uno**, **otto**), this makes the “big number” lose its last

Quanto costa?

Cento dollari, cento euro, cento sterline, cento yen, cinque euro e cinquanta (centesimi)

(How much does it cost?)

(100 dollars, euros, pounds, yens, 5 euros and 50 cents)

Quanti anni hai?

Ho venticinque anni.

(How old are you? Literally: “How many years do you have?”)

(I am 25 years old. Literally: “I have 25 years”)

Notice that you can also answer by saying the number only (Quanti anni hai? 25), what you **CANNOT** do is to use the verb “have” and not use the word “anni” (years) or its singular form (“anno”: year).

Option 1: 25 (1 word)

Option 2: Ho 25 anni (3 words)

Be very careful with the pronunciation of “anno” and “anni”, you don't want to be saying something completely different. In order to pronounce a double consonant (e.g. “nn” in “anni”) move your mouth and tongue in order to reach the position for the consonant, make the sound and stay in the same position for longer.

Numbers and time (part 2):

Alle due **e** venti = at 2:20

Alle sei **e** trenta = at 6:30 but in spoken language Italians say “alle sei **e mezza**” (half past six, literally: “at six and half”)

From 40 minutes past an hour, you will need “meno” (literally: “minus”)

Alle cinque meno dieci = at ten to five

Alle dieci meno cinque = at five to ten

Notice that in Italian “quarter” is “**un** quarto”

Alle due **e un** quarto

Alle otto meno **un** quarto

	letter (a vowel): ventuno, ventotto, trentuno, trentotto, etc.	Revision: A mezzanotte A mezzogiorno (“a” and not “alle” because “mezzanotte” and “mezzogiorno” are not numbers)
Sentences to remember:	<p>Quanti anni hai? (How old are you?)</p> <p>Ho trentacinque anni. (I am 35 years old.)</p> <p>Quanto costa? (How much is it?)</p> <p>Cento dollari (euro, yen, etc.). (100 dollars)</p>	<p>Ho fame = I am hungry</p> <p>Ho sete = I am thirsty</p> <p>Ho caldo = I am hot</p> <p>Ho freddo = I am cold</p> <p>Ho sonno = I am sleepy / I want to sleep</p> <p>Alle sette meno un quarto = at quarter to seven</p> <p>Alle sette e mezza = at seven thirty</p> <p>Alle sette e dieci = at seven ten</p> <p>Alle sette meno dieci = at a quarter to ten</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.

Useful mini tasks:

1. Say the numbers from 1 to 20 aloud (you may read them!).
2. Say the numbers from 20 to 102 aloud (you may read them!).

Translate the following sentences into English:

3. Hai fame? _____

4. Hai freddo? _____

5. Ho sonno _____

6. Ho fame _____

Translate the following sentences into Italian:

7. How old are you?

8. I am 30 years old

9. At quarter to five

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. Hai fame?

11. Hai caldo?

12. Andiamo al cinema alle otto e un quarto?

13. Quanto costa il tuo telefono? (e.g. say "I don't know" or any price)

14. Quanto costa una birra? (e.g. say "I don't know" or any price)

Well done! Bravo! (or brava!)

See you tomorrow!