



Smart-lesson Nr 24 - Italian, level 1

Topics:

- Useful reflexive verbs you can use to talk about your routine (to get dressed, to get up, to wake up, to meet up)
- How to conjugate reflexive verbs
- Useful words that you can already start using (in a hurry, immediately, etc.) with what you already know

Lesson:

Listen and repeat: **mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si**

Try to remember them as if they were part of a short song or something that rhymes.

Let's say them again: mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si

mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si are six short words (reflexive pronouns) that you put in front of certain verbs. Most of the time you do that in order to change the meaning of the verb (only slightly).

Vesto = I dress (someone, for example your child)

Mi vesto = I am getting dressed/I get dressed

For example:

Mi vesto **in fretta**. (I am getting dressed in a hurry)

Or

Sveglio = I wake (someone up)

Mi sveglio = I wake up

For example:

Di solito mi sveglio alle sei e mezza. (I usually wake up at 6:30)

Or

Alzo = I lift (something) up

Mi alzo = I get up (from a chair or from bed in the morning).

For example:

Domani mi alzo alle cinque. (tomorrow I am getting up at 5)

Or

Vedo = I see

Mi vedo (con gli amici) = I meet up (with friends)

“Mi vedo con (Maria, Francesco, etc.)” is particularly important because you will be using it all the time. For example:

Domani mi vedo con Marco. (I am meeting Marco tomorrow)

Il sabato mi vedo con gli amici. (on Saturdays I meet up with friends)

Very important: “mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si” do NOT literally mean “I, you, he/she, etc.” in Italian. They usually mean “myself”, “yourself”, “himself” and so on, but, as languages are not a carbon copy of each other, there will be several cases where there is no direct translation into your native language: don’t worry about the literal translation, just learn “mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si” and use them with the verb you want to use them with (e.g. **mi sveglio** alle otto, **mi alzo** subito, **mi vesto**, **mi vedo con** gli amici, etc.).

Compare the two types of verbs:

Present, “normal verbs”, like “vedere”	Present, “reflexive verbs”, like “vedersi”
I see = (io) vedo	Mi vedo = I meet up
You see = (tu) vedi	Ti vedi = you meet up
he/she sees = (lui/lei) vede	Si vede = he/she meets up
We see = (noi) vediamo	Ci vediamo = we meet up
You (plural) see = (voi) vedete	Vi vedete = you (plural) meet up
They see = (loro) vedono	Si vedono = They meet up

Have you noticed that the verb is conjugated in the exact same way as the verbs you have already seen, just with “mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si” in front of them?

The good news is that, as there are hundreds of reflexive verbs in Italian, by learning how to conjugate just one, you learn how to conjugate all of them! Learn one reflexive verb by heart as a “template”. The best one to learn (in terms of frequency of usage) is “vedersi” (= to meet up): mi vedo, ti vedi, si vede, ci vediamo, vi vedete, si vedono.

Do you remember how to say “At what time...?” (or “What time”) ...A che ora...?

And do you remember how to say “when” meaning the day or month? ...Quando?

Now let’s have fun with the language and use everything you have seen so far to say meaningful things:

Quando **ti vedi** con gli amici?

Il sabato.

or

Di solito a che ora **ti alzi**? (What time do you usually get up?)

Di solito mi alzo alle sette. (or simply: “alle sette”)

or

Di solito quando **ti svegli** ti alzi subito? (**subito** = immediately → Do you usually get up straight away when you wake up?)

No, non mi alzo subito.

or

A che ora **ci alziamo** domani?

Non so... Alle nove?

or

A che ora **ti vedi** con Emma?

Alle sette e mezza.

→ 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:

mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si are six short words (reflexive pronouns) that you put in front of certain verbs (most of the time) to slightly change the meaning of the verb.

Vesto = I dress (someone, for example your kid)

Mi vesto = I am getting dressed/I get dressed

For example:

Mi vesto **in fretta**. (I am getting dressed in a hurry)

Sveglio = I wake (someone up)

Mi sveglio = I wake up

For example:

Di solito mi sveglio alle sei e mezza. (I usually wake up at 6:30)

Alzo = I lift (something) up

Mi alzo = I get up (from a chair or from bed in the morning).

For example:

Very important: “mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si” do NOT literally mean “I, you, he/she, etc.” in Italian. They usually mean “myself”, “yourself”, “himself” and so on, but, as languages are not a carbon copy of each other, there will be several cases where there is no direct translation into your native language: don't worry about the literal translation, just learn “mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si” and use them with the verb you want to use them with (e.g. **mi sveglio** alle otto, **mi alzo** subito, **mi vesto**, **mi vedo con** gli amici, etc.).

The good news is that, as there are hundreds of reflexive verbs in Italian, by learning how to conjugate just one, you learn how to conjugate all of them! Learn one reflexive verb by heart as a “template”. The best one to learn (in terms of frequency of usage) is “vedersi” (= to meet up):

mi vedo con Lia = I am meeting with Lia
ti vedi con Lia = You are meeting with Lia

	<p>Domani mi alzo alle cinque. (I am getting up at 5 tomorrow)</p> <p>Vedo = I see</p> <p>Mi vedo (con gli amici) = I meet up (with friends)</p> <p>“Mi vedo con (Maria, Francesco, etc.)” is particularly important because you will be using it all the time. For example: Domani mi vedo con Marco. (I am meeting Marco tomorrow)</p> <p>Il sabato mi vedo con gli amici. (On Saturdays I meet up with friends)</p>	<p>si vede con Lia = He is meeting with Lia</p> <p>ci vediamo con Lia = We are meeting with Lia</p> <p>vi vedete con Lia = You are meeting with Lia</p> <p>si vedono con Lia = They meeting with Lia</p> <p>Have you noticed that the verb is conjugated <u>in the exact same way</u> as the verbs you have already seen, just with “mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si” in front of them?</p>
<p>Words:</p>	<p>Subito = immediately</p> <p>E.g. Di solito quando ti svegli ti alzi subito?</p> <p>(Do you usually get up straight away when you wake up?)</p> <p>In fretta = in a hurry</p> <p>E.g. Mi vesto in fretta.</p> <p>(I am getting dressed in a hurry)</p>	<p>Vestirsi = to get dressed</p> <p>Mi vesto, ti vesti, si veste, ci vestiamo, vi vestite, si vestono</p> <p>Alzarsi = to get up</p> <p>Mi alzo, ti alzi, si alza, ci alziamo, vi alzate, si alzano</p> <p>Svegliarsi = to wake up</p> <p>Mi sveglio, ti svegli, si sveglia, ci svegliamo, vi svegliate, si svegliano</p>
<p>Sentences to remember:</p>	<p>Quando ti vedi con gli amici?</p> <p>Il sabato.</p> <p>(When do you meet your friends? On Saturdays)</p> <p>A che ora ti vedi con Emma?</p> <p>Alle sette e mezza.</p> <p>(What time are you meeting Emma? At seven thirty)</p>	<p>Di solito a che ora ti alzi?</p> <p>Di solito mi alzo alle sette. (or simply: “alle sette”)</p> <p>(What time do you usually get up? I usually get up at seven)</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, 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:

1. What are the six small words (reflexive pronouns) that you need to remember in order to conjugate reflexive verbs like “svegliarsi, alzarsi, vedersi, etc.”? ___ **mi, ti, si, ci, vi, si** _____
2. In the present tense, where should you usually put those small words: before or after the verb? Which is correct? a) Mi alzo (y/n) ___**yes**___ b) Alzo mi (y/n) ___**no**___

Translate the following sentences into English:

3. A che ora ti alzi? _____ **What time do you get up?** _____
4. A che ora ti vedi con Anthony? _____ **What time are you meeting Anthony?** _____
5. È francese? _____ **Is he/she French?** _____
6. Di solito a che ora ti svegli? _____ **What time do you usually wake up?** _____

Translate the following sentences into Italian:

7. When are you meeting Andrew?
_____ **A che ora ti vedi con Andrew?** _____
8. I usually get up at five
_____ **Di solito mi alzo alle cinque** _____
9. I am French but I live in Spain
_____ **Sono francese ma vivo in Spagna** _____

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!

10. Sei russo/a? **(Are you Russian?)**
11. Di dove sei? **(Where are you from?) e.g. Sono americano/Sono giapponese**
12. Di solito a che ora ti alzi? **(What time do you usually get up?) e.g. alle otto**
13. Di solito quando ti vedi con gli amici? **(When do you usually meet up with friends?) e.g. il sabato**

Domani ti vedi con Andrew? **(Are you meeting Andrew tomorrow?) e.g. No, mi vedo venerdì**

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