



Smart-lesson Nr 27 - Italian, level 1

Topics:

- How to say "It's cold", "I'm cold", etc.
- How to say "before work", "after work", etc.
- How to say "there is" and "there are"
- The meanings of "ci" (e.g. in a sentence like "I am going there")
- How to say "Is there a restaurant nearby?"
- Some useful words, verbs and sentences that you can already start using (almost, almost always, party, university, café, next to, etc.) and how to use them with what you already know
- Revision: "When are we meeting?", "Where are we meeting?"

Lesson:

Let's say that today is a cold day. You want to say: it's cold! What could you say?

Repeat after me:

Ho **freddo** = I'm cold

Notice that Italians use the verb "to have", while in English you would use the verb "to be".

Say it again: **Ho** freddo.

What if you wanted to ask whether someone is cold? Can you guess that?

... **Hai** freddo?

And what if it's hot today? How can you say "I'm hot"? In a similar way!

Ho caldo! (yes, "caldo", hot, sounds like the word "cold", but the meaning it's just the opposite!)

Sometimes you don't want to say that you are cold, just that outside it is cold. In that case, Italians say:

Fa freddo = it's cold

And if it is hot: **Fa** caldo (Yes! Italians use the verb "to do/to make" in this case!)

In Italian "**È** caldo" or "**È** freddo" mean that one particular thing is hot or cold (for example food) but not the outside temperature (or the room temperature).

Let's learn a useful word:

Quasi = almost

For example:

Quasi sempre = almost always

Quasi mai = almost never

You may want to say things like:

In Italia fa quasi sempre caldo.

Or

Non vado quasi mai al cinema.

Another useful word is "**prima di**" (and "**prima del/della**"):

Prima di (+ verb or noun) = before (+ -ing verb or noun)

For example:

Prima di cena (before dinner)

Prima di pranzo (before lunch)

Prima di andare al lavoro (before going to work)

Prima di andare a scuola (before going to school)

Prima di andare all'**università** (before going to university)

Prima di andare al lavoro **bevo** due caffè. (Before going to work, I drink two coffees)

Prima di dormire **leggo** un libro. (Before going to sleep, I read a book)

In all the cases that you just heard (or read), "prima di" was followed by either a verb or noun used as a kind of expression. In many other cases though you will have to change the "di" of "prima di" into one of the following words: della, dello, dell', del, dei, degli, delle.

These words are a combination of the preposition "di" and a definite article (il, lo, la, l', i, gli, le).

Which one should you choose? Just change "di" into "de" and add the article which agrees with the noun you want to use it with.

For example:

Prima delle sette (= before seven o'clock)

Prima della **fiesta** (= before the party)

Prima del cinque aprile (= before April 5th)

Prima dell'**undici** novembre (= before November 11th)

Prima degli **esami** (= before the exams)

You don't need to memorise all that now. The best way to learn it is noticing what is being used and why while you read or listen to something.

If instead of "before" you want to say "after", you already know the word. Do you remember it?
..."Dopo" (= after, afterwards)

For example:

Dopo il lavoro faccio sport. (After work I do sport)

Dopo cena guardo la TV. (After dinner I watch TV)

In these examples, “dopo” was followed by a noun.

You will learn how to use “dopo” followed by a verb in Level 2. For now, if you feel curious, it’s enough to know that you should be saying something like “After having eaten” or “After having seen”.

Now let’s learn how to say “there is” and “there are”:

Do you remember how to say “is”? ...è.

...and how do you say “they are”? ...sono.

If you want to say “there is”, say: **c’è**

If you want to say “there are”, say: **ci sono**.

“Ci” turns into “c” when followed by a vowel.

Some examples:

C’è un buon ristorante **qui vicino?** (Is there a good restaurant nearby?)

Ci sono delle banche qui vicino? (Are there any banks nearby?)

Ci sono molti italiani a New York. (There are many Italians in New York)

A Barcellona **c’è una** gelateria italiana che mi piace molto. (In Barcelona there is an Italian ice cream shop that I like very much)

If you think about the meaning of “ci” in the sentences you have just heard or read, you have probably understood that “ci” means “there”.

“Ci” can also be used on its own, but only if you put it before the verb.

Vai al cinema? = Are you going to the cinema?

Sì, **ci vado**. = Yes, I am (going there). Literally: “Yes, I there go”

Or

Vai a Roma domani? = Are you going to Rome tomorrow?

Sì, **ci vado**. = Yes, I am (going there).

“Ci” is a word that has several meanings in Italian. Learn these meanings in context and remember one example in each case:

- **C’è un** supermercato qui vicino? (Is there a supermarket nearby?)
- **Ci sono** molti italiani a New York? (Are there many Italians in New York?)
- Sì, **ci vado**. = Yes, I am (going there).
- A che ora **ci vediamo**? (What time are we meeting?)

Let’s see all that in conversation:

Quando ci vediamo?

Domani va bene?

Va bene. A che ora?

Alle otto e mezza?

Perfetto! (= perfect)

Dove ci vediamo?

Alla metro "Termini" vicino al bar "Espresso"? (At the metro "Termini" near the café "Espresso"?)

Va bene. A domani!

Or

Mi scusi **c'è un** supermercato qui vicino? (Is there a supermarket nearby?)

Mi dispiace, non lo so. (I am sorry, I don't know)

Or

Dove vai in vacanza? (Where are you going on holiday?)

In Italia. (To Italy)

Dove? (Where to?)

A Roma, Milano e Firenze. (To Rome, Milan and Florence)

Vai anche a Napoli? (Are you also going to Naples?)

Sì, ci vado. (Yes, I am)

→ 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:

There are = **ci sono**
ci = there, sono = are

There is = **c'è**
"Ci" turns into "c'" when followed by a vowel.

Some examples:

C'è un buon ristorante qui vicino?
(Is there a good restaurant nearby?)

Ci sono molti inglesi a Roma?
(Are there many Brits in Rome?)

A Roma **c'è una** gelateria italiana che mi piace molto.

(In Rome there is an Italian ice cream shop that I like very much)

Prima di (+ verb or noun) = before (+ -ing verb or noun). For example:

Prima di cena (before dinner)

Prima di pranzo (before lunch)

Prima di andare al lavoro (before going to work)

Prima di andare a scuola (before going to school)

Prima di andare all'**università** (before going to the university)

Prima di andare al lavoro **bevo** due caffè.
(Before going to work, I drink two coffees)

Prima di dormire **leggo** un libro. (Before going to sleep, I read a book)

In all the examples above, you saw the word "di". In many other cases though you will have to change the "di" of "prima di" into

	<p>“Ci” is a word that has several meanings in Italian. Learn them in context and remember one example of each case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - C'è un supermercato qui vicino? (Is there a supermarket nearby?) - Ci sono molti italiani a New York? (Are there many Italians in New York?) - A che ora ci vediamo? (What time are we meeting?) - Vai a Roma domani? Sì, ci vado. = Are you going to Rome tomorrow? Yes, I am (going there). Literally: “Yes, I <u>there</u> go” <p>In the last case (where “ci” is a location pronoun) “ci” must be put <u>before</u> the verb.</p>	<p>one of the following words: della, dello, dell', del, dei, degli, delle.</p> <p>These words are a combination of the preposition “di” and a definite article (il, lo, la, l', i, gli, le).</p> <p>Which one should you choose? Just change “di” into “de” and add the article which agrees with the noun you want to use it with.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>Prima delle sette (= before seven o'clock) Prima della festa (= before the party) Prima del cinque aprile (= before April 5th) Prima dell' undici novembre (= before November 11th) Prima degli esami (= before the exams)</p>
<p>Words:</p>	<p>Ho freddo = I'm cold</p> <p>Notice that Italians use the verb “to have”, while in English you would use the verb “to be”..</p> <p>Hai freddo? = Are you cold?</p> <p>Ho caldo! = I'm hot</p> <p>Sometimes you don't want to say that <u>you are</u> cold, just that outside <u>it is</u> cold:</p> <p>Fa freddo = it's cold Fa caldo = it's hot</p> <p>È caldo or È freddo mean that <u>one particular thing</u> is hot or cold (for example food) but not the outside temperature (or the room temperature).</p> <p>Perfetto = perfect</p>	<p>Quasi = almost</p> <p>For example: Quasi sempre = almost always Quasi mai = almost never In Italia fa quasi sempre caldo. Non vado quasi mai al cinema.</p> <p>Dopo = after, afterwards For example: Dopo il lavoro faccio sport. (After work I do sport) Dopo cena guardo la TV. (After dinner I watch TV)</p> <p>Università = university All'università = at/to university</p> <p>Leggo = I read Bevo = I drink Festa = party</p>
<p>Sentences to remember:</p>	<p>Ho freddo / Ho caldo. (I am cold / I am hot)</p> <p>Fa freddo / Fa caldo. (It's cold / It's hot)</p> <p>La pizza è fredda. (The pizza is cold)</p>	<p>Dopo cena guardo la TV. (After dinner, I watch TV)</p> <p>Prima di cena studio italiano. (Before dinner, I study Italian)</p> <p>Prima delle sette. (Before seven o'clock)</p>

C'è un supermercato qui vicino?
(Is there a supermarket nearby?)

Sì, ci vado.
(Yes, I am going there)

A che ora ci vediamo?
(What time are we meeting?)

Dove ci vediamo?
(Where are we meeting?)

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. How do you say "I am cold"? a) _____ **Ho freddo** _____ , ...and "It's warm?" b) ___ **fa caldo** _____
2. How do you say: a) I am going there ___ **Ci vado** _____ b) What time are we meeting? ___ **A che ora ci vediamo?** _____

Translate the following sentences into English:

3. Mi sveglio sempre prima delle sette. ___ **I always wake up before seven**
4. Dove ci vediamo stasera? _____ **Where are we meeting tonight?** _____
5. Hai freddo? ___ **Are you cold?** _____
6. Dopo il lavoro fai sport? _____ **Do you do sport after work?** _____

Translate the following sentences into Italian:

7. After dinner I read a book
_____ **Dopo cena leggo un libro** _____
8. Before going to work I have breakfast
_____ **Prima di andare al lavoro faccio colazione** _____
9. Are you going there?
_____ **Ci vai?** _____

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. Vai al cinema domani? e.g. **Sì, ci vado/No, non ci vado**
11. Che fai domani? e.g. **Non lo so/Mi vedo con mia sorella**
12. Di solito che fai dopo il lavoro? e.g. **Vado in palestra**
13. Hai freddo?
14. Dove ci vediamo stasera? e.g. **Non lo so, dove ci vediamo?/va bene vicino al ristorante "Giovanni"?**

**Well done! Bravissimo! (or bravissima!)
See you tomorrow!**