



Smart-lesson Nr 28 - Italian, level 1

Topics:

- The two words for “maybe” and how to use them
- Some useful verbs (to start, to go out, to open, to close) and how to use them
- Past tense: part 1
- Some useful words that you can already start using (really[?], of course, today, yesterday, last weekend, next weekend, etc.) and how to use them with what you already know
- How to say “What is (your address, your phone number)”?
- Revision: How do you say...?, How do you pronounce...?, In order to (study), Did you understand/Have you understood?/I understood/I understand, for how long have you been..., since...)

Lesson:

Listen and repeat: **forse**

There are two words for “maybe”:

Use “**forse**” in most cases, for example:

Forse domani non lavoro. (Maybe I won't work tomorrow)

Forse domani vado al cinema. (Maybe I am going to the cinema tomorrow)

The second word is: **magari**.

This word has two meanings.

Use “**magari**” only in two cases:

- a) When you want to say “I wish!”, in a context like:

Andiamo in vacanza! (Let's go on holiday!)

Magari! Non posso, ho molto lavoro. (I wish I could! I can't, I have lots of work)
(Of course in this case it does not mean „maybe”)

- b) When you're in a place, such as a cafe, and someone asks you what you're going to order but you're not sure yet...imagine this situation: you're asked what you want to order, you think about it for a moment and you say “**Magari un caffè!**”.

Of course, it doesn't mean that you're not sure, because once you order it, you can't change your mind. It means that you weren't sure **and** it's used either when you needed a bit of time to think about what to order **or** when your Italian friend wants to pay for your drink or coffee and you want to be polite: showing (through the use of “magari”) that you are a bit hesitant, and that you appreciate the offer.

Cultural tip: What normally happens among Italian friends (and sometimes colleagues) is that they offer each other a coffee as a sign of friendship (it doesn't have to be one to one but it's good to reciprocate to show that the friendship is important to you too).

Now let's learn some useful and easy verbs:

Cominciare = to start

For example:

A che ora cominci a lavorare? (What time do you start working?)

A che ora comincia il film? (What time does the film start?) - *Pay attention to the word order!*

Aprire = to open

For example:

A che ora apre il supermercato? (What time does the supermarket open?)

Puoi aprire la porta? (Can you open the door?)

Chiudere = to close

A che ora chiude la banca? (What time does the bank close?)

Puoi chiudere la finestra? (Can you close the window?)

And now one irregular but common verb:

Uscire = to go out

Esco (I go out)

Esci (You go out)

Esce (He/she goes out)

Usciamo (We go out)

Uscite (You go out, plural)

Escono (They go out)

Pay attention to how the pronunciation depends on whether after the "sc" there is a "soft vowel" (e/i) or a "hard vowel" (a/o/u), or whether the sound of the "c" is "soft" (like the "sh" in the English word "chat") or "hard" (like the "c" in "cat").

Some examples with the verb "uscire":

A che ora usciamo **oggi**? (What time are we going out today?)

Il sabato esco sempre con gli amici (I always go out with friends on Saturdays)

Let's now do some revision:

Can you remember the meaning of the following sentences?

Come si dice "table" in italiano? (How do you say "table" in Italian?)

Come si scrive? (How do you write it?)

Come si pronuncia? (How do you pronounce it?)

Let's do some more revision:

Studio italiano **per** parlare con Antonio. (I study Italian in order to speak with Antonio)

Da quanto (tempo) studi italiano? (How long have you been learning Italian for?)
Studio italiano **da** quasi un mese. (I have been learning Italian for almost a month)

Do you remember that when you want to say “I understand” or “I understood” you should say “ho capito”?

“Ho capito” means “I understood” but it’s used to imply that you understand what someone says/has just said.

“**Quale**” means “which” but “Qual è” is often used to ask “What is” in sentences like:

Qual è il tuo numero di telefono? = What is your phone number?

Qual è il tuo numero di cellulare? = What is your mobile number?

Qual è il tuo indirizzo? = What is your address?

Qual è il tuo indirizzo email? = What is your email address?

Qual è il tuo colore preferito? = What is your favourite colour?

Pronounce “**Qual è**” as if it was one word!

Now let’s learn some very useful words and word chunks:

Ieri = yesterday

La settimana scorsa = last week (in Italian: “the” last week!)

Il weekend scorso = last weekend

Il mese scorso = last month

L’anno scorso = last year

La settimana prossima = next week (in Italian: “the” next week!)

Il prossimo weekend = next weekend (pay attention to the word order!)

Il mese prossimo = next month

L’anno prossimo = next year

Now it’s time to learn the past tense in Italian!

There is more than one past tense in Italian but the most frequent one by far is called “Passato prossimo”. In order to form this tense, you always need two words. The first one is the present tense of the verb to have (or “to be” but you will see that in the next lesson). The second one is the “past participle” and in its regular form is very easy. Let’s see it in practice!

First let’s revise the present tense of the verb “to have”:

Ho, hai, ha, abbiamo, avete, hanno

Now, in order to build the past participle, take a (regular) verb in its infinitive form, take away the ending (“-are”, “-ere”, “-ire”), and put “-ato”, “-uto”, “-ito” according to the conjugation type.

Some examples:

Ho parl**ato** = I spoke/I have spoken

Ho dov**uto** = I had to

Ho dorm**ito** = I slept/I have slept

- Use the “-ato” ending for “-are” verbs like: parlare, guardare, pensare, cucinare, ballare (parlato, guardato, pensato, cucinato, ballato → ho parlato, ho guardato, ho cucinato, etc.)
- Use the “-uto” ending for “-ere” verbs like: credere, dovere, sapere (→ ho creduto, ho dovuto, ho saputo)
- Use the “-ito” ending for “-ire” verbs like: dormire, finire, capire, preferire (→ ho dormito, ho finito, ho preferito)

Let's see all of the above in useful sentences:

Oggi ho parlato italiano. (Today I spoke Italian)

Ieri non ho dormito molto. (I didn't sleep much last night/yesterday)

Ho quasi finito il corso di italiano. (I have almost finished my Italian course)

Oggi ho ballato la salsa. (Today I danced salsa)

Stasera ho guardato la TV. (Tonight I watched TV)

Oggi non ho cucinato. (I didn't cook today)

Ho guardato un film in francese e ho capito tutto. (I watched a movie in French and I understood everything)

→ 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:

The most frequent one by far is called “Passato prossimo”. In order to form this tense, you always need two words. The first one is the present tense of the verb to have (or “to be” but you will see that in the next lesson). The second one is the “past participle” and, in its regular form, is very easy.

First let's revise the present tense of the verb “to have”:

Ho, hai, ha, abbiamo, avete, hanno

Take the infinitive, take away the ending (-are, -ere, -ire), and put -ato, -uto, -ito according to the conjugation type.

Some examples:

Ho par**ato** = I spoke/I have spoken

Ho dov**uto** = I had to

Ho dorm**ito** = I slept/I have slept

Some examples:

Oggi ho parlato italiano.

(Today I spoke Italian)

Ieri non ho dormito molto.

(I didn't sleep much last night/yesterday)

Ho quasi finito il corso di italiano.

(I have almost finished my Italian course)

Oggi ho ballato la salsa.

(Today I danced salsa)

Stasera ho guardato la TV.

(Tonight I watched TV)

Oggi non ho cucinato.

(I haven't cooked today)

Ho guardato un film in francese e ho capito tutto.

	<p>Use the “-ato” ending for “-are” verbs like: parlare, guardare, pensare, cucinare, ballare</p> <p>Use the “-uto” ending for “-ere” verbs like: credere, dovere, sapere</p> <p>Use the “-ito” ending for “-ire” verbs like: dormire, finire, capire, preferire</p>	<p>(I watched a movie in French and I understood everything)</p>
<p>Words:</p>	<p>There are two words for “maybe”:</p> <p>Use “forse” in most cases, for example:</p> <p>Forse domani non lavoro. (Maybe I won't work tomorrow)</p> <p>Use “magari” only in two cases:</p> <p>When you want to say “I wish!”, in a context like: Andiamo in vacanza! (Let's go on holiday!)</p> <p>Magari! Non posso, ho molto lavoro. (I wish I could! I can't, I have lots of work)</p> <p>When you're in a place, such as a cafe, and someone asks you what you're going to order but you're not sure yet...imagine this situation: you're asked what you want to order, you think about it for a moment and you say “Magari un caffè!”.</p> <p>“Quale” means “which” but “Qual è” is often used to ask “What is” in sentences like: What is your phone number? = Qual è il tuo numero di telefono?</p> <p>What is your favourite colour? = Qual è il tuo colore preferito?</p> <p>What is your mobile number? = Qual è il tuo numero di cellulare?</p> <p>What is your address? = Qual è il tuo indirizzo?</p> <p>What is your email address? = Qual è il tuo indirizzo email?</p>	<p>Aprire = to open For example: A che ora apre il supermercato? (What time does the supermarket open?)</p> <p>Cominciare = to start For example: A che ora comincia il film? (What time does the film start?)</p> <p>Chiudere = to close A che ora chiude la banca? (What time does the bank close?)</p> <p>Uscire = to go out</p> <p>Esco (I go out) Esci (You go out) Esce (He/she goes out) Usciamo (We go out) Uscite (You go out, plural) Escono (They go out)</p> <p>For example: Il sabato esco sempre con gli amici (I always go out with friends on Saturdays)</p> <p>Oggi = today A che ora usciamo oggi? (What time are we going out today?)</p> <p>Ieri = yesterday La settimana scorsa = last week (in Italian: “<u>the</u>” last week!)</p> <p>Il weekend scorso = last weekend Il mese scorso = last month L'anno scorso = last year</p> <p>E.g. L'anno scorso ho comprato una macchina. (Last year I bought a car)</p> <p>La settimana prossima = next week</p>

	Pronounce “ Qual è ” as if it was one word!	Il prossimo weekend = last weekend (<u>pay attention to the word order!</u>) Il mese prossimo = next month L'anno prossimo = next year E.g. La settimana prossima vado in vacanza.
Sentences to remember:	Qual è il tuo numero di cellulare? (What is your mobile number?) Qual è il tuo indirizzo email? What is your email address? Forse domani posso uscire. (Maybe tomorrow I can go out)	Oggi ho parlato italiano. (Today I spoke Italian) Ieri ho dormito molto. (Yesterday I slept a lot) Ho dovuto comprare un computer. (I had to buy a computer)

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:

- How many words do you need to form the past tense (Passato prossimo) in Italian? One or two?
two
- Apart from the present tense of the verb “avere” or “essere”, how do you form the past tense (Passato prossimo)? Can you give three examples?

comprare → ho comprato__

credere → ho creduto__

dormire → Ho dormito__

Translate the following sentences into English:

- Puoi uscire domani sera? _____ **Can you go out tomorrow evening?** _____
- L'anno scorso ho comprato una macchina _____ **I bought a car last year** _____
- Qual è il tuo indirizzo email? _____ **What is your email address?** _____
- È italiana? _____ **Is he/she Italian?** _____

Translate the following sentences into Italian:

- I understood everything
_____ **Ho capito tutto** _____

8. Maybe tomorrow I (will go) am going out

_____ **Forse domani esco** _____

9. I wish (I could)!

_____ **Magari!** _____

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. Qual è il tuo numero di cellulare? **e.g. 347 583973**

11. Hai dormito molto ieri? **e.g. No/No, non ho dormito molto ieri**

12. Hai cucinato oggi? **e.g. Oggi non ho cucinato, ieri sì**

13. Hai parlato italiano oggi? **e.g. Sì, ho parlato italiano**

14. Hai lavorato ieri? **e.g. Sì, ho lavorato**

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