Italian
PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY
Acknowledgments

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Paper in this book is certified against the Forest Stewardship Council™ standards. FSC™ promotes environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world’s forests.
Look out for the following icons throughout the book:

- **‘Shortcut’ Phrase**
  Easy-to-remember alternative to the full phrase

- **Q&A Pair**
  ‘Question-and-answer’ pair – we suggest a response to the question asked

- **Look For**
  Phrases you may see on signs, menus etc

- **Listen For**
  Phrases you may hear from officials, locals etc

- **Language Tip**
  An insight into the foreign language

- **Culture Tip**
  An insight into the local culture

**How to read the phrases:**
- Coloured words and phrases throughout the book are phonetic guides to help you pronounce the foreign language.
- Lists of phrases with tinted background are options you can choose to complete the phrase above them.

**These abbreviations will help you choose the right words and phrases in this book:**

- **f** feminine
- **m** masculine
- **sg** singular
- **inf** informal
- **pl** plural
- **lit** literal
- **pol** polite
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Why Bother

When even a simple sentence sounds like an aria, it’s difficult to resist striking up a conversation. Besides, all you need for *la dolce vita* is to be able to tell your Moschino from your *macchiato* and your Fellini from your *fettuccine*!

Distinctive Sounds

The rolled *r*, stronger than in English; most other consonants can have a more emphatic pronunciation too (in which case they’re written as double letters).
Italian in the World

Thanks to widespread migration and the enormous popularity of Italian culture and cuisine – from ‘spaghetti Western’ to opera – Italian is often a language of choice in schools all over the world, despite the fact that Italy never established itself as a colonial power.

Italian in Italy

Italians are very proud of their language’s rich history and influence – rightly so, since it claims the closest relationship with the language spoken by the Romans. For example, Italy is one of the few countries in Europe where dubbing of foreign-language movies is preferred to subtitling.

False Friends

Warning: many Italian words look like English words but have a different meaning altogether, eg camera ka·me·ra is a room, not a camera (which is macchina fotografica ma·kee·na fo·to·gra·fee·ka in Italian).

Language Family

Romance (developed from Latin, the language of the Roman Empire). Close relatives include Spanish, Portuguese, French and Romanian.

Must-Know Grammar

Italian has a formal and informal word for ‘you’ (Lei lay and tu too respectively); the verbs have a different ending for each person, like the English ‘I do’ vs ‘he/she does’.

Donations to English

Numerous – most of us are familiar with ciao, pasta, bella, maestro, mafia...
Understanding

**KEY PHRASES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you speak English?</td>
<td>Parla/Parli inglese?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t understand.</td>
<td>(Non) Capisco.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does ... mean?</td>
<td>Che cosa vuol dire ...?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q  Do you speak English?</td>
<td>Parla/Parli inglese?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does anyone speak English?</td>
<td>C’è qualcuno che parla inglese?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A  I speak English.</td>
<td>Parlo inglese.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I need an interpreter who speaks English.</td>
<td>Ho bisogno di un interprete che parla l’inglese.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q  Do you understand?</td>
<td>Capisce/Capisci?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A  I (don’t) understand.</td>
<td>(Non) Capisco.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I (don’t) speak Italian.</td>
<td>(Non) Parlo italiano.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I speak a little.</td>
<td>Parlo un po’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| I'd like to practise Italian. | Vorrei fare pratica con l’italiano.  
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| I’d like to learn some of your local dialects. | Vorrei imparare qualche dialetto regionale.  
| Would you like me to teach you some English? | Vuole che le insegni un po’ d’inglese?  
| What does ... mean? | Che cosa vuol dire ...?  
| How do you pronounce this? | Come si pronuncia questo?  
| How do you write ...? | Come si scrive ...?  
| Could you please repeat that? | Può/Puoi ripeterlo, per favore?  
| Could you please write it down? | Può/Puoi scrivere, per favore?  
| Could you please speak more slowly? | Può/Puoi parlare più lentamente, per favore?  

- Slowly, please!  
- Più lentamente, per favore!  
- pyoo len-ta-men-te per fa-vo-re
### Numbers & Amounts

#### Key Phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much?</th>
<th>Quanto/a? m/f</th>
<th>kwan·to/a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>some</td>
<td>alcuni/e m/f</td>
<td>al·koo·nee/al·koo·ne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less/more</td>
<td>di meno/più</td>
<td>dee me·no/pyoo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Cardinal Numbers

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>zero</td>
<td>dze·ro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>uno</td>
<td>oo·no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>due</td>
<td>doo·e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>tre</td>
<td>tre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>quattro</td>
<td>kwa·tro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>cinque</td>
<td>cheen·kwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>sei</td>
<td>say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>sette</td>
<td>se·te</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>otto</td>
<td>o·to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>nove</td>
<td>no·ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>dieci</td>
<td>dye·chee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>undici</td>
<td>oon·dee·chee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>dodici</td>
<td>do·dee·chee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>tredici</td>
<td>tre·dee·chee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>quattordici</td>
<td>kwa·tor·dee·chee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>quindici</td>
<td>kween·dee·chee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>sedici</td>
<td>se·dee·chee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>diciassette</td>
<td>dee·cha·se·te</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>