

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

Language Tip

An insight into the foreign language

CULTURE TIP

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

inf informal

lit literal

m masculine

pl plural

pol polite

sg singular

Contents

PAGE

6



About Italian

Learn about Italian, build your own sentences and pronounce words correctly.

Introduction	6
Top Phrases	8
Pronunciation	10
Grammar	14

PAGE

29

Travel Phrases

Ready-made phrases for every situation – buy a ticket, book a hotel and much more.



Basics

29

Understanding	30
Numbers & Amounts	32
Time & Dates	34



Practical

39

Transport	40
Border Crossing	53
Directions	55
Accommodation	58
Shopping	70
Communications	80
Money & Banking	87
Business	91

Sightseeing	93
Senior & Disabled Travellers.....	99
Travel with Children.....	101



Social **103**

Meeting People.....	104
Interests	114
Feelings & Opinions.....	118
Going Out	122
Romance	128
Beliefs & Culture.....	133
Sports.....	135
Outdoors	140



Safe Travel **145**

Emergencies	146
Police	148
Health	150



Food **159**

Eating Out	160
Self-Catering.....	176
Vegetarian & Special Meals.....	181

PAGE
184



Menu Decoder

Dishes and ingredients explained – order with confidence and try new foods.

PAGE
204



Two-Way Dictionary

Quick reference vocabulary guide – 3500 words to help you communicate.

English–Italian Dictionary	204
Italian–English Dictionary	236

Index	267
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INTRO

Italian

italiano ee-ta-ly-a-no

Who speaks Italian?



**OFFICIAL
LANGUAGE**
ITALY
SAN MARINO
VATICAN CITY
SWITZERLAND
ISTRIA (CROATIA &
SLOVENIA)

Widely Understood Eritrea – Malta – Monaco

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).

65 MILLION

speak Italian as their first language

20 MILLION

speak Italian as their second language

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

Do you speak English?	Parla/Parli inglese? pol/inf	<i>par·la/par·lee een·gle·ze</i>
I don't understand.	(Non) Capisco.	<i>(non) ka·pee·sko</i>
What does ... mean?	Che cosa vuol dire ...?	<i>ke ko·za vvol dee·re ...</i>

Q Do you speak English?	Parla/Parli inglese? pol/inf	<i>par·la/par·lee een·gle·ze</i>
Q Does anyone speak English?	C'è qualcuno che parla inglese?	<i>che kwal·koo·no ke par·la een·gle·ze</i>
A I speak English.	Parlo inglese.	<i>par·lo een·gle·ze</i>
I need an interpreter who speaks English.	Ho bisogno di un interprete che parla l'inglese.	<i>o bee·so·nyo dee oon een·ter·pre·te ke par·la leen·gle·ze</i>
Q Do you understand?	Capisce/Capisci? pol/inf	<i>ka·pee·she/ka·pee·shee</i>
A I (don't) understand.	(Non) Capisco.	<i>(non) ka·pee·sko</i>
I (don't) speak Italian.	(Non) Parlo italiano.	<i>(non) par·lo ee·ta·lya·no</i>
I speak a little.	Parlo un po'.	<i>par·lo oon po</i>

I'd like to practise Italian.	Vorrei fare pratica con l'italiano. <i>vo-ray fa-re pra-tee-ka kon lee-ta-ly-a-no</i>
I'd like to learn some of your local dialects.	Vorrei imparare qualche dialetto regionale. <i>vo-ray eem-pa-ra-re kwal-ke dee-a-le-to re-jo-na-le</i>
Would you like me to teach you some English?	Vuole che le insegni un po' d'inglese? <i>vwo-le ke le een-se-nyee oon po deen-gle-ze</i>
What does ... mean?	Che cosa vuol dire ...? <i>ke ko-za vwol dee-re ...</i>
How do you pronounce this?	Come si pronuncia questo? <i>ko-me see pro-noon-cha kwe-sto</i>
How do you write ...?	Come si scrive ...? <i>ko-me see skree-ve ...</i>
Could you please repeat that?	Può/Puoi ripeterlo, per favore? pol/inf <i>pwo/pwoy ree-pe-ter-lo per fa-vo-re</i>
Could you please write it down?	Può/Puoi scriverlo, per favore? pol/inf <i>pwo/pwoy skree-ver-lo per fa-vo-re</i>
Could you please speak more slowly?	Può/Puoi parlare più lentamente, per favore? pol/inf <i>pwo/pwoy par-la-re pyoo len-ta-men-te per fa-vo-re</i>



**Slowly,
please!**

Più
lentamente,
per favore!

pyoo
len-ta-men-te
per fa-vo-re