



INTREPID ITALIAN

100 MOST COMMON ITALIAN PHRASES



Ciao ciao!

Grazie! Thank you for downloading this cheat-sheet. This guide features essential grammar and lots of example sentences. Want more? Crack the code and master Italian tenses with **my Intrepid Italian 30-Day tenses challenge**. For more details, visit

<https://bit.ly/tenses-challenge> or go to IntrepidItalian.com

Got a trip to Italy coming up? Remember, you don't need to be fluent in Italian to have meaningful interactions with the locals and create memories that will last a lifetime, but you can be **fluent enough for travel**.

Learning to use just a few words can do wonders for enhancing your travel experiences. Plus, it's a great way to show respect and make a good first impression. This is why I not only write detailed destination guides and create informative videos, I also created a [free travel phrase guide](#) and [online language courses](#) to help smart and savvy travellers like you get the most out of their travel experiences through the power of language.



Hi! I'm Michele, an Australian travel blogger and language educator and 'guide' behind [The Intrepid Guide](#). I help my readers and students enrich their travels with beautiful and [detailed destinations guides](#), [free travel phrase guides](#), and effective [online language courses](#) that follow my 80/20 method so they can enjoy meaningful interactions with the locals and avoid being

treated like a tourist. Over the past few years, I've travelled the world and learned several foreign languages using my unique building-block method which is the basis of all my language courses. Keep in touch with me via Instagram [@intrepiditalian](#) where I share daily Italian lessons.

100 Most Common Italian Phrases to Survive a Conversation with a Native

Are you learning Italian but panic when it's time to [speak Italian](#)? Or maybe you're off to Italy and just need a few key phrases to chat with the locals? No worries - I'm here to help! In this guide, you'll learn 100 essential Italian phrases to confidently handle various everyday situations - from ordering food to finding your way around those charming Italian piazzas. By the end, you'll have a set of Italian phrases ready to roll off the tongue to make a **bella figura** (great impression)!

Familiarizing yourself with basic conversational Italian

Learning Italian fluently can sometimes feel overwhelming, especially with all those grammar rules, verb tenses, and idiomatic expressions. But here's the good news: you don't need to master everything right away to start speaking confidently. In fact, practicing basic conversation skills early on is one of the best ways to improve quickly! It helps you build confidence, get used to the rhythm of the language, and feel more comfortable with real-world communication.

When you start familiarizing yourself with [common Italian phrases](#), you give yourself the tools to interact in basic but meaningful ways, without constantly falling back on English. You'll find that locals truly appreciate your effort to speak their language, no matter how basic it might be at first. And let's be honest – there's nothing more satisfying than being able to understand and *be* understood in another language!

A note on the Italian formal “you”

Before we dive into the phrases, there's one important thing to keep in mind: the distinction between formal and informal speech in Italian. Italian use two different forms of the pronoun “you,” depending on whom they are talking to:

- **Tu** (informal): This is what you use when speaking to friends, family members, or children. It's equivalent to the English “you.”
- **Lei** (formal): This is for when you're speaking to someone you don't know well, or to show respect to someone older or in a position of authority. This pronoun uses the third-person singular form of the verb. In southern Italy, you may also hear **Voi** used as a formal “you,” but this is less common in modern Italian.



In this guide, we'll focus on the informal "tu" for the phrases. However, remember that by [conjugating your verbs](#) to the third-person singular, you can easily adapt these phrases for formal situations as well!

100 most common Italian phrases to get you started

The phrases I've selected for this guide are designed for everyday conversations – no complicated grammar or fancy expressions. These are the everyday, practical sentences that will help you start chatting with native Italian speakers from day one. Here's my list of 100 common Italian phrases with [pronunciation](#). I've grouped them by topic to make it easy for you to focus on specific situations.

Basic Italian phrases for everyday use

To start with, here's some basic Italian that can be applied to various situations. Phrase #11 is particularly versatile - you can use it for anything from a train schedule that doesn't match your plans to sizes that aren't quite right for you!

Basic Italian phrases for everyday use			
	English	Italian	Pronunciation
1	Excuse me, can I ask you a question?	Scusa, posso farti una domanda?	<i>Skoo-zah, poh-soh fahr-tee oo-nah doh-mahn-dah?</i>
2	Can you repeat, please?	Puoi ripetere, per favore?	<i>Pwoo-ee ree-peh-teh-reh, pehr fah-voh-reh?</i>
3	Please speak more slowly	Parla più lentamente per favore	<i>Pahr-lah pyoo lehn-tah-men-teh, pehr fah-voh-reh.</i>
4	Do you speak English?	Parli inglese?	<i>Par-lee een-gleh-zeh?</i>
5	How do you say... in Italian?	Come si dice in italiano...?	<i>Koh-meh see dee-cheh een ee-tah-lee-ah-noh...?</i>
6	I don't understand	Non capisco	<i>Non kah-pee-skoh</i>
7	How can I...?	Come posso fare per...?	<i>Koh-meh poh-soh fah-reh pehr...?</i>
8	What time is it?	Che ore sono	<i>Keh oh-reh soh-noh?</i>



9	It's 10 o'clock / At 10	Sono le 10 / Alle 10	<i>Soh-noh leh dee-eh-chee / Ah-leh dee-eh-chee</i>
10	At what time?	A che ora?	<i>Ah keh oh-rah?</i>
11	That doesn't work	Non va bene	<i>Non vah beh-neh</i>

Want more phrases? If you're eager to expand your Italian vocabulary, be sure to check out these lists of [common Italian words](#) and [verbs](#), as well as my guides to mastering [time](#), [numbers](#) and [days of the week](#)!

Popular Italian greetings

What is a conversation without a proper greeting? A sincere "hello," along with a warm smile, is often the key ingredient to any successful interaction. Here are the basic Italian greetings you need to break the ice and engage in delightful conversations with locals:

Popular Italian greetings			
	English	Italian	Pronunciation
12	Hello	Ciao	<i>Chow</i>
13	Hi	Salve	<i>Sal-veh</i>
14	Good morning	Buongiorno	<i>Bwohn-johr-noh</i>
15	Good evening	Buonasera	<i>Bwoh-nah-seh-rah</i>
16	Goodbye	Arrivederci	<i>Ah-ree-veh-dehr-chee</i>

Curious about the many ways to greet people in Italian?

Dive into my guide to [Italian greetings](#) to discover the most popular Italian greetings and discover how to start your conversations with confidence and charm!

Introductions and getting to know people in Italian

Whether you're traveling through Italy or connecting with an Italian speaker from home, being able to introduce yourself and ask questions is the perfect way to break the ice. The phrases below will not only help you share a bit about yourself but also get to know others in a friendly, natural way.



Introductions and getting to know people in Italian

	English	Italian	Pronunciation
17	My name is...	Mi chiamo...	<i>Mee kee-ah-moh...</i>
18	What's your name?	Come ti chiami?	<i>Koh-meh tee kee-ah-mee?</i>
19	Nice to meet you!	Piacere di conoscerti!	<i>Pee-ah-cheh-reh dee koh-noh-shehr-tee</i>
20	Where are you from?	Di dove sei?	<i>Dee doh-veh say?</i>
21	I'm from...	Sono di...	<i>Soh-noh dee...</i>
22	I live in...	Vivo a...	<i>Vee-voh ah...</i>
23	What do you do?	Di cosa ti occupi?	<i>Dee koh-zah tee ohk-koo-pee?</i>
24	Would you like to have a drink?	Ti va di bere qualcosa?	<i>Tee vah dee beh-reh kwahl-koh-sah?</i>

Want to truly master the art of breaking the ice in Italian? Check out my [step-by-step guide to introducing yourself in Italian](#) and start making friends!

Asking questions in Italian

Questions are the gateway to connection and discovery, allowing you to uncover the rich tapestry of Italian culture. To help you master the art of inquiry, here are the essential question words you need to form your own engaging questions in Italian:

Common question words in Italian

	English	Italian	Pronunciation
25	<u>How</u> is it made?	<u>Come</u> è fatto?	<i>Koh-meh eh fah-toh?</i>
26	<u>How</u> much does it weigh?	<u>Quanto</u> pesa?	<i>Kwahn-toh peh-zah?</i>
27	<u>What</u> does this word mean?	<u>Cosa</u> significa questa parola?	<i>Koh-zah seen-ee-fee-kah kweh-stah pah-roh-lah?</i>
28	<u>When</u> does the museum open?	<u>Quando</u> apre il museo?	<i>Kwahn-doh ah-preh eel moo-zeh-oh?</i>



29	<u>Where</u> is the ticket office?	Dove si trova la biglietteria?	<i>Doh-veh see troh-vah lah bee-lyet-teh-ree-ah?</i>
30	<u>Which</u> tram should I take?	Quale tram devo prendere?	<i>Kwah-leh tram deh-voh prehn-deh-reh?</i>
31	<u>Who</u> is in charge here?	Chi è il responsabile qui?	<i>Kee eh eel reh-spohn-sah-bee-leh kwee?</i>
32	<u>Why</u> is it called that way?	Perchè si chiama così?	<i>Pehr-beh see kee-ah-mah koh-zee?</i>

To make sure you're using these question words correctly, head over to my guide on [how to use question words in Italian](#) - it covers everything from forming sentences to understanding intonation!

Ordering food and drinks in Italy

Few things immerse you in Italy's rich culture quite like its food and drinks. Imagine yourself at a sun-drenched café or a charming trattoria, exchanging friendly chats with the waitress! By familiarizing yourself with some basic conversational phrases for ordering food and drinks, you'll elevate your dining experience to new levels, creating fun memories with every meal.

Basic conversational Italian for ordering food and drinks			
	English	Italian	Pronunciation
33	Can I book a table?	Posso prenotare un tavolo?	<i>Poh-soh preh-noh-tah-reh oon tah-voh-loh?</i>
34	A table for 2 please	Un tavolo per 2 per favore	<i>Oon tah-voh-loh pehr doo-eh, pehr fah-voh-reh</i>
35	Can I see the menu, please?	Posso vedere il menù per favore?	<i>Poh-soh veh-deh-reh eel meh-noo, pehr fah-voh-reh?</i>
36	Do you have a menu in English?	Avete il menù in inglese?	<i>Ah-veh-teh eel meh-noo een een-glaz-zeh?</i>
37	What's today's special?	Qual è il piatto del giorno?	<i>Kwahl eh eel pyaht-toh del jor-noh?</i>



38	What do you recommend?	Cosa ci consiglia?	<i>Koh-zah chee con-seel-yah?</i>
39	What does this dish include?	Cosa c'è in questo piatto?	<i>Koh-zah cheh een kweh-stoh pyaht-toh?</i>
40	I'm allergic to...	Sono allergico/a a...	<i>Soh-noh ah-lehr-jee-koh/ah ah...</i>
41	I'm vegetarian	Sono vegetariano/a	<i>Soh-noh veh-jeh-tah-ree-ah-noh/nah</i>
42	How is the house wine?	Com'è il vino della casa?	<i>Koh-meh eel vee-noh deh-lah kah-zah?</i>
43	I'll have...	Prendo...	<i>Prehn-doh...</i>
44	I'd like a coffee, please	Vorrei un caffè per favore	<i>Vohr-ray oon kah-feh pehr fah-voh-reh)</i>
45	Can you pack it to take away?	Me lo può impacchettare per portarlo via?	<i>Meh loh pwoh eem-pahk-keh-tah-reh pehr pohr-tahr-loh vee-ah?</i>
46	The bill, please	Il conto per favore	<i>Eel ko-toh, pehr fah-voh-reh</i>

For more helpful phrases and tips, check out my guides to [ordering food and drinks in Italian](#) and [tipping in Italy](#). And if you are a coffee lover, don't miss all my tips to [order coffee in Italy like a pro!](#)



Asking for directions in Italian

In a world where navigation apps often guide our every step, it's easy to overlook the beauty of human interaction. However, when you find yourself wandering the enchanting streets of Italy, knowing how to ask for directions in Italian can transform your journey into fun memories. And even if you don't catch every word of the response, mastering a few key phrases will give you enough context to find your way.

Common phrases for asking directions in Italian			
	English	Italian	Pronunciation
47	Where is...?	Dov'è...?	<i>Doh-veh...?</i>
48	I'm looking for...	Sto cercando...	<i>Stoh cher-kan-doh...</i>
49	I'm lost	Mi sono perso / persa	<i>Mee soh-noh pehr-soh / pehr-sah</i>
50	How can I get to...?	Come posso arrivare a...?	<i>Koh-meh poh-soh ah-ree-vah-reh ah...?</i>
51	How far is...?	Quanto dista...?	<i>Kwan-toh dee-stah...?</i>
52	How long does it take to get to...?	Quanto ci vuole per arrivare a...?	<i>Kwan-toh chee vwoh-leh pehr ah-ree-vah-reh ah...?</i>
53	Is there a... nearby?	C'è un... vicino?	<i>Cheh oon... vee-chee-noh?</i>
54	Where is the bathroom?	Dov'è il bagno?	<i>Doh-veh eel bah-nyoh?</i>
55	Can you take me to this address?	Mi può portare a questo indirizzo?	<i>Mee pwoh por-tah-reh ah kweh-stoh een-dee-reet-tsoh?</i>

Check out my guide to [asking directions in Italian](#) for a list of common direction words and useful vocabulary for locations. Oh, and don't forget to take a look at all the ways to [ask where is the bathroom in Italian](#) - perhaps not so glamorous, but definitely a lifesaver!



Shopping in Italy

Whether it's bargaining in the lively markets of Palermo or searching for the perfect outfit in Rome's chic boutiques, knowing what to say will make all the difference. You'll confidently engage with local vendors, ask about their products, and even steer clear of potential scams!

Basic conversational Italian for shopping			
	English	Italian	Pronunciation
56	I would like...	Vorrei...	<i>Vor-ray...</i>
57	How much is it?	Quanto costa?	<i>Kwan-toh koh-stah?</i>
58	How much does it cost per kilo?	Quanto costa al chilo?	<i>Kwan-toh koh-stah ahl kee-loh?</i>
59	Can I try this on?	Posso provare questo / questa?	<i>Poh-soh proh-var-eh kweh-stoh / kweh-stah?</i>
60	Do you have a bigger/smaller size?	Avete una taglia più grande/piccola?	<i>Ah-veh-teh oo-nah tah-lyah pyoo gran-deh / pee-koh-lah?</i>
61	I like it, I'll take it	Mi piace, lo/la prendo	<i>Mee pya-chay, lo/la prehn-doh</i>
62	Do you accept credit cards?	Accettate carte di credito?	<i>Ah-chet-tah-teh kar-teh dee creh-dee-toh?</i>
63	Can I pay in cash?	Posso pagare in contanti?	<i>Poh-soh pah-gah-reh een kon-tahn-tee?</i>
64	Can I have a small discount?	Posso avere un piccolo sconto?	<i>Poh-soh ah-veh-reh oon peek-koh-loh skon-toh?</i>
65	I'm just taking a look, thank you	Do solo un'occhiata, grazie	<i>Doh soh-loh oon-ohk-kyah-tah, grah-tsye</i>
66	When do the sales start?	Quando iniziano i saldi?	<i>Kwahn-doh ee-nee-tsee-ah-noh ee sahl-dee?</i>
67	Do you ship internationally?	Fate spedizioni internazionali?	<i>Fah-teh speh-deet-see-oh-nee</i>



			<i>een-ter-naht-zee-oh-nah-le e?</i>
68	I don't want it!	Non lo voglio!	<i>Non lo vol-yoh!</i>

Navigating tickets and transportation in Italian

Finding one's way through the public transportation system and purchasing tickets for attractions can sometimes pose a few challenges, especially in small villages where hardly anyone speaks English. In this section, I'll give you some essential Italian phrases that will help you confidently find your way around cities and secure tickets smoothly.

Common phrases for tickets and transportation in Italian			
	English	Italian	Pronunciation
69	I'm looking for the subway	Cerco la metropolitana	<i>Cher-koh lah meh-troh-poh-lee-tah-nah</i>
70	Where is the train station / bus stop?	Dov'è la stazione / la fermata dell'autobus?	<i>Doh-veh lah stah-tzee-oh-neh / lah fehr-mah-tah dell ow-toh-boos?</i>
71	Where can I find a taxi?	Dove posso trovare un taxi?	<i>Doh-veh poh-sso troh-vah-reh oon tahk-see?</i>
72	I need to go to the airport	Devo andare all'aeroporto	<i>Deh-voh ahn-dah-reh ahl-air-oh-por-toh</i>
73	One ticket please	Un biglietto per favore	<i>Oon bee-glyeht-toh, pehr fah-voh-reh</i>
74	A one-way ticket, please	Un biglietto di sola andata per favore	<i>Oon bee-glyeht-toh dee soh-lah ahn-dah-tah, pehr fah-voh-reh</i>
75	A return ticket, please	Un biglietto di andata e ritorno per favore	<i>Oon bee-glyeht-toh dee ahn-dah-tah eh ree-tor-noh, pehr fah-voh-reh</i>
76	Are there reduced prices for children / students / seniors?	Ci sono prezzi ridotti per bambini/ studenti/ pensionati?	<i>Chee soh-noh pret-tsee ree-dot-tee pehr bam-bee-nee /</i>



			<i>stoo-den-tee / pen-syo-nah-tee?</i>
77	Do I have to validate the ticket?	Devo obliterare il biglietto?	<i>Deh-voh oh-blee-teh-rah-reh eel bee-glyeht-toh?</i>
78	What time does the train / bus arrive?	A che ora arriva il treno / autobus?	<i>Ah keh oh-rah ah-ree-vah eel tray-noh/ow-toh-boos?</i>
79	What time does the train / bus depart?	A che ora parte il treno / autobus?	<i>Ah keh oh-rah par-teh eel tray-noh/ow-toh-boos?</i>

Be sure to check out my [Italy travel tips](#) to avoid tourist traps and live authentic experiences as you explore the beautiful landscapes and rich culture of Italy!

Dealing with accommodation in Italian

When you're staying in Italy, especially in smaller bed and breakfasts or countryside inns, it's a good idea to have some basic Italian phrases up your sleeve. While staff at larger chains usually speak good English, employees in smaller establishments may not. Below, you'll find some useful phrases to help with your accommodation needs, whether it's discussing a reservation or asking about hotel amenities.

Dealing with accommodation in Italian			
	English	Italian	Pronunciation
80	Do you have any rooms available?	Avete camere disponibili ?	<i>Aah-veh-teh kah-meh-reh dee-spoh-nee-bee-lee?</i>
81	I would like to book a double room / a twin room with single beds	Vorrei prenotare una camera matrimoniale / doppia con letti singoli	<i>Voh-rray preh-noh-tah-reh oo-nah kah-meh-rah mah-tree-moh-nyah-leh / dohp-pyah kohn let-tee seen-goh-lee</i>
82	I have a reservation under the name of...	Ho una prenotazione a nome di...	<i>Oh oo-nah preh-noh-tah-tsyoh-neh ah noh-meh dee...</i>



83	The room is too small / noisy. Is it possible to change it?	La stanza è troppo piccola / rumorosa. È possibile cambiarla?	<i>Lah stahn-zah eh troh-poh peek-koh-lah / roo-moh-roh-sah. Eh poh-see-bee-leh kahm-byar-lah?</i>
84	What time is breakfast / checkout?	A che ora è la colazione?	<i>Ah keh oh-rah eh lah koh-lah-tsyoh-neh / eel check-out?</i>
85	Can I leave my luggage here after checkout?	Posso lasciare i bagagli qui dopo il check out?	<i>Poh-soh lah-shyah-reh ee bah-gahl-yee kwee doh-poh eel check-out?</i>
86	Is there WiFi?	C'è il WiFi?	<i>Cheh eel wee-fee?</i>
87	What's the WiFi password?	Qual è la password del WiFi?	<i>Kwal eh lah pahss-word del wee-fee?</i>
88	The air conditioning / heating isn't working	L'aria condizionata / Il riscaldamento non funziona	<i>Lar-ee-ah kohn-dee-tsee-oh-nah-tah / eel ree-scal-dah-men-toh nohn foon-tsee-oh-nah</i>
89	Do you have a map of the city?	Avete una mappa della città?	<i>Ah-veh-teh oo-nah mah-pah del-lah chee-tah?</i>
90	Can you recommend a good restaurant?	Ci potete consigliare un buon ristorante?	<i>Chee poh-teh-teh kohn-see-lyah-reh oon bwon ree-stoh-rahn-teh?</i>

Asking for help in Italian during emergencies

Imagine you're in a situation where you need help urgently, but no one around speaks English. This is where knowing some key Italian emergency phrases can truly make a difference. So, let's arm you with some key expressions to help you navigate emergencies with confidence and... **che Dio ce la mandi buona** (let's hope for the best)!

Asking for help in Italian during emergencies			
	English	Italian	Pronunciation
91	Help!	Aiuto!	<i>Ah-yoo-toh!</i>
92	Watch out!	Attenzione!	<i>Aht-ten-tsyoh-neh!</i>
93	There's an emergency	C'è un'emergenza	<i>Cheh oon eh-mer-jen-tsah</i>
94	Call the police / an ambulance	Chiama la polizia / un'ambulanza	<i>Kya-mah lah poh-lee-tsee-ah / oon ahm-boo-lahn-tsah</i>
95	I feel sick	Sto male	<i>Stoh mah-leh</i>
96	Where is the hospital?	Dov'è l'ospedale?	<i>Doh-veh lohs-peh-dah-leh?</i>
97	I need a doctor	Ho bisogno di un dottore	<i>Oh bee-zoh-n'yoh dee oon doh-toh-reh</i>
98	Can you help me, please?	Puoi aiutarmi per favore?	<i>Pwoy ah-yoo-tar-mee pehr fah-voh-reh?</i>
99	Someone stole my bag / my wallet!	Qualcuno mi ha rubato la borsa / il portafoglio!	<i>Kwal-koo-noh mee ah roo-bah-toh lah bor-sahe / el por-tah-foh-lyoh!</i>
100	Go away!	Vai via!	<i>Vy vee-ah!</i>



Grazie!

I hope you enjoyed this cheat-sheet and learned something new. Remember, don't worry about not being able to remember it all, you're learning more than most other people do so you should be very proud of yourself. I know I am!

Want more language resources? Check out my guide on top-rated [languages tools, courses, and apps here](#). If you enjoyed this compact language guide and you want to discover how I can help you boost your language skills, [check out my popular language courses here](#).

If you have any feedback on this guide or want to share any suggestions for future material you'd love me to create, feel free to get in touch at michele@theintrepidguide.com

*As a thank you for downloading this guide, I'm proud to offer you a **special reader discount**. Simply use the code **TRAVEL20** at checkout to **GET 20% OFF** any purchase of my online travel language courses. [Check out my language courses here](#) or visit intrepiditalian.com.

Please do keep in touch and follow me on:

My website: [The Intrepid Guide](#)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/theintrepidguide/>

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/theintrepidguide>

Italian YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/intrepiditalianwithmichele>

Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/intrepidguide>

Instagram: [@intrepidguide](#) | Instagram: [@intrepiditalian](#) (For daily Italian lessons)

With all the encouragement in the world, I wish you success!

Happy learning!

Michele

