



**STEP-
BY-STEP**
GUIDE TO
FLUENCY

HOW TO LEARN ITALIAN SO **FAST** IT FEELS LIKE CHEATING

(using my unique 80/20 method)

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Welcome! Benvenuto/a!

Grazie! Thank you for downloading this guide — I'm so excited to be part of your Italian learning journey.

This isn't just any language guide. You're about to learn how to cut through the overwhelm and learn Italian smarter, faster, and more confidently using the same 80/20 method I used to teach myself Italian as an adult — and the same method I've built into all my Intrepid Italian courses.

Whether your dream is to travel confidently, connect with your Italian heritage, or simply learn something new and exciting — you're in the right place. And you don't need to learn *everything* to start speaking. Just the *right* things.

Meet Your Teacher



Ciao! I'm **Michele Frolla**, an Italian-Australian content creator, teacher and the founder of **Intrepid Italian** and **The Intrepid Guide** — but my roots run deeper than that.

I'm proud of my **Italian heritage** — my dad and his parents immigrated from Italy to Australia, and I grew up hearing Italian spoken at family gatherings. But like many second-generation kids, I wasn't taught the language. I heard it... but I didn't understand it. And I definitely couldn't speak it.

It wasn't until I was in my twenties that I made the decision to reconnect with my culture and learn Italian *properly* — from scratch, as an adult.

And it wasn't easy. I struggled with all the usual things: verb conjugations, prepositions, gender rules, and that frustrating feeling of knowing what I wanted to say but not how to say it.

That's what led me to create my own system — a smarter, faster, more efficient way to learn based on the **80/20 principle** and the real experience of learning Italian as a non-native speaker.



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Now, I teach Italian grammar, travel phrases, and conversational skills to **thousands of students around the world** through my online courses — using a method that's clear, confidence-building, and focused only on what *really matters*.

You don't need to waste time. You don't need to be perfect.

You just need the right strategy — and that's what I'm here to give you.

Let's stay connected

Join me daily for bite-sized Italian lessons, travel tips, and inspiration over on Instagram:

👉 [@intrepiditalian](https://www.instagram.com/intrepiditalian)

And if you ever feel stuck or don't know where to begin, just reach out — I'm here to help you every step of the way. 💛

Let's learn Italian together.

A presto,

Michele



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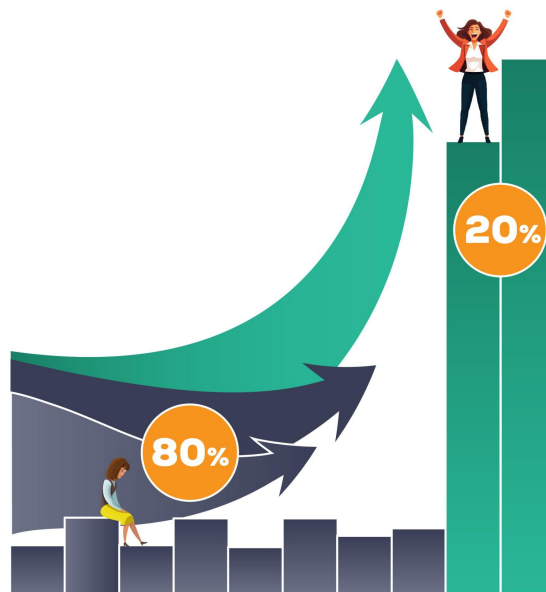


Introduction: Why You're Not the Problem — The Method Is

Let's be honest — if you've ever felt like you're *just not good at languages*, it's not your fault. Most language resources are bloated, confusing, and try to teach you *everything* at once.

I get it — because I was in your shoes too. I'm not a native Italian speaker. I didn't grow up speaking it, and I didn't learn it in school. I learned Italian as an adult, starting from zero. And along the way, I struggled with all the things you're probably facing now — verb tenses, prepositions, masculine/feminine nouns, forgetting words, losing motivation, feeling stuck.

But everything changed when I discovered the 80/20 method — a strategy that allowed me to stop wasting time, focus on what *actually* matters, and start speaking confidently in record time.



Now, I've built my entire Intrepid Italian course system using this same 80/20 philosophy — and in this free guide, I'm going to show you exactly how to use it too.

Iniziamo! Let's get started.



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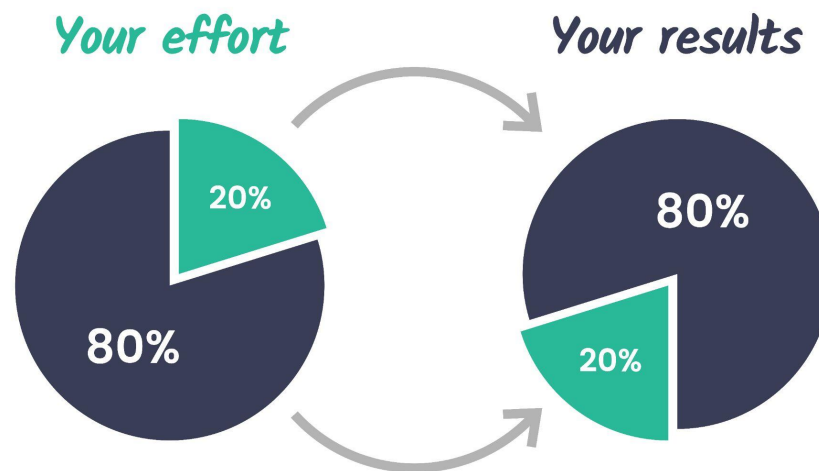
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Chapter 1: The 80/20 Rule — What It Is and Why It Changes Everything

The 80/20 Rule (also known as the Pareto Principle) is simple but powerful:

80% of your results come from just 20% of your efforts.

In language learning, that means you don't need to learn everything — you just need to learn the *right* things.



Most courses overwhelm you with every tense, every rule, every exception. But the truth is:

- 80% of your conversations will use just the present tense, the passato prossimo, and high-frequency verbs.
- 80% of the Italian you *actually need* can be learned quickly with the right method.

That's why I created my Italian courses differently. Each one is structured around the 80/20 principle — so there's **zero fluff, zero wasted time, and 100% focus on what moves the needle.**

In this ebook, I'll walk you through how to start applying this approach today — even if you're a complete beginner.

Let's start with an instant win that'll boost your confidence: Italian cognates.



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Chapter 2: Instant Wins — The Cognate Shortcut for Beginner Confidence

Here's a secret most beginners don't realize: you already know *hundreds* of Italian words. They're called **cognates** — words that look and sound similar in both languages, usually because they share Latin roots.

When you know how to recognize them, you can quickly grow your vocabulary and start *playing* with the language — even before you know any grammar.

Rule #1: English nouns ending in -y become -ia in Italian

- biology → **la biologia**
- philosophy → **la filosofia**
- sociology → **la sociologia**
- anatomy → **l'anatomia**

Rule #2: English nouns ending in -ic or -ics become -ica in Italian

- music → **la musica**
- politics → **la politica**
- logic → **la logica**

Rule #3: English nouns ending in -ty become -tà in Italian

- city → **la città**
- identity → **l'identità**
- university → **l'università**

Pretty cool, right? You can start understanding and recognizing Italian words *instantly* — even if you've never studied a day in your life.

These patterns give you a real sense of momentum. And when you're ready to dive deeper, I show you how to expand on this strategy inside my A1 beginner course — where we start with the *useful* stuff, not the textbook fluff.

Coming up next: what grammar you *actually* need as a beginner — and what to skip for now.



Chapter 3: The 20% of Grammar You Actually Need First

Here's where most learners go wrong: they try to learn *all* the grammar at once.

But the truth is, only a handful of grammar concepts will carry you through your first conversations and help you start expressing yourself in real-life situations.

Here's what you actually need in the beginning — and nothing more.

1. Master the Present Tense (il presente)

This is the tense you'll use **80% of the time** — especially at the A1 and A2 levels. With just the present tense, you can:

- Ask questions
- Talk about yourself and your daily life
- Make small talk
- Order food
- Express opinions

It's your foundation. And once it clicks, the other tenses become way easier to learn.



2. Learn the 10 Most Common Verbs

The top 10 most used verbs in Italian will take you *a long* way. They include:

1. **essere** (to be)
2. **avere** (to have)
3. **fare** (to do/make)
4. **andare** (to go)
5. **dire** (to say)
6. **potere** (can)
7. **volere** (to want)
8. **dovere** (must/have to)
9. **sapere** (to know [a fact])
10. **vedere** (to see)

Learn how to conjugate these in the present tense, and you'll already be forming full sentences with ease.



3. Get Familiar with Nouns, Articles, and Adjectives

Yes, Italian nouns have gender. And yes, it takes time to get used to. But start with the basics:

- Learn how to say *a* and *the* (**un/una** and **il/la**)
- Understand how adjectives agree with nouns
- Practice describing people and things

This is enough to get moving — no need to worry about the subjunctive or passato remoto just yet. Those can wait.

Language Hack: English... from the 1700s?

Here's a fun little insight that really helped me when I was first learning Italian.

One of the reasons Italian can sound *so strange* when translated literally into English is because it's incredibly formal — and sometimes downright archaic.

In fact, **speaking Italian is kind of like speaking English from the 1700s!**

Let me show you what I mean:

In Italian, it's completely grammatically correct to say:

"Sono venuta."

(Literally: "I am come.")

To an English speaker today, that sounds... odd, right?

But in 18th-century English, it was perfectly normal! Take this line from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*:

"I am glad you are come back, Lizzy."

Mr. Bennet doesn't say "have come" — he says "are come," just like you would in Italian using **essere** as the auxiliary verb.

This blew my mind when I first discovered it — and it made everything click into place.



Because I learned Italian as an adult, I started drawing these parallels for myself — connections a native speaker wouldn't think to make, but which helped me bridge the gap and remember complex grammar rules with ease.

I share these kinds of insights throughout all my courses, so you don't just memorize — *you understand*.

Chapter 4: Vocabulary Hacks for Real-Life Italian

You don't need thousands of words to start speaking Italian. You need the *right* ones.

Instead of trying to memorize endless word lists, use these hacks to build a powerful and practical vocabulary that sticks — and helps you speak *right away*.

1. Focus on High-Frequency Words

Start with words you'll hear and use every day — like:

- greetings (**ciao, buongiorno, arrivederci**)
- food & drink (**pane, acqua, vino, pasta**)
- travel & directions (**dove, sinistra, destra, stazione**)
- people & places (**amico, ragazza, casa, città**)

This is exactly what we focus on inside my [A1 course](#) — useful words you'll actually say in real conversations.

2. Use Cognates to Your Advantage (Again!)

Remember those word patterns from Chapter 2? Here's how to take it further:

- Learn new vocabulary in **categories**, so your brain builds strong connections.
- Use your knowledge of English to “guess” the Italian — it works more often than you think!



Try this quiz: What's the Italian for these words?

- democracy
- economy
- fantastic
- opportunity

Ready? Scroll down to check your guesses:



OK, here they are:

- **la democrazia**
- **L'economia**
- **fantastico**
- **l'opportunità**

See how powerful this is? You already know *so much more* than you thought you did.

3. Use Spaced Repetition — the Right Way

Apps like Anki and Quizlet are great, but only if you use them strategically.

Here's how:

- Focus only on words you actually *want to use*
- Add example sentences, not just the word
- Review *daily*, even just for 5 minutes

Vocabulary isn't about memorizing — it's about making words meaningful. That's why, in my [30-Day Challenges](#), I teach vocabulary in *context* — so you learn phrases, not just words.

Coming up next: how to train your ear to understand fast-spoken Italian — and how to actually speak it, even if you're shy.

Chapter 5: Memory Hacks and Mnemonics — How to Make Italian Stick

So you've started learning new Italian words and grammar rules — fantastic!

But now you're probably wondering... **how do I remember all of this?**

That's where memory hacks come in. You don't need a photographic memory. You just need to use your brain *the way it's designed to work best* — with **associations, imagery**, and a bit of creativity.



🧠 Myth-Busting: “I’m too old to learn a language” — False!

Let’s pause for a second and address the elephant in the room — the belief that adults can’t learn languages as easily as children.

This is one of the **biggest myths** out there. And it’s flat-out wrong.

In fact, **numerous studies** show that adults can be *just as good*, or even better, than children at learning a second language — especially when it comes to grammar, vocabulary, and conscious learning strategies.

✅ A 2018 study published in *Cognition* found that while pronunciation may get harder with age, **grammar and vocabulary learning ability remains strong well into your 60s and beyond**.

✅ Other research from MIT shows that **motivated adult learners with the right strategy can outperform younger learners**, especially in structured environments.

So no — you are *not* too old. You are just getting started — and you’re doing it smarter.

🔑 How to Lock Italian Into Your Memory: Memory Hooks

Now that you’re learning useful words and patterns, it’s time to start **remembering** them for the long term. You’re about to discover how to commit these Italian words, expressions, and grammar rules into your brain *in a way that sticks*.

How?

👉 **You create a memory hook.**

A memory hook is when you link the new word or concept with something you already know — a sound, an image, a person, a funny story, anything that makes it *yours*.

It doesn’t need to make sense to anyone else — just to you.

✨ Real Example: “Salve” and Salutations

When I first learned the formal Italian greeting “**Salve**” (hello), I needed a way to remember it and not confuse it with “**Ciao**”.



So I created a memory hook:

“Salve” reminded me of the word **salutations**, and that instantly brought to mind the old-fashioned greeting, ‘*Greetings and Salutations!*’ — which is formal and polite, just like “Salve.”

Boom — that was it. I never forgot “Salve” again.



Another Example: Louis and Leia

The Italian word for **he** is **lui** (pronounced *loo-ee*), and **she** is **lei** (pronounced *lay*).

So here’s a fun hook:

Think of **King Louis (Lui)** and **Princess Leia (Lei)**.

Now you’ve got royalty helping you remember Italian pronouns!



Tips for Creating Your Own Mnemonics

- **Look for sounds:** Does the Italian word sound like something familiar in English?
- **Think visual:** Can you picture a scene, a person, a cartoon, a movie character?
- **Make it weird:** The stranger or funnier the association, the easier it is to remember.
Get personal: Use people, memories, or things from *your* life — they’re more powerful than random examples.

Remember, creating memory hooks is a skill — and it gets easier the more you practice.



Now You Try

Let’s practice together. What’s the Italian word for **table**?

→ It’s **tavolo** (TAH-voh-loh)

Try this:

- Picture a giant dining **table** covered in your favorite **tapas** dishes.
- The waiter says, “*Voilà!*” — and you say “**tapas volo**” — which sounds close to **tavolo**.



It doesn't have to be perfect. Just *memorable*.

Take your time with this. It's **one of the most important steps in the learning process** — because remembering is what turns knowledge into confidence.

In the next chapter, we'll talk about how to train your ear to understand fast-spoken Italian and how to actually *speak* even when you feel nervous.

Chapter 6: Listening and Speaking — Even If You're Nervous

Let's be real: listening to fast-spoken Italian can feel like trying to catch a waterfall with a teacup.

And speaking? It can be even scarier — especially when you're worried about sounding silly, making mistakes, or not remembering the words.

But here's the truth:

You don't have to be perfect to communicate.

You just have to be *understood* — and that starts with two simple things: training your ear, and opening your mouth.

Let's break it down.

How to Train Your Ear for Italian

You don't need to understand *every word* to start getting better at listening. You just need [comprehensible input](#) — Italian that's just above your current level, so your brain starts filling in the gaps naturally.

Here's what helps:

- Watch shows, videos, or YouTube lessons **with subtitles** (first in Italian, then in English only if needed)
- Rewatch the same short clip 2–3 times. First for meaning, then for words, then for pronunciation
- Slow it down — YouTube has a playback speed option!



Inside my [conversation course](#) and [30-Day Challenges](#), I build this in naturally — introducing Italian in clear, digestible chunks so your brain isn't overwhelmed.

How to Start Speaking (Even if You're Shy)

You don't need to be fluent to start speaking.

In fact, **speaking from Day 1** — even just a few words — is the fastest way to overcome fear and build real confidence.

Here's how to ease into it:

- Start by repeating words and phrases out loud after hearing them
- Talk to yourself (yes, really!) — describe what you're doing in Italian
- Book a 30-minute conversation on [italki with a friendly tutor](#) — just to practice *saying* things out loud

And here's the best part: most Italians are incredibly kind and patient with learners. They'll be delighted you're trying.

You don't have to say things perfectly. You just have to try.

Confidence Grows Like a Plant

Think of your confidence like a little plant. The more often you water it (by listening and speaking), the faster it grows.

And remember — in all my [30-Day Challenges](#), I build in simple exercises to get you speaking *right away*, without the overwhelm.

Chapter 7: Classic Struggles for English Speakers — and How to Beat Them

If you're a native English speaker learning Italian, there are a few common pain points that almost *everyone* bumps into.

But don't worry — you're not alone. I've been there too, and I've built simple 80/20 workarounds for each of them.



1. Prepositions — The Ultimate Brain-Twister

Italian prepositions seem like a mystery at first. Why is it *a scuola* but *in banca*? What's the difference between *di* and *da*?

Spoiler alert: they don't always match up one-to-one with English.

But once you learn the *patterns*, it becomes so much easier.

That's why I created my [30-Day Prepositions Challenge](#) — because once you understand the logic (and hear lots of examples), it *clicks*.

2. Gender and Agreement — Why Does Everything Have a Gender?!

In English, a table is just a table. In Italian? It's either masculine or feminine — and adjectives and articles have to match.

The trick? Learn each noun with its article:

- Not just *casa* → learn *la casa*
- Not just *libro* → learn *il libro*

And remember, this takes time. No need to be perfect right away. Even native speakers make mistakes sometimes.

3. Word Order and Formality

Italian word order is more flexible than English — and often more formal.

Remember Chapter 3's example?

"I am come" → **Sono venuta**

At first, these structures can feel stiff or backwards. But once you understand *why* Italian works this way (like 1700s English!), it gets easier to internalize.

One of my favorite tricks is to **translate Italian into old-fashioned English** — it helps you get used to the tone and structure.



😄 4. Pronunciation Fears

Worried about rolling your R's or saying *gn* like in *lasagne*?

Here's the good news:

- Italian pronunciation is *phonetic*. What you see is what you say.
- Once you learn the main sound patterns, you'll read and pronounce things with ease.

Inside my [beginner A1 course](#), I break this down step by step — so you sound confident *and* clear.

Up next: the Italian you **don't need to learn yet** — and how skipping it will help you learn faster.

Chapter 8: What You *Don't* Need to Learn (Yet)

The secret to learning faster is knowing what to ignore — for now.

One of the biggest mistakes learners make?

Trying to learn *everything* at once.

They get stuck in the weeds with complex tenses, obscure rules, and low-frequency vocabulary — and end up overwhelmed, confused, and burnt out.

But here's the truth:

You don't need to learn *all* the Italian.

You just need the *right* Italian for *right now*.

That's the whole heart of the 80/20 method.

So let's talk about what you can **skip** for now — guilt-free.



✗ 1. The Subjunctive Mood (il congiuntivo)

Yes, the subjunctive exists in Italian.

Yes, it's used in specific situations.

But no — **you don't need it as a beginner.**

You can have real conversations, understand native speakers, and even write messages — all without using the subjunctive.

👉 We don't cover this in detail until my [B1 course](#), when it actually becomes relevant. That's when I teach it in a simple, clear, non-intimidating way — so it finally makes sense.

✗ 2. The Passato Remoto

This tense is mostly used in literature, historical writing, and certain regions of Italy (especially the south).

If you're reading a novel or watching an old film, you might spot it.

But in everyday conversation? **You won't need it.**

That's why I don't include it in my beginner or intermediate courses — it's just not worth your time right now.

✗ 3. Obscure Vocabulary You'll Never Use

Do you really need to know the Italian word for *shoelace* or *parliamentary session* in your first 3 months?

Probably not. What you *do* need is:

- Practical, high-frequency vocabulary
- Words you'll use to introduce yourself, ask for help, shop, travel, eat, and connect with people

That's why all of my [A1–B1 courses](#) and [30-Day Challenges](#) are built around **real-life Italian** — not textbook trivia.



✗ 4. Formal Grammar Terminology

Let's face it — unless you're a linguist, terms like “past anterior passive progressive” don't mean much.

You don't need to know the fancy labels. You just need to understand:

- What a structure means
- When to use it
- How to build it yourself

That's why I explain everything in simple, relatable English — from one adult learner to another.

✨ Focus = Progress

When you focus on the essential 20%, you:

- Avoid overwhelm
- Build momentum
- Actually enjoy the process
- Get results faster

So give yourself permission to skip the fluff.

The rest can wait — and I'll be here to guide you when it's time.

Next up: your personal roadmap from A1 to B1 — what to focus on at each level, and how to move forward confidently.

Chapter 9: Your Roadmap from A1 to B1 — What to Focus on and When

Now that you've learned how to study smarter, not harder, it's time to zoom out and look at the bigger picture:

What does the journey from beginner (A1) to intermediate (B1) *actually* look like?

Spoiler alert: it's not linear. And it's not always smooth.



But with the right guidance (and by sticking to the 80/20 path), you can make steady progress without the overwhelm.

Here's your personal roadmap — with zero fluff, and only the essentials you need to move forward with confidence.

A1 Level: The Essential Foundation

At this stage, your goal is to build a solid base.

What to Focus On:

- Present tense verbs (regular + top 10 irregulars)
- Subject pronouns
- Useful vocabulary: greetings, numbers, days, food, family
- Basic sentence structure
- Asking and answering simple questions
- Listening to slow, clear Italian
- Speaking in short, rehearsed phrases

This is exactly what we cover in [Intrepid Italian for Beginners \(A1\)](#) — only the most useful material, explained clearly and practically.

A2 Level: Build Fluency with the Essentials

Now you've got the basics. It's time to expand and connect more dots.

What to Focus On:

- The passato prossimo (the #1 past tense)
- Reflexive verbs
- Direct and indirect object pronouns (mi, ti, lo, la...)
- Modal verbs (volere, potere, dovere)
- Prepositions (a, in, di, da...)
- Talking about daily routines, habits, likes/dislikes
- Listening to conversations at a natural speed
- Having short back-and-forth conversations



Inside my [A2 course](#), we focus on using these elements in *real sentences*, with interactive examples and confidence-building repetition — so it sticks.

B1 Level: Step Into Real Conversations

At this stage, you're starting to:

- Think in Italian
- Say what you *mean*
- Understand natural speech (even when it's fast!)
- Hold your own in conversations — with mistakes, yes, but also with real confidence

What to Focus On:

- The imperfect tense (l'imperfetto)
- Combining tenses (present + past together)
- Comparisons, superlatives, future tense
- Building longer sentences with connectors
- Handling common grammar challenges (prepositions, pronouns, etc.)
- Listening to podcasts, videos, and short stories in Italian
- Speaking spontaneously — not just repeating memorized phrases

That's why I created my [Intrepid Italian for Intermediate \(B1\)](#) course — to help you bridge the gap from “I kind of get it” to “I can actually use this!”

BONUS: The 30-Day Challenges

You can layer these on at any point (A1–B1) to boost a specific skill:

- [Tenses Challenge](#) → to master present, past, and future tenses
- [Prepositions Challenge](#) → to stop guessing and start using them correctly
- [Verbs Challenge](#) → to deeply learn irregular and reflexive verbs
- [Pronouns Challenge](#) → coming soon!



- [Idioms](#) + [Slang](#) Challenges → to sound more natural and understand real Italian

All of these follow the **same 80/20 learning system** — no fluff, just progress.

Your Next Step

By now, you've seen just how powerful the 80/20 method can be — and how much faster it helps you learn.

If you're ready to stop spinning your wheels and start speaking real Italian — without the overwhelm — my [A1–B1 courses](#) and [30-Day Challenges](#) are here to guide you, every step of the way.

Because learning Italian doesn't have to be slow. Or confusing. Or boring.

It can feel like a breakthrough — every single week.

Chapter 10: You Can Do This (And Faster Than You Think)

Let's take a moment to look back at how far you've come — even just in this short guide.

- You've learned the *real* reason most people struggle to learn Italian (hint: it's not them — it's the method).
- You've discovered the 80/20 principle, and how focusing on the right 20% unlocks faster, more sustainable progress.
- You've already started learning Italian words you didn't even realize you knew (thank you, cognates!).
- You've learned how to build memory hooks that make new vocabulary *stick*.
- You've overcome the fear that you might be “too old” to learn a new language (you're not!).
- You've seen exactly what to focus on — and what to ignore — at every stage from [A1 to B1](#).

So now comes the most important part:

Keep going!

Learning a language isn't about perfection.



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It's about *consistency*, *confidence*, and doing a little more today than you did yesterday.

💬 “But What If I Get Stuck Again?”

You will.

Everyone does. Even I did.

But now, you have the tools to get *unstuck*.

When motivation dips or grammar feels confusing, come back to these principles:

- What's the **20%** that really matters right now?
- Can I create a **memory hook** to help me remember this?
- Am I expecting myself to be perfect — or just trying to make progress?

This mindset will carry you further than any textbook ever could.

🚀 Ready to Go Further?

If you've found this ebook helpful, then you'll love what I've built inside my full Intrepid Italian course system:

- The [A1, A2, and B1 courses](#) walk you step-by-step through the essential grammar, vocabulary, and sentence-building you need to actually *use* Italian — in conversations, on trips, and in real life.
- The [30-Day Challenges](#) help you go deep on one topic at a time — whether it's prepositions, tenses, verbs, idioms, or soon, pronouns.
- Everything is structured with the **same 80/20 method** you've seen here — so you never waste time, and you always make progress.

And the best part? You don't have to do it alone.

I've walked this path too — as an adult learner, just like you.

And I built these courses for people who want to learn fast, smart, and with confidence.



🌟 Final Thoughts: The Fast Track Isn't a Myth

Most people take years to reach the level of fluency they want — not because they're lazy or unmotivated, but because they're following a method that's broken.

You've just learned a new way.

A better way.

A way that *actually works* — and respects your time, your brain, and your goals.

So now the only question is...

When will you take the first step and apply what you learned in this guide? 🇮🇹🌟

And I hope to see you inside [Intrepid Italian](#) very soon.

In bocca al lupo! (Good luck!)

A presto,

Michele



BONUS CHAPTER: Real Results — Michele from New York's Story



Meet **Michele**, a lifelong Italian learner from New York (and no, not *this* Michele!). Like me, she was *also* named after her *nonno* (**grandfather**).

Like many people with Italian heritage, Michele grew up hearing Italian at home — but she was never formally taught it. She studied it in high school and college, got top grades, and could understand grammar rules... but still struggled to *speak*.

*“Everyone said, ‘Oh, when you go to Italy, you’ll just pick it up.’
But that didn’t happen for me. I was book smart — but I couldn’t find the words.”*

Then she discovered **Intrepid Italian**.

Starting Over with a Fresh Approach

Michele joined [Intrepid Italian for Travel](#), even though she already had some experience.

*“You told me it might be a bit easy for me, but I was so rusty.
Taking that course was the best thing I could’ve done.
I got a quick win, and that gave me the confidence to keep going.”*

She loved that the course gave her *immediate success*, which helped her stay motivated — something that’s usually missing in other programs.

“Adults can learn languages — the problem is that we’re bad at it for so long before we get good... and that’s when we give up. But you made it easy to be successful quickly.”

Why Learning from a Non-Native Was a Game Changer

One of Michele’s concerns was whether she should be learning from a native speaker. But that quickly disappeared.



*“A native speaker knows the language innately — they don’t always understand the struggles.
But you do. You’ve been there.
You know how to explain things so they actually make sense to someone who’s learning as an adult.”*

Even her native Italian friend gave the courses a thumbs up, telling Michele:

“Her Italian is spot on.”

Building True Understanding, Not Just Memorization

What Michele appreciated most was how you structured the learning experience to start with wins, build confidence, and *then* introduce deeper grammar — without overwhelming learners.

*“I need to understand why the grammar works. Not just memorize it.
You give the structure first so we feel like we’ve already had success — and then you layer in the grammar and nuance.”*

She finished the [A1 course](#), followed your advice not to jump ahead, and later dove into the [Confident Conversations course](#), which she absolutely loved:

“The conversation course is amazing. It tests your listening, your reading, and gives you grammar explanations after you hear native speakers using it naturally. It’s exactly what I needed.”

Flexible, Realistic, and Built for Real Life

One thing Michele emphasized was how different your course was from rigid classroom learning.

*“In-person classes start and end with or without you. If you’re sick, running late, or life happens — too bad.
With Intrepid Italian, it’s self-paced. You can take the same lesson five times if you need to. You never miss out.”*

She also loved your Instagram and email content — the fun, helpful, *human* side of language learning that keeps her engaged between lessons.



Letting Go of the Pressure

*“At first, I thought, ‘I’ll do A1 this month, A2 the next’ — but then I realized: that’s not realistic.
This method gives me permission to go at my pace.
And it’s working.”*

She used active study when possible — but also leaned into passive learning by listening to audio while cooking or cleaning, keeping her momentum going even during busy weeks.

Real Progress, Real Confidence

Now, Michele is messaging in Italian, spotting grammar patterns she used to miss, and starting to *think* in Italian.

*“I text in Italian now. I talk to myself in Italian!
Even when I don’t get it perfectly, I’m no longer afraid. I just keep going.”*

Her advice?

*“Just start where you are. Don’t wait until you feel ‘ready.’
If you’re interested in the language — whether for heritage, travel, or fun —
this is the best way to do it.
It’s not just another course. It’s doable. It’s smart. It’s human.”*

What You Can Learn from Michele’s Story

- You don’t need to start from scratch — you just need to start.
- You don’t need to be perfect — you need a system that helps you *feel* successful.
- You don’t need a native speaker — you need someone who understands the *struggles* of learning as an adult.

That’s what Intrepid Italian is all about.

Michele’s story is proof that it’s never too late — and that with the right method, *you can learn Italian faster and more confidently than you ever imagined.*





What my students are saying:

"You make it easy to be successful....You know what I'm going through, a native speaker knows this innately. They don't understand the struggles that someone who isn't native would have, and you do. You know how to teach to those weaknesses or to those challenges.

I'm so happy I took this course. I've spent years feeling badly about forgetting the Italian I learned and never reaching fluency. I love learning with Michele. I love that she isn't a native Italian speaker.

I would argue that she makes a better teacher because she had to learn just the same way I have to learn. And she is confident enough to provide native Italian speakers in the course so you don't have to worry that you are not hearing the language the way Italians speak it."

- Michele, New York, USA -



Ready to Start Your Own Italian Journey?

Now that you've seen how the 80/20 Method works — and how real students like Michele from New York are using it to finally make progress — the next step is yours.

Whether you're just getting started or picking Italian back up after years away, my **Intrepid Italian courses** are designed to guide you every step of the way.

-  **[A1–B1 Grammar Courses](#)**: Build your foundation, fast-track fluency, and finally *understand* how Italian works.
-  **[30-Day Challenges](#)**: Focus on the trickiest topics (like verbs, tenses, prepositions, and more) with daily, bite-sized lessons that actually stick.
-  **[Confident Conversations Course](#)**: Train your ear, test your comprehension, and get ready for the real world of spoken Italian.

Everything is structured with the 80/20 Principle — so you spend zero time on fluff, and 100% on the Italian you actually need.

30-Day “Celebrate With a Spritz” Guarantee

All of my courses come with a **30-day money-back guarantee** — I call it my **"Celebrate with a Spritz" promise**.

If you don't feel more confident, clear, and excited about your Italian in the first 30 days, just let me know and I'll refund your purchase. No awkward questions. No hassle. Just honesty.

I want you to *love* learning Italian — and celebrate your success every step of the way.

 **Your next step** is simple: Choose your level. Pick your path. And let's get started together.

See you inside!

A presto,
Michele 🇮🇹 ✨

P.S. Not sure what your level in Italian is? **[Take my FREE level test here.](#)**



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