



Learning Italian

Italian is the native language of over 60 million people. It is the official language of Italy, the Republic of San Marino, and the Vatican. Italian is also one of the official languages of Switzerland and the European Union.

Writing System

Roman alphabet

Language Tips

- Italian pronunciation and spelling are regular and predictable.
- You'll notice that many Italian words have accent marks, which help with proper pronunciation (for example, è). Sometimes an accent mark is the only feature that distinguishes between two otherwise identical words.
- There are two categories of Italian nouns: masculine and feminine.
- Don't be surprised if you see sentences without subjects. Our program will teach you to identify who is speaking or being spoken about by focusing on the form of the verb.
- Italian has both formal and informal ways to address others, depending on the age of the speaker and her relationship to the person being addressed.
- Although lei is primarily used as a singular, third-person feminine pronoun, when capitalized it is also the formal way to directly address someone of either gender. In the latter situation, use Lei and the third-person singular verb form as a sign of respect.

Language Family

Romance

Dialect

Modern Standard Italian. Modern Standard Italian is the language of business, education, and the media in all regions of Italy.