

Request for Reconsideration after Final Action

The table below presents the data as entered.

Input Field	
SERIAL NUMBER	7906998
LAW OFFICE ASSIGNED	LAW OI
MARK SECTION (no change)	
ARGUMENT(S)	

IN

Commissioner for Trademarks
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451
Attn.: Michael Webster
Trademark Examining Attorney
Law Office 102

RESPON

Dear Commissioner and Trademark Examining Attorney:

Roberto Cavalli S.P.A. (hereinafter referred to as "Applicant") hereby responds to the Office Action 79/069,986 ("Applicant's Mark"), on the grounds that Applicant's Mark creates a likelihood of confusion v

Section 2(d) Refusal

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examining Attorney's refusal of registration of Applicant's Mark 3432649 when used in connection with the identified services in class 43.

As seen in Exhibit A, Applicant's Mark was assigned to Roberto Cavalli S.P.A. and the assignment

Because the marks the Examining Attorney cited as likely to create confusion with Applicant's Mark

Lanham Act 2(e)(4) Refusal

In the Office Action, the Examining Attorney refused registration of Applicant's Mark on the ground that the number of individuals with the surname Cavalli.

Section 2(e)(4) of the Lanham Act provides, in part:

No trademark by which the goods of the applicant may be distinguished from the goods of c

The test to be applied in determining whether a mark is "primarily merely a surname" is its primary signific

Among the factors that should be considered in determining whether a term is primarily merely a su
is on the Examining Attorney to establish a prima facie case that the primary significance of the mark to the
U.S.P.Q. 547 (T.T.A.B. 1977). In this case, Applicant respectfully contends that the evidence set forth here
feel of a foreign word and not of a surname. Each of these issues is further discussed herein.

A. The Term "CAVALLI" Has a Recognized Meaning As The Italian Word for "I

If a term has a readily recognized meaning apart from its surname significance, registration should l
language in its surname analysis. See In re Isabella Fiore LLC, 75 U.S.P.Q.2d 1564, 1568-69 (TTAB 2005
language, the TTAB will consider the significance of that meaning in the United States. Id. The doctrine o

The term "CAVALLI" has a recognized meaning as the Italian word meaning "horses." Attached
online translation services and websites regarding Italian grammar that demonstrate that the plural form of

Italian is a "common, major language in the world and is spoken by many people in the United Stat
known by many people in the United States. Like the Italian word "fiore," meaning flower, "cavalli" is the

Because "cavalli" has a recognized meaning as the Italian word for "horses," the primary significan

B. The Term "CAVALLI" Has The Look and Feel of a Foreign Word, Not a Surn:

A second factor in determining whether a term is primarily merely a surname is whether the propos
In re Benthin Management GmbH, 37 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1333; In re Sava Research Corp., 32 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1

In In re Spumador S.P.A., 2010 WL 985348, at *4 (TTAB 2010), the TTAB found that the term "V
word because it is the well recognized Italian word for "horses" and would not be viewed as primarily mere

Thus, considering the evidence and arguments submitted with respect to the relevant factors, Applic

As Applicant has responded to all outstanding issues set forth in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully r
Reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /AKS/
Anna Kurian Shaw
Jordana Rubel

**Request for Reconsideration after Final Action
To the Commissioner for Trademarks:**

Application serial no. **79069986** has been amended as follows:

ARGUMENT(S)

In response to the substantive refusal(s), please note the following:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Roberto Cavalli S.P.A.

Mark: CAVALLI

Application Serial No.: 79/069,986

Filing Date: April 20, 2009

Commissioner for Trademarks
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451
Attn.: Michael Webster
Trademark Examining Attorney
Law Office 102

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Dear Commissioner and Trademark Examining Attorney:

Roberto Cavalli S.P.A. (hereinafter referred to as "Applicant") hereby responds to the Office Action mailed August 27, 2010, in which the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (the "PTO") has refused registration of Applicant's mark "CAVALLI" in Application Serial No. 79/069,986 ("Applicant's Mark"), on the grounds that Applicant's Mark creates a likelihood of confusion with trademarks that are the subject of prior registrations and that Applicant's Mark is primarily merely a surname.

Section 2(d) Refusal

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examining Attorney's refusal of registration of Applicant's Mark under Lanham Act Section 2(d), 15 U.S.C. Section 1052(d), based on a likelihood of confusion with the prior registered marks U.S. Registration Nos. 3402059 and 3432649 when used in

connection with the identified services in class 43.

As seen in Exhibit A, Applicant's Mark was assigned to Roberto Cavalli S.P.A. and the assignment was recorded with the USPTO on October 19, 2010. As seen in Exhibit B, U.S. Registration Nos. 3402059 and 3432649 are also owned by Roberto Cavalli S.P.A.

Because the marks the Examining Attorney cited as likely to create confusion with Applicant's Mark are owned by the owner of Applicant's Mark, there is no likelihood of confusion among these marks.

Lanham Act 2(e)(4) Refusal

In the Office Action, the Examining Attorney refused registration of Applicant's Mark on the grounds that the mark is primarily merely a surname. In support of such refusal, the Examining Attorney has attached evidence from White Pages and from Lexis showing a number of individuals with the surname Cavalli.

Section 2(e)(4) of the Lanham Act provides, in part:

No trademark by which the goods of the applicant may be distinguished from the goods of ot

The test to be applied in determining whether a mark is "primarily merely a surname" is its primary significance to the purchasing public. See Ex Parte Rivera Watch Corp., 106 U.S.P.Q.145 (Comm'r. Pats. 1955).

Among the factors that should be considered in determining whether a term is primarily merely a surname are: whether the term has any recognized meaning other than as a surname and whether the term has the "look and feel" of a surname. TMEP § 1211.01. The burden is on the Examining Attorney to establish a prima facie case that the primary significance of the mark to the purchasing public is merely that of a surname. See In re Kahan & Weisz Jewelry Mfg. Corp., 184 U.S.P.Q. 421 (C.C.P.A. 1975) and In re Ciclo Tecnica Indus., S.A., 194 U.S.P.Q. 547 (T.T.A.B. 1977). In this case, Applicant respectfully contends that the evidence set forth herein indicates that the mark is *not* primarily merely a surname because "CAVALLI" has a recognized meaning as the Italian word for "horses" and the term has the look and feel of a foreign word and not of a surname. Each of these issues is further discussed herein.

A. The Term "CAVALLI" Has a Recognized Meaning As The Italian Word for "Horses."

If a term has a readily recognized meaning apart from its surname significance, registration should

be granted. In re Nelson Souto Major Piquet, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1367, 1367-68 (TTAB 1987). The TTAB has held that it can consider the meaning a surname has in a foreign language in its surname analysis. See In re Isabella Fiore LLC, 75 U.S.P.Q.2d 1564, 1568-69 (TTAB 2005)(holding that the term “FIORE” was not primarily merely a surname because it was the Italian word for flower). If the term has an established meaning in a foreign language, the TTAB will consider the significance of that meaning in the United States. Id. The doctrine of foreign equivalents should be applied when it is likely that the ordinary American purchaser would stop and translate the word into its English equivalent. Id.

The term “CAVALLI” has a recognized meaning as the Italian word meaning “horses.” Attached as Exhibit C are entries from several Italian-English dictionaries that demonstrate that “cavallo” is the Italian word for horse and also attached as Exhibit D are printouts from online translation services and websites regarding Italian grammar that demonstrate that the plural form of the word “cavallo” is “cavalli.” Thus, the term “cavalli” is the Italian word for “horses.”

Italian is a “common, major language in the world and is spoken by many people in the United States.” In re Ithaca Industries, Inc., 230 U.S.P.Q. 702, 705-05 (TTAB 1986). Thus, the fact that “cavalli” is a common word in Italian indicates that its meaning would be known by many people in the United States. Like the Italian word “fiore,” meaning flower, “cavalli” is the type of term that potential customers would stop and translate. See In re Isabella Fiore LLC, 75 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1569 (granting registration for the mark “FIORE”).

Because “cavalli” has a recognized meaning as the Italian word for “horses,” the primary significance of the term to consumers is not that of a surname.

B. The Term “CAVALLI” Has The Look and Feel of a Foreign Word, Not a Surname.

A second factor in determining whether a term is primarily merely a surname is whether the proposed mark has the “look and feel” of a surname. This subjective factor considers whether the term has the “structure and pronunciation” or the “look and sound” of a surname. In re Benthin Management GmbH, 37 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1333; In re Sava Research Corp., 32 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1381; In re Industrie Pirelli, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1564, 1566 (TTAB 1988).

In In re Spumador S.P.A., 2010 WL 985348, at *4 (TTAB 2010), the TTAB found that the term “VALVERDE” looked and sounded like a foreign or unusual word, rather than like a surname.

Similarly, here, the term “CAVALLI” looks and sounds more like an Italian word because it is the well recognized Italian word for “horses” and would not be viewed as primarily merely a surname.

Thus, considering the evidence and arguments submitted with respect to the relevant factors, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examining Attorney find that the term “CAVALLI” is not primarily merely a surname.

CONCLUSION

As Applicant has responded to all outstanding issues set forth in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examining Attorney approve the Application for publication. Applicant is also filing a Notice of Appeal simultaneously with this Request for Reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /AKS/

Anna Kurian Shaw

Jordana Rubel

Hogan Lovells US L.L.P.

Columbia Square

555 Thirteenth Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004-1109

Attorneys for Applicant,

Roberto Cavalli S.P.A.

Dated: February 28, 2011

EVIDENCE

Evidence in the nature of Exhibits A-D has been attached.

Original PDF file:

evi_67132198254-104353556_._exha-d.pdf

Converted PDF file(s) (37 pages)

Evidence-1

Evidence-2

Evidence-3

Evidence-4

Evidence-5

Evidence-6

Evidence-7

Evidence-8

Evidence-9

Evidence-10
Evidence-11
Evidence-12
Evidence-13
Evidence-14
Evidence-15
Evidence-16
Evidence-17
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Evidence-30
Evidence-31
Evidence-32
Evidence-33
Evidence-34
Evidence-35
Evidence-36
Evidence-37

SIGNATURE(S)

Request for Reconsideration Signature

Signature: /AKS/ Date: 02/28/2011

Signatory's Name: Anna Kurian Shaw

Signatory's Position: Attorney of record, DC bar member

The signatory has confirmed that he/she is an attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a U.S. state, which includes the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other federal territories and possessions; and he/she is currently the applicant's attorney or an associate thereof; and to the best of his/her knowledge, if prior to his/her appointment another U.S. attorney or a Canadian attorney/agent not currently associated with his/her company/firm previously represented the applicant in this matter: (1) the applicant has filed or is concurrently filing a signed revocation of or substitute power of attorney with the USPTO; (2) the USPTO has granted the request of the prior representative to withdraw; (3) the applicant has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her in this matter; or (4) the applicant's appointed U.S. attorney or Canadian attorney/agent has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her as an associate attorney in this matter.

The applicant is filing a Notice of Appeal in conjunction with this Request for Reconsideration.

Serial Number: 79069986

Internet Transmission Date: Mon Feb 28 10:56:47 EST 2011

TEAS Stamp: USPTO/RFR-67.132.198.254-201102281056475

97410-79069986-4804cbbc320344ecb37bca73d

afccd2e14-N/A-N/A-20110228104353556795

EXHIBIT A



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Assignments on the Web > Trademark Query

Trademark Assignment Details

Reel/Frame: 4472/0431

Pages: 2

Received: 12/10/2010

Recorded: 12/10/2010

Conveyance: ASSIGNS THE ENTIRE INTEREST

Total properties: 1

1	Serial #: <u>79069986</u>	Filing Dt: 04/20/2009	Reg #: NONE	Reg. Dt:
	Mark: CAVALLI			

Assignor

1 ROBERTO CAVALLI CLUB S.R.L.

Exec Dt: 10/19/2010

Entity Type: UNKNOWN

Citizenship: ITALY

Assignee

1 ROBERTO CAVALLI S.P.A.
PIAZZA SAN BABILA, 3
I-20122 MILANO, ITALY

Entity Type: SOCIETÀ PER AZIONI

Citizenship: NONE

Correspondence name and address

ROBERTO CAVALLI S.P.A.
PIAZZA SAN BABILA, 3
I-20122 MILANO
ITALY

Search Results as of: 02/18/2011 10:20 AM

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EXHIBIT B



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Assignments on the Web > Trademark Query

Trademark Assignment Abstract of Title

Total Assignments: 1

Serial #: 79034394 Filing Dt: 12/06/2006 Reg #: 3402059 Reg. Dt: 03/25/2008
Registrant: IGA FINANCE B.V.
Mark: CAVALLI

Assignment: 1

Reel/Frame: 4277/0203 Received: 09/13/2010 Recorded: 09/13/2010 Pages: 2
Conveyance: ASSIGNS THE ENTIRE INTEREST
Assignor: IGA FINANCE B.V.

Exec Dt: 08/05/2010
Entity Type: UNKNOWN
Citizenship: NETHERLANDS
Entity Type: SOCIETÀ PER AZIONI
Citizenship: NONE

Assignee: ROBERTO CAVALLI S.P.A.
PIAZZA SAN BABILA, 3
I-20122 MILANO, ITALY

Correspondent: ROBERTO CAVALLI S.P.A.
PIAZZA SAN BABILA, 3
I-20122 MILANO
ITALY

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Assignments on the Web > Trademark Query

Trademark Assignment Abstract of Title

Total Assignments: 2**Serial #:** [78547985](#)**Filing Dt:** 01/14/2005**Reg #:** [3432649](#)**Reg. Dt:** 05/20/2008**Registrant:** IGA Finance B.V.**Mark:** ROBERTO CAVALLI**Assignment: 1****Reel/Frame:** [4296/0043](#)**Received:** 10/14/2010**Recorded:** 10/14/2010**Pages:** 4**Conveyance:** MERGER**Assignor:** [IGA FINANCE B.V.](#)**Exec Dt:** 12/17/2009**Entity Type:** LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**Citizenship:** NETHERLANDS**Entity Type:** LTD LIAB JT ST CO**Citizenship:** ITALY**Assignee:** [ERRECI S.R.L.](#)CORSO MONFORTE 45
MILANO, ITALY**Correspondent:** ANNA KURIAN SHAW555 13TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004**Assignment: 2****Reel/Frame:** [4296/0210](#)**Received:** 10/14/2010**Recorded:** 10/14/2010**Pages:** 4**Conveyance:** CHANGE OF NAME**Assignor:** [ERRECI S.R.L.](#)**Exec Dt:** 07/01/2010**Entity Type:** LTD LIAB JT ST CO**Citizenship:** ITALY**Entity Type:** CORPORATION**Citizenship:** ITALY**Assignee:** [ROBERTO CAVALLI S.P.A.](#)PIAZZA SAN BABILA 3
MILANO, ITALY 20122**Correspondent:** ANNA KURIAN SHAW555 13TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

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EXHIBIT C

21ST
CENTURY
ITALIAN-ENGLISH
ENGLISH-ITALIAN
DICTIONARY



Produced by The Philip Lief Group, Inc.

Published by
Dell Publishing
a division of
Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc.
1540 Broadway
New York, New York 10016

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Published by arrangement with
The Philip Leaf Group, Inc.
6 West 20th Street
New York, NY 10011

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ISBN 0-440-22090-4

Printed in the United States of America

Published simultaneously in Canada

September 1986

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

OPM

- casto; casta [KAHS*to];
[KAHS*ta] *adj* MF chaste
- castoro [kas*TOH*ro] *n* M
beaver
- casuale [kas*SUAH*le] *adj*
casual; haphazard
- catacumeno
[KA*ta*kuh*ME*no] *n* M
convert
- catalogare [KA*ta*ko*GAH*re]
vt catalogue
- catalogo [KA*ta*LO*go] *n* M
catalogue
- catapulta [KA*ta*PUHL*ta] *n* F
catapult
- catapultare
[KA*ta*puh*TAH*re] *vt*
catapult
- catastrofe [KA*ta*TRU] *n* F
F catastrophe
- categoria [KA*te*go*REE*ah] *n* F
F category
- categorico; categorica
[KA*te*guh*RI*ko];
[KA*te*guh*RI*ka] *adj*
categorical
- catena [ka*TEH*na] *n* F chain
- cateratta [KA*te*AH*ta] *n* F
cataract
- cattedrale [KAT*te*DRAH*le] *n* F
F cathedral
- cattiva condotta [kar*TEE*va
kon*DOHT*ta] *n* F
misconduct
- cattivo; cattiva [kar*TEE*vo];
[kar*TEH*va] *adj* MF bad; evil
- cattivo uso [kar*TEE*vo
UH*zo] *n* M misuse
- cattolico; cattolica
[kar*TOH*li*ko];
- [kar*TOH*li*ka] *adj* *n* MF
Catholic
- cattura [kar*TUH*ra] *n* F
capture
- catturare [KAT*tu*RAH*re] *vt*
nab; capture
- causa [KAUH*za] *n* F cause;
lawsuit; litigation; a causa di
prep because of
- causare [kau*ZAH*re] *vt* cause
- caustico; caustica
[KAH*te*STI*ko]; [kah*te*si*ka]
adj caustic
- cautele [kau*TEH*le] *n* F
caution
- cauto; cauta [KAH*uto];
[KAH*uta] *adj* cautious; wary;
deliberate
- cauzione [kau*TSIOH*ne] *n* F
bail
- cava [KAH*va] *n* F quarry
(stone)
- cavalcare [KA*val*KAH*re] *vt*
ride (horseback)
- cavalcatura
[KA*val*ka*TUH*ra] *n* F
mount
- cavaliere [KA*va*LYEH*re] *n* M
M knight
- cavalla [ka*VAHL*la] *n* F mare
- cavalleria [KA*val*le*REE*ah]
n F cavalry; chivalry
- cavallerizzo; cavallerizza
[KA*val*le*REE*so];
[KA*val*le*REE*sa] *n* MF
rider
- cavalletta [KA*val*LEHT*ta] *n* F
F locust
- cavalletto [KA*val*LEHT*to] *n* M
M trestle

- cavallo** [ka'VAHL'lo] *n* M
 horse; a cavallo *adj adv* (on)
 horseback
cavatappi [KAH'va'TAHP'pi]
n M corkscrew
caverna [ka'VEHR'na] *n* F
 cave
cavazza [ka'VEH'tsa] *n* F
 haker
cavia [KAH'vya] *n* F guinea pig
cavillare [KA'vil'LAH're] *vi*
 haggle; quibble
cavità [ka'vi'TA'] *n* F cavity;
 sinus
cavo [KAH'vo] *n* M cable;
 hollow
cavolfiore [KA'vol'FYOH're] *n*
 M cauliflower
cavolo [ka'VO'lo] *n* M
 cabbage
cazzuola [ka'TSUOH'la] *n* F
 trowel
ceco; **coca** [TSHEH'ko];
 [TSHEH'ka] *adj* MP, Czech
Cecoslovacchia
 [TSHE'kos'lo'VAH'kyä] *n* F
 Czechoslovakia
cedere [tshe'DE're] *vi vi* cede
cadilla [tshe'DEEL'ta] *n* F
 cadilla
cedro [TSHEH'dro] *n* M cedar
celare [tshe'LAH're] *vi* conceal
celebrare [TSHE'le'BRAH're]
vi celebrate
celebrazione
 [TSHE'le'bra'TSIOH'ne] *n* F
 celebration
celebrità [TSHE'le'bri'TA'] *n* F
 celebrity
celestiale [TSHE'les'TYAH'le]
adj heavenly

- celibe** [tshe'LI'be] *adj* M
 celibate
cella [TSHEHL'la] *n* F cell;
 dungeon
celtico; **celtica** [TSHEL'TI'ko];
 [TSHEL'TI'ka] *adj* Celtic
cemento [tshe'MEHN'to] *n* M
 cement; concrete
cenere [tshe'ne're] *n* F ash;
 cinder
Cenerentola
 [TSHE'ne'REHN'to'la] *n* F
 Cinderella
cenno del capo [TSHEHN'no
 dehl KAH'po] *n* M nod
consimento
 [TSHEN'ne'MEHN'to] *n* M
 census
ensore [tshe'SOH're] *n* M
 censor
 censura [tshe'SUH'tra] *n* F
 censorship
centenario
 [TSHEN'ne'NAH'rio] *n* M
 centennial
centesimo 1
 [TSHEN'te'ZI'mo] *n* M
 penny
centesimo 2; centesima
 [tshe'TEH'zimo];
 [tshe'TEH'zi'ma] *adj*
 hundredth
centigrado
 [TSHEN'te'GRA'do] *n* M
 centigrade
centimetro
 [TSHEN'te'ME'tro] *n* M
 centimeter
cento [TSHEHN'to] *num*
 hundred

EASY *Italian* Bilingual Dictionary

Raffaele A. Dioguardi
Frank R. Abate



Printed on recyclable paper



NTC *NTC Publishing Group*
Lincolnwood, Illinois USA

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NTC's beginner's Italian and English dictionary
Easy Italian bilingual dictionary / [edited by] Raffaele A.
Dioguardi, Frank R. Abate.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-8442-0554-0

1. Italian language—Dictionaries—English. 2. English language—
—Dictionaries—Italian. I. Dioguardi, Raffaele A. II. Abate,
Frank R. III. National Textbook Company. IV. Title.

PC1640.N83 1996

453'.21—dc20

96-23339

CIP

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centrale

Il cane da guardia sembra cattivo.
The guard dog looks mean.

Questo bambino a volte fa il cattivo.
This little boy is naughty sometimes.

cavaliere, il [kahvahIYEYre] *n.* • knight
Nella biblioteca ho letto di cavalieri e armi.
I read about knights and armor at the library.

cavallo, il [kahvVAHLlo] *n.* • horse
corsa di cavalli, la *n.* • horse race
ferro di cavallo, il *n.* • horseshoe
Ho cavalcato il cavallo fuori della stalla.
I rode my horse out of the barn.

cavolfiore, il [kahvolFYOre] *n.* • cauliflower
Il cavolfiore è la mia verdura preferita.
Cauliflower is my favorite vegetable.

cavolo, il [kahVOlo] *n.* • cabbage
Le lepri mangiano i cavoli nel giardino.
Rabbits are eating the cabbages in our garden.

c'è; ci sono [CHE; CHEE sono] *v. phrase* •
there is; there are
Ci sono due macchine nel garage.
There are two cars in the garage.

cenare [cheyNAHre] *v.* • to dine
cena, la *n.* • dinner
Stasera ceniamo dal nostro amico.
We are dining at our friend's house tonight.

cento [CHENto] *adj.* • hundred
Ci sono cento anni in un secolo.
There are one hundred years in a century.

centrale (m., f.) [cheynTRAHle] *adj.* •
central

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ITALIAN DICTIONARY

ITALIAN-ENGLISH ENGLISH-ITALIAN

COMPILED BY

PIERO REBORA

*Professor of English, State University of Milan
formerly Professor of Italian, University of Manchester*

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF

FRANCIS M. GUERCIO

Lecturer in Italian, University of London

AND

ARTHUR L. HAYWARD



FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY : : NEW YORK

3 1172 05096 3586

CASSELL'S ITALIAN DICTIONARY
First published in the United States
in 1959 by Funk & Wagnalls Company
© Cassell & Co. Ltd., 1958

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 59-12986
Printed in the United States of America

cattivello

cattivello, *n.m.a.* Young rascal, scamp; naughty.
 cattiveria [cattivEria, cattiveria], *n.f.* Wickedness, badness; malice; naughtiness.
 cattività [-à], *n.f.* Captivity, bondage; (*obs.*) wickedness.
 cattivo, *n.m.* Bad man, wretch, villain.
 cattivo, *a.* Bad, naughty, wicked; poor (in quality); wrong. *Con le cattive*, harshly; *aria cattiva*, bad air; — *soggetto*, a nasty fellow.
 cattolicamente, *adv.* According to Roman Catholic doctrine.
 cattolicesimo, cattolicesimo, *n.m.* Roman Catholicism.
 cattolicità [-à], *n.f.* Catholicity.
 cattolico [cattòlico], *a.* Roman Catholic.
 cattura, *n.f.* Capture, arrest, seizure. *Mandato di —*, warrant of arrest.
 catturare, *v.t.* To capture, to seize, to arrest; (*Naut.*) — *una nave*, to seize a vessel.
 Caucaso [cAucaso], *n.m.* Caucasus.
 caucciù [-ù], *n.m.* Indiarubber.
 caudale, *a.* Caudal; tail-like.
 caudatarlo [caudatArio], *n.m.* (*Eccles.*) Train-bearer; (*fig.*) toady.
 caudato, *a.* Caudate, tailed.
 caudisone [caudisone], *n.m.* (*Zool.*) Rattlesnake.
 caule [cAule], *n.m.* (*Bot.*) Stalk.
 cauri, *n.m.* Cowry shell.
 causa [cAusa], *n.f.* Cause, motive, reason, grounds; origin; fault; (*Law*) action, suit. *A — della nebbia*, owing to the fog; *dare — di lagnanze*, to give cause for complaint; *dar — vinto*, to give in; *entrare in —*, to come into play; *parlare con cognizione di —*, to speak from experience; *per — mia*, through my fault; *in — propria*, for oneself; (*Law*) *far —*, to bring an action against; *essere in —*, to be carrying on a lawsuit; *patrocinare una —*, to plead a cause; *chiamare uno in —*, to make one a party to a suit.
 causale, *n.m.* (*Law*) Suit, case.
 causale, *a.* Causal. (*Lat*) *Ragioni causali*, motives.
 causalità [-à], *n.f.* Causality.
 causare, *v.t.* To cause, to occasion; to determine; to produce.
 causativo, *a.* Causative.
 causatore, causatrice, *n.m.f.* Causer, occasion of.
 caudico [caudico], *n.m.* Legal adviser, lawyer.
 caustica [cAustica], *n.f.* (*Phys.*) Caustic curve.
 causticità [-à], *n.f.* Causticity; sarcasm.
 caustico [cAustico], *n.m.a.* (*Med.*) Caustic; burning; (*fig.*) biting, sarcastic.
 cautamente, *adv.* Cautiously, prudently.
 cautela, *n.f.* Caution, precaution, circumspection, prudence.
 cautelare, *v.t.* To secure, to make safe; to caution.
 cautelarsi, *v.r.* To guarantee oneself, to protect oneself; to cover oneself against.
 cautelatamente, *adv.* With caution, cautiously [*cp. cautamente*].
 cautelato, *a.* Prudent, assured. *Esser — contro*, to be guaranteed against.

cavallo

cauterio [cautErio], *n.m.* (*Med.*) Cautery.
 cauterizzare, *v.t.* (*Med.*) To cauterize.
 cauterizzazione, *n.f.* Cauterization.
 cautezza, *n.f.* Cautiousness [*cp. cautela*].
 cauto [cAuto], *a.* Cautious, prudent, wary, circumspect; thoughtful, sly, artful. *Andar —*, to go warily, to be prudent.
 cauzionale, *a.* Cautionary.
 cauzione, *n.f.* Security, bail, deposit. *Prestar —*, to give bail.
 cava, *n.f.* Quarry, pit, mine. — *di marmo*, marble quarry.
 cavadenti, *n.m.* (*colloq.*) Dentist.
 cavafango, cavafondo, *n.m.* (*Naut.*) Dredger.
 cavagno, *n.m.* Basket, pannier.
 cavafolo, *n.m.* Quarryman.
 cavalcabile [cavalcAbile], *a.* Riding (horse); bridle (road).
 cavalcamento, *n.m.* [*cp. cavalcata*].
 cavalcante, *n.m.* Postillion, outrider.
 cavalcare, *v.t.i.* To ride (a horse); to go on horseback; to be astride.
 cavalcata, *n.f.* Ride, riding; cavalcade.
 cavalcatura, *n.f.* Mount, riding-horse.
 cavalcavia [cavalcAvia], *n.m.* Bridge over roadway; fly-over bridge.
 cavalcioni, *adv.* A cavalcioni, astride.
 cavallerato, *n.m.* Knighthood.
 cavaliere, *n.m.* Horseman, rider; knight, cavalier; gentleman; dance partner; (*Chess*) knight. — *della Giarrettiere*, Knight of the Garter; — *errante*, knight-errant; — *d'industria*, swindler, sharper; *il castello* *sta a — della valle*, the castle overlooks the valley; — *servente*, lady's man.
 cavalla, *n.f.* Mare.
 cavallaro [cavallAro], *n.m.* Horse-dealer.
 cavallaro, *n.m.* Horse-keeper; horse-dealer; leader of a train of pack-horses.
 cavallata, *n.f.* (*obs.*) Horsemen, cavalry.
 cavalleggiato, *n.m.* (*Mil.*) Trooper. *Cavallegeri*, light cavalry.
 cavalleresamente, *adv.* Generously, gallantly.
 cavalleresco, *a.* Chivalrous, noble, gallant. *Ordine —*, order of knighthood; *poema —*, chivalric poem.
 cavalleria [cavalleria], *n.f.* Chivalry; (*Mil.*) cavalry.
 cavallerizza, *n.f.* Riding-school.
 cavallerizzo, *n.m.* Rider; riding-master.
 cavalletta, *n.f.* (*Zool.*) Grasshopper; locust.
 cavalletto, *n.m.* Easel, trestle.
 cavallina, *n.f.* Filly, young mare. *Correre la —*, to live a lewd life, to go the pace; *saltar la —*, to play leap-frog; to go the pace.
 cavallino, *n.m.* Colt; pony.
 cavallino, *a.* Equine, horsey. *Mosca cavallina*, horse-fly. *Tosse —*, whooping-cough.
 cavallo, *n.m.* Horse. — *restio*, restive horse; — *ombroso*, shying horse; — *da carrozza*, carriage-horse; — *da sella*, saddle-horse; — *di razza*, thoroughbred; — *da caccia*, hunter; — *da tiro*, draught-horse; — *da corsa*, race-horse; *mediatore di cavalli*, horse-dealer; *ferro di —*, horseshoe; *strumenti di cavalli*, horse trappings; — *a dondolo*, rocking-horse; — *da giostra*, vaulting-horse; *cavalli di Frisia*, cheyval-de-frise; *montare a —*, to mount; *smontare da —*, to dismount; *attaccare i cavalli*, to put

cavallone

the horses to; (*Mech.*) — *vapore*, — *motore*, horse-power (h.p.); *motore da cento cavalli*, 100 h.p. motor; (*Elect.*) *energia in cavalli*, horse-power; *sudare con il* — *di San Francesco*, to go on foot; *essere a* —, to be *alle*.

cavallone, *n.m.* Big horse; (*Naut.*) breaker, "white horses"; swell, heavy sea.

cavallotto, *n.m.* Medium-sized horse.

cavalluccio [cavalluccio], *n.m.* Pony; nag.

cavalocchio [cavalocchio], *n.m.* (*Zool.*) Hornet; (*fig.*) pettylogging lawyer.

cavarnacchie [cavarnacchie], *n.m.* Stain-remover.

cavapietre, *n.m.* Stone-quarrier.

cavapozzi, *n.m.* Well-digger.

cavare, *v.t.* To take off, to extract, to remove; to dig, to excavate; to pull up; to obtain, to derive; to wrest, to wring out of. — *un dente*, to draw a tooth; — *sangue*, to bleed (patient); *cavar acqua*, to draw water; — *le macchie*, to remove the stains; — *la fame*, to appease hunger; — *la sete*, to quench thirst; — *di bocca un segreto*, to wrest a secret out of someone; — *denari da qualcheuno*, to get money out of someone; — *di capo qualcosa a qualcuno*, to persuade a person not to do something; *cavarsi il cappello*, to take off one's hat.

cavarsela, *v.r.* To get off, to rid oneself. — *a buon mercato*, to get out of a thing cheaply, to get off lightly.

cavarsi, *v.r.* To get oneself out, to free oneself from; to appease. — *la voglia*, to satisfy one's longing; — *un capriccio*, to satisfy a fancy; — *d'impiccio*, to get out of a difficulty.

cavastivali [cavastivali], *n.m.* Bootjack.

cavata, *n.f.* Extraction; (*Mus.*) touch of a violinist. (*Med.*) — *di sangue*, blood-letting.

cavatappi, *n.m.* Corkscrew.

cavatesori, *n.m.* Treasure-diviner.

cavatina, *n.f.* (*Mus.*) Melodious air.

cavatore, *n.m.* Miner, digger.

cavatura, *n.f.* Hollow.

cavaturaccioli [cavaturaccioli], *n.m.* Cork-screw.

cavazione, *n.f.* (*Fencing*) Disengage.

cavédo [cavédo], *n.m.* (*Arch.*) Passage, corridor.

caverna, *n.f.* Cavern, cave; den.

cavernosità [-à], *n.f.* Depth; cavity.

cavernoso, *a.* Cavernous. *Voce* —, deep voice.

cavazza, *n.f.* Halter (of horse); (*fig.*) *pagare sulla* —, to pay on the nail; *tenere a* —, to curb, to keep in hand.

cavia [cAvia], *n.f.* (*Zool.*) Guinea-pig, cavy.

caviale, *n.m.* Caviar.

cavicchio [cavicchio], *n.m.* Peg, bolt, rung (of a ladder); (*Agric.*) dibble.

caviglia [caviglia], *n.f.* (*Anat.*) Ankle; (*Tech.*) peg, pin, plug (in wall).

cavillare, *v.i.* To cavil, to quibble.

cavillatore, *n.m.* Quibbler, caviller.

cavillazione, *n.f.* Quibbling.

cavillo, *n.m.* Cavilling, cavil, quibble, sophistry.

cavillosamente, *adv.* Captiously.

cavilloso, *a.* Quibbling, captious.

cavità [-à], *n.f.* Cavity, hole, hollow.

cedoletto

cavo, *n.m.* Cable, rope; mould, hollow. *Il* — *della mano*, the hollow of the hand; — *di rimorchio*, tow-rope; (*Elect.*) — *aere*, overhead cable; — *principale*, main cable.

cavo, *a.* Hollow, empty, void.

cavolaia [cavolaia], *n.f.* Cabbage-bed; cabbage patch.

cavolaio [cavolaio], *n.m.* Market-gardener, cabbage-grower.

cavolfiore, *n.m.* Cauliflower.

cavolo [cAvolo], *n.m.* Cabbage. — *marino*, sea-kale; — *riscaldato*, a worn-out subject, a twice-told tale; *questo c'entra come i cavoli a merenda*, this has nothing whatever to do with the case; *non m'importa un* —, I don't care a fig, two hoots, a straw, etc.

cavolrapa, *n.m.* Kohlrabi.

cavriolo, *n.m.* (*Zool.*) Roe-buck [cp. capriolo].

cazza, *n.f.* (*Mech.*) Ladle for casting metal.

cazzare, *v.t.* (*Naut.*) To haul the cable; to draw home a sheet.

cazzascotte, *n.f.* (*Naut.*) Large cleat.

cazzola, **cazzuola**, *n.f.* Bricklayer's trowel.

cazzottare, *v.t.* (*vulg.*) To strike, to thump, to pummel.

cazzotto, *n.m.* Blow with the fist, punch, thump. *Fare a cazzotti*, to punch one another.

ce, *pron.* To us (used instead of *ci* before other pronouns *io, li, gli, la, le* and *ne*). *Ce lo mostra*, he shows it to us.

ce, *adv.* Here, there (instead of *ci* as above).

cecaggine [cecaggine], *n.f.* Blindness; drowsiness, heaviness of the eyelids.

cecamente, *adv.* Blindly.

cecca, *n.f.* (*Zool.*) Magpie. *Far* —, to miss fire.

cecherino, *n.m.* Skinny fowl.

Cecco, *n.m.* (*abbrev.*) Francesco.

cece, *n.m.* (*Bot.*) Chickpea. *Color* —, fawn.

cecia [cEcia], *n.f.* Flat footwarmer.

ceciato, *a.* Fawn (colour).

cecità [-à], *n.f.* Blindness; (*fig.*) folly, recklessness.

ceco, *n.m.a.* Czech.

cecoslovacco, *n.m.a.* Czechoslovakian.

cedente, *n.m.* (*Comm.*) Assignor, transferer.

cedente, *a.* Flexible, yielding.

cedere [cEdere], *v.t.* To yield, to give way, to submit, to give in; to give up, to surrender, to cede; to collapse, to subside; to hand over; to assign, to transfer. — *il passo a*, to give precedence to; — *i propri diritti*, to give up one's rights; — *ad un impulso*, to yield to an impulse; *non* — *in nulla*, not to give way; *il terreno cede*, the land subsides; *cedi il posto a quella signora*, give your seat to that lady.

cedevole [cedEvole], *a.* Yielding, pliable, supple.

cedevolezza, *n.f.* Flexibility, suppleness.

cedibile [cedibile], *a.* Assignable, transferable.

cedibilità [-à], *n.f.* Transferability.

cediglia [cediglia], *n.f.* (*Gram.*) Cedilla.

cedimento, *n.m.* Yielding; sinking, subsidence (of ground, etc.).

ceditore, **ceditrice**, *n.m.f.* (*Comm.*) Assignatory.

cedola [cEdola], *n.f.* Card, bill; (*Comm.*) coupon, dividend warrant.

cedoletto, *n.m.* Slip (from a writing-pad).

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About plural – sopra i plurali

The plural in Italian is quite different from the plural in English or any other romance languages such as Spanish, French or Portuguese. The general rule in English is to add the letter "s" at the end of a word.

In Italian the general rule is to substitute the last letter of a masculine word for the vowel "i" or if it is a feminine word the general rule is to substitute the last letter for the vowel "e".

Examples – Esempio

Singular	Plural	Translation
Il libro	i libri	The book – the books
La tavola	le tavole	The table – The tables
Il bambino	i bambini	The baby – the babies
La ragazza	Le ragazze	The girl - the girls

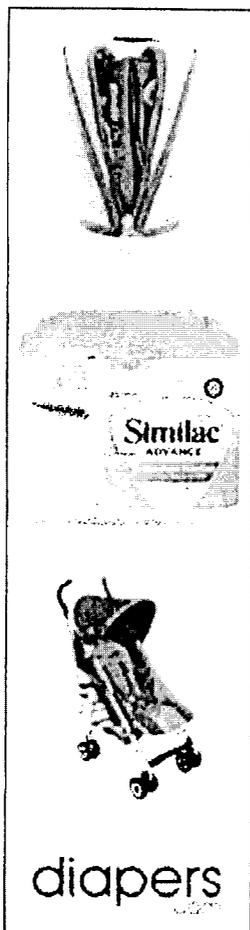
Words ending in co/ go or cio/gio

In order to keep the sound of singular words ending in co/go or cio/gio there are some specific rules.

Most of the words ending in "co" and "go" follow the general rule that was mentioned above, but in some cases the pronunciation is changed when the vowel "i" is added to form the plural.

Usually words ending in VCV (vowel - consonant - vowel) have the pronunciation changed in the plural. Words ending in CCV (consonant – consonant – vowel) do not have the pronunciation changed but some orthographic adjustments may be necessary in order to keep the sound of the word. Study the chart below:

Singular	Plural	Translation	Observation
L'amico	Gli amici	The friend – the friends	The rule is the same but the pronunciation of the "c" is different.
Il medico	I medici	The (medical) doctor - the doctors	The rule is the same but the pronunciation of the "c" is different



Tedesco	Tedeschi (‘Tedeschi’ would change the pronunciation)	German - Germans	The rule is different but the pronunciation of the ‘c’ is the same
Il fungo	I funghi (‘funghi’ would change the pronunciation)	The mushroom - the mushrooms	The rule is different but the pronunciation of the ‘g’ is the same
Il dialogo	I dialoghi (‘dialoghi’ would change the pronunciation)	The dialogue - the dialogues	The rule is different but the pronunciation of the ‘g’ is the same

Word ending in ‘cio’, ‘zio’ and

‘gio’ are subjected to a different rule. To get the word pluralized you just must drop the last vowel.

Singular	Plural	Translation	Observation
Il bacio	I baci (not ‘bacioi’)	The kiss – the kisses	The pronunciation of the ‘c’ is the same although the rule is different.
Il carpaccio	I carpacci (not ‘carpaccioi’)	The carpaccio (food) - The ‘carpaccios’	The pronunciation of the ‘c’ is the same although the rule is different.
Il negozio	I negozi (not ‘i negozioi’)	The transaction - the transactions	The pronunciation of the ‘z’ is the same although the rule is different.
Il vantaggio	I vantaggi	The advantage	The pronunciation of the ‘g’ is the same although the rule is different.

Some words ending in ‘è’ or ‘à’ don’t suffer any changes when pluralized and some words can be masculine in the singular form and feminine in the plural form.

Singular	Plural	Translation	Observation
Il caffè	I caffè	The coffee – The coffee	The same word must be used in the singular and in the plural.
La città	Le città	The city – The cities	The same word must be used in the singular and in the plural.
La foto (la fotografia)	Le foto	The photo – The photos	The same word must be used in the singular and in the plural.
Il labbro	Le labbra	The lip – The lips	The word is masculine in the singular and feminine in the plural.
L’uovo	Le uova	The egg – The eggs	The word is masculine in the singular and feminine in the plural.
Il paio	Le paia	The couple – The couples	The word is masculine in the singular and feminine in the plural.
Il braccio	Le braccia	The arm – The arms	The word is masculine in the singular and feminine in the plural.

See also:

- [Italian alphabet](#)

Italian grammar

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Italian grammar is the study of grammar of the Italian language.

Italian words can be divided into these lexical categories: article, noun, adjective, pronoun, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction and interjection.

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See also: *Italian language#Sounds*

		Definite article	Usage
Masculine	Singular	il/lo	<i>Lo</i> before <i>s</i> + consonant, <i>z</i> , <i>gn</i> , <i>ps</i> , <i>pn</i> , <i>x</i> , <i>y</i> and consonant clusters (disregarding sonorants), <i>l'</i> before a vowel, otherwise <i>il</i> ^[1] . Note <i>lo iodio</i> ("the iodine"), <i>lo Ionio</i> (the Ionian Sea) where the initial <i>i</i> represents a semiconsonant; on the other hand, it is usual to employ <i>l'</i> before semiconsonantic <i>u</i> (pronounced /w/) in mobile diphthongs: <i>l'uomo</i> "the man", <i>l'uovo</i> "the egg". However, foreign words beginning with <i>w</i> and used in Italian, like <i>West</i> (referring to the American Old West) and <i>whisky</i> , are usually perceived as beginning with a <i>v</i> sound, and the <i>il</i> article is used: <i>il West</i> , <i>il whisky</i> , and Giacomo Puccini's opera is <i>La fanciulla del West</i> ^[2] .
	Plural	i/gli	<i>gli</i> (pronounced /ʎi/) before a vowel or <i>z</i> , <i>sc</i> , <i>gn</i> and consonant clusters (disregarding sonorants)
Feminine	Singular	la	<i>l'</i> before a vowel; but <i>la iarda</i> ("the yard") for the same reason as before
	Plural	le	<i>l'</i> is used rarely before a vowel

Indefinite article		
Morpheme: Gender		Usage
Masculine	un	<i>uno</i> before <i>z</i> , <i>sc</i> , <i>gn</i> and consonant clusters (disregarding sonorants)
Feminine	una	<i>un'</i> before a vowel

The forms *l'* and *un'* arise from mandatory elision of *lo*, *la* and *una* before vowels.

The plural of *il dio* ("the god") features an irregular definite article, being *gli dei* instead of **i dei*.

Inflection of nouns and adjectives

Nouns and adjectives generally inflect by gender (masculine and feminine, with only some instances of vestigial neuter) and number (singular and plural). Inflection patterns are similar for the two categories:

Gender	General noun and adjectival endings for number and gender		Example
	Singular	Plural	
Masculine	-o	-i	<i>il capello nero</i> , <i>i capelli neri</i> ("the black hair")
Feminine	-a	-e	<i>la bella macchina</i> , <i>le belle macchine</i> ("the beautiful car(s)")
Masculine and feminine	-e	-i	<i>il/la comandante intelligente</i> , <i>l/le comandanti intelligenti</i> ("the smart commander(s)")
Masculine	-a	-i	<i>l'atleta entusiasta</i> ("the enthusiastic athlete(s)")
All nouns ending with a stressed vowel	singular = plural		<i>la città</i> , <i>le città</i> ("the town(s)")
Non-integrated loanwords			<i>il/ta manager trendy</i> , <i>l/le manager trendy</i> ("the trendy manager(s)")

In the last two examples, only the article carries information about gender and number.

The Italian hard and soft C and G phenomenon leads to a few spelling/pronunciation peculiarities in certain cases:

- Words in *-cio* and *-gio* form plurals in *-ci* and *-gi*, e.g. *bacio* / *baci* ("kiss(es)")
- Words in *-cia* and *-gia* have been a point of contention: according to a commonly employed rule^[3], they:
 - form plurals in *-cie* and *-gie* if the final letter before the suffix is a vowel: *camicia*, *camicie* ("shirt(s)"); *ciliegia*, *ciliegie* ("cherry"/"cherries").
 - form plurals in *-ce* and *-ge* if the final letter before the suffix is a consonant: *frangia*, *frange* ("fringe(s)"); *faccia*, *facce* ("face(s)")^[4].
 - when the *i* is stressed, it always remains in plural: *farmacia* / *farmacie* ("chemist's shop(s)"), *nevralgia* / *nevralgie* ("neuralgia(s)").
- Words in *-co* and *-go* behave quite irregularly: "the grammarians are skeptical of any attempt at giving a ruling about this area"^[5]. There are only partial, empirical rules of thumb:
 - plurals are formed with *-chi* and *-ghi* if the last letter before the suffix is a consonant or a stressed vowel: *fungo* / *funghi* ("mushroom(s)"), *stecco* / *stecchi* ("stick(s)"), *mago* / *maghi* ("magician(s)"), *fuoco* / *fuochi* ("fire(s)")
 - plurals are formed with *-ci* and *-gi* if the last letter before the suffix is an unstressed vowel: *comico* / *comici* ("comedian(s)"), *medico* / *medici* ("physician(s)")
 - in words ending with *-logo* suffix, the plural is usually^[5] in *-gi* when *-logo* means "expert" or "student", corresponding to English *-logist* (e.g. *archeologo* / *archeologi*, "archaeologist(s)"), while it is in *-ghi* when it means "speech" or "reasoning", corresponding often to English *-logue/-log* (e.g. *catalogo* / *cataloghi*, "catalogue(s)").
 - there are exceptions such as *amico* / *amici* ("friend(s)"), *greco* / *grecci* ("Greek(s)"), *valico* / *valichi* ("mountain pass(es)"), *carico* / *carichi* ("cargo(s)").

Nouns

Most nouns derive from Latin, from Greek or from a Latinization of foreign words:

Latin declension	Derivation of noun inflections	
	Masculine	Feminine
1st (-a / -ae)	<i>poeta</i> / <i>poeti</i> "poet(s)"	<i>rosa</i> / <i>rose</i> "rose(s)"
2nd (-us / -i)	<i>carro</i> / <i>carri</i> "truck(s)"	
3rd (-o, -is / -es)	<i>cane</i> / <i>cani</i> "dog(s)"	<i>parete</i> / <i>pareti</i> "wall(s)"
3rd (-as / -ates)		<i>città</i> / <i>città</i> "town(s)"

4th (-us / -us)	<i>passo / passi</i> "step(s)"	<i>mano / mani</i> "hand(s)"
5th (-ies / -ies)		<i>speci.e. / speci.e.</i> "species"
Greek words	<i>problema / problemi</i> "problem(s)"	<i>crisi / crisi</i> "crisis", "crises"

Any other noun, both those from Latin with an unusual ending and those derived from languages other than Latin or Greek, and not Latinized (*cifra* - meaning "digit" - and *ragazzo/ragazza* - meaning "boy/girl" - are from Hebrew and Arabic respectively, but they are Latinized), and nouns ending with a stressed vowel are not inflected, thus:

- *il re / i re* ("the king(s)"; *rex / reges*)
- *il caffè / i caffè* ("the coffee(s)")
- *il film / i film* ("the film(s)")

There are certain words (neuter in Latin) that are masculine in the singular and feminine or masculine in the plural:

- *il braccio / le braccia* or *i bracci* ("the arm(s)")
- *l'uovo / le uova* ("the egg(s)")
- *il ginocchio / le ginocchia* or *i ginocchi* ("the knee(s)")
- *il sopracciglio / le sopracciglia* or *i sopraccigli* ("the eyebrow(s)")

These nouns' endings derive regularly from the Latin neuter endings of the second declension, but there are some from the third declension: e.g. *il gregge / le greggi* (flock(s), but *i greggi* works, too); the tradition of calling them "irregular" or "mobile gender" (*genere mobile*) would come from the paradigm that there are so few nouns of this kind that the existence of neuter can be considered vestigial. The choice of plural is sometimes left to the user, while in some cases there are differences of meaning^[6]:

- sometimes, for body parts, the feminine/neuter plural denotes the literal meaning while the masculine one denotes a figurative meaning: *il braccio* ("the arm") / *le braccia* ("the arms") / *i bracci* ("the isthmuses", "the inlets"); *il corno* ("the horn") / *le corna* ("the horns" of an animal) / *i corni* ("the horns" as musical instruments)
- sometimes, especially in poetic and old-fashioned Italian, the masculine plural acts as a count noun, while the neuter/feminine plural acts as a mass noun: *il cervello* ("the brain") / *due cervelli* ("two brains") / *le cervella* ("the cerebral matter"); *l'anello* ("the ring") / *due anelli* ("two rings") / *le anella* ("ringlets"); furthermore, *il dito* ("the finger") / *le dita* ("the fingers") and also *due dita* ("two fingers") / but *i diti* (*indici* ("the index fingers"))

Irregular plurals

There are very few proper irregular plurals in Italian (*plurali irregolari*). Some of these are:

- *l'uomo / gli uomini* (man/men; *lat. homo / homines*)
- *il dio / gli dei* (god/gods; note also the irregularity in the article: *gli* instead of *i*)
- *il bue / i buoi* (ox/oxen)
- *il tempio / i templi* (temple/temples)
- *un belga / dei belgi* (Belgian / Belgians)
- *il carcere / le carceri* (prison (*masculine*) / prisons (*feminine*))
- *l'ala / le ali* (wing/wings) (but "l'ale" is poetically admitted)
- *l'arma / le armi* (weapon/weapons) (but "l'arme" is poetically admitted)
- *la mano / le mani* (hand/hands)
- *la eco / gli echi* (echo (*feminine*) / echos (*masculine*))

Alteration

In Italian, altered nouns are nouns with particular shades of meaning. They are divided into diminutives, "vezzeggiativi" (diminutives with kindness and sympathy nuance), augmentatives and pejoratives.

	Suffix		Example
	-ino	tavolo (<i>table</i>)	tavolino (<i>a small table</i>)
<i>diminutivi</i> (<i>diminutive</i>)	-etto	libro (<i>book</i>)	libretto
	-ello	bambino (<i>child</i>)	bambinello (<i>a little child</i>)
	-icello	monte (<i>mountain</i>)	monticello
	-icciolo	porto (<i>port</i>)	porticciolo
	-uccio	cavallo (<i>horse</i>)	cavalluccio
<i>vezzeggiativi</i>	-acchiotto	orso (<i>bear</i>)	orsacchiotto
	-iciattolo	fiume (<i>river</i>)	fiumiciattolo

	-olo	figlio (<i>son</i>)	figliolo (also <i>figliuolo</i>)
	-otto	cucciolo (<i>puppy</i>)	cucciolotto
accrescitivi (augmentative)	-one	libro (<i>book</i>)	librone (<i>a big book</i>)
	-accione	uomo (<i>man</i>)	omaccione
	-accio	libro (<i>book</i>)	libraccia (<i>a bad book</i>)
dispregiativi (pejorative)	-astro	medico (<i>medic</i>)	medicastro (<i>a bad medic</i>)
	-ucolo	poeta (<i>poet</i>)	poetucolo
	-onzolo	medico (<i>medic</i>)	mediconzolo
	-uncolo	uomo (<i>man</i>)	omuncolo (<i>an insignificant man</i>)

Adjectives

In Italian, an adjective can be before or after the noun. Placing the adjective after the noun can alter its meaning or indicate restrictiveness of reference; the unmarked placement for most adjectives (e.g. colours, nationalities) is after the noun^[7]. If a noun has many adjectives, usually not more than one will be before the noun^[citation needed]. When there is possibility to choose, the second word is the more important, so if the adjective is after the noun, it is more emphasized:

- *un buon uomo* = a good man (nothing special, a good man)
- *un uomo buono* = a good man, a man that is good (it is important that he is good, the adjective is emphasized)

Adjectives are inflected by gender and number:

Gender	Grammatical number	Case 1	Case 2
Masculine	Singular	-o	-e
	Plural	-i	-i
Feminine	Singular	-a	-e
	Plural	-e	-i

Degrees of comparison

Italian has three degrees of comparison: comparative, relative superlative and absolute superlative.

The comparative and relative superlative degrees are both formed around the word *più* (literally "plus", meaning "more" or "most"), for instance:

- *sono il più scemo fra gli uomini* ("I am the dumbest of men")
- *sono più scemo di te* ("I am dumber than you")

Viceversa, inverting the order of the words, it's required to substitute *più* with *meno* (literally 'minus', meaning "less" or "few"), for instance:

- *sono il meno forte del campionato* ("I am the less strong of championship", in this particular case "più debole" sounds well)
- *tu sei meno scemo di me* ("You are less dumb than me", exactly the same meaning)

The *absolute superlative*, derived from the Latin synthetic superlative in *-issimus*, is formed by adding *-issimo* to an adjective: *ingelligente* ("intelligent"), *intelligentissimo* ("very intelligent"); *sporco* ("dirty") *sporchissimo* ("very dirty"). If the two letters before the last vowel are *pr* or *br* (*aspro*, Latin *asper*, *celebre*, Latin *celeber*), the *r* is removed and *-errimo* is the suffix used (*asprerrimo*, *celeberrimo*) (English: very sour, very famous).

Some adjectives form their degrees of comparison irregularly (though with a regular variant also in common use), like

- *buono* ("good"), *migliore* / *più buono* ("better" or "best"), *migliore* / *ottimo* / *buonissimo* ("very good")
- *cattivo* ("bad"), *peggiore* / *più cattivo* ("worse" or "worst"), *peissimo* / *cattivissimo* ("very bad")

Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives, like articles, must agree with the gender and number of the noun they modify. Hence, *mio zio* (my uncle), but *mia zia* (my aunt). So depending on what is being modified, the possessive adjectives are:

Masculine	Feminine
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	Person	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st sing.	mio	miei	mia	mie	
2nd sing.	tuo	tuo	tua	tue	
3rd sing.	suo	suoi	sua	sue	
1st pl.	nostro	nostri	nostra	nostre	
2nd pl.	vostro	vostri	vostra	vostre	
3rd pl.	loro	loro	loro	loro	

In most cases the possessive adjective is used with an article, usually the definite article:

Ho perso la mia penna. ("I have lost my pen.")
Mi piace il mio lavoro. ("I like my job.")
 Hanno rubato la mia automobile! ("They have stolen my car!")

And with the indefinite article:

Un mio amico mi ha detto che... ("A friend of mine told me that...")
Ho visto una sua foto. ("I have seen a photograph of him/her.")
Luca è un mio amico. ("Luca is a friend of mine.")

The only exception is when the possessive refers to an individual family member, (unless the family member is described or characterized in some way):

Laura è mia sorella. ("Laura is my sister.")
Ieri ho visto mia sorella Diana. ("I saw my sister Diana yesterday.")
Questa penna è di mia zia. ("This pen is my aunt's.")

But *mamma* and *papà* (or *babbo*, in Central Italy) (mother and father) usually get the article.

For emphasis, however, possessive adjectives are sometimes placed after a noun. This is usually after words like 'colpa' (fault, sin); 'casa' (house, home); 'merito' (merit); 'piacere' (pleasure); or in vocative expressions.

È colpa sua. ("It is his/her fault")
Oh dio mio! ("Oh, my god!")
Arrivederci, amico mio! ("Goodbye, my friend!")
Vorresti andare a casa mia? ("Would you like to come over to my house?")

If the antecedent of a third person possessive (being used as an object) is the subject of the sentence, *proprio* can be used instead of *suo*^[8], though the usage of *proprio* is declining in the spoken language^[citation needed]:

Marco e Maria erano in aula. Marco ha preso il proprio libro. ("Marco and Maria were in the classroom. Marco took his own book.")
Marco e Maria erano in aula. Marco ha preso il suo libro. ("Marco and Maria were in the classroom. Marco took her/his book.")

Demonstrative adjectives

Italian originally had three degrees of demonstrative adjectives: *questo* (for items near or related to the first person speaker; English "this"), *quello* (for items near or related to an eventual third person; English "that"), and *codesto* (for items near or related to an eventual second person). The usage has undergone a simplification, including the meaning of *codesto* in *quello*. Only Tuscan speakers still use *codesto*.

Pronouns

Italian features a sizeable set of pronouns. Personal pronouns are inflected by person, number and, in the third person, gender. Literary subject pronouns also have a distinction between animate (*egli, ella*) and inanimate (*esso, essa*) antecedents, although this is lost in colloquial usage, where *lui, lei* and *loro* are used for animate subjects as well as objects, while no specific pronoun is employed for inanimate subjects.

There is also the uninflected pronoun *ciò*, which is only used with abstract antecedents.

Personal pronouns are normally dropped in the subject, as the conjugation is usually enough to determine the grammatical person. They are used when some emphasis is needed, e.g. *sono italiano* ("I am Italian") vs. *io sono italiano* ("I [specifically, as opposed to others] am

Italian").

	Personal pronouns								
	First Person		Second Person			Third Person			
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Reflexive	Masculine		Feminine	
						Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Subject	io	noi	tu	voi	-	egli, esso (lui)	essi (loro)	ella, essa (lei)	esse (loro)
Object	me	noi	te	voi	sé	lui	loro	lei	loro
Clitic accusative	mi	ci	ti	vi	si	lo	li	la	le
Clitic dative	mi	ci	ti	vi	si	gli	loro	le	loro
Clitic dat. before acc.	me	ce	te	ve	se	glie-	glie-	glie-	glie-

Notes:

- 2nd person nominative pronoun is *tu* for informal. For formal use, the 3rd person form *Lei* has been used since the Renaissance^[5]; it is used like "Sie" in German, "usted" in Spanish and "você" in Portuguese. Previously, and in some Italian regions today (e.g., Campania), *voi* is used as a formal singular, as in the French "vous". The pronouns *lei* (third-person singular) and *Lei* (second-person singular formal) are pronounced the same but written as shown. Formal *Lei* and *Loro* take third-person conjugations. The formal plural person is very rarely used in modern Italian; the unmarked form is widely used instead^[9] (e.g. "Gino, Lei è un bravo ingegnere. Marco, Lei è un bravo architetto. Insieme, voi sarete una gran bella squadra" "Gino, you are a good engineer. Marco, you are a good architect. Together, you will be a great good team").
- Accusative *lo* and *la* elide to *l'* before a vowel or *h*: *l'avevo detto* ("I had said it"), *l'ho detto* ("I have said it").
- When accusative pronouns are used in a compound tense, the final vowel of the past participle must agree in gender and number with the accusative pronoun. For example, *hai comprato i cocomeri e le mele?* ("Did you buy the watermelons and the apples?") - *Li [i cocomeri] ho comprati ma non le [le mele] ho comprate* ("I bought **them** [the former] but I did not buy **them** [the latter]"). This also happens when the underlying pronoun is made opaque by elision: *l'ho svegliato* ("I woke *him* up"), versus *L'ho svegliata* ("I woke *her* up").
- In modern Italian, dative *gli* (to him) is used commonly even as plural (to them) instead of classical *loro*. So: "Conosci Luca: *gli* ho sempre detto di stare lontano dalle cattive compagnie" (You know Luca: I have always told *him* to stay away from bad companies"). And: "Conosci Luca e Gino: *gli* ho sempre detto..." (...I have always told *them*...) instead of "... ho sempre detto *loro* di stare...".

Clitic pronouns

Though objects come after the verb as a rule, this is not the case with a class of unstressed, clitic pro-forms.

Dative and accusative pronouns come before the verb. If an auxiliary verb is used, the pronouns come before the auxiliary^[citation needed]. If both dative and accusative pronouns are used, the dative comes first. Pronominal particles *ce/ci* (to it) and *ne* (of it) are treated like accusative pronouns for word-order purposes.

Note that the clitic *ci* acts both as a first person plural accusative pronoun and a pro-form with a different meaning.

Examples:

<i> Davide lascia la sua penna in ufficio.</i>	(David leaves his pen at the office.)
<i> Davide la lascia in ufficio.</i>	(David leaves it at the office.)
<i> Davide ce la lascia.</i>	(David leaves it to us. (but also : David leaves it there.))
<i> Davide ce ne lascia una.</i>	(David leaves us one of them. (but also [rare]: David leaves one [of them] there.))
<i> Davide potrebbe lasciarcene una.</i>	(David might leave us one of them (but also [rare]: David might leave one [of them] there.)
<i> or Davide ce ne potrebbe lasciare una.</i>	(exactly the same as above)

(Compare with the similar use of objective pronouns and pro-forms in French and Catalan.)

Finally, in the imperative and infinitive cases, the objective pronouns come once again *after* the verb, but this time as a suffix:

<i> Davide lascia la sua penna in ufficio.</i>	(David leaves his pen at the office.)
<i> "Lasciala in ufficio!"</i>	("Leave it at the office!")
<i> "Lasciacela!"</i>	("Leave it to us!" also [less common] "Leave it there!")
<i> Davide potrebbe lasciarla in ufficio.</i>	(David might leave it at the office.)
<i> "Non lasciarcela!"</i>	("Do not leave it to us!" also [less common] "Do not leave it there!")
<i> Davide dovrebbe lasciarcela.</i>	("David should leave it to us." also [less common] "David should leave it there")

- Dative *mi*, *ti*, *ci*, and *vi* become *me*, *te*, *ce*, and *ve* when preceding another pronoun ("dammelo" (give it to me)) or develop as *a me*, *a*

- te, a noi* and *a voi* when emphasized ("dallo a me" (give it TO ME)).
- Accusative *mi, ti, lo, la, ci,* and *vi* become *me, te, lui, lei, noi,* and *voi* when emphasized ("uccidimi" (kill me) against "uccidi me, non lui" (kill me, not him)).
 - Dative *gli, le, loro* (commonly *gli*) can be developed into *a lui, a lei, a loro,* when emphasized ("lo sai solo tu: a loro non l'ho detto" (only you know it: I have not told them))
 - Dative *gli* combines with accusative *lo, la, li, le* and *ne* (partitive, meaning "of it" or "of them") to form *glielo, gliela, glieli, gliele* and *gliene*. These combinations are used for feminine and plural too ("Maria lo sa? Gliel'hai detto?" (Does Maria know it? Have you said it to her?)).

Verbs

Main article: Italian verbs

Italian verb infinitives have one of three endings, either *-are, -ere,* or *-ire*. Exceptions are *porre* "to place" (from Latin *ponere*), and a few verbs ending in *-urre* or *-arre*, most notably *tradurre* (Latin *traducere*) "to translate". Italian grammar does not explicitly recognise verbal aspect, though different tenses and periphrases actually render different aspects.

Tenses

Simple Tenses

Tense	Italian name	Example	English equivalent
Indicative Mood			
Present	<i>indicativo presente</i>	<i>faccio</i>	I do I am doing ^[verbs 1]
Imperfect	<i>indicativo imperfetto</i>	<i>facevo</i>	I did/used to do I was doing ^[verbs 2]
Future	<i>futuro semplice</i>	<i>farò</i>	I will do
Preterite	<i>passato remoto</i>	<i>feci</i>	I did (historic) ^[verbs 3]
Conditional Mood			
Present	<i>condizionale presente</i>	<i>farei</i>	I would do
Subjunctive Mood			
Present	<i>congiuntivo presente</i>	<i>(che) io sia</i>	(that) I be
Imperfect	<i>congiuntivo imperfetto</i>	<i>(che) io fossi</i>	(that) I were
Imperative Mood			
Present	<i>imperativo</i>	<i>stai zitto!</i>	be quiet!

Compound Tenses

Tense	Italian name	Example	English equivalent
Indicative Mood			
Recent Past	<i>passato prossimo</i>	<i>ho fatto</i>	I have done I did ^[verbs 4]
Recent Pluperfect	<i>trapassato prossimo</i>	<i>avevo fatto</i>	I had done ^[verbs 5]
Future Perfect	<i>futuro anteriore</i>	<i>avrò fatto</i>	I will have done
Remote Pluperfect	<i>trapassato remoto</i>	<i>ebbi fatto</i>	I had done ^[verbs 5]
Conditional Mood			
Preterite	<i>condizionale passato</i>	<i>avrei fatto</i>	I would have done
Subjunctive Mood			
Preterite	<i>congiuntivo passato</i>	<i>(che) io abbia fatto</i>	
Pluperfect	<i>congiuntivo trapassato</i>	<i>(che) io avessi fatto</i>	

Impersonal Forms

Tense	Italian name	Example	English equivalent
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	Infinitive		
Present	<i>infinito presente</i>	<i>fare</i>	to do
Past	<i>infinito passato</i>	<i>aver fatto</i>	to have done
	Gerund		
Present	<i>gerundio presente</i>	<i>facendo</i>	doing
Past	<i>gerundio passato</i>	<i>avendo fatto</i>	having done
	Participle		
Present	<i>participio presente</i>	<i>facente</i>	doing
Past	<i>participio passato</i>	<i>fatto</i>	done

Aspects other than imperfective, aorist (that are rendered by simple tenses) and perfect (that is rendered by compound tenses) are rendered in Italian through periphrastical forms which aren't recognized by the canonical Italian grammar as proper tenses.

Examples

- Present tense, indicative mood, progressive aspect: *io sto facendo* (English: I'm doing)
- Present tense, indicative mood, inchoative aspect: *io sto per fare* (English: I'm about to do)

Notes

- [^] Although Italian does have a Present Continuous tense that is similar to the Present Continuous in English, it is used much less frequently in Italian. The Simple Present is normally used instead, except when emphasizing the ongoing nature of the action.
- [^] As with the present continuous, the past continuous in Italian is not used often, and its use is considered interchangeable in most situations with the *imperfetto* (imperfect).
- [^] The preterite is becoming obsolete in spoken Italian (as in French and High German); instead, the present perfect (*ho fatto*) is used. It is still used in Southern Italy but becoming less common there, too. It is, however, very common in literature, even modern literature. If there is no reference to the present, as when speaking of the dead, the perfect is proscribed and the preterite must be used.
- [^] In modern Italian, the true preterite form (today known as the *passato remoto*) is used only in literary, historic contexts. The compound forms are used instead.
- ^{^ a b} The Trapassato Prossimo (Recent Pluperfect) and the extremely rare Trapassato Remoto (Remote Pluperfect) are separate tenses in Italian though not in English.

Compound tense auxiliary verbs

In Italian, compound tenses are formed with an auxiliary verb (either *essere* "to be" or *avere* "to have"). Transitive verbs use *avere* as their auxiliary verb. Verbs in the passive voice always use *essere*. For intransitive verbs a reliable rule cannot be given, although a useful rule of thumbs is that if a verb's past participle can take on adjectival value, *essere* is used, otherwise *avere*^{[10][11]}. Also, reflexive verbs and unaccusative verbs use *essere* (typically non-agentive verbs of motion and change of state, i.e. involuntary actions like *cadere* (to fall) or *morire* (to die)).^[citation needed]

The distinction between the two auxiliary verbs is important for the correct formation of the compound tenses and is essential to the agreement of the past participle. Some verbs use both, though, like *vivere* (to live): in recent past tense you can say *io ho vissuto* or *io sono vissuto* (I have lived).

Past participle

The past participle is used in Italian as both an adjective and to form many of the compound tenses of the language. There are regular endings for the past participle, based on the conjugation class (see below). There are, however, many irregular forms as not all verbs follow the pattern, particularly the -ere verbs. Some of the more common irregular past participles include: *essere* (to be) → *stato* (same for *stare*); *fare* (to do, to make) → *fatto*; *dire* (to say, to tell) → *detto*; *aprire* (to open) → *aperto*; *chiedere* (to ask) → *chiesto*; *chiudere* (to close) → *chiuso*; *leggere* (to read) → *letto*; *mettere* (to put) → *messo*; *perdere* (to lose) → *perso*; *prendere* (to take, to get) → *preso*; *rispondere* (to answer) → *risposto*; *scrivere* (to write) → *scritto*; *vedere* (to see) → *visto*.

The past participle when used with *essere* (for unaccusative verbs *et al.*) follows the usual adjective agreement rules.

For the intransitive verbs taking *essere*, the past participle always agrees with the subject: *lui è partito*; *lei è partita*. This is also true for reflexive verbs, the impersonal *si* construction (which, interestingly, requires any adjectives that refer to it to be in the masculine plural: *Si è sempre stanchi alla fine della giornata* - One is always tired at the end of the day), and the passive voice, which also use *essere* (*Si è sparato* - He shot himself, against *Lui ha sparato* - He shot).

The past participle when used with *avere* never changes to agree with the subject. It agrees with the object though, in sentences where a pronoun replacing the object is proceeding (e.g. *Hai mangiato la mela?* - *Sì, l'ho mangiata* (Have you eaten the apple? - Yes, I have eaten it)).

When the pronoun is first or second person, there is optional agreement: *Maria! Giovanni ti ha chiamato / chiamata?* - *No, non mi ha chiamato / chiamata* (Maria! Has Giovanni called you? - No, he has not). In relative clauses, the agreement is obsolete: *La storia che avete raccontata* (obsolete) / *raccontato non mi convince* (The story you told does not convince me).

Tense relationship in subordinate sentences

Italian inherits *consecutio temporum*, a grammar rule from Latin that disciplines the relationship between the tenses in subordinate sentences. *Consecutio temporum* has very rigid rules. These rules order the subjunctive tense in order to express contemporaneity, posteriority and anteriority in relation with the principal sentence.

- to express contemporaneity when the principal clause is in a simple tense (future, present, or simple past,) the subordinate clause uses the present subjunctive, to express *contemporaneity in the present*.
 - *Penso che Davide sia intelligente*. I think David is smart.
- when the principal clause has a past imperfect or perfect, the subordinate clause uses the imperfect subjunctive, expressing *contemporaneity in the past*.
 - *Pensavo che Davide fosse intelligente*. I thought David was smart.
- to express anteriority when the principal clause is in a simple tense (Future, or present or passato prossimo) the subordinate clause uses the past subjunctive.
 - *Penso che Davide sia stato intelligente*. I think David has been smart.
- to express anteriority when the principal clause has a past imperfect or perfect, the subjunctive has to be pluperfect.
 - *Pensavo che Davide fosse stato intelligente*. I thought David had been smart.
- to express posteriority the subordinate clause uses not subjunctive but indicative mood, because the subjunctive has no future tense.
 - *Penso che Davide sarà intelligente*. I think David will be smart.
- to express posteriority with respect to a past event, the subordinate clause uses the past conditional, whereas in other European languages (such as French, English, and Spanish) the present conditional is used.
 - *Pensavo che Davide sarebbe stato intelligente*. I thought that David would be smart.

However Italian is rapidly losing the subjunctive mood (even if this is considered grammatically incorrect and ill-sounding for some speakers), being replaced by the indicative in a way similar to English. It's common for the previous sentences being realized as:

- *Penso che Davide è intelligente*. I think David is smart.
- *Pensavo che Davide era intelligente*. I thought David was smart.
- *Penso che Davide è stato intelligente*. I think David has been smart.
- *Pensavo che Davide era stato intelligente*. I thought David had been smart.

Regular conjugations

The infinitive of first conjugation verbs end in *-are*, that of second conjugation verbs in *-ere*, and that of third conjugation verbs in *-ire*. In the following examples for different moods, the first conjugation verb is *parlare* (meaning *to talk/speak*), the second conjugation verb is *temere* (*to fear*) and the third conjugation verb is *partire* (*to leave/depart*.)

Indicative mood

	Present			Preterite			Imperfect			Simple Future		
	1st Conj.	2nd Conj.	3rd Conj.	1st Conj.	2nd Conj.	3rd Conj.	1st Conj.	2nd Conj.	3rd Conj.	1st Conj.	2nd Conj.	3rd Conj.
io	parlo	temo	parto	parlai	temetti	partii	parlavo	temevo	partivo	parlerò	temerò	partirò
tu	parli	temi	parti	parlasti	temesti	partisti	parlavi	temevi	partivi	parlerai	temerai	partirai
egli	parla	teme	parte	parlò	temette	partì	parlava	temeva	partiva	parlerà	temerà	partirà
noi	parliamo	temiamo	partiamo	parlammo	tememmo	partimmo	parlavamo	temevamo	partivamo	parleremo	temeremo	partiremo
voi	parlate	temete	partite	parlaste	temeste	partiste	parlavate	temevate	partivate	parlerete	temerete	partirete
essi	parlano	temono	partono	parlarono	temettero	partirono	parlavano	temevano	partivano	parleranno	temeranno	partiranno
	Recent past = present of <i>avere</i> / <i>essere</i> + past participle			Remote pluperfect = pretente of <i>avere</i> / <i>essere</i> + past participle			Recent pluperfect = imperfect of <i>avere</i> / <i>essere</i> + past participle			Future perfect = simple future of <i>avere</i> / <i>essere</i> + past participle		

Some third conjugation verbs such as *capire* insert *-isc-* between the stem and the endings in the present, e.g., *capisco, capisci, capisce*, etc. It is impossible to tell from the infinitive form which verbs exhibit this phenomenon, which often originated in Latin verbs denoting the "inchoative" aspect of an action, that is, verbs describing the beginning of an action.^[5] There are some 500 verbs like this, the first ones in alphabetic order being *abbellire, abolire, agire, alleggerire, ammattire* and so forth.^[12] In some grammatical systems, "isco" verbs are considered a fourth conjugation, often labelled 3b. There are also certain verbs that end in *-ire*, namely *irarre, porre, (con)durre* and

derived verbs with different prefixes (such as *attrarre*, *comporre*, *dedurre*, and so forth). They are derived from earlier *trahere*, *ponere*, *ducere* and are conjugated as such.

Subjunctive mood

	Present			Imperfect		
	1st Conj.	2nd Conj.	3rd Conj.	1st Conj.	2nd Conj.	3rd Conj.
io	parli	tema	parta	parlassi	temessi	partissi
tu	parli	tema	parta	parlassi	temessi	partissi
egli	parli	tema	parta	parlasse	temesse	partisse
noi	parliamo	temiamo	partiamo	parlassimo	temessimo	partissimo
voi	parliate	temiate	partiate	parlaste	temeste	partiste
essi	parlino	temano	partano	parlassero	temessero	partissero

Past = present of *avere / essere* + past participle. Past perfect = imperfect of *avere / essere* + past participle

- Third conjugation verbs like *capire* mentioned above insert *-isc-* in the first, second, and third persons singular and third person plural of the present.
- Compound forms (*past* and *past perfect*) are made by adding the past participle (e.g. *parlato*) to the corresponding auxiliary form (as "abbia") in the present and imperfect.

Conditional mood

	Present		
	1st Conj.	2nd Conj.	3rd Conj.
io	parlerei	temerei	partirei
tu	parleresti	temeresti	partiresti
egli	parlerebbe	temerebbe	partirebbe
noi	parleremmo	temeremmo	partiremmo
voi	parlereste	temereste	partireste
essi	parlerebbero	temerebbero	partirebbero

Past = present of *avere / essere* + past participle

From the table we can see that the verbs each take their own root, from their class of verb, *-are* becomes *-er-*, *-ere* becomes *-er-*, and *-ire* becomes *-ir-*, the same roots as used in the future indicative tense. Onto this root, all verbs add on the same ending, depending on the conjugation.

Some verbs do not follow this pattern, but take irregular roots, these include: *Andare* (to go) ~ *Andr-*, *Avere* (to have) ~ *Avr-*, *Bere* (to drink) ~ *Berr-*, *Dare* (to give) ~ *Dar-*, *Dovere* (to have to) ~ *Dovr-*, *Essere* (to be) ~ *Sar-*, *Fare* (to make/do) ~ *Far-*, *Godere* (to enjoy) ~ *Godr-*, *Potere* (to be able to) ~ *Potr-*, *Rimanere* (to remain) ~ *Rimarr-*, *Sapere* (to know) ~ *Sapr-*, *Sedere* (to sit) ~ *Sedr-*, *Stare* (to be/feel) ~ *Star-*, *Tenere* (to hold) ~ *Terr-*, *Vedere* (to see) ~ *Vedr-*, *Venire* (to come) ~ *Verr-*, *Vivere* (to live) ~ *Vivr-*, *Volere* (to want) ~ *Vorr-* etc.

The Italian conditional mood is a mood that refers to an *action* that is possible or likely, but is dependent upon a **condition**. Example:

Io andrei in spiaggia, ma fa troppo freddo. ("I would go to the beach, but it is too cold.")

It can be used in two tenses, the present, by conjugation of the appropriate noun, or the past, using the auxiliary conjugated in the conditional, with the past participle of the appropriate noun:

Mangerei un sacco adesso, se non stessi cercando di fare colpo su queste ragazze. ("I would eat a lot now, if I were not trying to impress these girls")

Sarei andato in città, se avessi saputo che ci andavano loro. ("I would have gone to the city, if I had known that they were going.")

Many Italian speakers often use imperfect instead of conditional and subjunctive. While incorrect, this is somewhat tolerated in spoken Italian (rarely in written Italian, even if it used to be a correct form in past times)^[13]:

Se lo sapevo, andavo al mare. ("If I had known it, I would have gone to the beach.")

Se Lucia non faceva quel segno, la risposta sarebbe probabilmente stata diversa.^[14] ("If Lucia had not made that sign, the answer would probably have been different.")

The conditional can also be used in Italian to express "could", with the conjugated forms of *potere* ("to be able to"), or "should", with the conjugated forms of *dovere* ("to have to"):

[Lui] *potrebbe leggere un libro.* ("He could read a book.")
 [Loro] *dovrebbero andare a letto.* ("They should go to bed.")

Imperative mood

	1st Conj.	2nd Conj.	3rd Conj.
(tu)	parla!	temi!	parti!
(Lei)	parli!	tema!	parta!
(noi)	parliamo!	temiamo!	partiamo!
(voi)	parlate!	temete!	partite!
(essi)	parlino!	temano!	partano!

Verbs like *capire* insert *-isc-* in all except the *noi* and *voi* forms.

Non-finite forms

- **Infinitive:** present: -are, -ere, -ire; past: avere/essere + past participle
- **Gerund:** present: -ando, -endo, -endo; past: avendo/essendo + past participle
- **Participle:** present: -ante -ente -ente; past: -ato, -uto (though verbs of the second conjugation almost always have a contracted desinence, e.g. "cuocere" (to cook) "cotto" (cooked)), -ito

Irregular verbs

While the majority of Italian verbs are regular, many of the most commonly used ones are irregular. In particular, the auxiliary verbs *essere* and *avere*, and the common modal verbs *potere* (ability, to be able to), *dovere* (duty, to have to), *sapere* (knowledge, to know how to) and *volere* (will, to want to) are all irregular. Many of the irregularities are accounted for by the substance of Latin grammar; in Latin the verb had four principal parts, of which the third and fourth (perfect stem and perfect passive participle) were formed regularly from the present stem only in the first and second conjugations, whereas in the third and fourth (in *-ere* with short *e* and in *-ire*) the presence of the *i* on the stem caused a mutation of the following consonants and made irregularities at a very early stage of the language.

The first conjugation has the big majority of regular verbs (except "andare" (to go), "fare" (to do, to make (from third Latin conjugation)), "dare" (to give) and "stare" (to stay), which are strongly irregular). Almost every new verb (as neologism) enters in first conjugation (e.g. *formattare* (to format) is of first conjugation and perfectly regular).

The second conjugation is usually irregular. They are from Latin, where they were irregular too. The few regulars are from Latin second conjugation: like "temere" (to fear), "godere" (to enjoy)... The majority is from Latin third conjugation, which is practically all irregular.

The third conjugation (deriving from Latin fourth conjugation) has two different ways: Greek one (or incohesive) with insertion of *-sc-*, "capire" (to understand), "io capisco" (I understand), and Latin one with no insertion, "sentire" (to feel), "io sento" (I feel). There are some irregulars, but not too many: example, "morire" (to die), "io muoio" (I die). The verb "dire" (to say, to tell) derives from Latin third conjugation, and is strongly irregular.

Most verbs of the second conjugation are irregular in the *passato remoto* (preterite) tense, which resembles the Latin perfect.

<i>essere</i> (to be; an auxiliary)							
		Indicative			Subjunctive		Conditional
		Present	Preterite	Imperfect	Future	Present	
io	sono	fui	ero	sarò	sia	fossi	sarei
tu	sei	fosti	eri	sarai	sia	fossi	saresti
egli	è	fu	era	sarà	sia	fosse	sarebbe
noi	siamo	fummo	eravamo	saremo	siamo	fossimo	saremmo
voi	siete	foste	eravate	sarete	siate	foste	sareste
essi	sono	furono	erano	saranno	siano	fossero	sarebbero

<i>avere</i> (to have; an auxiliary)							
		Indicative			Subjunctive		Conditional
		Present	Preterite	Imperfect	Future	Present	
io	ho	ho	avevo	avrò	abbia	avessi	avrei
tu	hai	hai	avevi	avrà	abbia	avessi	avresti
egli	ha	ha	aveva	avrà	abbia	avessi	avrebbe
noi	abbiamo	abbiamo	avevamo	avremo	abbiamo	avessimo	avremmo
voi	avete	avete	avevate	avrete	abbiate	aveste	avreste
essi	hanno	hanno	avevano	avranno	abbiano	avessero	avrebbero

io	ho	ebbi	avevo	avrò	abbia	avessi	avrei
tu	hai	avesti	avevi	avrà	abbia	avessi	avresti
egli	ha	ebbe	aveva	avrà	abbia	avesse	avrebbe
noi	abbiamo	avemmo	avevamo	avremo	abbiamo	avessimo	avremmo
voi	avete	aveste	avevate	avrete	abbiate	aveste	avreste
essi	hanno	ebbero	avevano	avranno	abbiano	avessero	avrebbero

potere (to be able to, can, could; a modal)

	Indicative				Subjunctive		Conditional
	Present	Preterite	Imperfect	Future	Present	Imperfect	
io	posso	poteti	potevo	potrò	possa	potessi	potrei
tu	puoi	potesti	potevi	potrai	possa	potessi	potresti
egli	può	poté	poteva	potrà	possa	potesse	potrebbe
noi	possiamo	potemmo	potevamo	potremo	possiamo	potessimo	potremmo
voi	potete	poteste	potevate	potrete	possiate	poteste	potreste
essi	possono	poterono	potevano	potranno	possano	potessero	potrebbero

dovere (to have to, must, should; a modal)

	Indicative				Subjunctive		Conditional
	Present	Preterite	Imperfect	Future	Present	Imperfect	
io	devo/debbo	dovetti	dovevo	dovrò	debba	dovessi	dovrei
tu	devi	dovesti	dovevi	dovrai	debba	dovessi	dovresti
egli	deve	dovette	doveva	dovrà	debba	dovesse	dovrebbe
noi	dobbiamo	dovemmo	dovevamo	dovremo	dobbiamo	dovessimo	dovremmo
voi	dovete	doveste	dovevate	dovrete	dobbiate	doveste	dovreste
essi	devono/debbono	dovettero	dovevano	dovranno	debbono	dovessero	dovrebbero

volere (to want, will, would; a modal)

	Indicative				Subjunctive		Conditional
	Present	Preterite	Imperfect	Future	Present	Imperfect	
io	voglio	vollì	volevo	vorrò	voglia	volessi	vorrei
tu	vuoi	volesti	volevi	vorrà	voglia	volessi	vorresti
egli	vuole	volle	voleva	vorrà	voglia	volesse	vorrebbe
noi	vogliamo	volemmo	volevamo	vorremo	vogliamo	volessimo	vorremmo
voi	volete	voleste	volevate	vorrete	vogliate	voleste	vorreste
essi	vogliono	vollero	volevano	vorranno	vogliano	volessero	vorrebbero

Adverbs

An adjective can be made into a modal adverb by adding *-mente* (from Latin "mindly", ablative of "mens" (mind), feminine noun) to the ending of the feminine singular form of the adjective. E.g. *lenta* "slow (feminine)" becomes *lentamente* "slowly". Adjectives ending in *-re* or *-le* lose their *e* before adding *-mente* (*facile* "easy" becomes *facilmente* "easily", *particolare* "particular" becomes *particolarmente* "particularly").

These adverbs can also be derived from the absolute superlative form of adjectives, e.g. *lentissimamente* ("very slowly"), *facilissimamente* ("very easily").

There is also a plethora of temporal, local, modal and interrogative adverbs, mostly derived from Latin, e.g. *quando* ("when"), *dove* ("where"), *come* ("how"), *perché* ("why"/"because"), *mai* ("never"), *sempre* ("always"), etc.

Prepositions

Italian has a closed class of basic prepositions, to which a number of adverbs can be added that also double as prepositions, e.g.: *sopra il tavolo* ("upon the table"), *prima di adesso* ("before now").

In modern Italian the prepositions *tra* and *fra* are interchangeable, and often chosen on the basis of euphony: *tra fratelli* ("among brothers") vs. *fra i tralicci* ("between the power pylons").

All the basic prepositions except *tra*, *fra*, *per* and *con* have to be combined with an article placed next to them.

Italian	English	Preposition + article
di	of, from	del, dello, della / dei, degli, delle
a	to, at	al, allo, alla / ai, agli, alle
da	from, by	dal, dallo, dalla / dai, dagli, dalle
in	in	nel, nello, nella / nei, negli, nelle
con	with	con il, con lo, con la / con i, con gli, con le
su	on, about	sul, sullo, sulla / sui, sugli, sulle
per	for, through	per il, per lo, per la / per i, per gli, per le
tra / fra	between, among	tra il, tra lo, tra la / tra i, tra gli, tra le

Sentences and word order

Italian is a SVO language. Nevertheless, the SVO sequence is sometimes replaced by one of the other arrangements (SOV, VSO, OVS, etc.), especially for reasons of emphasis and, in literature, for reasons of style and metre: Italian has a relatively free word order.

The subject is usually omitted when it is a pronoun – distinctive verb conjugations make it redundant. Subject pronouns are considered emphatic when used at all.

Questions are formed by a rising intonation at the end of the sentence (in written form, a question mark). There is usually no other special marker, although wh-movement does usually occur. In general, intonation and context are important to recognize questions from affirmative statements.

<i> Davide è arrivato in ufficio.</i>	(David has arrived at the office.)
<i> Davide è arrivato in ufficio?</i>	(Has David arrived at the office?)
<i> Perché Davide è arrivato in ufficio?</i>	(Why has David arrived at the office?)
<i> Perché Davide è arrivato in ufficio.</i>	(Because David has arrived at the office.)
<i> È arrivato Davide in ufficio.</i>	("It was David who arrived at the office" or "David arrived at the office" - depending on the intonation)
<i> È arrivato Davide in ufficio?</i>	(Has David , in particular, arrived at the office?)
<i> È arrivato in ufficio.</i>	(He has arrived at the office.)
<i> Egli è arrivato in ufficio.</i>	(He has arrived at the office.)
<i> Chi è arrivato in ufficio?</i>	(Who has arrived at the office?)

In general, adjectives come after the noun they modify, adverbs after the verb. But; as with French, adjectives coming before the noun indicate essential quality of the noun. Demonstratives (e.g. *questo* this, *quello* that) come before the noun, and a few particular adjectives (e.g. *bello*) may be inflected like demonstratives and placed before the noun.

Some common grammar mistakes in Italian language

Among the deprecated Italian grammar uses are:

- in spoken informal or dialectal language, the usage of an indicative form where a subjunctive one is required. For Instance. *credo che Giorgio ieri fosse a casa* ("I believe that yesterday George was at home") is right, *credo che Giorgio ieri era a casa* is deprecated; *se Maria fosse stata a casa, le avrei telefonato* ("if Mary had been at home, I would have telephoned her") is right, *se Maria era a casa le telefonavo* is deprecated, even if it is an old usage, found in classic Italian writers. However subjunctive is disappearing from modern Italian and its substitution with indicative is very common, even by TV speakers.
- the nominative third person pronouns (*egli*, *ella*, *essi*) and the courtesy form (*Ella*) are being replaced by their accusative forms (*lui*, *lei*, *loro* and *Lei*). The usage, while formally erroneous, is generally accepted.

References

- ↑ Accademia della Crusca, *Guida alla scelta dell'articolo*
- ↑ Accademia della Crusca, *Articolo davanti a parole straniere inizianti per w e sv*
- ↑ Accademia della Crusca, *Sul plurale dei nomi in -cia e -gia e su una scelta d'autore*

- 4 ^ Accademia della Crusca, *Plurali difficili*
- 5 ^ *a b c d* Serianni, Luca (1997). *Italiano*. Garzanti. ISBN 88-11-50470-8
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- 7 ^ Accademia della Crusca, *Sulla posizione dell'aggettivo qualificativo in italiano*
- 8 ^ Accademia della Crusca, *Impiego di Proprio e Suo'*
- 9 ^ Accademia della Crusca, *Sui pronomi di cortesia*
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- 13 ^ Fornaciari, Raffaello (1881). *Sintassi italiana*. Florence. See an excerpt at "Grammatica italiana - L'imperfetto nelle frasi condizionali". http://www.mauriziopistone.it/testi/discussioni/gramm06_imperfetto.html. Retrieved 2007-10-08.
- 14 ^ Alessandro Manzoni, *I promessi sposi*, chapter 3

External links

- [1]
- Italian grammar at the Open Directory Project
- La grammatica italiana
- Italian Language: Grammar, a small directory of Italian grammar resources
- Grammar : Online Italian Help

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