Elementary Italian grammar

by

Pietro Motti

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J. Groos

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ELEMENTARY
ITALIAN GRAMMAR

BY

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Heidelberg.  

Julius Groos.
PREFACE.

In writing this little grammar of my native language, it has been my chief object to exhibit in as clear and easy a form as possible the main features of the accidence and syntax combined in their applications to those words and phrases which are most frequently employed in polite conversation.

The Italian language, as now spoken and written by the educated classes, is very simple and precise. Long periods and intricate inversions are no longer in use. We admire them in the works of our standard authors of by-gone ages, but we take great care not to imitate them. Thus, without losing anything of its former grace and harmony, the Italian language has become in this century a very easy language too.

This book being intended for beginners and travellers, I have added to it, in the form of an Appendix, a selection of useful words and phrases, which, it is confidently hoped, will greatly assist pupils wishing to speak the language as soon as possible.

This new edition has been carefully revised and corrected in all its parts, and longer and more interesting reading exercises concerning Italian history and literature have been appended to the book, in order to render it as useful as possible.

Piacenza. Pietro Mottl.
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Pronunciation.

1. The Alphabet.

The Italian alphabet consists of 21 letters:

a  read  ah (a in far)  n  read  enne
b  "  bee  o  "  o
c  "  chee  p  "  pee
d  "  dee  q  "  koo
e  "  a  r  "  erre
f  "  effe  s  "  esse
g  "  jee  t  "  tee
h  "  ahkka  u  "  oo
i  "  ee  v  "  vee
l  "  elle  z  "  dsayta.
m  "  emme

Of these letters a, e, i, o, u are vowels, the others are consonants. The letters j, k, x, y, w do not occur in Italian 1).

• 2. The Accent.

In Italian the tonic accent (stress) is mostly laid on the last syllable but one: marito (ma-reé-to), husband, fatica (fah-teé-ka), fatigue2).

1) The consonant j is sometimes met with instead of i: jeri, yesterday, forieri.
2) Throughout this book exceptions and dubious cases will be marked with a conventional acute accent, according to the system adopted in Italian educational books.

Elementary Italian Grammar.
Pronunciation.

The only written accent in Italian is the grave accent. It occurs on the accented final vowel of some contracted words only: \textit{metà} (may-táh), \textit{half}, \textit{parlò} (par-lóh), \textit{he spoke}.

3. The Vowels.

The vowels \textit{A}, \textit{E}, \textit{I}, \textit{O}, \textit{U} sound like their English equivalents in the words \textit{last}, \textit{bent}, \textit{tin}, \textit{corpse}, \textit{bull}:

\textit{lastra} \, \textit{bene} \, \textit{fini} \, \textit{corpo} \, \textit{bulbo}

(láh-strá) \, (báy-nay) \, (tíe-nee) \, (cóór-po) \, (bóol-bo)

\textit{plate} \, \textit{well}, \textit{good} \, \textit{tubs} \, \textit{body} \, \textit{bulb}.

The distinction between the open and close sounds of \textit{e} and \textit{o}, though very important, must be disregarded here, being too embarrassing for beginners and quite unnecessary to them.

Real diphthongs or compound vowels, as they occur in English, do not exist in Italian, where every vowel must be distinctly pronounced:

\textit{daino} \, \textit{fauno} \, \textit{feudo} \, \textit{suono} \, \textit{guida}

(dáh-i-no) \, (fáh-oo-no) \, (fáy-oô-do) \, (soo-ôh-no) \, (goo-e-ô-da)

\textit{deer} \, \textit{faun} \, \textit{fief} \, \textit{sound} \, \textit{guide}.

4. The Consonants.

The consonants \textit{B}, \textit{D}, \textit{F}, \textit{L}, \textit{M}, \textit{N}, \textit{P}, \textit{R}, \textit{S}, \textit{T}, \textit{V}, \textit{Z} are pronounced, on the whole, as in English:

\textit{baco} \, \textit{dote} \, \textit{fame} \, \textit{lana} \, \textit{meno} \, \textit{nave}

(báh-co) \, (dóh-tay) \, (fáh-may) \, (láh-na) \, (máy-no) \, (náh-vay)

\textit{worm} \, \textit{dowry} \, \textit{hunger} \, \textit{wool} \, \textit{less} \, \textit{ship}

\textit{posto} \, \textit{rosa} \, \textit{seme} \, \textit{tana} \, \textit{vano} \, \textit{orzo}

(póh-stó) \, (róh-sa) \, (sáy-may) \, (táh-na) \, (váh-no) \, (ór-zó)

\textit{place} \, \textit{rose} \, \textit{seed} \, \textit{den} \, \textit{vain} \, \textit{barley}

1) Besides this the grave accent is employed to distinguish the different signification of a few monosyllabic words, such as: \textit{e}, \textit{and}, \textit{è}, \textit{is}; \textit{dì}, \textit{of}, \textit{dì}, \textit{day}; \textit{da}, from, \textit{dà}, gives; \textit{se}, if, \textit{sè}, himself; \textit{la}, the (fem. article), \textit{là}, there (just as in French); \textit{ne}, of it, from it (French \textit{en}), \textit{né}, neither.
Pronunciation.

The consonant C has a double sound: before a, o, u and before consonants it is pronounced like the English k; before e and i its sound is like ch in church:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{cane} & \quad \text{cono} & \quad \text{cubo} & \quad \text{cloaca} & \quad \text{crosta} \\
(\text{kaih}-\text{nay}) & \quad (\text{coh}-\text{no}) & \quad (\text{coo}-\text{bo}) & \quad (\text{cloah}-\text{ca}) & \quad (\text{croh}-\text{sta}) \\
\text{dog} & \quad \text{cone} & \quad \text{cube} & \quad \text{drain} & \quad \text{crust} \\
\text{cera} & \quad \text{cesto} & \quad \text{cima} & \quad \text{ceci} & \quad \text{cisterna} \\
(\text{chaay}-\text{ra}) & \quad (\text{chaay}-\text{sto}) & \quad (\text{chee}-\text{ma}) & \quad (\text{chaay}-\text{chee}) & \quad (\text{chee}-\text{staayr}-\text{na}) \\
\text{wax} & \quad \text{basket} & \quad \text{top} & \quad \text{chick-peas} & \quad \text{cistern}.
\end{align*}
\]

The same takes place with G. Before a, o or u and before consonants it sounds as hard as in English; but whenever e or i follows, it is as soft as in gem:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{gala} & \quad \text{gola} & \quad \text{gusto} & \quad \text{gleba} & \quad \text{grave} \\
(\text{gah}-\text{la}) & \quad (\text{goh}-\text{la}) & \quad (\text{gooh}-\text{sto}) & \quad (\text{glaay}-\text{ba}) & \quad (\text{grah}-\text{vay}) \\
\text{frill} & \quad \text{throat} & \quad \text{taste} & \quad \text{glebe} & \quad \text{grave} \\
\text{giardino} & \quad \text{gelo} & \quad \text{giusto} & \quad \text{giorno} & \quad \text{giro} \\
(\text{jar}-\text{dee}-\text{no}) & \quad (\text{jaay}-\text{lo}) & \quad (\text{jooh}-\text{sto}) & \quad (\text{jor}-\text{no}) & \quad (\text{jihr}-\text{ro}) \\
\text{garden} & \quad \text{frost} & \quad \text{just} & \quad \text{day} & \quad \text{turn}.
\end{align*}
\]

The combination GL, when followed by i, sounds almost like li in postillion, and GN is not unlike ni in pinion, union:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{taglio} & \quad \text{miglio} & \quad \text{veglio} & \quad \text{ragno} & \quad \text{bagnt} \\
(\text{tah}-\text{lio}) & \quad (\text{meh}-\text{lio}) & \quad (\text{vah}-\text{lia}) & \quad (\text{raah}-\text{nio}) & \quad (\text{bah}-\text{nii}) \\
\text{cut} & \quad \text{mile} & \quad \text{vigil} & \quad \text{spider} & \quad \text{baths}.
\end{align*}
\]

H is never pronounced and is almost exclusively employed to harden the soft sound of c and g before e or i:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{cheppia} & \quad \text{chinese} & \quad \text{chiesa} & \quad \text{ghetto} & \quad \text{ghtsa} \\
(\text{kahiy}-\text{pya}) & \quad (\text{keeh}-\text{naay}-\text{zaay}) & \quad (\text{keeh}-\text{nya}-\text{za}) & \quad (\text{ghest}-\text{to}) & \quad (\text{ghee}-\text{za}) \\
\text{shad} & \quad \text{Chinese} & \quad \text{church} & \quad \text{Jewry} & \quad \text{cast-iron}.
\end{align*}
\]

1) In the syllables cia, cio, ciu, gia, gio, giu, the vowel i is almost inaudible.
2) Where double consonants occur (bb, cc, dd etc.), each must be very distinctly pronounced.

*
The combination QU sounds always like the English qu in quest:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{questo} & \quad \text{quasi} & \quad \text{quadro} & \quad \text{quota} & \quad \text{qui} \\
(que-sto) & \quad (quáh-see) & \quad (quáh-dro) & \quad (quóh-ta) & \quad (quee) \\
\text{this} & \quad \text{almost} & \quad \text{picture} & \quad \text{part} & \quad \text{here}
\end{align*}
\]

SC and SI sound like shay and shee, whereas SCHE and SCHI correspond to skay and see:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{seemo} & \quad \text{scipito} & \quad \text{sciarada} & \quad \text{schema} & \quad \text{schifo} \\
(sha-mo) & \quad (shee-peé-to) & \quad (sha-ráh-da) & \quad (skay-ma) & \quad (skéé-fo) \\
\text{silly} & \quad \text{flat} & \quad \text{charade} & \quad \text{scheme} & \quad \text{disgust}
\end{align*}
\]

5. Recapitulation.

Lastra, bene, tini, corpo, bulbo. Dáino, fáno, féndo, suólo, guiáda. Baco, dote, fame, lana, meno, nave, posto, rosa, seme, tana, vano, orzo; cane, cono, cubo, cloáca, crosta, cera, cesto, cima, ceci, cisterna; gala, gola, gusto, gládio, grave, giardino, gelo, giusto, giorno, giro; táglio, miglio, véglia, ragno, bagni; chéppia, chinse, chiesa, ghisa; questo, quasi, quadro, quota, qui; scemo, scipito, sciarada, schema, schifo.

6. Reading Exercises.

1. Pasta, vene, vini, porco, buco; záino, láuro, réuma, scuóla, guísa; barca, dato, fato, lama, metro, naso, porto, raso, sesta, tabe, vaso, verza; capo, cosa, cuna, classe, credo, cedo, cedro, cifra, cena, cilindro; gara, gota, gufo, gleba, grato; giacere, getto, giudéo, giornata, gita; aglio, meglio, figlio, montagna, legno; cheto, china, chiave, ghette, ghigno; quello, quale, quando, quoziente, quindi; scettro, sciame, scisma, scherno, schiena.

2. La lama di questo coltello non taglia. Il dáino ed il cervo sono veloci. La vita dell'uómo è breve. Non fate agli altri quello che non volete che gli altri facciano a voi. Gli antichi Romani fùrono saggi e valorosi. Chi
non vuol studiare non impara nulla. Nel bisogno si conoscono gli amici. Col fuoco non si scherza. Abbiamo fatto una lunga gita col nostro maestro. Questo quadro viene attribuito a Raffaello.

3. **Alessandro il Grande.** Un giorno che Alessandro si sforzava di conciliarsi con delle larghezze la benevolenza di alcuni Macédoni, Filippo gli parlò in questi termini: «Speri tu, o mio figlio, vederti restar fedeli coloro che tu avrai guadagnato con del danaro? Impara che si compra l'affetto con delle virtù, non con dell'oro!» Se Alessandro avesse sempre fatto tesoro dei paterni ammor-nimenti, quanti disinganni e quanti dolori si sarebbe risparmiati!

First Lesson.

The Article.

There are two articles in Italian as in English: the article and the indefinite article appears in gender and number. But in Italian there are only two genders: the feminine and the masculine.

The definite article for masculine singular is or the plural is or; for feminine le:

*il padre, the father*
*gli schiavi, the slaves*
*la casa, the house*

1. *i padri, the fathers*
2. *gli schiavi, the slaves*
3. *le case, the houses.*

**Note 1.** The masculine articles *il* or *lo* must not be used immediately. The former precedes substantives beginning with a consonant, when used. Words beginning with a vowel are frequently preceded instead of *il*, as: le sue, the uncle, le zuccheri, the sugar.

**Note 2.** Before all nouns beginning with a vowel the indefinite article *un* is used in the singular; in the plural the article is more generally retained:

1. *l'anno, the year*
2. *l'ingegno, the genius*
3. *l'anima, the soul*

The indefinite article is for the masculine *un* (uno s followed by another consonant), for the feminine:

1. *un padre, a father*
2. *uno schiavo, a slave*

1. *una casa, a house*
2. *un'anima, a soul.*

1) Better than *il zio, il zucchero,* as some people say.
The Substantive.

Note. As is seen in the last example, before fem. nouns beginning with a vowel, the indefinite article becomes un' (with an apostrophe).

Words.

Padre, masc. father
madre, fem. mother
libro, m. book
abito, m. coat, dress
rosa, f. rose
oca, f. goose
schioppo, m. rifle, gun
zia, f. aunt
pane, m. bread
dibero, m. tree.

Io ho, I have
ho io? have I?
tu hai, (thou hast)
hai tu? (hast thou?)
you have
have you?
egli ha, he has
ha egli? has he?
ella ha, she has
ha ella? has she?

mio, my, mine (masc. sing.); si, yes.
mia, my, mine (fem. sing.); no, no.
e (before a vowel ed), and; o, or, either.

Reading Exercise 1.

Il padre ha il libro. La madre ha la rosa. Tu hai uno schioppo. Egli ha un abito. Ella ha un’oca. La zia ha le rose. Io ho gli alberi. Ho io un libro ed un abito? No, tu hai uno schioppo ed egli ha un abito.

Exercise for Translation 2.

I have the book. You have the rose. Has he a coat? Yes, he has a coat and a gun. He has a goose. The aunt has a rose. My father has the tree and my mother has the bread.

Second Lesson.

The Substantive.

All nouns ending in o or e, both masculine and feminine, form their plural in i:

il servo, the footman
il fratello, the brother
il carro, the cart
i servi, the footmen
i fratelli, the brothers
i carri, the carts
Lesson 2.

Io stolto, the fool  gli stolti, the fools
la mano, the hand 1)  le mani, the hands
il cane, the dog  i cani, the dogs
la merce, the ware  le merci, wares, merchandise.

All feminine nouns ending in a form their plural in e:

la ragazza, the girl  le ragazze, the girls
la chiesa, the church  le chiese, the churches.

There are also a certain number of masculine nouns ending in a mostly derived from the Greek, which form likewise their plural in i:

il poeta, the poet  i poeti, the poets
il tema, the task  i temi, the tasks.

Words.

Il cugino, the cousin (he)  la carta, the paper, the map
la cugina, the cousin (she)  il bastone, the stick
la porta, the door, the gate  il contadino, the peasant
il paese, the country, the land  il mercante, the merchant
il gatto, the cat  il negozianti, the tradesman
la strada, the street, the road  il principe, the prince
la spada, the sword  il coltello, the knife
la regina, the queen  il cavallo, the horse
il nome, the name  la carrozza, the carriage
l'uomo (pl. uomini), man  lo spiedo, the broach
due, two; tre, three  il Papa, the Pope  [is, etc.
veduto or visto, seen  ecco, here is, here are, there

Noi abbiamo, we have  abbiamo noi? have we?
voi avete, you have  avete voi? have you?
egli (èlleno) hanno, they have  hanno egli? have they?

Reading Exercise 3.


1) Feminine nouns in o are two in number: mano and eco, echo.
Irregularities of the Plural.

Exercise for Translation 4.

You have three dogs and two horses. Have you seen the sticks? The peasant has the cat and the prince has the sword. The queen has two brothers. My cat has two names. Here are the streets and the houses. Man has two hands. Have you seen the map? No, I have seen the country.

Third Lesson.

Irregularities of the Plural.

Nouns ending in a preceded by c or g, take in the plural an h after these consonants, in order to retain the hard sound:

- il duca, the duke  
  i duchi, the dukes
- l'oca, the goose  
  le oche, the geese
- la spiga, the ear (of corn)  
  le spighe, the ears.

The feminine nouns in cia and gia generally drop their i in the plural:

- la marcia, the march  
  le marce, the marches
- la bragia, the burning-coal  
  le brage, the burning-coals
- la traccia, the trace  
  le tracce, the traces
- la spiaggia, the coast  
  le spiagge, the coasts
- la fascia, the fillet  
  le fasce, the fillets.

The following nouns are the same in the singular and plural: monosyllables, all nouns with the accent on their last syllable, nouns ending in i or ie, and those ending in consonants.

- il re, the king  
  i re, the kings
- la città, the town  
  le città, the towns
- l'eclissi, the eclipse  
  le eclissi, the eclipses
- la specie, the kind  
  le specie, the kinds
- il lapis, the (lead-) pencil  
  i lapis, the pencils.

The following are quite anomalous:

- il Dio, the God  
  gli Dei, the Gods
- l'uomo, the man  
  gli uomini, the men

1) Commonly used instead of i Dei which is obsolete.
Lesson 3.

la moglie, the wife  
il buce, the ox  
l’uovo, the egg  
il paio, the pair  
il frutto, the fruit  
mille, thousand

le mogli, the wives  
i buoi, the oxen  
le uova, the eggs  
le paia, the pairs  
le frutta, the fruit(s)\(^1\)  
mila, thousands\(^2\).

*Note.* Those feminine nouns in *cia* or *gia* where a stress is laid on *i*, as *farmacia*, dispensary, *bugia*, lie, falsehood, do not drop their *i* in the plural: *le farmacie, le bugie*. — It is now also usual to suppress the second *i* in the plural of masculine nouns ending in the singular in *io*: *lo studio*, the study, *gli studi*, instead of *gli studii*. — Words ending in *co* form their plural for the most part regularly: *il monaco*, the monk, *i monaci*, *l’amico*, the friend, *gli amici*. Only a few ending in *co* and most of those in *go* take an *h*: *il Turco*, the Turk, *i Turchi*; *il luogo*, the place, *i luoghi*, *il lago*, the lake, *i laghi*.

**Words.**

*Il temperino*, the penknife  
*il quadro*, the picture  
*lo stuzzicadenti*, the tooth-pick  
*la vacca*, the cow  
*la stanza*, the room  
*lo scolaro*, the pupil  
*quattro*, four  
*cinque*, five  
*sei*, six

*la sorella*, the sister  
*il monarca*, the monarch  
*il soldato*, the soldier  
*la faccia*, the face  
*il palazzo*, the palace  
o (before a vowel *od*), or  
*sette*, seven  
*otto*, eight  
*nove*, nine

*Io aveva*, I had  
*tu avevi*, (thou hadst), you have  
*egli aveva*, he had  

*noi avevamo*, we had  
*voi avevate*, you had  
*egli avevano*, they had

**Reading Exercise 5.**


---

1) Also sometimes *i frutti*.
2) In compound numbers. See Lesson 15.
Exercise for Translation 6.

The pupils had the penknives. The (female) cousins had the pictures. I had three rooms. The wives have the eggs and the fruit. The dukes had seen four towns. The men have seen four kings, two popes, and eight dukes. We had seen the sisters. The tooth-picks and the eggs belong to (apparténongo a) my aunt. The peasants have cows and oxen. The kings have soldiers and the towns have gates. My father has four pictures and five penknives.

Fourth Lesson.

The Article contracted.

The definite article undergoes the following contractions with the prepositions di, of, a, to, and da, from, in order to express the different cases of the nouns.

1.

il padre, the father

dei (d’i) padre, of the father
da (a i) padre, to the father
da (dai) padre, from the father

i padri, the fathers

dei (d’i) padri, of the fathers

da (a i) padri, to the fathers

da (dai) padri, from the fathers.

2.

lo specchio, the mirror

dello (di lo) specchio, of the m.
dagli (di gli) specchi, of the m.

gli specchi, the mirrors

delgli (di gli) specchi, to the m.

dagli (da gli) specchi, from the m.

l’madre, the mother

della (di la) madre

dalla (da la) madre

l’madri, the mothers

dette (di le) madri

dalle (da le) madri.

The preposition da occurs so frequently in the Italian language that it deserves a particular mention. It is chiefly used to express a source, or origin, distance, or removal, as:
Lesson 4.

Io vengo da Roma. I come from Rome.
Il Po discende dal Monviso. The Po flows from the Monviso.
Egli viaggia da Milano a Napoli. He travels from Milan to Naples.

It is further employed to denote the agent, the fitness and a comparison, as:

Questo libro fu scritto da mio padre.
This book was written by my father.

È un uomo buono da nulla. He is a good-for-nothing fellow.
Egli vive da eremita. He lives like a hermit.

Also the English use of the prepositions to and at followed by the Saxon genitive, is commonly expressed in Italian by means of the preposition da, as:

Pranzo da mio zio. I dine at my uncle's.
Vado dal mercante. I go to the merchant's.

Before the indefinite article the above prepositions (di, a, da) are not liable to contraction. Yet di commonly drops its final i and takes an apostrophe; instead of a, for the sake of euphony, ad is sometimes preferred:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Italian</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>un, uno a (mascul.)</td>
<td>una, a (femin.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d'un, d'uno (di uno), of a</td>
<td>d'una (di una), of a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ad un, ad uno, to a</td>
<td>ad una, to a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>da un, da uno, from a</td>
<td>da una, from a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Words.

Il signore, the gentleman
la signora the lady
il vicino, the neighbour (he)
la vicina, the neighbour (she)
il maestro, the teacher
l'uccello, the bird
la finestra, the window
il sonno, the sleep
la morte, the death
il topo, the mouse
il sarto, the tailor
il librario, the bookseller
bello, beautiful, fine
io do, I give
io vedo, I see
io vengo, I come
dato, given

Il figlio, the leaf (of a book)
la fóglia, the leaf (of a tree)
là piánta, the plant, the tree
il giardino, the garden
il cortile, the yard
il Creatore, the Creator
il mondo, the world
il castello, the castle
il nemico, the enemy
la terra, the earth
il figlio, the son
la bottega, the shop
dove (ove), where?
di chi è? whose is?
verde, green
adesso, now
altre volte, formerly.
Substantives with a change of meaning.

Io sono, I am, noi siamo, we are
Tu sei, (thou art) you are, voi siete, you are
Egli è, he is, egli sono, they are.

Reading Exercise 7.


Exercise for Translation 8.

The brother of the cousin is in the town. I see the windows of the houses. I give the leaves of the trees to the bird. I come from the garden. The shop of the bookseller is beautiful. Sleep and death are brothers. Here are the coats of the friends and the mirrors of the tailors. The yard of the palace is beautiful. I see the dog of a scholar. God is the Creator of the world. The servant is now in the town. You are the friends of the pupils.

Fifth Lesson.

Substantives with a change of meaning.

The Italian language abounds in terminations that serve to augment or diminish the original idea of a word.

Thus, for instance, avaro means a stingy man, a miser; avarone a covetous, scraping fellow; avaraccio an old, clutching miser; avaretto a rather stingy man, a man inclining to avarice, etc. Giovane means young man, giovannetto, smart young man, giovinastro young rascal.

1) The article is often omitted in Italian before names of places which are frequently used.
Of the **augmentative** terminations the following are most in use:

1) **-one** which indicates a simple augmentation:

- *il cappello*, the hat  
  *il cappellone*, the large hat  
- *il libro*, the book  
  *il librone*, the big book  
- *la porta*, the door, the gate  
  *il portone*, the large gate.

2) **-accio, -astro** which suggest at the same time an idea of something bad and despicable:

- *il dottore*, the doctor  
  *il dottoraccio*, the ignorant doctor  
- *il medico*, the physician  
  *il medicastro*, the quack.

The **diminutive** terminations afford a much greater variety, and it is only by frequent reading and speaking that a foreigner can become familiar with them. Here are some instances:

- *il giardino*, the garden  
  *il giardinetto*, the little garden  
- *il povero*, the poor man  
  *il poverino*, the poor unfortunate man  
- *l’avvocato*, the advocate  
  *l’avvocatuccio*, *l’avvocatuccio*, the ignorant young lawyer  
- *il vecchio*, the old man  
  *il vecchiuccio*, the amiable old man  
- *il cane*, the dog  
  *il cagnolino*, the charming little dog.

**Note.** It must be well understood that the use of these syllables is not obligatory. Instead of *un dottoraccio* it is quite as good to say *un dottore ignorante*; instead of *il giardinetto*, *il piccolo giardino*, etc. — Besides, not every word that appears with one of these syllables is really modified by them. In *padrone*, master, *manetta*, handle, and *scodella*, cup, saucer, the terminations *one*, *etta* and *ella* are purely accidental.

Also **proper names** are liable to the above modifications:

- *Anselmo*, Anselm  
  *Anselmuccio*, dear little Anselm  
- *Anselmino*, little Anselm  
  *Anselmone*, big Anselm  
- *Anselmetto*, dear Anselm  
  *Anselmaccio*, big ugly Anselm.

1) Words ending in **-one** are all masculine.
The Partitive Case.

Words.

Lorenzo, Laurence
terzo, third
pescatore, fisherman
barca, boat, barge
canestro, basket
bravo, brave, clever
pesce, fish, pesciolino (dimin.).
suo, his, her, its
mettere, to put
nostro, our, ours
nuovo, new
vostro, your, yours
comprato, bought
loro, their, theirs
questo, this
per, for, through
quello, that.

Reading Exercise 9.


Exercise for Translation 10.

My father has bought two little birds and five little fish. That ugly book and this little basket belong (dapperténgono) to the little sister of our dear little Anselm. The little dog was in the small boat of the fisherman. Have you given my dead little birds to the cat of your neighbour? No, but I have given them the little fish of my father. Have you seen the large basket? Yes, I have seen the large basket and the big table. This large room has only (soltanto) two small windows.

Sixth Lesson.

The Partitive Case.

In English the words some or any often precede a substantive, when taken in an indefinite sense, no particular kind, measure or quality being meant. In Italian

1) For the sake of preserving the original hard sound of the e, an h has been inserted.
(as in French) this relation is expressed by means of the preposition di, of (French de):

Dàtemi del pane. Give me some bread.
Voglio della carne. I will have some meat.
Avete visto dei ragazz? Have you seen any children?

Yet in Italian, when such words are used in a vague and general sense, no preposition precedes the substantive, as in English:

Egli vende carta, penne ed inchiostro. He sells paper, pens and ink.
Avete perduto tempo e danaro. You have wasted your time and your money.

The pupil is advised to compare the following examples:

Io vedo degli uomini. I see some men.
Io vedo uomini e donne. I see men and women (but no animals).
Egli vende del tabacco. He sells tobacco (and other articles).
Egli vende tabacco. He is a tobacconist.

In negative sentences the partitive case becomes accusative object:

Non abbiamo fiori adesso. We have no flowers now.
Voi non avete nè danaro nè amici. You have neither money nor friends.

Words.

Il guanto, the glove
il mantello, the cloak
loriolo (orologio), the watch
la catena, the chain
il quaderno, the copy-book
il ferro, iron
loro, gold
l'argento, silver
scritto, written
ricevuto, received
che, that
là, cold, there
non, not

la favola, the fable
il caffè, coffee
lo zucchero, sugar
il tè, tea
il burro (burro), butter
il sale, salt
il latte, milk
la birra, beer, ale
il vino, wine
l'acqua, water
lo stivale, the boot
la straniero, the stranger
grazie, thanks
Proper Names.

abitualmente, usually mese, month
mi dia, give me 1) vuole? do you wish?
beve Ella? do you drink? vende? do you sell?
bevuto, drunk oggi, to-day.

Reading Exercise 11.


Exercise for Translation 12.

This stranger sells cloaks. You have received some letters, but you have not yet written your exercise. Here are some copy-books. Give me some iron, gold, and silver. Who is the young man that I have seen there? He is a foreigner who sells everything: salt, butter, tea, coffee, milk, sugar, etc. Do you usually drink wine or beer? To-day I have drunk milk and water. I have not drunk any wine for (da) three months. Anselm has bought some new boots.

Seventh Lesson.

Proper Names.

Christian names and names of towns usually take no article. Only when an adjective precedes them, they have the definite article:

Alessandro è arrivato oggi. Alexander has arrived to-day.
Ecco il cappello di Giulia. Here is Julia’s bonnet.

1) The polite form of addressing a person in Italian is Ella (she). Mi dia signifies literally: let her give me. See Lesson 26.

Elementary Italian Grammar.
Il virtuso Giuseppe fu alfine ricompensato.
La bella Edimburgo mi piacque assai.

Names of countries, provinces, mountains, and rivers are generally used with the article:
Parigi è la capitale della Francia.
La Lombardia ed il Piemonte sono fertili.
Il Monte Bianco è il più alto monte d'Europa.
Il Po ha un corso assai tortuoso.

Family names and especially those of celebrated or well known persons are, in colloquial language, used with the article:
L'Alighieri fu un gran poeta.
Il De Amicis ha scritto un nuovo libro.
La Patti non vuol più cantare.

Words.

Pietro, Peter
Francesco, Francis
Carlo, Charles
Luigi, Lewis
Enrico, Henry
Giuseppe, Joseph
Giovanni, John
Giácomo, James
Europa, Europe
Asia, Asia
Africa, Africa
América, America
Australia, Australia
ópera, work, opera
date! give!
scorso, past

Maria, Mary
Amália, Amelia
Carolina, Caroline
Luísa, Luisa
Enrichetta, Henrietta
Giuseppina, Josephine
Emília, Emily
Alice, Alice
Francia, France
Italia, Italy
Inghilterra, England
Germânia, Germany
Rússia, Russia

1) Names of towns are, with a few exceptions, of the feminine gender.
Hints on Prepositions.

*letto*, read
*laggiù*, there
*con*, with

*Io ero (ero), I was*

*su *eri*, (thou wast) *you were*

*egli era, he was*

*lungo*, long
*andato*, gone.

*noi eravamo, we were*

*voi eravate, you were*

*egli erano, they were.*

**Reading Exercise 13.**


**Exercise for Translation 14.**

Have you read the new book that we have bought? What book is it? The works of Salvatore Farina. Have you heard the new opera that Mr. Verdi has recently written (*recentemente*)? Yes, yesterday evening. Give me Louisa’s) copy-book, please. Here is Charles’ copy-book, but where is Emily’s box? The books and pens of your cousin Amelia are here. Have you been in Russia? Yes, my dear friend, last month (*il mese scorso*). There are James’ boots.

**Eighth Lesson.**

**Hints on Prepositions.**

The most *important* Italian prepositions are:

*A*, at, to, in
*di*, of
*da*, from, by, at
*in*, in
*senza*, without

*su*, on, upon
*tra*, *fra*, between, among
*durante*, during
*avanti*, before (time)
*davanti*, before (space)

1) Translate: the *copy-book* of Louisa, the *copy-book* of Charles, etc.

2)
per, for, through, dietro, behind
con, with, contro, against
sotto, under, verso, towards.
sopra, on, upon, above.

Italian prepositions are simply put before the noun (they govern no particular case), as in English:

Senza il danaro. Without the money.
Per questo signore. For this gentleman.
Con mio cugino Giovanni. With my cousin John.
Sotto la tavola. Under the table.
Durante la pioggia. During the rain.
Contro il muro. Against the wall.

As we have already seen, the prepositions di, a, da are often contracted with the article into one word. Further contractions take place with con, in, su, as will be seen from the following examples:

with the: in the: on the:
con il = cot in il = net su il = sul
con lo = colto in lo = netto su lo = solto
con la = colta in la = netta su la = sulta
con i = colt in i = net su i = sult
con gli = cogli in gli = negli su gli = sugli
con le = colte in le = nette su le = sulle.

Words.
La scuola, the school rosso, red
il giorno, the day il dovere, the duty
la notte, the night il teatro, the theatre
la sera, the evening la via, the road, the way
la stoffa, the cloth, the material la scarpa, the shoe
il tetto, the roof a casa, at home, home, at...'s
sempre, always vivono, (they) live.
ramente, seldom, rarely

Reading Exercise 15.

Io sono nel cortile. L'uccello è sul tetto. Tu sei nella camera. Sugli alberi del giardino vivono degli uccelletti. Il cortile è dietro la casa. Siete venuto durante la pioggia?

1) Exceptions are spoken of in Lesson 36.
The auxiliary Verb avere.


Exercise for Translation 16.

I have seen many birds in the garden of my uncle. We are in the yard. Charles is in the room of the pupil. The cloth of the dress of the girl is green. The little birds are on the roof of the new church. Where are my shoes? They are upon the table. And where were the dogs yesterday evening? They were in the street, behind the house. Who goes to the theatre? I go to school. When have you come into my room? This morning.

Ninth Lesson.

The auxiliary Verb avere, to have.

A. Simple Tenses.

Indicative Mood.

Present.

Io ho, I have

noi abbiamo, we have

tu hai, (thou hast) you have

voi avete, you have

egli ha, he has

egli hanno, they have.

Imperfect.

Io aveva (avevo¹), I had

noi avevamo, we had

tu avevi, (thou hadst) you had

voi avevate, you had

egli aveva, he had

egli avevano, they had.

Remote.

Io ebbi, I had, I have had

noi avemmo, we had had

tu avesti, (thou hadst or you had

voi aveste, you had had

egli ebbe, he had had

egli ebbero, they had had.

¹) This second form ending with o is generally used when the pronoun io is understood. See Remarks on next page.
Lesson 9.

Future.

Io **avrò**, I shall have  
**noi avremo**, we shall have  
to **avrai**, (thou wilt or) you  
will have  
**voi avrete**, you will have  
egli **avrà**, he will have  
**égli avranno**, they will have.

Conditional Mood.

Present.

Io **avrei**, I should have  
**noi avremmo**, we should have  
tu **avresti**, (thou wouldst or)  
you would have  
**voi avreste**, you would have  
egli **avrebbe**, he would have  
**égli avrebbero**, they would have.

Imperative Mood.

Present.

—  
—  
**abbiamo**, let us have  
**abbiate**, have (you)  
**abbiano**, let them have.

Subjunctive Mood.

Present.

che **io abbia**, that I have  
che **noi abbiamo**, that we have  
ch**e tu abbia**, that (thou) you have  
che **voi abbiate**, that you have  
che **egli abbia**, that he have  
che **égli abbiano**, that they have.

Imperfect.

che **io avessi**, that I had  
che **noi avessimo**, that we had  
che **tu avessi**, that thou hadst  
che **voi aveste**, that you had  
che **egli avesse**, that he had  
che **égli avessero**, that they had.

Remarks.

The Italian verb does not always require the personal pronouns **io**, **tu**, etc., the persons being sufficiently marked by the terminations of the verb. Thus: **Avete?** Have you?  
**Avremo**, we shall have.

As mentioned before, the polite form of addressing a person in Italian is **Ella** (she), and the reason of this will be explained in Lesson 26. But in mercantile style and
in familiar conversation the second person plural voi = you is frequently used also, as in English and French, so that beginners may for the present not trouble about the use of Ella, which is not free from difficulties.

The second person singular tu (thou) is used by relations and intimate friends, and indicates a certain degree of intimacy.

Words.

*I calamido, the inkstand*  
*lo scellino, the shilling*  
*il danaro, the penny*  
*la lira, il franco, the frank*  
*il centésimo, the farthing*  

*l'inchiostro, the ink*  
*perdoto, lost*  
*trovato, found*  
*tutto, all, everything*  
*si dice, it is said, they say.*

Reading Exercise 17.


Exercise for Translation 18.

You have (sing.) a book and he has an inkstand. John had some pens and copy-books. We had some friends and relatives (parenti). The kings will have friends and enemies. The peasants had some hats. The ladies would have seen these books, if they had been here. What had you seen in your uncle's garden? We had seen some flowers and you had seen some leaves. Who would have any money? John would have four shillings and ten pence (danari), if he had not spent (speso) all his money yesterday evening.
Tenth Lesson.

The auxiliary Verb *avere*, to have, continued.

B. Compound Tenses.

Indicative Mood.

**Perfect.**

Io *ho avuto*, I have had  
*noi abbiamo avuto*, we have had  
tu *hai avuto*, thou hast had  
*voi avete avuto*, you have had  
egli *ha avuto*, he has had  
*egli hanno avuto*, they have had.

1*st* Pluperfect.

Io *aveva avuto*, I had had  
*noi avevamo avuto*, we had had  
tu *avevi avuto*, thou hadst had  
*voi avevate avuto*, you had had

egli *aveva avuto*, he had had  
*egli avévano avuto*, they had had.

2*nd* Pluperfect.

Io *ebbi avuto*, I had had  
*noi avemmo avuto*, we had had  
tu *avesti avuto*, thou hadst had  
*voi aveveste avuto*, you had had  
egli *ebbe avuto*, he had had  
*egli ebbero avuto*, they h. h.

**Past Future.**

Io *avrò avuto*, I shall have had  
*noi avremo avuto*, w. sh. h. h.  
tu *avrai avuto*, thou w. h. h.  
*voi avrete avuto*, you w. h. h.  
egli *avrà avuto*, he w. h. h.  
*egli avranno avuto*, they w. h. h.

Conditional Mood.

**Past.**

Io *avrei avuto*, I should have had  
*noi avremmo avuto*, we sh. h. h.  
tu *avresti avuto*, thou w. h. h.  
*voi avreste avuto*, you w. h. h.

egli *avrebbe avuto*, he w. h. h.  
*egli avrebbe avuto*, they w. h. h.

Subjunctive Mood.

**Perfect.**

Che io *abbia avuto*, that I have had  
che tu *abbia avuto*, that thou have had  
che egli *abbia avuto*, that he have had  
che noi *abbiamo avuto* that we have had  
che voi *abbiate avuto*, that you have had  
che egli *abbiano avuto*, that they have had.
The auxiliary Verb *avere* continued.

**Pluperfect.**

*che io avessi avuto*, that I had had
*che tu avessi avuto*, that thou hadst had
*che egli avesse avuto*, that he had had
*che noi avessimo avuto*, that we had had
*che voi aveste avuto*, that you had had
*che egli avessero avuto*, that they had had.

**Infinitive Mood.**

Present. \hspace{1cm} Past.
*Avere*, to have. \hspace{1cm} *Avere avuto*, to have had.

**Participle.**

Present. \hspace{1cm} Past.
*Avente*, having. \hspace{1cm} *Avuto*, had.

**Gerund.**

Present. \hspace{1cm} Past.
*Avendo*, having. \hspace{1cm} *Avendo avuto*, having had.

**Words.**

*La traduzione*, the translation \hspace{1cm} *il dispiacere*, the displeasure
*lo sbaglio*, the fault, the mistake \hspace{1cm} *aver torto*, to be wrong
*il servitore*, the servant \hspace{1cm} *aver ragione*, to be right
*io credo*, I believe, I think \hspace{1cm} *fare*, to do, to make
*il tempo*, the time, the weather \hspace{1cm} *contento*, contented, satisfied
*potuto*, been able \hspace{1cm} *parlato*, spoken
*il piacere*, the pleasure \hspace{1cm} *meno*, less.

**Reading Exercise 19.**

Ho avuto una casa. Tu hai avuto una penna. Ha egli avuto il libro? Abbiamo avuto quattro servitori. Il maestro aveva avuto quattro scolari. Avrà avuto degli sbagli nella traduzione, non è vero (*shall I not*)? Hai avuto cinque sbagli, mio caro amico. Carlo avrebbe avuto ragione, se avesse parlato meno. Signore, Ella avrebbe avuto dei dispiaceri, se avesse scritto quella lettera. Noi avremmo avuto piacere che vostro zio avesse veduto il nostro giardino. Avendo perduto il suo tempo a parlare col servitore, non ha potuto fare la traduzione. Si dice che noi abbiamo avuto torto.
Lesson 11.

Exercise for Translation 80.

You will (sing.) have had an inkstand and two pens. They would have had a house and a garden. We had had four servants. You were right and they were wrong. They will have had some faults in their translation. We should have had much annoyance, if we had written that letter. Having time you should have done your exercise. They said that you had lost your copy-book. I think that you have not been wrong. This year we have had pears and apples, but last (Io scorso) year we had neither pears nor apples. I have had great pleasure in seeing you so happy.

Eleventh Lesson.

The auxiliary Verb essere, to be.

A. Simple Tenses.

Indicative Mood.

Present.

Io sono, I am
noi siamo, we are
tu sei, (thou art) you are
voi siete, you are
egli è, he is
èglino sono, they are.

Imperfect.

Io ero, I was
noi eravamo, we were
tu eri, (thou wast) you were
voi eravate, you were
egli era, he was
èglino erano, they were.

Remote.

Io fui, I was
noi fummo, we were
tu fosti, (thou wast) you were
voi foste, you were
egli fu, he was
èglino furono, they were.

Future.

Io sarò, I shall be
noi saremo, we shall be
tu sarài, (thou wilt or) you will be
voi sarete, you will be
egli sarà, he will be
èglino saranno, they will be.
The auxiliary Verb essere.

Conditional Mood.

Present.

Io sarei, I should be  
noi saremmo, we should be  
tu saresti, thou wouldst be  
voi sareste, you would be  
egli sarebbe, he would be  
egli sarebbero, they would be.

Imperative Mood.

Present.

— —  
siamo, let us be  
siate, be (you)  
siano, let them be.

Subjunctive Mood.

Present.

Che io sia, that I be  
che noi siamo, that we be  
che tu sia, that thou be  
che voi siate, that you be  
che egli sia, that he be  
che egli siano, that they be.

Imperfect.

Che io fossi, that I were  
che noi fossimo, that we were  
che tu fossi, that thou wert  
che voi foste, that you were  
che egli fossese, that he were  
che egli fossero, that they were.

Words.

Ricco, rich  
facile, easy  
giovane, young  
diligente, diligent  
affitto, afflicted, sad  
molto, much  
gravemente, gravely  
arrivato, arrived  
ammalato, ill, sick  
partito, started, left  
giocatore, gambler  
possibile, possible  
difficile, difficult  
probabile, probable  
incorrigribile, uncorgible  
adesso, now  
entro, within  
il piú ricco, the richer  
un uomo povere  
a poor man  
a donna poverta  
a poor woman  
degli uomini poveri  
some poor men  
delle donne povere  
some poor women  
un ragazzo gentile  
a kind boy  
una ragazzina gentile  
a kind girl  
dei ragazzi gentili  
some kind boys  
delle ragazze gentili  
some kind girls.

Reading Exercise 21.

Io sono povero. Tu sei ricco. Il maestro è partito 
iersera. È Ella ammalato, signor Giovanni? Sì, sono grave-

Exercise for Translation 22.

Was the exercise easy or difficult? It was difficult. Were you at Rome last year, when I was at Florence? Yes, sir. Your daughter was very young when she was so seriously ill. When shall we be at Paris? We shall be at Paris within two or three days. Who will be richer, your brother or your cousin? My cousin would certainly be the richer of the two, if he had not lost his money in America. If he had not left in time, he would have lost his life.

Twelfth Lesson.

The auxiliary Verb essere, to be, continued.

B. Compound Tenses.

Indicative Mood.

Perfect.

Io sono stato, I have been

noi siamo stati, we have been
tu sei stato, thou hast been

voi siete stati, you have been
egli è stato, he has been

églino sono stati, they have been.

1st Pluperfect.

Io era stato, I had been

tu eri stato, thou hadst been
	noi eravamo stati, we had been
egli era stato, he had been

voi eravate stati, you had been
églino erano stati, they had been.

2nd Pluperfect.

Io fui stato, I had been

tu fosti stato, thou hadst been

noi fummo stati, we had been
egli fu stato, he had been

voi foste stati, you had been
églino furono stati, they had b.
The auxiliary Verb *essere*.

**Past Future.**

*Io sarò stato*, I shall have been  
*tu sarai stato*, thou wilt have been  
*egli sarà stato*, he will have been  
*noi saremo stati*, we shall have been  
*voi sarete stati*, you will have been  
*egli saranno stati*, they will have been.

**Conditional Mood.**

**Past.**

*Io sarei stato*, I should have been  
*tu saresti stato*, thou wouldst have been  
*egli sarebbe stato*, he would have been  
*noi saremmo stati*, we should have been  
*voi sareste stati*, you would have been  
*egli sarebbero stati*, they would have been.

**Subjunctive Mood.**

**Perfect.**

*Che io sia stato*, that I have been  
*che tu sia stato*, that thou have been  
*che egli sia stato*, that he have been  
*che noi siamo stati*, that we have been  
*che voi siate stati*, that you have been  
*che egli siano stati*, that they have been.

**Pluperfect.**

*Che io fossi stato*, that I had been  
*che tu fossi stato*, that thou hadst been  
*che egli fosse stato*, that he had been  
*che noi fossimo stati*, that we had been  
*che voi foste stati*, that you had been  
*che egli fossero stati*, that they had been.

**Infinitive Mood.**

**Present.**  
*Essere*, to be.  

**Past.**  
*Essere stato*, to have been.

**Participle.**

**Present.**  
*—*  

**Past.**  
*Stato*, been.
Lesson 12.

Gerund.

Present.

Essendo, being.

Past.

Essendo stato, having been.

Thus, the compound tenses of essere are not formed with the auxiliary to have, but with essere. The past participle agrees in gender and number with its subject: Io sono stato, noi siamo stati.

Words.

Il padrone, the master
la crestaià, the milliner
la piazza, the place, the square
la passeggia, the walk
lo straniero, the foreigner
cosi, thus, so
Mónaco, Munich
Stoccarda, Stuttgart
prima, before, formerly

la distanza, the distance
il momento, the moment
cortese, polite
vasto, large, extensive
grande, great, large
débole, feeble, weak
fedele, faithful
troppa, too, too much
piccolo, little, small.

Reading Exercise 23.


Exercise for Translation 24.

This poor lady is very weak, she has been ill. You have been in that large garden which we saw yesterday. Have you been in the square or have you taken (fatto) a walk to the public garden? John would have been very kind to (con) that foreigner, if he had seen him so afflicted. Had you al-
ready been in this town? No, madam, I had been several
times at Munich and Stuttgart, but I had never been here.
It is not possible that the teacher has (Subj.) been satisfied
with your translation, for it contains too many faults. This
bonnet is too large to be (per essere) fine. Would you have
gone to the theatre without writing (scrivere) your exercise?
I have not been at the theatre.

Thirteenth Lesson.

Demonstrative and interrogative Adjectives.

The demonstrative adjectives are:

*Questo*, this  
*Quello*, that  
*Codesto* (*cotesto*), this, that  
(your)

*Questi*, these  
*Quelli*, those  
*Codesti* (*cotesti*) these, those  
(your).

Examples.

*Questo* cavallo, this horse  
*Questi* buoi, these oxen  
*Quella* casa, that house  
*Quelle* camere, those rooms  
*Codesta* borsa, that purse (which you have there)  
*Codesti* libri, your books, those books of yours.

Before words beginning with a vowel, *questo* and *quello*
sometimes drop their final vowel, and take an apostrophe,
whereas *quello* generally loses its second syllable before
a consonant. In the plural, *quelli* is often changed into
*quegli* before a vowel or *s* followed by another consonant,
and into *quei* before a consonant:

*Questo* asino, this ass  
*Quell'ânima*, that soul  
*Quel* cane, that dog  
*Quegli* studenti, those students  
*Quegli* animali, those animals  
*Quei* cavalli, those horses.
Lesson 13.

Codesto (cotoesto) denotes a person or a thing near the person addressed, and frequently corresponds to the English possessive pronoun your, as we have seen in the foregoing examples.

There are in Italian two interrogative adjectives:

Che? which? what? (for both genders and numbers).
Quale? which? what? (sing. for both genders; plur.: quali).
Quale often drops its final e before a consonant, and quali may be contracted into quai:

Che maestro avete? Which master have you?
Che ragazzi! What boys!
Qual cavallo vedeste? Which horse did you see?
Quale albero sono quelli? What trees are those?
Quai cani sono morti? Which dogs are dead?

Words.

La grammatica, the grammar il fanciullo, the child
il garofano, the pink bene, well
il campo, the field male, ill, badly
l'imperatore, the emperor ubbidiente, obedient
incivile, unkind parla Ella? do you speak?
grossolano, gross io parlo, I speak
non . . . ancora, not yet in italiano, in Italian
la colazione, breakfast [led?
stolto, silly, stupid come si chiama? what is it called?
un tempo, altrove, formerly.

Reading Exercise 25.

Exercise for Translation 26.

This wine is good. These exercises are not difficult. This merchant is not yet rich enough. These boys were formerly very poor. The bonnet of that girl is too large. That hat (of yours) has been bought yesterday in the market. I give these books to those boys and those pens to these girls. Have you read that book (which you hold in your hand)? Not yet, sir; I have not had (the) time. I have read that letter which you have seen yesterday evening. Those pears are not good. Which pears are not good? Those. Do you speak Italian, madam? O yes. What is that flower called in Italian? What is its name? That flower (of yours) is a stock. These trees are not high, but those are too high.

Fourteenth Lesson.

Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns.

In the Italian language there is no difference between possessive adjectives and pronouns; and both are generally accompanied by the definite article and sometimes even by the indefinite article:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masculine</td>
<td>Feminine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il mio</td>
<td>la mia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il tuo</td>
<td>la tua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il suo</td>
<td>la sua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il nostro</td>
<td>la nostra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il vostro</td>
<td>la vostra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il loro</td>
<td>la loro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples.

Ecco il mio libro italiano. Here is my Italian book.
Datemici anche il vostro, di grazia. Give me yours also, please.
Le tue camere sono grandi. Thy rooms are large.
I suoi libri sono istruttivi. His (her) books are instructive.
Le nostre pere sono dolci. Our pears are sweet.
La loro madre è indulgente. Their mother is indulgent.
Le loro penne sono bianche. Their pens are white.
It must be remarked that il suo corresponds both to his and her, and the word loro is invariable.

The possessive adjectives take no article, however, when followed by a substantive in the singular, indicating near relationship, or dignity:

_Mio zio è partito ieri._ My uncle has left yesterday.
_Vostra Eccellenza ha ragione._ Your Excellency is right.

In the plural, or when the substantive is preceded by a qualifying adjective, or when it has one of the final syllables enumerated in the 5th Lesson, the article must be employed:

_Il vostri genitori sono arrivati._ Your parents have arrived.
_Il mio caro zio è divenuto povero._ My dear uncle has grown poor.
_Le loro Eccellenze sono partite._ Their Excellencies have left.
_Il mio fratellino è ammalato._ My (dear) little brother is ill.

Such expressions as a friend of mine, a cousin of his, etc. are rendered thus:

_Un mio amico, una mia amica._
_Un suo cugino, una sua cugina._

*Words.*

_Il compagno,_ the comrade, the school-fellow
_il portafoglio,_ the pocket-book
_la valigia,_ the trunk
_l'ombrello,_ the umbrella
_la berretta,_ the cap
_la chiave,_ the key
_la saccoùcia, la tasca,_ the pocket
_non è vero? is it not true?*_

_guarito,_ cured, recovered
_il nipote,_ the nephew
_la nipote,_ the niece
_il nipotino,_ the grandson
_la nipotina,_ the granddaughter
_il nonno,_ the grandfather
_la nonna,_ the grandmother
_incontrato,_ met, encountered
_questa mattina,_ this morning.

*Reading Exercise 27.*

_Il mio amico è ancora ammalato, ma mio cugino è già guarito. Il tuo buon fratello non è più a Firenze. Tuo zio Giovanni è già partito per Genova. Ha Ella già veduto mia madre oggi? No, signora, non ho ancora visto la sua signora madre, ma la vedrò certamente questa mattina nel giardino pubblico. Carlo ha perduto il portafoglio e la valigia. Di*
chi è questa chiave? È tua; la mia l’ho in tasca. Carolina è una tua amica, non è vero? Venite qua, nipotini miei, disse il nonno, ecco il vostro pane e le vostre mele. Questa mattina abbiamo incontrato due nostri vecchi compagni di scuola. Dov’è la tua berretta? La mia è qui, ma non ho ancora veduto la tua.

Exercise for Translation 23.

Your aunt Amelia had already left for Rome, when I came here. One of my old school-fellows has (?) died this morning. Yesterday evening you (have) met four of your friends, have you not (transl. is it not true)? O yes, and your father was also (pure) with us. Whose umbrella is this? It is mine and that one (quell’altro) belongs to your mother. Indeed (Ma sì)! she had lost it yesterday evening in your garden. Yes, and we have found it this morning [when] looking for our brother’s pocket-book. Two friends of ours have been seriously ill last month, but now they are in good health. The grandchildren were walking in the garden with their grandfather.

Fifteenth Lesson.

Cardinal Numbers.

Uno 1.
due 2.
tre 3.
quattro 4.
cinque 5.
sei 6.
sette 7.
otto 8.
nove 9.
dici 10.
dodici 11.
dodici 12.
tredici 13.
quattordici 14.
quindici 15.
settendici 16.
dicisette 17.
diciotto 18.
dicinque 19.
venti 20.
ventuno 21.
ventidue 22.
ventitré 23, etc.
trenta 30.
quaranta 40.
cinquanta 50.
sestanta 60.
sedantà 70.
ottanta 80.
nonanta 90.

3a
Lesson 15.

cento 100.  
centouno (cento uno) 101.  
centodue (cento due) 102, etc.  
duecento 200.  
trecento 300.  
quattrocento 400, etc.  
mille 1000.  
duemila 2000.  
tremila 3000.  
diecimila 10000.  
centomila 100000.  
duecentomila 200000.  
un milione 1000000.  
due milioni 2000000.  
um miliardo 1000000000.  
xero 0.

Examples.

Cinque fanciulle, five girls.
Venti asini, twenty asses.
Trentacinque lire, thirty-five francs.
Quarantotto soldati, forty-eight soldiers.
Centotré cannoni, a hundred and three guns.
Milleottocento anni, eighteen hundred years.
Un milione di fucili, a million rifles.

Remarks.

After ventuno, trentuno, etc. the substantive must be in the singular:

Ventuno stivale, twenty-one boots.
Trentuna casa, thirty-one houses.

The numerals cento and mille are never preceded by the indefinite article (as in English: a hundred or one thousand).

Nor is it permitted to say undici cento, dodici cento etc., but mille e cento (millecento), milleduecento, etc.

Days of the month (except il primo, the first) are expressed by cardinal numbers, as:

Londra, il sei aprile.  London, April 6th.

Sentences such as: What is the day of the month? It is the 5th, etc. are rendered: Quanti ne abbiamo del mese? Ne abbiamo cinque, etc.

Remark also:

Quanti anni avete?  How old are you?
Ho dodici anni.  I am twelve years old.