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# **Italian Language Manual**

# **General Facts on Italy**

**Location:** Southern Europe, a peninsula extending into the central Mediterranean Sea, northeast of Tunisia

**Border countries:** Austria, France, Holy See (Vatican City), San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland

**Capitol:** Rome

**Official language:** Italian

**Natural Resources:** coal, mercury, zinc, potash, marble, barite, asbestos, pumice, fluorspar, feldspar, pyrite (sulfur), natural gas and crude oil reserves, fish, arable land

**Population:** 58,133,509

**Ethnic Groups:** Italian (includes small clusters of German-, French-, and Slovene-Italians in the north and Albanian-Italians and Greek-Italians in the south)

**Ethnic Composition:** Caucasian (97%), North African (1.3%), Black African, East Asian

**Religions:** Roman Catholic 90% (approximately; about one-third practicing), other 10% (includes mature Protestant and Jewish communities and a growing Muslim immigrant community)

**Government type:** Republic

**Independence:** 17 March 1861 (Kingdom of Italy proclaimed; Italy was not finally unified until 1870)

**National Holiday:** Republic Day, 2 June (1946)



# **Cultural Aspects**

# **Holidays:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
January 6	Epiphany	Is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God in human form in the person of Jesus Christ.
April 25	Liberation Day	Commemorates the liberation of Italy by allied troops in WWII; also remembers those who served in the war.
May 1	May Day	Labor Day
June 2	Festival of the Republic	Italy voted in referendum to abolish the monarchy and become a republic government
August 15	Ferragosto	Celebrates the rise of Mary up to heaven to join her son Jesus.
November 2	All Saints Day	Celebrates all Catholic saints
December 8	Immaculate Conception	Commemorate when Mary was graced by God to lead a life completely free of sin.
December 26	Feast of St. Stephen	Marks the day of St. Stephen, the first martyr for the new born king

<http://www.lifeinitaly.com/potpourri/holidays.asp>

# Italian Cuisine:

The kitchen is undoubtedly a very important part of Italian culture. Known throughout the world, loved and copied continuously, it has been able to bestow joy and pleasure of living at any latitude. We know what is the reaction of everyone when, in any chaotic industrial city in the world, tired and depressed, sees a sign of Italian cooking: my heart warmed.

It is a cuisine rich, nutritious and healthy handed down for centuries through family life, especially rural impression and, as such, close to our land, its products throughout the seasons: thus entrusted to genuine and natural ingredients. It is filled with wonderful unique dishes of pasta with vegetables, edible vegetables: ingredients at the root of our traditions, but also of countless varieties of meat, just fish in the seas are full of our peninsula, an aromatic cheese and great desserts. But, of course, on our table the element of force is the "first course" in its many variations, from pasta or soup, soups, various types of soups and stews, risottos, casseroles too.

Do not forget, however, that most traditional dishes from the kitchen most common result of poor peasants and lower classes, which have resulted, however, over time, real "specialty": think of soups stale bread and vegetables, such as ribollita or acquacotta Tuscany, and many recipes based on ingredients but not exalted lineage have become classics of Italian cuisine absolute. demonstrates that the goodness of a dish depends largely on the magical combination ( always "unique") resulting dall'irripetibile fusion flavors and aromas, cooking times and balancing of the individual components, personal capacity "creative" and demonstrated accuracy in the preparation. Sometimes in the kitchen just a detail, a nuance, for exceeding the limits of test as "normal" and make every dish a triumph of taste. The passion, then, is a prerequisite in Italian cuisine without which, as indeed in every aspect of life does not go very far. Despite regional variation, this kitchen keeps his dishes "strong" throughout the territory and is capable of inventing the most important meals when prepared with greater wealth of ingredients for chefs and fine scholars.

Italy is also famous for their wine including Barolo, Barbaresco, Brunello Di Montalcino, Barbera, Dolcetto, Corvina, Nero d'Avola, Pinot Grigio and Moscato, to name a few. In addition, Italy is famous their desserts and types of coffee. Some of the deserts Italy is famous for include Tiramisu, cannoli, the cassata Siciliana, marzipan-shaped fruits, the panna cotta, gelato (Italian ice cream abroad), and Sicilian granitas (similar to a snow cone).

The following pictures are examples of Italian Cuisine:

Gelato Tiramisu Lasagna Pasta Fagioli

From: <http://www.italianculture.net/cucina.html>

# Italian Family Values:

- The family is the centre of the social structure and provides a stabilizing influence for its members.
- In the north, generally only the nuclear family lives together; while in the south, the extended family often resides together in one house.
- The family provides both emotional and financial support to its members.

## Italian Style:

- Appearances matter in Italy.
- The way you dress can indicate your social status, your family's background, and your education level.
- First impressions are lasting impressions in Italy.
- The concept of 'bella figura' or good image is important to Italians.
- They unconsciously assess another person's age and social standing in the first few seconds of meeting them, often before any words are exchanged.
- Clothes are important to Italians.
- They are extremely fashion conscious and judge people on their appearance.
- You will be judged on your clothes, shoes, accessories and the way you carry yourself.
- Bella figura is more than dressing well. It extends to the aura you project too - i.e. confidence, style, demeanour, etc.

## **Etiquette & Customs in Italy:**

### **Meeting Etiquette**

- Greetings are enthusiastic yet rather formal.
- The usual handshake with direct eye contact and a smile suffices between strangers.
- Once a relationship develops, air-kissing on both cheeks, starting with the left is often added as well as a pat on the back between men.
- Wait until invited to move to a first name basis.
- Italians are guided by first impressions, so it is important that you demonstrate propriety and respect when greeting people, especially when meeting them for the first time.

- Many Italians use calling cards in social situations. These are slightly larger than traditional business cards and include the person's name, address, title or academic honors, and their telephone number.
- If you are staying in Italy for an extended period of time, it is a good idea to have calling cards made. Never give your business card in lieu of a calling card in a social situation.

### **Gift Giving Etiquette**

- Do not give chrysanthemums as they are used at funerals.
- Do not give red flowers as they indicate secrecy.
- Do not give yellow flowers as they indicate jealousy
- If you bring wine, make sure it is a good vintage. Quality, rather than quantity, is important.
- Do not wrap gifts in black, as is traditionally a mourning colour.
- Do not wrap gifts in purple, as it is a symbol of bad luck.
- Gifts are usually opened when received.

### **Dining Etiquette**

- If invited to an Italian house:
- If an invitation says the dress is informal, wear stylish clothes that are still rather formal, i.e., jacket and tie for men and an elegant dress for women.
- Punctuality is not mandatory. You may arrive between 15 minutes late if invited to dinner and up to 30 minutes late if invited to a party.
- If you are invited to a meal, bring gift-wrapped such as wine or chocolates.
- If you are invited for dinner and want to send flowers, have them delivered that day.

### **Table manners**

- Remain standing until invited to sit down. You may be shown to a particular seat.
- Table manners are Continental -- the fork is held in the left hand and the knife in the right while eating.
- Follow the lead of the hostess - she sits at the table first, starts eating first, and is the first to get up at the end of the meal.
- The host gives the first toast.
- An honored guest should return the toast later in the meal.



- Women may offer a toast.
- Always take a small amount at first so you can be cajoled into accepting a second helping.
- Do not keep your hands in your lap during the meal; however, do not rest your elbows on the table either.
- It is acceptable to leave a small amount of food on your plate.
- Pick up cheese with your knife rather than your fingers.
- If you do not want more wine, leave your wineglass nearly full.

### **Relationships & Communication**

- Italians prefer to do business with people they know and trust.
- A third party introduction will go a long way in providing an initial platform from which to work.
- Italians much prefer face-to-face contact, so it is important to spend time in Italy developing the relationship.
- Your business colleagues will be eager to know something about you as a person before conducting business with you.
- Demeanor is important as Italians judge people on appearances and the first impression you make will be a lasting one.
- Italians are intuitive. Therefore, make an effort to ensure that your Italian colleagues like and trust you.
- Networking can be an almost full-time occupation in Italy. Personal contacts allow people to get ahead.
- Take the time to ask questions about your business colleagues family and personal interests, as this helps build the relationship
- Italians are extremely expressive communicators. They tend to be wordy, eloquent, emotional, and demonstrative, often using facial and hand gestures to prove their point.

From: <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/italy-country-profile.html>

# Music:

Music has traditionally been one of the great cultural markers of what it means to be “Italian” and holds an important position in society, in general, and even in politics. Italy is also widely regarded as the birthplace of sheet music, after Guido d'Arezzo was responsible for arranging musical notes on sheets of paper. The music of Italy range across a broad spectrum, from her renowned opera to modern experimental classical music; and from the traditional music of the many ethnically diverse region to a vast body of popular music drawn from both native and imported source. Historically, musical developments in Italy in the Middle Ages and Renaissance helped create much music that spread throughout Europe. Innovation in the use of musical scales, harmony, notation, as well as experiments in musical theater led directly not just to opera in the late 16th century, but to classical music forms such as the symphony and concerto, and to later developments in popular music. Today, the entire infrastructure that supports music as a profession is extensive in Italy, including conservatories, opera houses, radio and television stations, recording studios, music festivals, and important centers of musicological research. Musical life in Italy remains extremely active, but very Italian-centered and hardly international. The only main international Italian pop-singers include 1970s pop-diva Mina, who sold 76 million records worldwide in her lifetime, and singer Laura Pausini, who has sold 45 million albums and has been dubbed the 'Queen of Italian Pop'.

Italy is widely known for being the birthplace of opera. Italian opera was believed to have been founded in the early 1600s, in Italian cities such as Mantua and Venice. Later, works and pieces composed by native Italian composers of the 19th and early 20th centuries, such as Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti, Verdi and Puccini, are amongst the most famous operas ever written and today are performed in opera houses across the world. La Scala operahouse in Milan is also renowned as one of the best in the world. Famous Italian opera singers include Enrico Caruso, Luciano Pavarotti and Andrea Bocelli, to name a few.

**Geographical  
Distribution  
Linguistic  
Community**

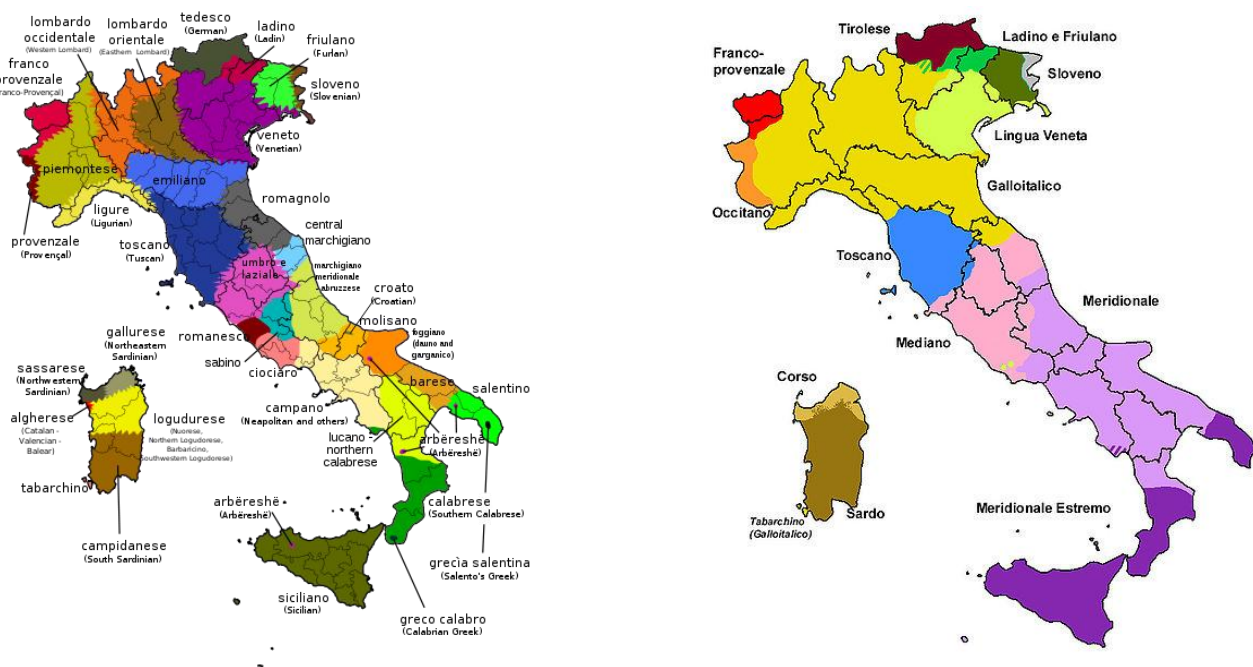
**Italian** is the official language of Italy, San Marino, Switzerland, Slovenia, Vatican City, and is one of the 23 working languages in the European Union. Other European countries that speak Italian consist of: Belgium, Germany, UK, and France.

Outside of Europe, Italian speaking communities can be found in the United States, Canada, Venezuela, Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, Africa, and Australia.

In the United States, Italian speakers are most commonly found in five cities: Boston (90,000), Chicago (60,000), Miami (75,000), New York City (120,000), and Philadelphia (50,000). In Canada there are large Italian-speaking communities in Montreal (100,000) and Toronto (70,000).

The geographic distribution of the Italian language in the world: large Italian-speaking communities are shown in green; light blue indicates areas where it was understood and spoken during the Italian colonial period, in the first half of the 20th century.

The map below is an example of Dialect of Italy (or Languages of Italy)



# Demography

Italy Population has surpassed 60 million as per the 2009 estimates. It is the fourth largest populated country of Europe and ranks twenty third in the world chart. And in terms of population density, the country stands fifth all over Europe. There are 200 persons approx residing in every square kilometer of land area.

Italy, including the islands of Sardinia and Sicily covers an area of 301,338 square km. It is made up of 20 administrative regions including Abruzzi, Calabria, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Liguria, Lombardia, Marche, Molise, Piemonte, Puglia, Sardegna, Toscana, Trentino-Alto Adige, Umbria, Giulia, Lazio, Valle d'Aosta, Veneto, Sicilia, Friuli-Venezia and Basilicata.

Italian Population has been mainly affected by the high birth rate of 9.78 births per 1,000 people and relatively high life expectancy and low death rate of 9.82 deaths/1,000 people.

Some of the largest populated cities of Italy are Rome, Milan, Naples, Turin, Palermo and Genoa. Among other major Italian cities the most populated having more than 250,000 inhabitants are Bologna, Florence, Bari, Catania, Venice and Verona.

According to latest reports as per the Italian Statistics Office, the literacy rate among Italy Population is 98% with schooling been made mandatory for children aged between 6 and 18.

The demographic details of Italy are listed as follows:

- Population: 58,133,509 approximately
- Age structure can be defined as:
  - o 0-14 years: 14.03%
  - o 15-64 years: 65.93%
  - o 65 years and over: 20.04%
- Growth Rate of Population: 0.68%
- Net Migration Rate: 7.5%
- Population divided into different genders / Sex Ratio in the following Age Groups at birth:
  - o 1.07 males per a female
  - o Under 15 years: 1.06 males per a female
  - o 15-64 years: 1.02 males per a female

- o 65 years and over: 0.72 male per a female
- Ethnic groups: Italian. But exists some clusters of German, French, and Slovene. There are also few Albanian-Italians and Greek-Italians in the south
- Religions
  - o 90% belong to Roman
  - o 10% are Protestant or Jewish
  - o There are also very few Muslim immigrant
- Languages Spoken: Officially Italian (official); others include: German, French, Slovene

From: <http://www.mapsofworld.com/italy/italy-population.html>

## History

# Chronology of Italy's History

*A.D. 476 Through 1996*

Since earliest times the history of Italy has been influenced by cultural and political divisions resulting from the peninsula's disparate geography and by circumstances that made Italy the scene of many of the most important struggles for power in Europe.

## Calendar of Important Events

YEAR	EVENT
476	The Germanic leader Odoacer sacked Rome, ending the Western Roman Empire.
572	The Lombards invaded Italy, ending the last period of Byzantine rule in Italy
800	Charlemagne was crowned emperor of the Romans by Pope Leo III
962	Otto the Great was crowned emperor, marking the beginning of the Holy Roman Empire.
1300s	The thriving Italian city-states such as Florence and Venice contributed to the beginning of the Renaissance in Italy. Venice controlled European trade with Asia and the Middle East
1494	The French army defeated the armies of several of the divided city-states. France and the Holy Roman Empire subsequently vied for control of Italy
1559	Most of Italy had come under the influence of the Spanish Habsburgs. Control passed to the Austrian branch of the family by the early 1700s
1796	Napoleon Bonaparte conquered much of northern Italy and established Italian republics. Northern Italy was unified as the Kingdom of Italy under French rule in 1804
1814	Following Napoleon's defeat, Italy was divided into the Papal States, Austrian duchies, the Kingdom of Sardinia, and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies
1859	Sardinia and France expelled the Austrians from all of northern Italy except Venice

1861	The Kingdom of Italy was formed, encompassing the entire peninsula except for Rome, Venice, and San Marino. King Victor Emmanuel II of Sardinia became king of Italy
1866	Venice became part of Italy
1870	Italian forces occupied Rome, which became the capital of Italy the following year
1912	Italy acquired Libya after a war with the Ottoman Empire
1915	Although it was allied with Germany and Austria-Hungary, Italy entered World War I on the side of the Allies
1922	Benito Mussolini became prime minister of Italy and rapidly assumed dictatorial powers
1929	The Lateran Treaty normalized relations between Italy and the Vatican
1940	Italy entered World War II having previously formed an alliance with Germany
1943	Italy surrendered to invading Allied forces, but Germany took control of the country and fought the Allies until the end of the war
1946	Italians voted to abolish the monarchy, and Italy became a republic
1952	Italy became a founding member of the European Coal and Steel Community, which would eventually become the European Union
1984	Reflecting the diminished influence of the church in Italian life, Roman Catholicism was de-institutionalized as Italy's state religion
1986	Italy took its most visible steps toward fighting organized crime, convicting 338 Mafia members of criminal activities
1990s	A far-reaching scandal of political corruption and influence-peddling led to the fall of the Christian Democratic party, which had been the most influential political party in Italy since 1948
1994	A rightist coalition, led by media magnate Silvio Berlusconi and which included neo-Fascist elements, was overwhelmingly elected to power. However, the coalition collapsed late in the year, and Berlusconi was forced to resign as prime minister
1996	The Olive Tree coalition was voted into power, marking the first time since World War II that a leftist government controlled Italy. Romano Prodi, an economics professor, headed the coalition as prime minister

# **Population in the USA**



All of the following was obtained from [http://www.niaf.org/research/2000\\_census\\_3.asp](http://www.niaf.org/research/2000_census_3.asp)  
(The National Italian American Foundation)

## Italian American Population in All 50 States

*\*\* All figures based on the United States Census 2000. See [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). Compiled by the Research Department of the National Italian American Foundation. \*\**

STATE	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Alabama	56,220	1.3
Alaska	17,944	2.9
Arizona	224,795	4.4
Arkansas	34,674	1.3
California	1,450,884	4.3
Colorado	201,787	4.7
Connecticut	634,364	18.6
Delaware	72,677	9.3
District of Columbia	12,587	2.2
Florida	1,003,977	6.3
Georgia	163,218	2.0
Hawaii	22,094	1.8
Idaho	34,553	2.7
Illinois	744,274	6.0
Indiana	141,486	2.3
Iowa	49,449	1.7
Kansas	50,729	1.9
Kentucky	62,383	1.5
Louisiana	195,561	4.4
Maine	58,866	4.6
Maryland	267,573	5.1
Massachusetts	860,079	13.5
Michigan	450,952	4.5
Minnesota	111,270	2.3
Mississippi	40,401	1.4
Missouri	176,209	3.1
Montana	28,031	3.1
Nebraska	42,979	2.5
Nevada	132,515	6.6
New Hampshire	105,610	8.5
New Jersey	1,503,637	17.9
New Mexico	43,218	2.4

New York	2,737,146	14.4
North Carolina	181,982	2.3
North Dakota	5,328	0.8
Ohio	675,749	6.0
Oklahoma	49,970	1.4
Oregon	111,462	3.3
Pennsylvania	1,418,465	11.6
Rhode Island	199,077	19.0
South Carolina	81,377	2.0
South Dakota	7,541	1.0
Tennessee	94,402	1.7
Texas	363,354	1.7
Utah	57,512	2.6
Vermont	38,835	6.4
Virginia	257,129	3.6
Washington	191,442	3.2
West Virginia	69,935	3.9
Wisconsin	172,567	3.2
Wyoming	15,286	3.1

## States with the Highest Populations of Italian Americans

*\*\* All figures based on the United States Census 2000. See [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). Compiled by the Research Department of the National Italian American Foundation. \*\**

### More than 1 Million

STATE	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
New York	2,737,146	14.4
New Jersey	1,503,637	17.9
California	1,450,884	4.3
Pennsylvania	1,418,465	11.6
Florida	1,003,977	6.3

### More than 500,000

STATE	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Massachusetts	860,079	13.5
Illinois	744,274	6.0
Ohio	675,749	6.0

<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>634,364</b>	<b>18.6</b>
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**More than 250,000**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>450,952</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Texas</b>	<b>363,354</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>267,573</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>257,129</b>	<b>3.6</b>

**More than 100,000**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>224,795</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>201,787</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>199,077</b>	<b>19.0</b>
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>195,561</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>181,982</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>176,209</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>172,567</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>163,218</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Indiana</b>	<b>141,486</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Nevada</b>	<b>132,515</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Oregon</b>	<b>111,462</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>111,270</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<b>105,610</b>	<b>8.5</b>

**States with the Highest Percentage of Italian Americans**

*\*\* All figures based on the United States Census 2000. See [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). Compiled by the Research Department of the National Italian American Foundation. \*\**

**More than 10 Percent**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>199,077</b>	<b>19.0</b>
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>634,364</b>	<b>18.6</b>
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>1,503,637</b>	<b>17.9</b>
<b>New York</b>	<b>2,737,146</b>	<b>14.4</b>
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>860,079</b>	<b>13.5</b>
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>1,418,465</b>	<b>11.6</b>

### More than 5 Percent

STATE	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Delaware	72,677	9.3
New Hampshire	105,610	8.5
Nevada	132,515	6.6
Florida	1,003,977	6.3
Vermont	38,835	6.4
Ohio	675,749	6.0
Illinois	744,274	6.0
Maryland	267,573	5.1

## Italian American Populations in Select U.S. Counties

### Arizona

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Maricopa County	154,344	5.0

### California

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Los Angeles County	270,375	2.8
Marin County	22,044	8.9
Orange County	134,871	4.7
Riverside County	61,990	4.0
Sacramento County	59,983	4.9
San Bernardino County	62,432	3.7
San Diego County	133,304	4.7
San Francisco County	39,144	5.0
San Mateo County	56,625	8.0
Sonoma County	43,955	9.6
Ventura County	38,485	5.1

### Colorado

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Denver County	38,485	3.5

### Connecticut

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Hartford County	134,654	15.7
New Haven County	201,069	24.4
Fairfield County	159,785	18.1
Litchfield County	39,477	21.7
Middlesex County	32,858	21.2
New London County	35,489	13.7
Tolland County	21,022	15.4
Windham County	10,010	9.2

### Delaware

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
New Castle County	58,037	11.6

### Florida

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Broward County	153,574	9.5
Hillsborough County	63,021	6.3
Miami-Dade County	52,545	2.3
Martin County	13,291	10.5
Palm Beach County	106,774	9.4
Pinellas County	81,833	8.9
Sarasota County	25,082	7.7

### Illinois

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Cook County	327,011	6.1
DuPage County	108,862	12.0
Lake County	45,060	7.0
Will County	53,894	10.7

### Louisiana

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
East Baton Rouge Parish	18,694	4.5
Jefferson Parish	52,020	11.4
Orleans Parish	15,695	3.2
St. Bernard Parish	13,444	20.0
St. Tammany Parish	19,879	10.4

### Maryland

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Montgomery County	42,128	4.8

### Massachusetts

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Barnstable County	23,898	10.8
Berkshire County	22,710	16.8
Bristol County	42,385	7.9
Essex County	113,480	15.7
Hampden County	51,174	11.2
Middlesex County	245,371	16.7
Norfolk County	97,253	15.0
Plymouth County	69,183	14.6
Suffolk County	75,279	10.9
Worcester County	100,554	13.4

### Michigan

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Macomb County	108,752	13.8
Oakland County	71,155	6.0
Wayne County	85,037	4.1

### Minnesota

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Anoka County	7,583	2.5
Dakota County	10,945	3.1
Hennepin County	26,827	2.4

### Missouri

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
St. Louis city	12,579	3.6
St. Louis County	54,109	5.3
St. Charles County	17,011	6.0

### Nevada

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Clark County	93,251	6.8

### New Hampshire

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Hillsborough County	31,824	8.4
Merrimack County	9,211	6.8

### New Jersey

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Atlantic County	46,323	18.3
Bergen County	194,614	22.0
Burlington County	69,170	16.3
Camden County	92,761	18.2
Cape May County	17,507	17.1
Cumberland County	22,881	15.6
Essex County	92,389	11.6
Gloucester County	62,095	24.4
Hudson County	60,746	10.0
Hunterdon County	25,086	20.6
Mercer County	54,092	15.4
Middlesex County	120,402	16.1
Monmouth County	142,727	23.2
Morris County	107,123	22.8
Ocean County	129,044	25.3
Passaic County	81,205	16.6
Somerset County	55,612	18.7
Sussex County	31,962	22.2
Union County	70,914	13.6
Warren County	19,129	18.7

### New York

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Albany County	47,760	16.2
Bronx County	69,289	5.2
Broome County	25,868	12.9
Chautauqua County	20,041	14.3
Dutchess County	60,645	21.6
Erie County	149,343	15.7

Fulton County	8,476	15.4
Genesee County	9,316	15.4
Greene County	8,139	16.9
Herkimer County	12,191	18.9
Kings County	183,868	7.5
Monroe County	136,111	18.5
Montgomery County	9,245	18.6
Nassau County	319,602	23.9
New York County	84,956	5.5
Niagara County	40,695	18.5
Oneida County	46,824	19.9
Onondaga County	80,310	17.5
Orange County	64,450	18.9
Putnam County	30,441	31.8
Queens County	187,540	8.4
Rensselaer County	22,486	14.7
Richmond County	167,086	37.7
Rockland County	48,802	17.0
Saratoga County	33,185	16.5
Schenectady County	32,270	22.0
Suffolk County	408,572	28.8
Ulster County	33,629	18.9
Westchester County	192,226	20.8

### Ohio

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Ashtabula County	11,107	10.8
Cuyahoga County	125,570	9.0
Franklin County	56,407	5.3
Geauga County	9,778	10.8
Hamilton County	35,535	4.2
Lake County	34,096	15.0
Lorain County	20,603	7.2
Medina County	14,010	9.3
Summit County	48,567	8.9
Trumbull County	32,342	14.4

### Pennsylvania

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Allegheny County	194,227	15.2



Bucks County	89,647	15.0
Butler County	18,216	10.5
Chester County	60,288	13.9
Delaware County	101,910	18.5
Monroe County	24,294	17.5
Montgomery County	112,072	14.9
Philadelphia County	140,139	9.2
Pike County	9,138	19.7
Washington County	33,736	16.6
Westmoreland County	64,900	17.5

### Rhode Island

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Bristol County	10,008	19.8
Kent County	36,444	21.8
Newport County	9,062	10.6
Providence County	119,006	19.1
Washington County	24,557	19.9

### Texas

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Bexar County	27,770	2.0
Dallas County	34,275	1.5
Harris County	71,374	2.1

### Vermont

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Chittenden County	10,365	7.1

### Washington

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
King	63,452	3.7

### Wisconsin

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Dane County	14,224	3.3
Milwaukee County	37,175	4.0

Waukesha County	21,027	5.8
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## U.S. Counties with High Percentage of Italian Americans

*\*\* All figures based on the United States Census 2000. See [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). Compiled by the Research Department of the National Italian American Foundation. \*\**

### More than 20 Percent

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Richmond County, NY	167,086	37.7
Putnam County, NY	30,441	31.8
Suffolk County, NY	408,572	28.8
Ocean County, NJ	129,044	25.3
Gloucester County, NJ	62,095	24.4
New Haven County, CT	201,069	24.4
Nassau County, NY	319,602	23.9
Monmouth County, NJ	142,727	23.2
Morris County, NJ	107,123	22.8
Sussex County, NJ	31,962	22.2
Bergen County, NJ	194,614	22.0
Schenectady County, NY	32,270	22.0
Kent County, RI	36,444	21.8
Litchfield County, CT	39,477	21.7
Dutchess County, NY	60,645	21.6
Middlesex County, CT	32,858	21.2
Westchester County, NY	192,226	20.8
Hunterdon County, NJ	25,086	20.6
St. Bernard Parish, LA	13,444	20.0

### More than 15 Percent

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Oneida County, NY	46,824	19.9
Washington County, RI	24,557	19.9
Bristol County, RI	10,008	19.8
Pike County, PA	9,138	19.7
Providence County, RI	119,006	19.1
Orange County, NY	64,450	18.9
Ulster County, NY	33,629	18.9

Herkimer County, NY	12,191	18.9
Montgomery County, NY	9,245	18.6
Monroe County, NY	136,111	18.5
Delaware County, PA	101,910	18.5
Niagara County, NY	40,695	18.5
Atlantic County, NJ	46,323	18.3
Camden County, NJ	92,761	18.2
Fairfield County, CT	159,785	18.1
Onondaga County, NY	80,310	17.5
Westmoreland County, PA	64,900	17.5
Monroe County, PA	24,294	17.5
Cape May County, NJ	17,507	17.1
Rockland County, NY	48,802	17.0
Greene County, NY	8,139	16.9
Berkshire County, MA	22,710	16.8
Middlesex County, MA	245,371	16.7
Washington County, PA	33,736	16.6
Saratoga County, NY	33,185	16.5
Burlington County, NJ	69,170	16.3
Albany County, NY	47,760	16.2
Middlesex County, NJ	120,402	16.1
Erie County, NY	149,343	15.7
Hartford County, CT	134,654	15.7
Essex County, MA	113,480	15.7
Cumberland County, NJ	22,881	15.6
Mercer County, NJ	54,092	15.4
Tolland County, CT	21,022	15.4
Fulton County, NY	8,476	15.4
Genesee County, NY	9,316	15.4
Allegheny County, PA	194,227	15.2
Norfolk County, MA	97,253	15.0
Bucks County, PA	89,647	18.3
Lake County, OH	34,096	15.0

**More than 10 Percent**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Montgomery County, PA	112,072	14.9
Rensselaer County, NY	22,486	14.7
Plymouth County, MA	69,183	14.6
Trumbull County, OH	32,342	14.4
Chautauqua County, NY	20,041	14.3

Chester County, PA	60,288	13.9
Macomb County, MI	108,752	13.8
New London County, CT	35,489	13.7
Worcester County, MA	120,402	16.1
Broome County, NY	25,868	12.9
DuPage County, IL	108,862	12.0
Essex County, NJ	92,389	11.6
New Castle County, DE	58,037	11.6
Jefferson Parish, LA	52,020	11.4
Hampden County, MA	51,174	11.2
Suffolk County, MA	75,279	10.9
Barnstable County, MA	23,898	10.8
Ashtabula County, OH	11,107	10.8
Geauga County, OH	9,778	10.8
Will County, IL	53,894	10.7
Newport County, RI	9,062	10.6
Butler County, PA	18,216	10.5
Martin County, FL	13,291	10.5
St. Tammany Parish, LA	19,879	10.4
Hudson County, NJ	60,746	10.0

## Counties with Highest Amount of Italian Americans

### More than 200,000

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Suffolk County, NY	408,572	28.8
Cook County, IL	327,011	6.1
Nassau County, NY	319,602	23.9
Los Angeles County, CA	270,375	2.8
Middlesex County, MA	245,371	16.7
New Haven County, CT	201,069	24.4

### More than 100,000

COUNTY	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Bergen County, NJ	194,614	22.0
Allegheny County, PA	194,227	15.2
Westchester County, NY	192,226	20.8
Queens County, NY	187,540	8.4
Kings County, NY	183,868	7.5

Richmond County, NY	167,086	37.7
Fairfield County, CT	108,752	13.8
New London County, CT	159,785	18.1
Worcester County, MA	120,402	16.1
Maricopa County, AZ	154,344	5.0
Broward County, FL	153,574	9.5
Erie County, NY	149,343	15.7
Monmouth County, NJ	142,727	23.2
Philadelphia County, PA	140,139	9.2
Monroe County, NY	136,111	18.5
Orange County, CA	134,871	4.7
Hartford County, CT	134,654	15.7
San Diego County, CA	133,304	4.7
Ocean County, NJ	129,044	25.3
Cuyahoga County, OH	125,570	9.0
Middlesex County, NJ	120,402	16.1
Providence County, RI	119,006	19.1
Essex County, MA	113,480	15.7
Montgomery County, PA	112,072	14.9
DuPage County, IL	108,862	12.0
Macomb County, MI	108,752	13.8
Morris County, NJ	107,123	22.8
Palm Beach County, FL	106,774	9.4
Delaware County, PA	101,910	18.5
Worcester County, MA	100,554	13.4

# **Linguistic Features**

**Phonology**  
**Morphology**  
**Syntax**  
**Semantics**  
**Pragmatics**

Resources: [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=ArticleURL&\\_udi=B7T84-4M3C3K0-1YF&\\_rdoc=145&\\_hierId=1129000132&\\_refWorkId=326&\\_explode=1129000132&\\_fmt=high&\\_orig=na&\\_docanchor=&\\_idxType=SC&\\_view=c&\\_ct=347&\\_acct=C000059537&\\_version=1&\\_urlVersion=0&\\_userid=158229&\\_md5=a96a7baf5b470a236aa0a29be57d46d8#s0030](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B7T84-4M3C3K0-1YF&_rdoc=145&_hierId=1129000132&_refWorkId=326&_explode=1129000132&_fmt=high&_orig=na&_docanchor=&_idxType=SC&_view=c&_ct=347&_acct=C000059537&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=158229&_md5=a96a7baf5b470a236aa0a29be57d46d8#s0030)  
<http://italian.about.com/od/linguistics/a/aa090507a.htm>

## Phonology

The opposition of long and short vowels in Latin was replaced by a distinction determined by stress and syllable structure: long vowels are obligatory in free stressed nonfinal syllables, short vowels in other conditions (i.e., in checked stressed, free stressed final, and all unstressed syllables). In stressed syllables the five Latin vowel qualities became seven, with long  $\bar{E}$  and  $\bar{O}$  giving midhigh [e] and [o], short  $\acute{E}$  and  $\acute{O}$  giving midlow [ɛ] and [ɔ] (these broke into [jɛ] and [wɔ] in free syllables). In unstressed syllables only five vowels are used: [i], [e], [a], [o], [u]. The consonant system undergoes the following main changes: assimilation (e.g., [kt] > [tt], as in *factum* > *fatto*); palatalization and assibilation before front vowels (as in *cenam* [keːnam] > *cena* [tʃɛna]); *hodie* > *oggi*, *medium* > *mezzo*); sonorization, which applies unsystematically, as in *stratam* > *strada*, but *amatam* > *amata*. Initial *h* and final consonants (apart from nasals and liquids in proclitics: *un*, *per*, *il*, etc.) are dropped.

The rhythm of Italian is syllable timed. There are seven vowels, very similar to the cardinal ones: /i/, /e/, /ɛ/, /a/, /ɔ/, /o/, /u/. In unstressed syllables the opposition of midhigh and midlow vowels is neutralized, the quality of the other vowels remains distinct. There are two semiconsonants: /j/ and /w/, and 21 consonants: /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /ts/, /dz/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /f/, /v/, /s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /ʎ/, /r/. Typologically uncommon is the systematic opposition of long to short consonants, which applies to all the items listed apart from six: /z/ is always short, and /ts/, /dz/, /ʃ/, /ɲ/, and /ʎ/ are always long intervocalically.

### Illustration

Here follows a sentence (1) quoted for illustration:

(1) *A Venezia è più facile che si senta parlare il dialetto che l'italiano.*

‘In Venice it is easier to hear people speaking dialect than Italian.’

### View Within Article

Phonemic transcription: /a vveˈnɛttsja ɛppju fˈfatʃile ke ssi ˈsɛnta parˈlare il djaˈlɛtto ke lɪ itaˈljano/. Note that this sentence is pronounced in Venice without ‘syntactic doubling’ (i.e., the lengthening of initial consonants in specified conditions) and with some of the variations mentioned above in the section, ‘Writing System’: /a veˈnɛtsja ɛpju fˈfatʃile ke si ˈsɛnta parˈlare il djaˈlɛtto ke lɪ itaˈljano/. In the local dialect this would be: /a veˈnɛsja ze pju ˈfasie ke se ˈsɛnta parˈlar el djaˈɛto ke lɪ itaˈljaŋ/.

Note the gender and number agreement between articles and nouns; the use of the subjunctive governed by *facile che*; the interesting construction with *si*, which can be interpreted as an impersonal (with *si* acting as the indefinite subject of *sentata*: ‘one hears’), or as a passive, with the infinitive clause (*parlare*) acting as sentential subject (‘speaking is heard’). Also, the subject of the infinitive need not be specified: ‘*si senta parlare*’ ‘one hears [someone] speak.’ There is no dummy subject for *è* (‘it is’), and the sentential subject clause introduced by *che* comes after the

verb. The first *che* acts as a complementizer, and the second *che* as a conjunction within the comparative structure (*più ... che*).

What is phonology? According to Marina Nespore, Italian linguist and author of the book "Fonologia," it is "that branch of grammar that is occupied with the sounds that are systematically used in natural languages for communicating meanings." Put more simply, phonology studies the meanings of the sounds we make when we speak.

One important fact to begin with, is the difference between **phonology** (*fonologia*) and **phonetics** (*fonetica*). Phonetics analyzes all sounds arising from human speech, regardless of the language or meaning. Phonology studies the sounds in context, searching for patterns by determining which sounds contain meaning, then explaining how these sounds are understood by a native speaker. So while phonetics studies how the letter "f" is produced (what parts of the mouth are used and how, in order to say an "f") and how it is perceived, phonology analyzes how the words *fa* and *va* have different meanings, despite only differing by one sound. Phonology is the musical side of linguistics.

If you listen closely to Italian—whether you understand what you are hearing or not—you may notice that the rhythm differs greatly from English. Several linguists have conducted phonological investigations into the various rhythmic patterns of languages. Using computer programs, the linguists replaced all consonants with the letter "s" and all vowels with the letter "a". The final product, read aloud by the computer program and sounding like a stuttering snake, demonstrates distinct variations in the frequency and stress of consonants and vowels. As a result of this simplification each language differs only by its own musicality.

The road to sounding like a native speaker is filled with obvious barriers such as accent and vocabulary, however sometimes even having a flawless mastery over both is not enough. Knowing where to put the correct stress, how to have proper inflection and intonation—that is, the more musical aspects of languages—are more subtle obstacles. Phonology is the study that helps identify these elusive keys to fluency and is a foundation upon which other branches of linguistics such as morphology begin their studies.

At one of the intersections between phonology and morphology lies an interesting mystery: that of words. Surprisingly, linguists find it enormously difficult to define the exact properties of a word, though at first it may not be apparent why. For those learning Italian, pay close attention to how what you hear changes from nonsense sounds to words packed with meaning as you progress and learn new vocabulary. You may be inclined to use phonological cues (such as tone, stress, and pauses for breath) to classify a word, however, as we will see in the next article on morphology, this definition may not always be accurate.

Certainly, phonology is a very broad subject covering other inquiries with complicated names such as assimilation, epenthesis (adding sounds to words), and phonotactics (which sound combinations are permissible within a given language). However there are more recognizable inquiries as well, for instance the mysterious properties of the letter "s" in Italian, "erre moscia," and the role of doubled consonants. These three topics will be covered in later individual articles.



Each is intriguing because of the misconceptions surrounding them, however it is through mastery of puzzles such as these that you can come closer to understanding Italian, regardless of whether or not you are a native speaker.

**About the Author:** Britten Milliman is a native of Rockland County, New York, whose interest in foreign languages began at age three, when her cousin introduced her to Spanish. Her interest in linguistics and languages from around the globe runs deep but Italian and the people who speak it hold a special place in her heart.

# Morphology

The case system of the Latin declension disappears and prepositions are used instead: *di uomo* replaces Latin *hominis*. The neuter gender disappears. The Latin verb pattern is basically preserved, with the introduction of 'analytical' or compound forms for the passive (*è amato* for *amatur*), the future (*amare ho*, whence the new synthetic *amerò*, for *amabo*), the perfect (*ho amato* for *amavi*, although this survives as *amai*), and so on.

While phonology concentrates on the musical building blocks of language, morphology (*morfologia*) is the study of the rules that govern how these blocks are put together. Sergio Scalise, in his book *Morphologia*, gives three practically identical definitions which basically state that morphology is the study of rules that govern the internal structure of words in their formation and alteration.

Let us refer back to the conjugations for the verb *parlare* in our introduction to Italian linguistics, which were used as an example of how words alter linguistically. In this instance, morphological rules changed the verb for each **person** (the subject of the verb, such as I of "I talk" or *io* of "*io parlo*"): *parlo*, *parli*, *parla*, *parliamo*, *parlate*, *parlano*. Though verb conjugations are more overtly apparent in Italian, they are not as clear in English because English is a very morphologically poor language. Take the same verb in English: I *talk*, you *talk*, he/she *talks*, we *talk*, they *talk*. Only one verb form is different. The uniformity of English verbs is even more pronounced in the past tense where all forms look the same: *talked*. As a result, English relies heavily upon the rules governing word order in a sentence. Such rules are studied by syntax.

During our discussion of Italian phonology, I mentioned that the topic of defining a word has become a puzzling enigma. Printed words are easily distinguished because of the spaces between them. However, trying to use phonological cues—for instance which parts of a sentence are stressed or where the speaker pauses for breath—would fall short of a complete definition. If a native were to say to you "*in bocca al lupo*" (an Italian proverb meaning good luck), it would probably come out sounding like "*nboccalupo*" with no way of determining where a word ends and another begins. In addition, the meaning of the word "*lupo*" (wolf) has nothing to do with "good luck," so it is impossible to divide the phrase into meaningful parts in order to identify each word.

Morphology complicates the matter. The example of "*in bocca al lupo*" raises two problems with classifying words: how to classify completely unrelated meanings of one word and how to classify many words with the same meaning, such as each of the numerous conjugations of verbs. Should each variation—such as *parlo*, *parlerò*, *parlerebbe*—be counted as a separate word or as variations of one word? Would conjugations such as *ho parlato* or *avrò parlato* count as two words or as one? These questions are morphological because they deal directly with the formation and alteration of words. So how do we resolve these issues? The simple answer is that there is no simple answer. Instead, linguists have recognized a specialized filing system called a **lexicon**.

The lexicon is the dictionary of the mind. However, this dictionary is more complex than Merriam-Webster, Oxford, and Cambridge combined. Think of it like a large collection of spider webs that are all interconnected. At the center of each lies a word or a morpheme (part of a word

which carries meaning, such as *-tion* in English or *-zione* in Italian). So, for example, the lexicon of an Italian would contain the word "lupo" and would have recorded in the surrounding spider web information such as the primary meaning (predatory wild canine beast), its meaning within the idiom "in bocca al lupo," as well as its grammatical status (that it is a noun). Also in the lexicon would be the ending *-zione* and between these two entries, the lexicon would have the bit of information that understands that combining the two to form *lupozione* is not possible in Italian.

As you progress in Italian, you are constructing and morphologically training an Italian lexicon to recognize words and what they mean, as well as which constructions are possible and which are not. By understanding the properties of a word, you can take shortcuts such as just remembering *parl-* and its various mutations, instead of trying to remember each conjugation as a separate word. It saves storage space in your mind.

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# Syntax

The freedom of Latin word order is reduced, as syntactic function is signaled by linear position rather than case endings: for 'Paul saw Peter' the only normal and unequivocal structure in Italian is '*Paolo vide Pietro,*' whereas in Latin *Petrum Paulus vidit* would be equally clear in any of the six theoretically possible combinations of these three words.

From the study of the musicality of languages (phonology) to the rules which govern the internal structure of words (morphology) we move to that branch of linguistics which focuses on the rules that govern words in larger structures (phrases and sentences, for example). This study is known as **syntax**. According to the definition provided by Giorgio Graffi in his book *Sintassi*, syntax is the study of combinations of words and why some combinations are permissible in a particular language, while others are not.

When speaking about morphology, I demonstrated that English is a morphologically poor language. The phrase "talk" is incomplete; there is no way of knowing who is talking because the subject has been omitted. On the other hand, the Italian "parlo" is a complete thought because the subject is embedded within the verb itself. Due to the fact that English verbs do not contain as much information about who is completing the action, English must rely heavily on word order in order for its meaning to remain clear.

Here is an example taken from the introduction to Italian linguistics: "Dog bites man." No native of English would blink twice at a sentence such as this one. Although the word "bites" does not itself contain information about who is biting whom, the word order takes care of this clarification. In such a small sentence, word order is strict and inflexible. Note what happens when we make any changes: "Man bites dog" has a completely different meaning while another arrangement—"Bites dog man"—has no meaning at all and is not grammatically acceptable.

However, in Latin, these three sentences would not have differed greatly despite their word order. The reason for this is that Latin used case endings (morphemes which indicate the role of a word within a sentence). As long as the correct ending was used, placement in the sentence would not have been as important. While the grammatical rules of Italian are not quite as flexible as they were in Latin, there is still more room to maneuver than in English. Such a simple sentence of three words—"dog," "bites," and "man"—does not leave enough room to maneuver, so to demonstrate word order flexibility in Italian, we will look at a slightly longer one.

Let us examine the sentence, "The man, who the dogs bit, is tall." The part of this sentence on which we will be concentrating, is the phrase "who the dogs bit." In Italian the sentence would read "L'uomo, il cui i cani hanno morso, è alto." However, in Italian it is also grammatically correct to say, "L'uomo, il cui hanno morso i cani, è alto." On the other hand, to change the word order in English would result in "The man, who bit the dogs, is tall" and would change the meaning completely.

While Italian allows some flexibility within word order, other formations—such as noun-adjective phrases—are stricter. For example, the phrase "the old suit" is always translated as "l'abito vecchio" and never as "il vecchio abito." This is not an absolute rule, however in cases where the noun and adjective may change position, the meaning changes, even if only subtly.

Changing the phrase "la pizza grande" to "la grande pizza" alters the meaning from "the large pizza" to "the grand pizza." It is for this reason that translation is so incredibly difficult and is very rarely an exact science. Those who try to translate phrases such as "keep it real" or "just do it" into Italian for a tattoo will acknowledge frustration at the loss or change of meaning.

The beauty of languages lies not in their similarities, but in their differences. Growing accustomed to the new structures of foreign languages will broaden your means of expressing yourself, not only in Italian, but in English as well. Furthermore, while most phrases lose some meaning in their translation, the further you take your studies, the more unique phrases you will discover in Italian that defy translation to English.

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# Semantics

Within the prism of languages, we've seen the facets of sounds (phonology), transformations (morphology) and rules (syntax). However, the most important function of language is to convey meaning, a task which is studied by **semantics**. Gennaro Chierchia, author of the book "Semantica," has this to say of semantics: "Expressions in our language 'mean' something and this allows us to communicate. The object of [semantics] is to understand how this happens."

The first, and possibly most important, distinction within the field of semantics is between **connotative** and **denotative** meaning. There are three ways of defining and distinguishing the two. First, denotation is the direct or explicit meaning of a word while connotation is ideas associated with it or suggested by it. For example, *dog* has a denotative meaning of "domestic canine" and connotative meanings of "ugly" or "aggressive."

The second definition of denotation is what a word normally elicits for most speakers of a particular language, whereas connotation describes what a term calls to mind for an individual because of personal experience. The word *house*, for instance, conjures a picture of the structure itself (denotative meaning) in the mind of any native speaker. However, one person may think of warmth and comfort (connotative meanings) when he or she hears the word *house* because of positive memories the word draws out. While different associations enrich a language, they can also lead to difficulties. Because many words (especially adjectives) elicit different sensations for different speakers, there is an added layer of difficulty in translating these words. Take, for example, the many different degrees of the word *sad*—down, blue, gloomy, miserable, depressed, distressed, to name a few. Trying to carry into another language the various associations people have with them may cause distorted or even lost meaning.

The final distinguishing characteristic between denotative and connotative meaning is history. Denotative definitions refer to the historical meaning of a word. For example, in Latin the word *vulgar* meant "commonplace"; this is its denotative meaning. Over time, the negative associations (connotative meanings) of the term prospered and replaced the original meaning. Today almost no one uses *vulgar* in any context other than "gross" or "inappropriate." We are able to track the history of *vulgar* due to the work of a popular branch of linguistics called etymology, which traces the history of linguistic forms (the bits such as prefixes, suffixes and words).

When discussing Italian morphology, I explained the lexicon and its storage functions. Morphemes were described as the smallest linguistic units that carry semantic meaning. In some instances the morpheme is a **free morpheme** (one that can stand on its own, such as the word *problema*) or root word. From this base, morphological rules work to create other forms such as the plural *problemi*. However, roots are not always immediately obvious. For example, the root of *vado* is *and-* (from *andare*). In this case, the morpheme is a **bound morpheme** (one that cannot stand on its own). While at first glance it may seem that developing an entirely new lexicon for a foreign language will overload your brain (even with the morphological shortcuts I suggested), there are others you can use to help minimize the amount of information you store in your new lexicon. These shortcuts appear in the form of **cognates**.

Cognates (or *parole simili*) are words that have a common origin and therefore similar meanings such as the English *problem* and Italian *problema*. Through etymology we see that many languages are related and are therefore likely to share meanings. For example, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, French and Romanian are all sister languages in the Romance family as descendants of Latin. Latin, in turn, is a descendant of Indo-European, an ancient language family whose daughter groups also include English. By recognizing foreign words which look similar to ones in your native language, you can learn to anticipate their definitions without having to memorize their meanings separately. Always relying on similar words having identical definitions, though, has its pitfalls. There are some tricksters known as "false cognates" or "false friends." These are words which look as though they should have identical definitions but do not. For example, the Italian word *parenti* means "relatives," not "parents," the anticipated definition.

Certainly the best incentive to learning a foreign language is to be able to express thoughts with others. It expands the human experience to be able to communicate with someone in his own language. What joy to be able to order something as simple as a *panino* in Italian from your favorite café in Italy!

**About the Author:** Britten Milliman is a native of Rockland County, New York, whose interest in foreign languages began at age three, when her cousin introduced her to Spanish. Her interest in linguistics and languages from around the globe runs deep but Italian and the people who speak it hold a special place in her heart.

# Pragmatics

## Sociolinguistic Points

(As mentioned above,) In Italy there are many linguistic enclaves in which ‘foreign’ languages are spoken, and in some cases their use is ‘protected’ by special legislation. For the majority of Italians the traditional situation was one of diglossia (with the local dialect used in speech, and literary Italian in writing. After political unification, and particularly as a consequence of far-reaching social changes, such as internal migration (mostly from the south to northern industrial conurbations) and the influence of the mass media, Italian has been widely adopted in speech as well. Regional differentiation is clearly marked in phonology, identifiable in lexis, and less clearly noticeable in grammar. A colloquial variety of the language has developed that has been called ‘popular Italian’; this appears to be gaining acceptability, and some of its features are penetrating into the standard written language (e.g., *gli* is now frequently found in writing for ‘to them,’ and sometimes even for ‘to her,’ as well as for the traditional ‘to him’). The dialects have been diagnosed often as terminally ill and on the point of demise. In fact, they have proved remarkably resilient in ordinary usage, and sometimes they appear to be taken up by people (including the young) as a way of reasserting their own group identity and reacting against an alienating process of national equalization. There has also been a striking vitality in dialect poetry, often using very local, individual forms of the dialect, rather than a generalized, regional variety.

## Speaking Italian With Your Hands

### It's All in the Hands

Walk down the street of any Italian town today and you might think you've wandered onto the set of a [Fellini movie](#). People everywhere seem to be mumbling to themselves while gesticulating wildly. If you get closer to them, though, you'll notice that they're punctuating a conversation on their *telefonini* with hand gestures. Mobile telephones are ubiquitous in Italy today, and all those animated discussions are proof positive that Italians express themselves with their hands even while speaking on the phone.

### Listening With Your Eyes

Hand signals are a language unto themselves; for instance, commodities brokers on the floor of the stock exchange have a highly codified set of hand signals to communicate. In sports, referees, players, and managers all have their own non-verbal way of talking to each other, whether it's [signaling a penalty in soccer](#), motioning to a teammate, or repositioning a player. There are even organizations such as the [Center For Nonverbal Studies](#) that apply scientific study to nonverbal communication, which includes body movements, gestures, and facial expressions.

Italians use body language and hand gestures to punctuate an expression and give it a shading that the word or phrase itself lacks. Non-native speakers of Italian often find talking on the telephone to be the most challenging linguistic task. One reason is that you cannot read lips, which many people do subconsciously (and makes [dubbed movies such as La Vita È Bella](#) difficult to watch). But the absence of body language and hand gestures confounds the



communication gap. We watch people motion with their hands, and we parse out what they mean.

### **Signal Your Intentions**

The About.com Italian Language [guide to Italian hand gestures](#) has some of the more common gestures that are recognized in the country. Be aware that, like dialects, certain hand signals can mean different things within different regions—and can have completely different interpretations in other cultures. Practice these gestures on your Italian friends first to be sure you've got the right movement, otherwise a potentially embarrassing situation could develop.

**Possible Error  
and reasons,  
linguistic  
transfer**

## Resources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-native\\_pronunciations\\_of\\_English#Italian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-native_pronunciations_of_English#Italian)

<http://esl.fis.edu/grammar/langdiff/italian.htm>

<http://www.btinternet.com/~ted.power/11italian.html>

A study on Italian children's pronunciation of English revealed the following characteristics:<sup>[15]</sup>

- Tendency to replace the English high lax vowels /ɪ/ /ʊ/ with [i] [u] (ex: "fill" and "feel", "put" "poot" are homophones), since Italian doesn't have these vowels.
- Tendency to replace /ŋ/ with [ŋg] ("singer" rhymes with "finger") or as [ŋ] (combined with the above tendency makes the words "king" and "keen" homophones) because Italian [ŋ] is an allophone of /n/ before velar stops.
- Tendency to replace word-initial /sm/ with [zm], e.g. *small* [zmɔl]. This voicing also applies to /sl/ and /sn/.
- Tendency to replace /ʌ/ with [a] so that *mother* is pronounced ['madər] or ['maðər].
- Italian does not have dental fricatives:
  - Voiceless /θ/ may be replaced with a dental [t̪] or with [f].
  - Voiced /ð/ may become a dental [d̪].
- Since /t/ and /d/ are typically pronounced as dental stops anyway, words like *there* and *dare* can become homophones.
- /æ/ is replaced with [ɛ], so that *bag* sounds like *beg* [bɛg].
- Tendency to pronounce /p t k/ as unaspirated stops.
- Schwa [ə] does not exist in Italian; speakers tend to give the written vowel its full pronunciation, e.g. *lemon* ['lɛmɔn], *television* [tele'viʒɔn], *parrot* ['pærot], *intelligent* [in'telidʒɛnt], *water* ['wɔtɛr], *sugar* ['ʃugər].
- Italian speakers may pronounce consonant-final English words with a strong vocalic offset, especially in isolated words, e.g. *dog* [dɔg<sup>ə</sup>]. This has led to the stereotype of Italians adding [ə] to the ends of English words.
- Tendency to pronounce /r/ as a trill [r] rather than the English approximant /ɹ/, e.g. *parrot* ['pærot].

In addition, Italians learning English have a tendency to pronounce words as they are spelled, so that *walk* is [wɔlk], *guide* is [gwid], and *boiled* is ['bɔɪləd]. This is also true for loanwords borrowed from English as *water*, which is pronounced [vater] instead of ['wɔ:tə]. Related to this is the fact that many Italians produce /r/ wherever it is spelled (e.g. *star* [star]), resulting in a rhotic accent, even when the dialect of English they are learning is nonrhotic. Consonants written double may be pronounced as geminates, e.g. Italians pronounce *apple* with a longer [p] sound than English speakers do.

# The differences between English and Italian

**Introduction:** Italian belongs to the Romance family, which in turn is part of the large Indo-European language family. It therefore shares many features with other Romance languages such as French or Spanish. Native-Italian learners of English, a stress-timed language, face similar kinds of problems to those faced by native speakers of the other Romance languages, which are syllable-timed.

**Alphabet:** Italian words are made up of the same 26 letters as employed by English, although the letters j, k, w, x and y are considered foreign and are only used in import words. Italian learners may misspell dictated words containing the English letters **r** and **e**, which sound like Italian letters **a** and **i**. Some words that are capitalized in English (days, months, languages, etc) are not capitalized in Italian.

**Phonology:** Italian learners typically have problems with the vowel differences in minimal pairs such as sheep / sheet bet / mat cot / coat, The tendency to 'swallow' weak vowels in English causes difficulties both in listening comprehension and in the production of natural-sounding speech.

The pronunciation of consonants include the predictable difficulties with words containing the letters th: (thin, this, other, lengths, etc). Also problematic is the failure to aspirate the h in words such as house, hill, hotel (or to hyper-correct by adding an aspirated h to all words beginning with a vowel.) Most Italian words end with a vowel, which often leads Italian learners to affix a short vowel sound to in English ending with a consonant. This, together with temptation to give full value or emphasis to all syllables, results in the stereotypical Italian production of sentences that sound like: *I atə soupə for lunchə.*

There is another factor leading to the often heavily-accented production of English by Italian learners. Namely, that in Italian the element which the speaker wishes to give most emphasis to is usually moved to the end of the clause. This contrasts with English, in which the salient element is identified by intonation changes rather than word order changes. Italians often find it difficult also to produce the right intonation patterns when asking questions or making requests.

**Grammar - Verb/Tense:** Italian has 5 inflected tense forms: for the present, simple past, imperfect, future and conditional. The other tenses are formed with auxiliaries. The auxiliary *do*, however, has no equivalent in Italian, which leads to mistakes such as: *What you do?* or *I no like German food.*

Italian does not use the perfect tenses to make a connection to the present in the same way that English does. This results in problems such as *I have done my homework on the bus.* A similar lack of correspondence in the use of tenses in the two languages leads to interference errors such as: *What will you do when you will leave school?* or *I live in Germany since 1999.*

Shades of meaning, which are shown in English by varying the modal verb (*must/should/ought to/might want to*, etc.) are typically conveyed in Italian by an inflected form of the verb *dovere* (*must*). This often results in an overuse of *must* when Italians speak English.

Grammar - Other: In English the meaning of a clause is largely dependent on the order of words in it (typically Subject Verb Object). Italian, being a more inflected language, allows greater variations in word order. Furthermore, adjectives in Italian usually follow the noun, not precede it as in English. These differences can result in non-standard syntax of Italian learners of English.

Italian learners frequently have problems with the correct use of articles in English. Although both the definite and the indefinite article exist in both languages, their use often does not coincide. As a result it is common to hear sentences such as: *Is he teacher?* or *The health is the most important in the life.*

The subject pronoun is not required in colloquial Italian, so learners may say sentences such as: *Is impossible.*

Vocabulary: Italian and English share many words that are derived from Latin. This facilitates the acquisition of vocabulary, but comes with the associated problem of *false friends*. Here are some common examples. The Italian false friend comes first: *bravo* (*good/clever*) / *brave*; *editore* (*publisher*) / *editor*; *fame* (*hunger*) / *fame*; *libreria* (*book shop*) / *library*.

Miscellaneous: Italian is a phonetic language. For this reason Italian learners suffer the usual problems that native speakers of such languages have with English. Namely, that they cannot predict with confidence a. the spelling of any new word that they hear, and b. the pronunciation of any new word that they read.

Italian language backgrounds 29 common English pronunciation problems					
FIX PROBLEM	ENGLISH SOUND	-	COMMON ERROR	-	PRACTICE MATERIALS
Tongue low front to high front to centre.	/aɪə/=/aɪ/+/ə/	"fire"			"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 45 "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 50
Keep tongue front & low and jaws apart.	/æ/	"ran"	/ʌ/	"run"	"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 21 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 5 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 4 "Headway Pronunciation EL"

Italian language backgrounds  
29 common English pronunciation problems

<b>FIX PROBLEM</b>	<b>ENGLISH SOUND</b>	-	<b>COMMON ERROR</b>	-	<b>PRACTICE MATERIALS</b>
					Unit 9 "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 11 "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit
Tongue low, back & fixed. Jaws together.	/ɔ:/	"bought"	/əʊ/	"boat"	"Ship or Sheep" Unit 20 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 2 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 12 "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 15 "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit 11 "Headway Pronunciation UPP-INT" Unit 6
Back of tongue high. Lips rounded but relaxed. Short.	/ʊ/	"full"	/u:/	"fool"	"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 29 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 10 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 11 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 3 "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 8 "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit 13
Tongue low central. Lips relaxed.	/ʌ/	"cup"			"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 25 "English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 26

Italian language backgrounds  
29 common English pronunciation problems

<b>FIX PROBLEM</b>	<b>ENGLISH SOUND</b>	-	<b>COMMON ERROR</b>	-	<b>PRACTICE MATERIALS</b>
					"Ship or Sheep" Unit 5 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 6 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 3 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 4
Mouth not so large. Lips relaxed.	/ʌ/	"cut"	/ɑ:/	"cart"	"Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 11
Fix tongue in central position. Long.	/ɜ:/	"bird"			"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 31 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 12 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 5 "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit 8 "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 45 "Listening Comp: Pronunciation" Unit 4
Weak endings: e.g. "London" "England"	/ə/	"the" (schwa)			"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 32-33 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 13 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 31 "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit 1 "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 12
Tongue moves from front centre to front high.	/eɪ/	"late"	/e/	"let"	"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 34 "English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 38

Italian language backgrounds  
29 common English pronunciation problems

FIX PROBLEM	ENGLISH SOUND	-	COMMON ERROR	-	PRACTICE MATERIALS
					"Ship or Sheep" Unit 15 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 8 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 9 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 1
Start with tongue low front.	/aɪ/		"buy"		"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 35 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 16 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 8 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 11 "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 10 "Headway Pronunciation UPP-INT" Unit 1
Start with tongue low & back.	/ɔɪ/		"boy"		"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 36 "English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 39 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 17 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 11 "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 10 "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 49
Tongue central. Then tightly round lips.	/əʊ/		"note"	/ɒ/	"not"



Italian language backgrounds  
29 common English pronunciation problems

FIX PROBLEM	ENGLISH SOUND	-	COMMON ERROR	-	PRACTICE MATERIALS
					Pronunciation EL" Unit 11 "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit 14 "Headway Pronunciation UPP- INT" Unit 6 "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 47 "Listening Comp: Pronunciation" Unit 5
Tongue high and front. Move to centre.	/ɪə/	"beer"	/eə/	"bear"	"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 46 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 22 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 23 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 11 "Headway Pronunciation PRE- INT" Unit 10 "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 5
Relax the mouth and keep sound short.	/ɪ/	"sit"	/i:/	"seat"	"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 15- 16 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 2 <u>Minimal Pairs /ɪ/ or</u> <u>/ i: / practice</u> "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 7 "Headway Pronunciation PRE- INT" Unit 9 "Headway

Italian language backgrounds  
29 common English pronunciation problems

<b>FIX PROBLEM</b>	<b>ENGLISH SOUND</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>COMMON ERROR</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>PRACTICE MATERIALS</b>
					Pronunciation INT" Unit 6
Start with lips tightly rounded. Unround.	/ʊə/	"tour"			"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 48 "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 10 "Listening Comp: Pronunciation" Unit 5
Quickly push air from throat out of mouth.	/h/	"hot"		"ch" in "loch"	"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 78 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 40 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 10 "Headway Pronunciation UPP-INT" Unit 1 "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 23 "Listening Comp: Pronunciation"
Tongue low front. Then round & unround lips.	/aʊə/= /aʊ/+ /ə/	"flour"			"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 45 "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 50
Voiceless. Friction. Tongue between teeth.	/θ/	"thin"			"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 61 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 41 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 13 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 5 "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 7 "Headway

Italian language backgrounds  
29 common English pronunciation problems

<b>FIX PROBLEM</b>	<b>ENGLISH SOUND</b>	-	<b>COMMON ERROR</b>	-	<b>PRACTICE MATERIALS</b>
					Pronunciation INT" Unit 3
Voiced. Friction. Tongue between teeth.	/ð/	"clothe"	/θ/	"cloth"	"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 63 "English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 66 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 42 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 13 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 5 "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 7
Voiceless: tip of tongue behind top teeth. Friction.	/s/	"rice"	/z/	"rise"	"Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 12; "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 3; "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 2; "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit 1; "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 14;
Voiced: tip of tongue behind top teeth. Friction.	/z/	"rise"	/s/	"rice"	"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 65 "English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 66 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 31 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 12 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 3 "How Now Brown

Italian language backgrounds  
29 common English pronunciation problems

<b>FIX PROBLEM</b>	<b>ENGLISH SOUND</b>	-	<b>COMMON ERROR</b>	-	<b>PRACTICE MATERIALS</b>
					Cow" Unit 15
Voiceless. Friction. Front of tongue to palate.	/ʃ/	"sherry"	/tʃ/	"cherry"	"Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 13 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 34 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 14 "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit 9
Voiced: Tip to alveolar. Front to palate.	/dʒ/	"wage"			"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 57 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 35 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 8 "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 19
Unvoiced: Tip to alveolar. Front to palate.	/tʃ/	"cherry"	/ʃ/	"sherry"	"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 56 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 34 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 14 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 13 "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 8 "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit 9
Back of tongue to back roof. Nasal.	/ŋ/ + /k/	"think"	/ŋ/ + /g/	"thin" + k or g	"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 72 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 45 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 18

Italian language backgrounds  
29 common English pronunciation problems

<b>FIX PROBLEM</b>	<b>ENGLISH SOUND</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>COMMON ERROR</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>PRACTICE MATERIALS</b>
					"Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 11 "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 6 "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit 12
British "r" is weaker & usually silent unless followed by a vowel.	silent	"survivor"	/r/	"Sir Ivor"	"Ship or Sheep" Unit 49 "Headway Pronunciation UPP-INT" Unit 3 "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 27
Glide /j/(i:) the tongue quickly to next sound	/j/	"yam"	/dʒ/	"jam"	"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 79 "Ship or Sheep" Unit 39 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 14 "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit 14 "Listening Comp: Pronunciation" Unit 10 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 1
Start with lips tightly rounded. Unround & glide.	/w/	"west"	/v/	"vest"	"Ship or Sheep" Unit 38 "Pronunciation Tasks" Unit 17 "Headway Pronunciation INT" Unit 2 "Headway Pronunciation UPP-INT" Unit 4

Italian language backgrounds  
 29 common English pronunciation problems

FIX PROBLEM	ENGLISH SOUND	-	COMMON ERROR	-	PRACTICE MATERIALS
					"How Now Brown Cow" Unit 11
Tongue from centre front. Draw back to centre.	/eə/	"bear"			"English Pronunc. Illustrated" pp. 47 "Headway Pronunciation EL" Unit 11 "Headway Pronunciation PRE-INT" Unit 10 "How Now Brown Cow" Unit 50 "Listening Comp: Pronunciation" Unit 5

# Miscellaneous

Resources

<http://italian.about.com/od/linguistics/a/aa090507a.htm>

<http://italian.about.com/od/pronunciation/a/italian-alphabet.htm>

## Italian Dialects

### Regional Italian Languages

By Michael San Filippo, About.com Guide

#### See More About:

- [italian dialects](#)
- [italian minority languages](#)

An Italian dialect would seem to be easy to define—some would claim it's a variant of Standard Italian spoken in small towns and villages throughout Italy. The reality is a lot more complex. In fact, what's often referred to as an Italian dialect can be a distinct local language (dialect of Italy) or a regional variety (dialect of Italian).

#### 1. Emiliano-Romagnolo

Emiliano-Romagnolo (also known as Emilian-Romagnolo) is considered a minority Italian language and is structurally separate from Standard Italian. Although commonly referred to as an Italian dialect, it does not descend from the Italian language.

#### Sponsored Links

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**Lezioni d'Italiano-Austin** Italian language lessons in Austin, TX [www.lezioniditaliano.com](http://www.lezioniditaliano.com)

**Learn Italian in 10 Days** World-famous Pimsleur Method. As seen on PBS - \$9.95 w/ Free S&H. [PimsleurApproach.com/Learn-Italian](http://PimsleurApproach.com/Learn-Italian)

**Mens Suits Sale at Macy's** Shop Men's Italian Suits at Macy's. Easy Returns Online or In-Store! [Macys.com/Suits](http://Macys.com/Suits)

#### 2. Napoletano

Neapolitan (also known as Napoletano and Nnapulitano) is the language spoken in the city of Naples and the surrounding areas of the Campania region. In 2008, the regional government of Campania officially declared Neapolitan a language. The initiative was meant to protect "Nnapulitano," promote the education of the language, and preserve local culture and traditions.

#### 3. Piemontese

Piemontese (also known as Piedmontese or Piemontèis), spoken in the Piedmont region of northwest Italy, is distinct enough from Standard Italian to be considered a separate Romance language. Given the geographic location of the Piemonte region, there is considerable French influence.

#### 4. Sardo

Sardo (also known as Sardu, Saldu, or Sa Limba) is the main language spoken on the island of Sardinia, Italy.

#### 5. Veneto



Veneto (also known as Vèneto, Vènet), spoken mostly in the Veneto region of Italy, is considered a minority Italian language and is distinct from Standard Italian.

## Italian Hand Gestures

**C'è da fare o no?...**



English translation: Yes or no?

**Mi dà un passaggio?**



English translation: Can you give me a ride?

**Scongiuro.**



English translation: Gesturer wants to ward off bad luck.

**Un momento!**



English translation: One moment please! or May I speak?

**Mah!**



English translation: Perplexed. Gesturer is undecided.

**Ho fame.**



English translation: I'm hungry.

**Ehi tu, vieni qui! (Ascolta!)**



English translation: Hey! Come here, you! (Listen!)

**Come?**



English translation: What?

**Vieni fra le mie braccia!**



English translation: Come to me!

**Silenzio.**



English translation: Silence (keep quiet).

**Che barba...**



English translation: How annoying...

**Che peso! (Mi sta qua!)**



English translation: I cannot stand this situation/person/thing any longer.

**Ora ricordo!**



English translation: Now I remember!

**Che sbadato!**



English translation: How could I have forgotten?!

**Idea!**



English translation: I've got an idea!

**Perfetto.**



English translation: Perfect.

**Me lo sono lavorato di sopra e di sotto.**



English translation: Indicates manipulation, cunning.

**Intesa.**



English translation: (Remember our agreement.)

**Mettersi il paraocchi.**



English translation: To put on blinders. (just to see things one way)

**È un po' toccato.**



English translation: He's a little crazy.

**Giuro.**



English translation: I swear it.

**Fumare.**



English translation: Got a smoke?

**Me ne frego.**



English translation: I don't give a damn.

**Scusi, devo andare al bagno.**



English translation: I have to go to the bathroom.

**OK!**



English translation: OK!

**Che curve!**



English translation: What a body!

**[Mangia, mangia!] No grazie!**



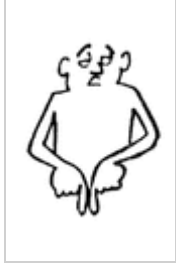
English translation: No thank you, I'm full/not hungry/sick.

**Rubare.**



English translation: He's a robber.

**Se l'intendono.**



English translation: They're in this together; they understand each other.

## Letters / Names of the letters

*a* a  
*b* bi  
*c* ci  
*d* di  
*e* e  
*f* effe  
*g* gi  
*h* acca  
*i* i  
*l* elle  
*m* emme  
*n* enne  
*o* o  
*p* pi  
*q* cu  
*r* erre  
*s* esse  
*t* ti  
*u* u  
*v* vu  
*z* zeta

## Italian Cardinal Numbers: 1 - 100

1	uno	11	undici	21	ventuno	31	trentuno
2	due	12	dodici	22	ventidue	32	trentadue
3	tre	13	tredici	23	ventitré	33	trentatré
4	quattro	14	quattordici	24	ventiquattro	40	quaranta



5	cinque	15	quindici	25	venticinque	50	cinquanta
6	sei	16	sedici	26	ventisei	60	sessanta
7	sette	17	diciassette	27	ventisette	70	settanta
8	otto	18	diciotto	28	ventotto	80	ottanta
9	nove	19	diciannove	29	ventinove	90	novanta
10	dieci	20	venti	30	trenta	100	cento

# **Media Resources**

**Video Clips  
Audio Recordings**

## **Video clips/audio recordings**

<http://www.italica.rai.it/eng/>

An impressive website run by RAI International, which aims to be a "Virtual Campus of Italian language and culture" on the Internet. Italice makes use of the vast documentary heritage, both audio and video, in the RAI archives.

<http://www.garzantilinguistica.it/>

*Garzanti Linguistica*. An online Italian-language dictionary. Type in a term to get a full dictionary definition, including use of the term in idioms and expressions, and hyperlinks to related terms. There's also an Italian-English dictionary on the site, which includes audio files in MP3 format.

<http://www.ilnarratore.com/>

*Il Narratore*. A cultural non-profit organization which aims to provide spoken narrations of literary works from all over the world. Currently the site has written works of many Italian authors, past and present, with audio samples (MP3) online.

<http://www.gazzetta.it/>

Gassetta dello Sport Online. The Italian daily for the sport-obsessed online, including RealAudio clips. There are also some very useful vocabularies for individual sports - choose a sport, then click on "vocabulario".

<http://www.m2o.it/>

*ItaliaRadio*. One of the radio stations of the Espresso group online, with live broadcasts in MP3, news, and program schedules.

<http://www.radioradio.it/>

*Radio Radio FM*. The Italian talk radio online, in RealAudio.

<http://radiopadova.com/>

*Radio Padova Online*. Live RealAudio broadcasts from the FM station covering northern Italy.

<http://www.RadioRadicale.it>

*Radio Radicale*. News and comment on Italian politics and political parties, including in-depth commentaries.

<http://www.sherwood.it/>

*Radio Sherwood*. A radical Left Italian radio station online with live RealAudio broadcast.

<http://www.rainews24.rai.it/>

*RAI News 24*. Up to the minute news stories, with video clips.

<http://www.teche.rai.it/>

*Teche RAI*. Archive audio and video clips illustrating the past half-century.

# **Standardized Speech & Language Assessments**

**Bilingual Vocabulary Assessment (Mattes, 1995)**- Measures everyday nouns as the student names pictures. Labels for the nouns tested are listed in the manual in English, Spanish, French, and Italian. A separate record form may be ordered for English and Vietnamese. The child names pictures of articles of clothing, tools, motor vehicles, and other objects commonly encountered in school, the supermarket, and at home

**Bilingual Verbal Ability Test (BVAT)** The BVAT is a test of verbal cognitive ability. The subtests are administered in English first and then selected items are re-administered in the other language, such as Italian.

**Bilingual Aphasia test (Paradis)**

**Aachen Aphasia Test (Orgass & Poeck, 1969)**

# **Website Resources**

**Culture & General Information**

**Politics & Government**

**Dictionaries**

**Language & Dialect**

**Therapy Materials**

# Resources

## Websites

### *Cultural and General Information*

<http://www.italica.rai.it/eng/>

An impressive website run by RAI International, which aims to be a "Virtual Campus of Italian language and culture" on the Internet. Italice makes use of the vast documentary heritage, both audio and video, in the RAI archives.

<http://www.uibk.ac.at/tuttitalia/>

*"Il sito dedicato all'italianistica."* A collection of annotated links to Italian resources, including Language, Mass Media, and Society.

<http://www.italicon.it/>

*Italian Culture on the Net.* The Icon Consortium is composed of 24 Italian universities, in collaboration with the ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Education, with the purpose of providing online courses and materials for foreigners and Italians resident abroad who are interested in Italian language, culture and history. The site is a 'portal' to a wide range of resources and services, and offers the opportunity to take a 3-year certificated degree course in Italian Language and Culture for Foreigners.

### *Politics & Government*

[http://guide.supereva.it/news\\_e\\_media](http://guide.supereva.it/news_e_media)

Information on the main Italian political parties and their programs.

<http://www.governo.it/>

*Governo italiano.* The official website of the Italian government. Useful information about ministeries and personnel, including biographies of ministers.

<http://www.esteri.it/mae/it>

*Ministero degli Affari Esteri in Italia.* The official site of the Italian Foreign Ministry, with current and past official documents ( press releases, policy statements) online, and information on the Ministry and its activities.

### *Dictionaries*

<http://www.garzantilinguistica.it/>

*Garzanti Linguistica.* An online Italian-language dictionary. Type in a term to get a full dictionary definition, including use of the term in idioms and expressions, and hyperlinks to related terms. There's also an Italian-English dictionary on the site, which includes audio files in MP3 format.

<http://www.traduzioni-inglese.it/dictionary-glossary.html>

*Italian-English Dictionaries.* Links to online dictionaries of use to Italian-English translation - monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual. Includes some very useful and hard-to-find dictionaries.

<http://italian.engagedthinking.com/>

Online Italian-English dictionary. The site also has resources for learners, plus links to a blog and word of the day.

<http://www2.units.it/niritai/texel/coni/conihome.htm>

A useful Italian verb conjugator hosted at the University of Trieste. Enter any verb for conjugation in any tense in active, passive, or reflexive forms.

### *Language and Dialects*

<http://www.gropfurlan.org/>

Al Grop Furlan. Information and links on the Friulian language/dialect, including an online forum.

<http://www.locuta.com/classroom.html>

*The Italian Electronic Classroom.* A basic, but very useful, tutorials and exercises on "difficult" aspects of Italian language, such as idiomatic expressions, pronunciation, prepositions, and pronouns.

### Therapy materials

<http://www.liberliber.it/biblioteca/>

*La Biblioteca Telematica.* A large collection of texts, including non-Italian literature translated into Italian, sorted alphabetically by author. Can be used with clients to read Italian literature.

<http://www.ilnarratore.com/>

*Il Narratore.* A cultural non-profit organization which aims to provide spoken narrations of literary works from all over the world. Currently the site has written works of many Italian authors, past and present, with audio samples (MP3) online. Could be used for auditory comprehension. Site is in both Italian and English.

<http://www.corriere.it/>

*Corriere della Sera.* The online version of the Italian newspaper, including all the sections and supplements in the printed editions. Could be used with clients to read Italian news.

<http://www.gazzetta.it/>

*Gassetta dello Sport Online.* The Italian daily for the sport-obsessed online, including RealAudio clips. There are also some very useful vocabularies for individual sports - choose a sport, then click on "vocabulario".

<http://www.repubblica.it/>



*La Repubblica*. The Italian daily newspaper online, which seems to feature all the stories that appear in the paper version, and has complete back issues to the beginning of the month and a search engine.

<http://www.quia.com/shared/italian/>

Includes different online quizzes and lists covering themed Italian vocabulary ranging from weather to sports.

<http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/kuster2/sptherapy.html>

Massive thematic lists of websites which provide comprehensive therapy materials. Includes over 30 websites targeting English as a Second Language learners.

[www.master-comm.com](http://www.master-comm.com)

*Master Communications: World Language Catalog*. Children and Adult books in more than 50 languages including Italian. Also includes: DVD's, CD's, flashcards and posters.

# **Research articles**

**Language**

**Aphasia**

**Articulation & Phonology**

**Hearing Impairment**

**Traumatic Brain Injury**

**Collection of the Department of Linguistics (Franco Angeli, Milan):**

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2. Giuliano Bernini, Anna Giacalone Ramat (Eds.), *temporality The acquisition of second languages*. 1990.
3. Alessio Petralli, *The Italian in a corner. The words of Italian regional perspective in sociolinguistics Ticino*. 1990.
4. Emanuele Banfi, *linguistic history of Southeast Europe. Romania's Balkan crisis between high and late Middle Ages*. 1991.
5. Federica Venier, *The modalization assertive. Modal verbs, adverbs and parenthetical*. 1991.
6. Mark Mazzoleni - Maria Pavesi (ed.), *Italian second language. Models and strategies for teaching*. 1991.
7. Carlo Serra Bornet (ed.), *Texts and machines. A search on the manuals instructions*. 1992.
8. Joan Alfonzetti, *bilingual speech. Italian and dialect in Catania*. 1992.
9. Stephen Vassar, *Formal Syntax and dialectology. Clitics pronouns in Lugano*. 1993.
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11. Fici Francesca Giusti, *The passive in Slavic languages. Types and semantics*. 1994.
12. Stephan Schmid, *The Italian in Spanish. Interlingue of German immigrants in Switzerland*. 1994.
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14. Marina Chini, *style and grammar acquisition. Aspects of nominal morphology in L2 Italian*. 1995.
15. Gabriele Bersani Berselli, *nominal reference and interpretation. Referrals text between semantics and pragmatics*. 1995.
16. Pierluigi Cuzzolin (ed.), *Studies in the Greek*. 1995.

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20. Frederick Vicar, *analytical verbs in Friulian*. 1997.
21. Emanuele Banfi (ed.), *Studies in the Greek. II*. 1997.
22. Rita Franceschini, *reflect interaction. An introduction to meta-communication and conversational analysis*. 1997.
23. Marina Crespi Günther, *complex sentences in German L2. Paths of learning the syntax of subordination*. 1998.
24. Giuliana Fiorentino, *relatively weak. Syntax, usage, story in Italian*. 1999.
25. Vedovelli Massimo (ed.), *sociolinguistic surveys in schools and in Italian society evolving*. 1999.
26. Anderson, Anna Ciliberti (Eds.), *The forms of scholarly communication*. 1999.
27. Elisa Rome, *from where it is and where it goes morphology. Synthetic forms and analytical forms of the verb in Irish History*. 1999.
28. Sonia Cristofaro, Ignatius Putzu (ed.), *Languages in the Mediterranean area. The project Medtyp: linguistic study of the Mediterranean*. 2000.
29. Cecilia Andorno, *specialisms include connection and focus. The view of the varieties of learning*. 2000.
30. Stefania Scaglione *Attrition - Changes in sociolinguistic Lucchese of San Francisco*. 2000.
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33. Nicola Grandi *morphologies in touch. The development evaluation in Mediterranean languages*. 2002.
34. Sandro Caruana, *media and language input. The acquisition of Italian L2 in Malta*. 2003.

35. Lidia Costamagna, Stefania Giannini (eds.), *The interlanguage phonology. Principles and methods of analysis*. 2003.
36. Livio Gaeta *When verbs appear as names. An essay of Natural Morphology*. 2002.
37. Emanuele Banfi (ed.), *Italiano/L2 Chinese. Acquisitional paths*. 2003.
38. Luisa Amenta, *aspectual periphrasis in greek and Latin. Origins and grammaticalization*. 2003.
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40. Andrea Sans, *Degrees of event elaboration. Passive Constructions in English and Spanish*. 2003.
41. Anna Giacalone Ramat, Eddo Rigotti, Andrea Rocci (eds.), *Linguistics and new professions*. 2003.
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49. Alessandro Vietti, *as immigrants change the itai. The Peruvian varieties of Italian ethnicity*. 2005.
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64. Fabio Montermini, *The left side of the morphology*. 2009.
65. Fabiana Rosi *Learning Aspect in Italian L2*. 2009.
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67. Ignatius Putzu Giulio Paulis, Gian Franco Nieddu Cuzzolin Pierluigi (ed.), *The morphology of the greek between typology and diachrony*. 2010.
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[Temperamental profiles and linguistic development: differences in the quality of linguistic production in relation to temperament in children of 28 months.](#)Citation Only Available(eng; includes abstract) By Usai MC, Garelo V, Viterbori P, Infant Behavior & Development [Infant Behav Dev], ISSN: 1934-8800, 2009 Jun; Vol. 32 (3), pp. 322-30; PMID: 19450881

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### **Hearing Impairment**

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## **Traumatic Brain Injury**

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Database: MEDLINE with Full Text

# **SLP's with Italian**

# Background in the U.S.

If the state of residency is not listed below, please go to ASHA's website which includes an online directory. You may search by state for the most updated list of audiologists and speech-language pathologists in the area who are competent in Italian. You may specify a certain age group as well.

**<http://www.asha.org/proserv/>**

## TEXAS

**Johnson, Love** Fort Worth, TX  
817-825-4001  
Facility Type: Residential Health  
Payment Type: Free, Reduced

**Francese, Michael** Weslaco, TX  
956-373-5633  
Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office

## CALIFORNIA

**Gennai-Rizzi, Janet** Corte Maderara, CA  
4159249295  
Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office  
Payment Type: Health Insurance

**Paskay, Licia** Culver City, CA  
310-216-9496  
Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office  
Payment Type: Health Insurance,Reduced

**DiPadova-Mosley, Nicolette** Live Oak, CA  
818-631-6454  
Facility Type: School  
Payment Type: Reduced

**Drosdick, Danielle** Playa Vista, CA  
310-889-4360  
Facility Type: Home Health Agency/Client's Home

**University of California, San Diego** San Diego , CA  
Stephen Goldman,619 543-6530  
Facility Type: Hospitals  
Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance,Credit Card,Reduced

**Gennai-Rizzi, Janet** San Francisco, CA  
(415) 751-5960  
Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office  
Payment Type: Health Insurance

**Center for Learning & Achievement** San Jose, CA  
Paul Fujita, MD,(408) 793-4257  
Facility Type: Health Agency  
Payment Type: Medicaid,Health Insurance,Reduced

## ILLINOIS

**Terrero, Irene** Gurnee, IL  
847-867-3988  
Facility Type: Speech/language clinic  
Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance,Free,Reduced

**MICHIGAN**

**Total Speech & Language Svcs** Grosse Point, MI

313-343-9930

Facility Type: Speech/Hearing Cntr or clinic

Payment Type: Health Insurance

**Total Speech and Language Services, L.L.C.** Grosse Pointe Woods, MI

Rosa Rubino-Frye,313-529-1823

Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office

Payment Type: Health Insurance

**Total Speech & Language Services** St. Clair Shores, MI

Rosa Rubino-Frye & Dana Deimel,586-774-2727

Facility Type: Speech/Hearing Cntr or clinic

Payment Type: Medicaid,Health Insurance,Reduced

**NEBRASKA**

**Children's Hospital** Omaha, NE

Rhonda Ervin,(402) 955-3980

Facility Type: Outpatient Rehab Cntr

Payment Type: Medicaid,Health Insurance,Credit Card

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Monte, Karen** Waynesville, NC

828-734-2448

Facility Type: Home Health Agency/Client's Home

**NEW JERSEY**

**Hackensack University Medical** Hackensack, NJ

Darlyne Kelleher,(201) 996-3830

Facility Type: Outpatient Rehab Cntr

Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance,Credit Card

**Lobaina, Elizabeth** Kendall Park, NJ

732 821-1266

Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office

Payment Type: Health Insurance,Reduced

**Rodrigues, Angela Cultrara** Livingston, NJ

9738201578

Facility Type: Speech/Hearing Cntr or clinic

Payment Type: Health Insurance,Reduced

**Speech Connections, Inc** Morris Plains, NJ

Lauren Jacobson,973-452-1569



Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office  
Payment Type: Credit Card

**The Regional Craniofacial Center** Paterson, NJ  
Dr. William Roche,973-754-2924  
Facility Type: Hospitals  
Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance,Credit Card,Reduced

**Wall Child Diagnostic Center** Wall, NJ  
732-280-6661  
Facility Type: Private Physician's Office

**Milestones in Speech & Language** West Caldwell, NJ  
Ms.Lenzo, MA, MS, CCC-SLP,973-808-1813  
Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office

**Farro, Anna** West Long Branch, NJ  
732-822-5140  
Facility Type: Speech/Hearing Cntr or clinic  
Payment Type: Health Insurance

## **NEW YORK**

**Ryan, Joan** Bronx, NY  
1-718-671-2955  
Facility Type: Rehab Agency  
Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance  
**Marie Lautato MS CCC-SLP, PC** Brooklyn, NY  
917-559-7005  
Facility Type: Home Health Agency/Client's Home  
Payment Type: Health Insurance,Credit Card

**KIDZ THERAPY SERVICES, LLC** Garden City, NY  
Gayle Kligman,516-747-9030  
Facility Type: Speech/Hearing Cntr or clinic

**Sullivan, Carol** Garden City, NY  
(516) 294-0253  
Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office

**Bilinguals, Inc. Child and Parent Services** Hartsdale, NY  
Kelly Harned,914-328-2868  
Facility Type: Home Health Agency/Client's Home

**Diversified Services, LLC** Kenmore, NY  
Dr. Salvatore Gruttadauria, Au.D.,(716) 871-9883

Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office  
Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance,Credit Card

**Krajacic, Rosalia** Lancaster, NY  
(716) 553-3649  
Facility Type: Home Health Agency/Client's Home  
Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance,Credit Card

**Como, Cara** Lindenhurst, NY  
631-226-2144  
Facility Type: Home Health Agency/Client's Home

**Lautato, Marie** Long Beach, NY  
917-559-7005  
Facility Type: Speech/Hearing Cntr or clinic  
Payment Type: Health Insurance,Credit Card

**North Shore Kids Talk** Manhasset, NY  
tina ciaccio,5168502133  
Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office

**North Shore Speech- Language Associates** Manhasset Hills, NY  
Paula Modugno Okin, MA, CCC-SLP,(516) 627-6391  
Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office

**Multilingual Developmental Agency, Inc** Merrick, NY  
Lilya Popovetsky,516-730-5001  
Facility Type: Home Health Agency/Client's Home

**Bertaccini, Ruona** New York, NY  
212-678-6395  
Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office  
Payment Type: Health Insurance

**Graham, Michelle** New York, NY  
212-414-0553  
Facility Type: Hospitals

**New York Speech Improvement Serv** New York, NY  
Sam Chwat, M.s., Ccc-slp,(212) 242-8435  
Facility Type: SLP or AUD Office  
Payment Type: Health Insurance,Credit Card

**Weinig, Mary Jo** New York, NY  
212 223-0231

Facility Type: Local Sp-Lang-Hrng Org  
Payment Type: Medicare,Free

**The Feeding and Swallowing Center** Paterson, NY  
973-754-4311

Facility Type: Outpatient Rehab Cntr  
Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance,Credit Card,Free,Reduced

**Healey, Nicole** Rego Park, NY  
718 - 896 - 5055

Facility Type: Outpatient Rehab Cntr  
Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance

**Cohen, Dianne** Suffern, NY  
845-362-7228

Facility Type: No primary employment facility  
Payment Type: Health Insurance

**Seton Health Speech Pathology** Troy, NY  
Frank Isele,518 268-6195

Facility Type: General Medical Hospital  
Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance,Credit Card

**Manchisi-Talluto, Angela** Westbury, NY  
(516)385-8324

Facility Type: Home Health Agency/Client's Home

## UTAH

**Utah Valley Regional Medical Center** Provo, UT

W. Kelly Dick, Ph.D.,(801) 357-7448

Facility Type: General Medical Hospital

Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance,Credit Card,Free,Reduced

**L.D.S. Hospital Speech-Language Pathology** Salt Lake City, UT

Joyce Goates-maughan, Ph.d.,(801) 408-5408

Facility Type: General Medical Hospital

Payment Type: Medicare,Medicaid,Health Insurance,Reduced

**Speech  
Language  
Pathologists in  
Italy**

<http://www.stutter.it/>

CILD CENTRO ITALIANO LOGOTERAPIA DINAMICA s.n.c.

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c/o Prof. F. Piragina

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Mestre, Italy, 30171

049 8647936

<http://www.fli.it/>

<http://www.slpjob.com/lougne/forum/lofiversion/index.php/t220.html>

<http://lettere.unipv.it/diplinguistica/collane.php>