ACCESS
ITALIAN
A FIRST LANGUAGE COURSE

A dedicated website provides invaluable support for learners and teachers.

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ROUTLEDGE

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Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

LONDON AND NEW YORK

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Access Italian is a refreshing, modern introduction to the Italian language, culture and people. It is specially designed for adults of all ages who are just starting out learning Italian or who are returning after a long gap.

The course is ideal for use in classes but will also help develop strategies for independent learning. In the coursebook, teachers and learners will find an extended range of activities covering all four skills as well as ideas for group activities.

A further range of ideas, activities, tips and advice is available on our website, www.accesslanguages.com. You don't have to use the site to benefit from the course but, according to your particular needs or interests, you will find a great deal of extra practice, information and links to useful Italian sites. For more depth in a particular language structure, for example, we have included additional printable worksheets and we've even included advice and links for the major examinations and qualifications.

Access Italian offers a fun and friendly approach to the Italian language as it is spoken today. It will enable you to deal with everyday situations, covering practical topics such as travel, shopping, staying at a hotel or eating in a restaurant and many of the activities are based on genuine Italian websites. The course is also ideal for those who wish to study Italian for business purposes and will provide learners with a sound basis of vocabulary and grammar structures.

The coursebook is divided into 10 carefully graded units. At the beginning of each, the content and objectives are clearly identified and you can check your progress at various points throughout the unit. Each unit starts with a number of activities relating to the previous one so you can revise topics already covered, giving you the confidence to move on to new areas.

The units offer a wide range of activities which will quickly enable you to start reading and writing contemporary Italian, and the listening exercises featuring authentic Italian-speakers are integral to the course.

Each unit consists of:

- a checklist of topics covered in the unit

- revision activities (Ti ricordi ancora?): these give you the chance to revise important points covered in the previous unit

- listening activities: authentic conversations, passages and exercises to increase your listening skills and to help you acquire confidence

- speaking activities

- reading activities: authentic documents and exercises to extend your vocabulary and comprehension

- writing activities: practical and authentic forms to complete, grammar activities and letter-writing to consolidate key points and to reinforce confidence when travelling to Italy

- exercises to work on with a partner

- exercises and games to work on with a group in order to practise the language through various practical situations

- games to be played with a partner or in a group

- LANGUAGE FOCUS Language Focus panels: these offer brief and concise structural and grammatical summaries with related activities

- LEARNING TIP: containing useful linguistic and cultural information

- frequent reviews enabling you to check your progress and to feel confident in what you have learnt

- Italian-English glossaries containing vocabulary used in the unit

- **LOOKING FORWARD** preparation and dictionary skills ready for the next unit

- links to our dedicated website www.accesslanguages.com containing extra activities to practise key points, useful links to Italian sites and advice on further study and examinations

Answers to the exercises and full recording transcripts are available in a separate Support Booklet and we strongly recommend that you obtain the **Access Italian Support Book and Audio Pack** (CD or cassette version), which will enable you to develop your listening skills and get used to hearing the Italian language as it is spoken now.

We hope that working through this course will be an enjoyable experience and that you will find this new approach to language learning fun.

ACCESS **ITALIAN**

CONTENTS

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UNIT 1
Buongiorno!

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

- Say hello and introduce yourself
- Understand different greetings
- Talk about your nationality
- Say where you live
- Spell your name
- Use numbers from 1 to 20

We suggest that you come back to this checklist as you progress through the unit. You can then judge how you are getting on.

Recognising words or phrases in Italian is not always as difficult as it might seem. Three factors are worth bearing in mind:

1 Many English and Italian words come from Latin and Greek and are very similar: for example, **fotografia** (photography) and **repubblica** (republic).

2 The Internet age has hugely accelerated the immigration of English and American words into the Italian language. For example, **computer**, **software**, **e-mail, fast food, last minute**.

3 Many Italian words are commonly used in everyday English. For example, **pasta**, **pizza**, **ciao**, **gran finale**, etc.

Can you guess the meaning of the following words?

aeroplano	bicicletta	nome	famiglia	madre
padre	numero	nazionalità	alfabeto	uno

1 Primi contatti (First contacts)

A Listen to the dialogue and pick out what information is asked for in the list below. Don't worry at this stage about understanding every word. Just see if you can get the gist.

Nationality   Name

Telephone number   Profession

B Now listen again to the dialogue for activity A and tick the words you hear:

> **italiano   telefono   russo   americano   casa**
> **Inghilterra   nazionalità   indirizzo   ciao   architetto**

C Listen to the dialogue for activity A once more and put the words of the questions below in the right order:

(TI) (COME) (CHIAMI) (?)   *What's your name?*

(SEI) (DOVE) (DI) (?)   *Where are you from?*

D Listen to the dialogue and fill in the gaps with the words in the box below:

> **come   chiamo   piacere**

A Ciao. _____ ti chiami?

B Ciao. Mi _____ Marco. E tu ?

A Mi chiamo Alberta.

B _____ !

A Piacere!

E 🗣️ 👥 ▶ Now work in pairs and ask your partner what his or her name is and vice versa.

F 🎲 👥 ▶ In pairs, find the most appropriate greeting or goodbye for the following pictures. Remember that sometimes more than one solution is appropriate.

> buonasera   arrivederci   ciao
> buongiorno   buonanotte

1

2

3

4

5

Saying hello and goodbye

How you greet people depends on how formal the situation is.

Ciao is used for both *Hello/Hi* and *Goodbye* in informal situations, at any time of the day. **Salve** is a little more formal and is used for both *Hello/Hi* and *Good morning/afternoon/evening*.

Buongiorno (*Good morning*) is used to greet somebody more formally in the morning and early afternoon, whereas **Buonasera** (*Good evening*) is used in the late afternoon and evening (after about 5 p.m.). **Buongiorno** and **Buonasera** can also be used for saying *Goodbye*.

Arrivederci is used to say *Goodbye* at any time of the day.

Buonanotte (*Good night*) is used – formally and informally – when leaving after an evening out, for example, or before going to bed.

Saying thank you

Grazie means *Thank you*. To say *Thank you very much* use **Molte grazie**. When replying to **Grazie**, you say **Prego** (*You're welcome*).

2 Mi chiamo Adamo (My name's Adam)

A You will be given a card with a name on it. Go round the class and find the person who forms the other half of your pair (for example: Adam – Eve).

Here are some words to help you with the dialogue.

Ciao	→	Ciao
Come ti chiami?	→	Mi chiamo
Grazie	→	Prego
Ciao	→	Arrivederci

READY TO MOVE ON?
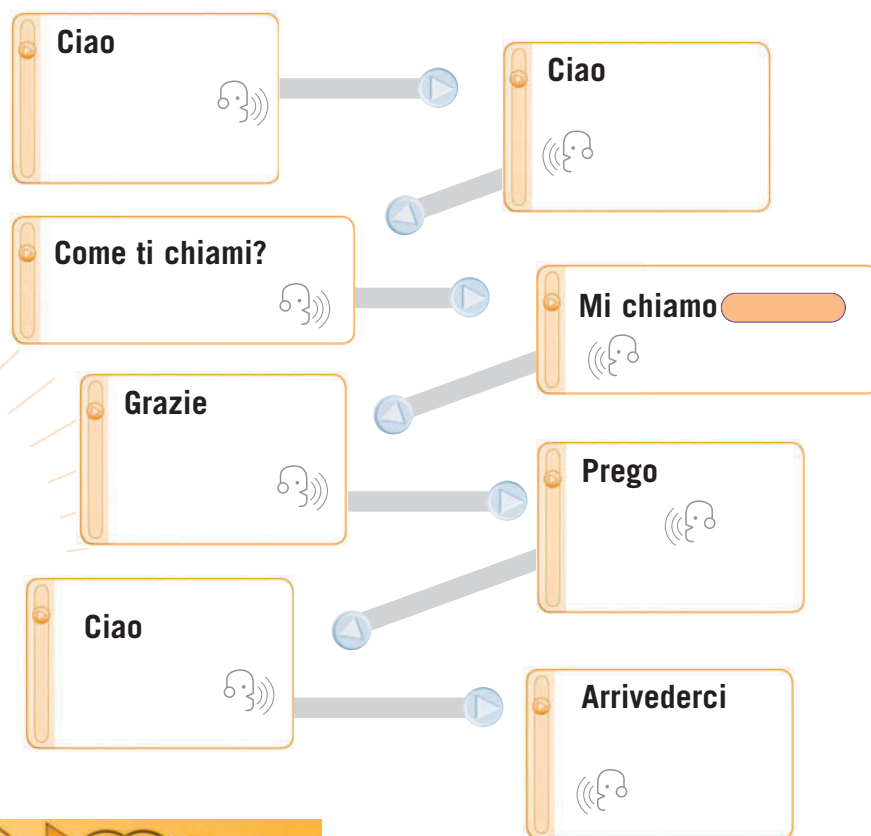
Check that you can…

- ☐ say hello
- ☐ understand different greetings
- ☐ introduce yourself
- ☐ say goodbye

The verb 'to be'

Here is the verb **essere** (*to be*):

(io)	sono	*I am*
(tu)	sei	*you are (informal)*
(lui / lei)	è	*he / she is*
(Lei)	è	*you are (formal)*

In Italian it is not usually necessary to say **io**, **tu**, etc, because the person you are talking about is shown by the form and ending of the verb itself. You can just say **sono italiano**, for example, instead of **io sono italiano**. However **io, tu, lui / lei** are used when they are needed for emphasis.

Tu and *Lei*

In formal situations or when people have never met before, Italians generally use the **Lei** form of the verb to address someone, as a formal way of saying 'you'. When used in this way, it's usually written with a capital letter: **Lei**. Nowadays the tendency amongst young people is to use the **tu** (informal 'you') almost all the time.

Lei form (formal)	**Tu** form (informal)
Come si chiama?	**Come ti chiami?**
Di dove è Lei?	**Di dove sei?**

(*Where are you from?*)

B **Lei o tu?** Look at the situations below and discuss with your partner whether to use the **Lei** or the **tu** form.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Buongiorno!
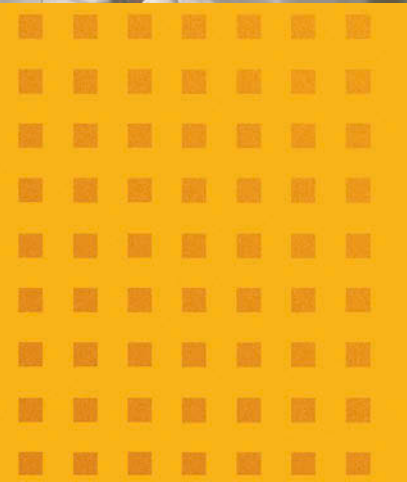
C Buonasera. Come si chiama? *Good evening, what's your name?*

Listen to the dialogue and fill in the gaps with the words as you hear them:

A Buonasera. Come si chiama?

B ( ). Mi chiamo Marco Gennari. E ( )?

A ( ) Alberta Pedretti.

B Piacere!

A ( )!

3 L'alfabeto (the alphabet)

A Listen carefully to the sounds of the Italian alphabet:

A	a	H	acca	Q	cu
B	bi	I	i	R	erre
C	ci	L	elle	S	esse
D	di	M	emme	T	ti
E	e	N	enne	U	u
F	effe	O	o	V	vi/vu
G	gi	P	p	Z	zeta

In addition there are five **lettere straniere** (foreign letters):

J	i lunga	X	ics
K	cappa	Y	ipsilon/i greca
W	doppia vi/vu		

B Listen to the sounds of the alphabet again and repeat them.

C Here are some Italian names. Try to identify them as you hear them:

Carlo	**Giacomo**	**Simona**	**Luciano**
Andrea	**Matteo**	**Pietro**	**Beatrice**

D Do you know the English version of these Italian names? What is the equivalent of **Carlo?** And of **Giacomo?**… Discuss this in the class.

E Listen and try to work out if the words below are spelt with a single or a double consonant.

1 pizza / piza

2 capelli / cappelli

3 Lece / Lecce

4 panino / pannino

F **Come si scrive?** *How do you spell it*? Ask your partner to spell her/his name for you using the Italian alphabet and then swap roles.

Esempio:

A Come ti chiami?

B Giorgio Lorenzetti.

A Come scusa? Come si scrive?

B Giorgio: gi, i, o, erre, gi, i, o; Lorenzetti: elle, o, erre, e, enne, zeta, e, doppia ti, i.

Buongiorno!

4 Sono italiano (I'm Italian)

A 🎧 🗨 ▶ Listen and pick out the nationalities you hear:

> **italiana   giapponese   greco   irlandese   coreano   russa**
> **spagnolo   tedesca   scozzese   finlandese   brasiliano**
> **francese   inglese   argentina   australiana   indiano**

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Gender

Many words for nationalities end in **-o** for males and **-a** for females: e.g. **italiano - italiana**, **americano - americana**. But words ending in **-e**, e.g. **inglese**, are the same for both sexes:

Francesco è italiano (m)
Martina è italiana (f)

but:

John è inglese (m)
Anne è inglese (f)

B 🗨 ▶ Using the words in activity 4A, complete the table below, following the example. If there are nationalities you don't know, you can check them in the glossary at the end of the unit.

Femminile	Maschile	Femminile/Maschile
italiana	coreano	inglese

C ✍ ▶ Write the correct form of the nationality:

1 Mark è ⬭⬭⬭⬭ . (*English*)

2 Sara è ⬭⬭⬭⬭ (*Italian*), José è ⬭⬭⬭⬭ . (*Spanish*)

3 Friedrich è ⬭⬭⬭⬭ . (*German*)

4 Julie è ⬭⬭⬭⬭ . (*French*)

5 Matteo è ⬭⬭⬭⬭ . (*Italian*)

6 Angus è ⬭⬭⬭⬭ . (*Scottish*)

7 Anastasios è ⬭⬭⬭⬭ . (*Greek*)

8 Yokohono è ⬭⬭⬭⬭ . (*Japanese*)

9 Gary è ⬭⬭⬭⬭ (*Irish*)

D 🎲 ✍ ▶ Match the people in the left column to the nationalities in the right column:

1	Paola	russo
2	James	tedesco
3	Riccardo	italiana
4	Valérie	coreano
5	Igor	italiano
6	Carmen	francese
7	Wilhelm	inglese
8	In-Hoo	spagnola

Buongiorno! UNIT 1

E Listen to this conversation between Marie, Pedro and Alessandra and fill in the gaps with the missing information.

Marie e Pedro: Buongiorno.

Alessandra: Buongiorno. Come si chiama, signora?

Marie: Mi chiamo Marie Legrand.

Alessandra: Come si scrive?

Marie: Il ⟨_____⟩ si scrive emme, a, erre, i, e. Il cognome elle, e, gi, erre, a, enne, di.

Alessandra: Di dov'è Lei?

Marie: Sono ⟨_____⟩.

Alessandra: Bene. E Lei, come si chiama?

Pedro: Mi chiamo Pedro Fernandez.

Alessandra: Fernandez si scrive con la esse o con la zeta?

Pedro: Con la ⟨_____⟩.

Alessandra: E di dov'è Lei, signor Fernandez?

Pedro: Io ⟨_____⟩ ⟨_____⟩. E Lei, come si chiama?

Alessandra: Mi chiamo Alessandra Bertelli e sono ⟨_____⟩. Benvenuti!

READY TO MOVE ON?

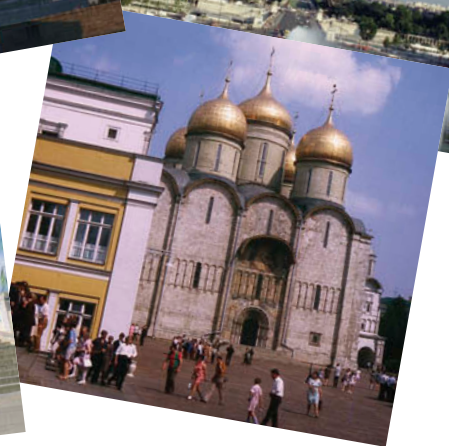✓

Check that you can…
- say where you are from
- say the Italian alphabet
- spell your name.

5 Dove abiti, Graziana?

(Where do you live, Graziana?)

LANGUAGE FOCUS

To ask someone where they live, you say   **Dove abiti?** (**tu** form)
                                                     Dove abita? (**Lei** form)

To say the country you live in: **Abito in** …   *e.g.* Abito **in** Italia
       the area you live in: **Abito in** …   *e.g.* Abito **in** Toscana
       the city you live in: **Abito a** …   *e.g.* Abito **a** Roma

If you live on a small island, you say **Abito a** … (*e.g.* **Abito a Capri**);
but if the island is a big one, you say **Abito in** … (*e.g.* **Abito in Sicilia**).

A   Choose which is correct:

1	a / in Londra	**6**	a / in Cagliari
2	a / in Italia	**7**	a / in Veneto
3	a / in Sardegna	**8**	a / in Palermo
4	a / in Lussemburgo	**9**	a / in Roma
5	a / in Lampedusa	**10**	a / in Puglia

B Listen to the dialogues and fill in the gaps with **a** or **in**:

Dialogo A

Graziana: Luca, dove abiti?

Luca: Abito ( ) Napoli. E tu?

Graziana: Abito ( ) Francia.

Luca: Dove?

Graziana: ( ) Montpellier.

Dialogo B

Patrizia: Giorgio, abiti ( ) Roma, vero?

Giorgio: No, abito ( ) Napoli. E tu, Patrizia, abiti ( ) Toscana?

Patrizia: No!

Giorgio: No? E dove abiti?

Patrizia: ( ) Torino.

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Verbs

In Italian there are three groups of verbs, categorised by the endings of their infinitive or dictionary forms:

the **-are** group:	*e.g.* **abitare** *to live*, **mangiare** *to eat*
the **-ere** group:	*e.g.* **vendere** *to sell*, **prendere** *to take*
the **-ire** group:	*e.g.* **dormire** *to sleep*, **finire** *to finish*

-are verbs have the following endings in the present tense singular:

	abitare	
(io)	abit**o**	*I live*
(tu)	abit**i**	*you live*
(lui/lei/Lei)	abit**a**	*he/she lives, you live*