

It can be nerve wracking traveling to another country where you don't speak the language. Luckily, it's getting easier and easier to travel across Italy as they're becoming more accommodating towards English. You'll find signs in major cities that have English translations or familiar symbols so you can get around easily. Many younger Italians grew up studying English in school too and keep up practicing it so it's not unusual to get some English directions from an Italian! Especially in the larger cities, store owners encounter English speakers almost daily and have picked up some basics to make theirs and your lives easier!

Sometimes though when we travel to the smaller, more isolated towns, it can be harder to find English speakers or translations. So we put together this quick guide of Italian basics to get you through some common scenarios. Keep in mind, Italians pronounce every letter and it's a very rhythmic language!

BASICS:

Good morning	Buongiorno	Bwon jaw-no
Good evening	Buonasera	Bwone-a say-ra
Good night	Buona notte	Bwone-a nottay
Hello/goodbye	Ciao	Chow
Goodbye	Arrivederci	Aree-ve-derchee
Please	Per favore	Pair fa-vor-ay
Thank you	Grazie	Grazee-ay
Thank you very much	Grazie mille	Grazee-ay mee-lay
You're welcome	Prego	Pray-go
Sorry/excuse me	Scusi	Scoo-see
I'm sorry	Mi dispiace	Mee dee-spee-a-chay
Yes	Si	See
No	No	No
Maybe	Forse	For-say

GETTING CONVERSATIONAL:

My name is...	Mi chiamo...	Me key-a-mow...
What is your name?	Come ti chiami?	Koh-me tee kyah-mee
I'm from...	Sono di...	So-know de...
How are you?	Come stai?	Comay sty?
I'm fine, thank you	Sto bene, grazie.	Stow benay, grazee-ay
I'm bad	Sto male	Stow ma-lay
Pleased to meet you	Piacere	Pee-ya-chair-ay
That/it's good	Va bene	Va ben-ay
Parla Inglese?	Do you speak English?	Pahr-lah een-gleh-zeh
I understand a little	Capisco un po'	Capees-coh oon poe
I don't speak Italian	Non parlo Italiano	Non par-low ee-talyano
Please speak more slowly	Più piano, per favore	Pee-oo pee-aknow, per fa-vor-ay
No, thank you	No, grazie	No, Grazee-ay
Where...	Dov'è	Doh-vey
When...	Quando	Kwanh-doh
What?	Cosa?	Koh-sah
Who?	Chi?	Kee
Why?	Perché?	Pehr-keh
Which?	Quale?	Qwah-lay
Today	Oggi	Ohj-jee
Tomorrow	Domani	Doh-mah-nee
Tonight	Stasera	Stah-sayr-ah
Yesterday	Ieri	Yeh-ree

GETTING DIRECTIONS:

Let's go	Andiamo	Awn-dee-amo
Where are you going?	Dove vai?	Doh-vay v-eye
Where is the station?	Dov'è la stazione?	Doh-veh lah stah-tsyoh-neh
Where is the airport?	Dov'è l'aeroporto?	Doh-veh lair-oh-por-to
Where is the platform?	Dov'è il binario?	Doh-veh eel bin-ahr-e-oh
Which platform?	Quale binario?	Qwa-lay bin-ahr-e-oh
Excuse me, where is the bathroom?	Scusi, dov'è il bagno	skooh-zee doh-veh eel bahn-yoh
How far is...	Quanto dista...	kwahn-toh dees-tah...
Where is the best gelato?	Dove si mangia il miglior gelato?	doh-veh see mahn-jah eel meel-yohr geh-lah-toh
How do you get to...	Come si arriva in...	koh-meh see ahr-ree-vah een
The bar (also a coffee shop)	Il bar	Eel bar
The restaurant	Il ristorante	Eel ree-stor-ahn-tay
The hotel	L'albergo	Lahl-bear-go
The church	La chiesa	La key-ay-zha
The museum	Il Museo	Eel moo-zhay-o

SHOPPING & EATING OUT:

How much does it cost?	Quanto costa?	Kwanh-toh koh-sta
Do you have a ___ size?	Hai una ___ taglia?	Eye oo-nah ___ tal-yah
Small/Medium/Large	Piccola/Media/Grande	Pee-coh-la/ Med-ee-ah/ Grahnday
Can I please have...	Posso avere...per favore.	Poh-soh ah-vair-eh
A glass of water, please.	A glass of water, please.	Oohn bee-kyeh-reh dee ahk-wah perh fah-voh-reh
A cappuccino, please.	Un cappuccino, per favore.	Oohn kahp-pooch-chee-noh pehr fah-voh-reh
A sandwich, please.	Un panino, per favore.	Oohn pan-ee-no, pehr fah-voh-reh
A kilo of ___	Un kilo di ___	Oohn kee-loh dee...
A table for ___ people, please.	Un tavolo per ___ persone, per favore.	Oon tah-vo-lah pehr ___ pair-sohn-ay, perh fah-voh-reh
Half a liter of water/wine, please.	Mezzo litro d'acqua/vino, per favore.	mehdz-zoh lee-troh dahk-wah/vee-noh
I'm allergic to...	Sono allergico a...	Soh-no a-ler-gee-koh ah...
Is there gluten free?	C'è senza glutine?	Chay sehn-za gloo-teen-ay
I don't drink...	Io non bevo.	Ee-oh nohn bay-voh
Wine	Vino	Vee-noh
Water (not fizzy)	Acqua senza gas	Awk-wah sen-zah gas
Water, with bubbles	Acqua frizzante	Awk-wah freez-awn-tay
The bill, please.	Il conto, per favore?	Eel kohn-toh pehr fah-voh-reh

NUMBERS & DAYS

One	Uno	Oo-noh
Two	Due	Doo-eh
Three	Tre	Treh
Four	Quattro	Kwaht-troh
Five	Cinque	Cheen-kweh
Six	Sei	Seh-ee
Seven	Sette	Set-teh
Eight	Otto	Oht-toh
Nine	Nove	Noh-veh
Ten	Dieci	Dee-eh-chee
Eleven	Undici	Oon-dee-chee
Twelve	Dodici	Doh-dee-chee

Sunday	Domenica	Doh-meh-nee-kah
Monday	Lunedì	Looh-neh-dee
Tuesday	Martedì	Mahr-teh-dee
Wednesday	Mercoledì	Mehr-koh-leh-dee
Thursday	Giovedì	Joh-veh-dee
Friday	Venerdì	Veh-nehr-dee
Saturday	Sabato	Sah-bah-toh

WANT MORE PRACTICE?

Give Duolingo a try! It's a free app that feels more like a game than homework. We use this app daily every year before we head back to Italy to brush up on our Italian. It's great for learning nouns, verbs, conjugation and just basic phrases in general.

Want something more intensive? Babbel is a great language learning program!

WHEN IN DOUBT...GOOGLE TRANSLATE!

We are big fans of the Google Translate App. Yes, it has its quirks and mistranslations but when you're in a pinch it can really be useful. When you have the App downloaded, you can choose to download specific language dictionaries to use OFFLINE! At a restaurant with no signal or wifi and not sure what a specific ingredient is? Type it into the App and know within seconds! Even cooler (somehow, it's possible) is that when you have the language loaded in your phone you can hit the camera feature! Scan over the menu and watch the words (roughly) translate on your screen!