

NEW

Oxford
Beginner's

Italian

DICTIONARY

A fresh
approach for
first-time
learners

THE WORLD'S MOST TRUSTED DICTIONARIES

Oxford Beginner's Italian Dictionary

First edition

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Introduction

This dictionary represents a major departure from traditional dictionaries on several fronts: it looks different; it provides essential information in a totally new way; the two sides of the dictionary have very distinct functions. In all, the dictionary approaches the needs of the English-speaking learner of Italian from a very different angle, making it a uniquely accessible and user-friendly introduction to the Italian language.

It looks different

The dictionary page is uncluttered, with a streamlined typeface providing a consistent structure for the information, both in English and in Italian. Subdivisions are clearly indicated, using bullet points and numbers. The move from one language to another is explicitly indicated with = signs. Points of basic grammar are reinforced using the ! sign, informal Italian usage is marked with the * symbol, and ♦ indicates words to be used with special care.

It provides information in a new way

Every effort has been made to approach the foreign language from the point of view of the beginner who may be unfamiliar with the conventions of the more traditional bilingual dictionary.

Parts of speech and grammatical terms are given in full, not in abbreviated form, with a glossary providing explanations of all the terms used. Basic grammatical issues and specific points of usage are dealt with in short notes at appropriate points in the text.

Sets of words which behave in a similar way are treated in a consistent manner, and the user is encouraged to cross-refer to different parts of the dictionary, for example to verb tables and usage notes dealing with such concepts as jobs, illnesses, and telling the time.

The language used in examples and sense indicators (or signposts to the correct translation) has been carefully screened to ensure maximum clarity. The word list contains all the material a beginner would need and reflects current American and British English and Italian in clear, lively examples.

The two sides have different functions

Each side of the dictionary is shaped by its specific function. The English-Italian side is longer, providing the user with maximum help in expressing the message in the foreign language in the form of detailed coverage of essential grammar, clear signposts to the correct translation for a particular context, and a wide selection of example material.

The English-Italian side is designed to capitalize on what English speakers already know about their language, hence the more streamlined presentation of English-language information. From irregular verb forms to common idiomatic usage, such as might be encountered in the media, the dictionary provides generous coverage of those aspects of Italian which are less easy to decipher for English speakers. Irregular verbs, adjectives, and plurals are all featured in the wordlist, referring the user to the base form where the translations are given.

How to use the dictionary

Every entry in the dictionary tells you whether that particular word is a noun, verb, adjective, or another part of speech. If you need to know what the parts of speech are, look them up in the glossary of grammatical terms.

If there is more than one part of speech within an entry, numbers are used to separate them. Within each part of speech, different senses are given bullet points (•):

bene

1 *adverb*

= well

stanno bene = they're well

bene! = good!

va bene! = OK!

tutto bene? = is everything OK?

2 *noun, masculine*

i **beni** = possessions

Italian ▶ 199

1 *adjective*

= italiano/italiana

2 *noun*

• (the people)

the Italians = gli italiani

• (the language)

Italian = l'italiano

The English-Italian entries tend to be longer, in order to offer detailed guidance on how to write and speak correctly in Italian, so it is a good idea to scan the whole entry to find the sense which is closest to the one you need.

Each Italian verb entry is marked with a number pointing you to the table of Italian verbs at the back of the dictionary. The number refers to the model verb in the table where you can find the information you need about how to form the tenses.

perdonare *verb* [1]

= to forgive

Cross-references are shown by an arrow ▶. These are especially useful for identifying verb forms, which you might not otherwise recognize:

so ▶ sapere

In examples, different words with which a phrase can be used are put in square brackets. This means that it is possible to substitute another word for the alternatives given in the dictionary.

little¹

1 *determiner*

= poco/poca

little [sugar | wine | time] = poco [zucchero |
vino | tempo]

Notes giving additional information are designed to help you produce correct Italian in areas where it is all too easy to forget important points of grammar or usage:

uovo *noun, masculine (plural uova)*

un uovo = an egg

! Note that **uova** is feminine.

actually *adverb*

! Note that **actually** is not translated by **attualmente**.

did she actually say that? = ha veramente detto così?

actually, I'm rather tired = veramente sono piuttosto stanco

Boxed usage notes covering certain themes and sets of related words form a very useful feature of this dictionary. Topics covered include dates, the human body, illnesses, and the time of day. In relevant entries, a number refers you to the page with a note on the particular topic:

January *noun* ▶ 155

January = gennaio

The structure of Italian-English entries

headword **iniziale** underlining of stressed syllable
numbers indicating 1 *adjective*
grammatical = initial
categories 2 *noun, feminine*
le iniziali = the initials translation clearly indicated by =

campione/campionessa *noun,*
masculine/feminine feminine form of headword
il campione/la campionessa = the champion

explanatory gloss **Ferragosto** *noun, masculine*
Ferragosto *Italian public holiday on August 15*

compounds **carta** *noun, feminine* part of speech plus gender
presented in • la carta = paper
block at end • una carta = a card
of entry • una carta = a map
..... **una carta di credito** = a credit card
..... **una carta d'identità** = an identity card
..... **la carta igienica** = toilet paper

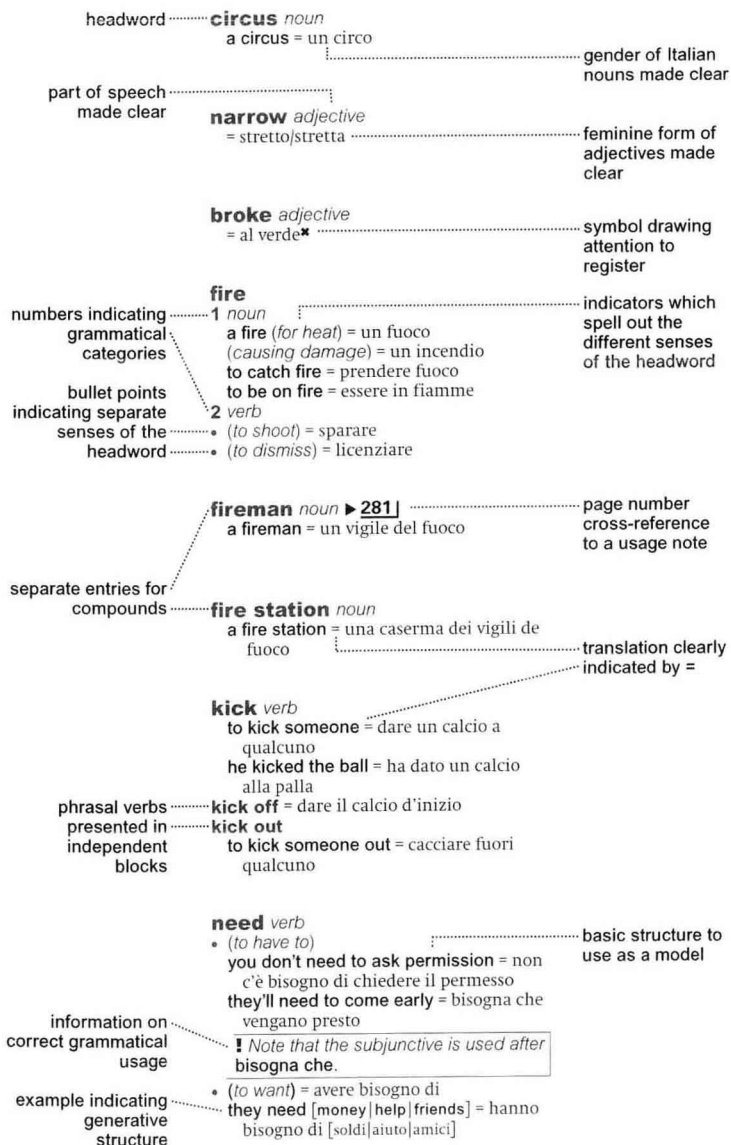
information on **importare** *verb* [1] number of verb conjugation pattern
correct • (! + *essere*) = to matter
grammatical usage non m'importa = I don't care
..... • (! + *avere*) = to import

è ► **essere** cross-reference to headword

bullet points **rimanere** *verb* [56] (! + *essere*)
indicating • = to stay
separate senses of the headword • = to be left
..... me ne rimangono tre = I have three left
..... • = to be
..... sono rimasto deluso = I was disappointed
..... rimanere male = to be offended examples

symbol drawing **macello*** *noun, masculine*
attention to register un macello = a mess

The structure of English-Italian entries



Dictionary know-how

This section contains a number of short exercises which will help you to use your dictionary more effectively. You will find answers to all of these exercises at the end of the section.

1 Identifying Italian nouns and adjectives

Here is an Italian advertisement for a German restaurant. See if you can find ten different nouns and underline them. Then look for eight different adjectives and underline them. Make a list of each type of word. If you are not sure of some of the words, look them up in the Italian-English half of the dictionary and see if the term 'noun' or 'adjective' is used to describe them.

RISTORANTE TEDESCO

Il più moderno ristorante nel centro della città. Venite ad assaggiare le tradizionali specialità della cucina tedesca e a bere le migliori birre mondiali. Trascorrerete una serata straordinaria. Musica tutte le sere.
Ampio parcheggio.

2 Checking the gender of Italian nouns

Here are some English nouns that appear in the English-Italian half of the dictionary. Find out what their Italian equivalents are and make two separate lists, masculine nouns and feminine nouns.

answer	hotel	magazine	salt
calendar	island	oyster	tiger
doorbell	jumper	pencil case	wallpaper
fever	library	raincoat	water-skiing

3 Identifying Italian and English pronouns

Each of the following phrases appears in the Italian-English half of this dictionary in entries where a pronoun is the headword. In each one, underline the pronoun(s) and give the English equivalent(s).

sono io	vado con loro
quello rosso	ne ho tanti
voglio questi qui	ci hanno visto
vieni con me?	divertitevi!
mi ha spiegato come funziona	

4 Recognizing Italian verbs

Underline the verb in each sentence.

I ragazzi vanno a scuola in bicicletta.

Sofia non sa nuotare.

I pompieri arrivarono dopo cinque minuti.

Ogni anno passiamo le vacanze in Italia.

Mia sorella ha avuto in regalo un orologio.

5 Identifying subjects and objects

We have left out the subjects and objects from this Italian message. Choose suitable words from the list below in order to complete it. When you have finished, list the subjects and objects separately.

Luciana ha appena telefonato. Oggi è di suo fratello.
.....ha adesso evuole preparargli
..... Naturalmente di questo non sa niente e
..... dobbiamo tenere lontano da casa per fargli

Così ho mandato questo a Marco: " Ci troviamo alla
gelateria del Corso alle 5 per mangiare insieme a te". Goloso
com'è, ha risposto che usciva subito! Poi ho chiamato e
quasi..... vengono! Ci sarai anche....., vero?

Ciao,
Gemma

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|
| 14 anni | Marco | messaggio | tutti |
| il ragazzo | una festa | noi | tu |
| lei | la sorpresa | lui | |
| il compleanno | un po' di amici | un gelato | |

6 Word search

Here is a grid in which are hidden twelve Italian words: 3 masculine nouns, 3 feminine nouns, 2 adjectives, 2 verbs, 1 pronoun, and 1 adverb. They may appear horizontally, vertically or diagonally, and in either direction (backwards or forwards). When you have found them, circle them. If you are not sure of any of them, look them up in the Italian-English section of the dictionary.

f	i	o	p	s	t	b	k	l	a	augurare
t	o	p	z	t	r	f	g	a	t	mio
e	x	g	i	a	l	l	o	g	m	difetto
m	u	m	f	r	i	e	d	o	e	erba
p	q	e	n	e	n	f	r	b	n	giallo
o	i	m	a	i	e	v	r	b	t	lago
n	u	d	s	t	a	s	e	r	a	linea
d	i	f	e	t	t	o	z	h	l	macchina
t	p	a	u	g	u	r	a	r	e	mentale
a	n	i	h	c	c	a	m	a	r	stare
										stasera
										tempo

7 Masculine or feminine?

Many Italian nouns also have a feminine form. This is particularly true of words denoting an occupation – *un commesso, una commessa*. Some simply change from -o to -a for the feminine form, but not all do. Use your dictionary to find the feminine form of the following nouns:

un alunno	un dentista	un residente	uno zio
un attore	un invitato	uno scrittore	
un chimico	un passeggero	un traduttore	

8 Find the preposition

Use your dictionary to find the English for the following Italian sentences and underline the English and Italian prepositions.

L'aereo parte da Milano alle 8.

A Paolo non piace il tè.

Scusi, c'è un autobus per andare al Colosseo?

Vorrei un po' di formaggio.

Gli occhiali sono sul tavolo.

9 Choosing the right word

Very often you cannot use a word exactly as it is given in the dictionary. In the case of adjectives, you have to make sure that you select the form which is appropriate to the noun you are using. Use your dictionary and your own knowledge to find the correct form of the adjective to match the nouns in the following sentences.

Questi libri mi sembrano (*interesting*)

Le fragole che abbiamo mangiato erano molto (*sweet*)

Mio padre è, ma mia madre è (*Italian*) (*German*)

Le mie scarpe non sono, sono! (*clean*) (*dirty*)

Anna ha dei occhi e dei capelli. (*beautiful*)

Stasera ti metti i pantalonio quelli? (*white*) (*grey*)

10 Translating phrasal verbs

Use your dictionary to find the correct translation for the following English sentences containing phrasal verbs.

The button's come off.

He has given up smoking.

She took off her shoes.

To get off the train.

He walked out of the room.

11 Forming the subjunctive

It's important not to be afraid of the subjunctive, because it is so common in Italian. Using the English-Italian side of the dictionary and the verb tables on pages 293-313, translate these sentences into Italian.

I think the plane from Rome has already arrived.

I thought the plane from Rome had already arrived.

I hope you didn't give it to your brother..

I think that the show finishes at 9.00.

I expect you to phone me at least once a week.

12 Which meaning?

Some words have more than one meaning and it is important to check that you have chosen the right one. In this dictionary the different meanings of a word are marked by a bullet point •.

We have given you one meaning of the Italian words below. Use your dictionary to find another one.

muto	• dumb	•
un soggiorno	• a living room	•
allora	• then	•
il capo	• the head	•
emozionato	• excited	•
un motivo	• a reason	•
un casino	• a mess	•
frequentare	• to go to	•
una fuga	• an escape	•
la fotografia	• photography	•

13 Italian reflexive verbs

Use your dictionary to translate the following sentences.

He is called James.

We met in France. (got to know each other)

They got up early.

Go and get dressed.

Please sit down. (to several people)

They got married on Saturday.

14 False friends

Some Italian words look the same as, or very similar to English words, but in fact have a different meaning. Use your dictionary to find the meaning of the following Italian words.

agenda

ape

caldo

casino

fabbrica

fingerè

firma

libreria

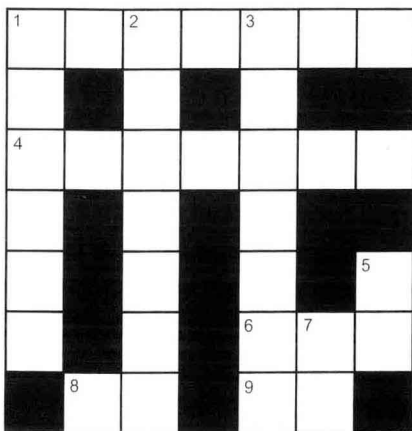
mobile

romanzo

rumore

sensibile

15 Crossword



Across

- 1 to avoid
- 4 opposite (adjective)
- 6 uncle
- 8 from
- 9 to the (before a singular masculine noun)

Down

- 1 heroines
- 2 business, company
- 3 absence
- 5 I
- 7 a masculine article

Answers

1

Nouns: ristorante, centro, città, specialità, cucina, birra, serata, musica, sera, parcheggio

Adjectives: moderno, tradizionale, tedesco, migliore, mondiale, straordinario, tutto, ampio

2

Masculine nouns: calendario, campanello, albergo, maglione, portamatite, impermeabile, sale, sci nautico

Feminine nouns: risposta, febbre, isola, biblioteca, rivista, ostrica, tigre, carta da parati

3

sono io (it's me)

quello rosso (the red one)

voglio questi qui (I want these ones)

vieni con me? (are you coming with me?)

mi ha spiegato come funziona (he explained to me how it works)

vado con loro (I'm going with them)

ne ho tanti (I've got lots of them)

ci hanno visto (they've seen us)

divertitevi! (enjoy yourselves!)

4

I ragazzi vanno a scuola in bicicletta.

Sofia non sa nuotare.

I pompieri arrivarono dopo cinque minuti.

Ogni anno passiamo le vacanze in Italia.

Mia sorella ha avuto in regalo un orologio.

5

Luciana ha appena telefonato. Oggi è il compleanno di suo fratello. Marco ha adesso 14 anni e lei vuole preparargli una festa. Naturalmente di questo lui non sa niente e noi dobbiamo tenere il ragazzo lontano da casa per fargli la sorpresa.

Così ho mandato questo messaggio a Marco: "Ci troviamo alla gelateria del Corso alle 5 per mangiare un gelato insieme a te". Goloso com'è, ha detto che usciva subito! Poi ho chiamato un po' di amici e quasi tutti vengono! Ci sarai anche tu, vero?

Ciao

Gemma

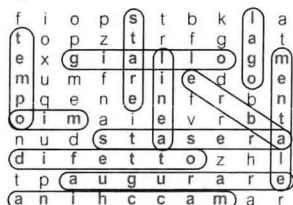
subjects

il compleanno
Marco
lei
lui
noi
tutti
tu

objects

14 anni
una festa
il ragazzo
la sorpresa
messaggio
un gelato
un po' di amici

6



7

un'alunna
un'attrice
una chimica
una dentista
un'invitata
una passeggera
una residente
una scrittrice
una traduttrice
una zia

8

L'aereo parte da Milano alle 8.
The plane leaves Milan at eight.

A Paolo non piace il tè.
Paolo doesn't like tea.

Scusi, c'è un autobus per andare al Colosseo?
Excuse me, is there a bus that goes to the Colosseum?

Vorrei un po' di formaggio.
I would like some cheese.

Gli occhiali sono sul tavolo.
The spectacles are on the table.

9

Questi libri mi sembrano interessanti.

Le fragole che abbiamo mangiato erano molto dolci.

Mio padre è italiano, ma mia madre è tedesca.

Le mie scarpe non sono pulite, sono sporche!

Anna ha dei begli occhi e dei bei capelli.

Stasera ti metti i pantaloni bianchi o quelli grigi?

10

Il bottone si è staccato.
Ha smesso di fumare.
Si è tolta le scarpe.
Scendere dal treno.
È uscito dalla stanza.

Dictionary know-how

11

Penso che l'aereo da Roma sia già arrivato.
Pensavo che l'aereo da Roma fosse già arrivato.
Spero che tu non l'abbia dato a tuo fratello.
Penso che lo spettacolo finisca alle 9.00.
Mi aspetto che tu mi telefoni almeno una volta la settimana.

12

muto: silent
un soggiorno: a stay
allora: well
il capo: the boss
emozionato: nervous
un motivo: a pattern
un casino: a racket
frequentare: to hang around with
una fuga: a leak
la fotografia: the photograph

13

Si chiama James.
Ci siamo conosciuti in Francia.
Si sono alzati presto.
Vai a vestirti.
Accomodatevi, prego.
Si sono sposati sabato.

14

diary
bee
hot
mess; racket
factory
to pretend
signature
bookshop
piece of furniture
novel
noise
sensitive

15

¹ E	V	² I	T	³ A	R	E
R		M		S		
⁴ O	P	P	O	S	T	O
I		R		E		
N		E		N		⁵ I
E		S		⁶ Z	⁷ I	O
	⁸ D	A		⁹ A	L	

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