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by Teresa Picarazzi, Francesca Romana Onofri
and Karen Müller



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Dedication

I would like to dedicate this book to my parents, Mary and Domenico.

—Teresa Picarazzi

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—Teresa Picarazzi

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Contents at a Glance

Introduction	1
Part I: Getting Started.....	7
Chapter 1: Saying It Like It Is	9
Chapter 2: Jumping Into the Basics of Italian	21
Chapter 3: Buongiorno! Salutations!.....	43
Chapter 4: Getting Your Numbers and Time Straight	63
Part II: Italian in Action	83
Chapter 5: Casa dolce casa (Home Sweet Home)	85
Chapter 6: Where Is the Colosseum? Asking Directions.....	103
Chapter 7: Food Glorious Food — and Don't Forget the Drink.....	119
Chapter 8: Shopping, Italian Style.....	139
Chapter 9: Having Fun Out on the Town.....	151
Chapter 10: Taking Care of Business and Telecommunicating	173
Chapter 11: Recreation and the Outdoors.....	191
Part III: Italian on the Go.....	207
Chapter 12: Planning a Trip	209
Chapter 13: Money, Money, Money	221
Chapter 14: Getting Around: Planes, Trains, Taxis, and Buses.....	233
Chapter 15: Finding a Place to Stay	255
Chapter 16: Handling Emergencies.....	271
Chapter 17: Small Talk, Wrapping Things Up.....	293
Part IV: The Part of Tens.....	313
Chapter 18: Ten Ways to Pick Up Italian Quickly	315
Chapter 19: Ten Things Never to Say in Italian.....	319
Chapter 20: Ten Favorite Italian Expressions	323
Chapter 21: Ten Phrases to Say So That People Think You're Italian	327

<i>Part V: Appendixes</i>	331
Appendix A: Verb Tables	333
Appendix B: Dictionaries	347
Appendix C: About the CD.....	359
Appendix D: Answer Keys.....	361
<i>Index</i>	369

Table of Contents

***Introduction* 1**

About This Book	1
Conventions Used in This Book	1
Foolish Assumptions	3
How This Book Is Organized	3
Part I: Getting Started	3
Part II: Italian in Action	3
Part III: Italian on the Go	4
Part IV: The Part of Tens	4
Part V: Appendixes	4
Icons Used in This Book	4
Where to Go from Here	5

***Part I: Getting Started* 7**

Chapter 1: Saying It Like It Is 9

You Already Know Some Italian!	9
Cognates	11
Popular expressions	11
Mouthing Off: Basic Pronunciation	12
The Alphabet	13
Vowels	13
Consonants	15
Stressing Words Properly	19
Using Gestures	20

Chapter 2: Jumping Into the Basics of Italian 21

Setting Up Simple Sentences	21
Coping with Gendered Words (Articles, Nouns, and Adjectives)	22
Nouns and gender	22
The indefinite articles	23
Definite articles	24
Adjectives	25
Talking about Pronouns	26
Personal pronouns	27
Saying “you”: Formal and informal	27

Verbs	28
Introducing regular and irregular verbs	28
Idiomatic uses of avere	32
Having to, wanting to, being able to	37
Presenting the Simple Tenses: Past, Present, and Future	38
Chapter 3: Buongiorno! Salutations!	43
Looking at Common Greetings and Good-byes	43
Deciding between formal or friendly	45
Replying to a greeting	45
Specifying your reuniting	46
Making Introductions	47
Introducing yourself	47
Introducing other people	50
Getting Acquainted	53
Finding out whether someone speaks Italian	53
Talking about where you come from	54
Extending and responding to invitations	60
Chapter 4: Getting Your Numbers and Time Straight	63
Counting Numbers	63
Times of Day and Days of the Week	66
Using the Calendar and Making Dates	68
Making dates	69
Telling time	70
Chatting about the Weather	72
Familiarizing Yourself with the Metric System	77
Length and Distance	78
Weight	78
Part 11: Italian in Action	83
Chapter 5: Casa dolce casa (Home Sweet Home)	85
Ordering Ordinals	85
Inhabiting Your Home	87
Hunting for an apartment	87
Sprucing up your apartment	92
Furnishing your new pad	93
Housekeeping in style	95
Cooking and cleaning	98
Doing household chores	100

Chapter 6: Where Is the Colosseum? Asking Directions103

Finding Your Way: Asking for Specific Places	103
Mapping the quarters and following directions	105
Verbs on the Move	109
Locations You May Be Looking For	113

Chapter 7: Food Glorious Food — and Don't Forget the Drink119

Eating, Italian Style	119
Drinking, Italian Style	119
Expressing your love for espresso	120
Beverages with even more of a kick	121
The Start and End of Dining Out	123
Making reservations	124
Paying for your meal	125
Having Breakfast	126
Eating Lunch	127
Enjoying Dinner	129
Shopping for Food	132
Al macellaio (ahl mah-chehl-lahy-oh) (at the butcher's)	132
Pesce (fish) (peh-sheh)	133
At the panetteria (breadshop)	134

Chapter 8: Shopping, Italian Style139

Clothing Yourself	139
Deciding between department stores and boutiques	139
Sizing up Italian sizes	143
Talking definitely and indefinitely	144
Coloring your words	145
Accessorizing	147
Stepping out in style	148

Chapter 9: Having Fun Out on the Town151

Acquiring Culture	151
Going to the movies	154
Going to the theater	156
Going to a museum	160
Going to a local festival	161
Going to a concert	162
Inviting Fun	164

Chapter 10: Taking Care of Business and Telecommunicating173

Phoning Made Simple	173
Connecting via cellphones, texts, and Skype	174
Calling for business or pleasure	176
Making Arrangements over the Phone	178
Asking for People and Getting the Message	179

What Did You Do Last Weekend? — Talking about the Past	182
Discussing Your Job	186
The human element	187
Office equipment	187

Chapter 11: Recreation and the Outdoors191

Taking a Tour	191
Speaking Reflexively	195
Playing Sports	196
Talking about Hobbies and Interests	200

Part III: Italian on the Go 207

Chapter 12: Planning a Trip209

Deciding When and Where to Go	209
Taking a Tour	211
Booking a Trip/Traveling to Foreign Lands	213
Arriving and Leaving: The Verbs “Arrivare” and “Partire”	216
Going to the Beach and Spa	217
Using the Simple Future Tense	217

Chapter 13: Money, Money, Money221

Going to the Bank	221
Changing Money	224
Using Credit Cards	226
Looking at Various Currencies	228

Chapter 14: Getting Around: Planes, Trains, Taxis, and Buses233

Getting through the Airport	233
Checking in	234
Dealing with excess baggage	236
Waiting to board the plane	237
Coping after landing	238
Going through Customs	240
Losing Luggage	241
Renting a Car	243
Navigating Public Transportation	245
Calling a taxi	245
Moving by train	246
Going by bus or tram	249
Reading maps and schedules	251
Being Early or Late	253

Chapter 15: Finding a Place to Stay255

Choosing a Place to Stay.....	255
Reserving a Room.....	256
Checking In.....	259
Personalizing pronouns.....	262
This or these: Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns.....	263
Yours, mine, and ours: Possessive pronouns.....	263
Bending Others to Your Will: Imperatives.....	267

Chapter 16: Handling Emergencies.....271

Talking to Doctors.....	272
Describing what ails you.....	273
Understanding professional medical vocabulary.....	277
Getting what you need at the pharmacy.....	277
Braving the dentist.....	279
Reporting an Accident to the Police.....	280
I've Been Robbed! Knowing What to Do and Say When the Police Arrive.....	281
Dealing with Car Trouble.....	285
When You Need a Lawyer: Protecting Your Rights.....	287
Reporting a Lost or Stolen Passport.....	288

Chapter 17: Small Talk, Wrapping Things Up293

Discovering Interrogative Pronouns.....	293
Asking simple questions.....	295
Taking care of basic needs.....	296
Talking About Yourself and Your Family — Possessives Part 2.....	300
Speaking Reflexively.....	305
Talking shop.....	307
Discussing your job.....	307

Part IV: The Part of Tens..... 313**Chapter 18: Ten Ways to Pick Up Italian Quickly.....315**

Read Italian Food Labels.....	315
Ask for Food in Italian.....	316
Listen to Italian Songs.....	316
Read Italian Publications.....	316
Watch Italian Movies.....	316
Tune in to Italian Radio and TV Programs.....	317
Listen to Italian Language Tapes.....	317
Share Your Interest.....	317
Surf the Net.....	318
Cook!.....	318

Chapter 19: Ten Things Never to Say in Italian. 319

Ciao-ing Down	319
Don't Be Literal	320
Five Fickle "False Friends"	320
Food Faux Pas	321
The Problem with "Play"	321
Being Careful of "False Friends"	321

Chapter 20: Ten Favorite Italian Expressions 323

Mamma mia!	323
Che bello!	323
Uffa!	324
Che ne so!/Boh!	324
Magari!	324
Ti sta bene!	324
Non te la prendere!	324
Che macello!	325
Non mi va!	325
Mi raccomando!	325

**Chapter 21: Ten Phrases to Say So That
People Think You're Italian 327**

In bocca al lupo!	327
Acqua in bocca!	328
Salute!	328
Macché!	328
Neanche per sogno!	328
Peggio per te!	328
Piantala!	329
Vacci piano!	329
Eccome!	329
Lascia perdere!	329

Part V: Appendixes 331**Appendix A: Verb Tables 333**

Italian Verbs	333
Irregular Italian Verbs	336
Italian -IRE Verbs with a Special Pattern (-isc-)	343
Common Irregular Past Participles	345

Appendix B: Dictionaries	347
Appendix C: About the CD	359
Track Listing.....	359
Customer Care	360
Appendix D: Answer Keys	361
<i>Index</i>	<i>369</i>

Introduction

As society becomes more global, knowing how to say at least a few words in other languages opens doors to communication. Carrying on a brief conversation in an immersion situation can enrich your experience. You may be planning a trip to Italy for business or pleasure. You may have friends and neighbors who speak other languages, or you may want to get in touch with your heritage by learning a little bit of the language that is spoken today in the place your ancestors came from.

Whatever your reason for wanting to learn some Italian, *Italian For Dummies* can help. Two experts at helping readers develop knowledge — Berlitz, experts in teaching foreign languages; and John Wiley & Sons, Inc., publishers of the best-selling *For Dummies* series — have teamed up to produce a book that gives you basic Italian language skills. We're not promising fluency here, but basic communicative competency that will allow you to be understood. If you need to greet someone, purchase a ticket, or order off a menu in Italian, you need look no further than *Italian For Dummies*.

About This Book

This is not a class that you have to drag yourself to twice a week for a specified period of time. You can use *Italian For Dummies* however you want to, whether your goal is to learn some words and phrases to help you get around when you visit Italy, or you just want to be able to say “Hello, how are you?” to your Italian-speaking neighbor. Go through this book at your own pace, reading as much or as little at a time as you like. You don't have to trudge through the chapters in order, either; just read the sections that interest you.

Note: If you've never taken Italian before, you may want to read the chapters in Part I before you tackle the later chapters.

Conventions Used in This Book

To make this book easy for you to navigate, we've set up a few conventions:

- ✓ Italian terms are set in **boldface** to make them stand out.
- ✓ Pronunciations are set in normal type with stressed syllables in *italics*. English translations are also set in *italics*.