



Beginners' Italian

Required starting level

This class is designed for complete beginners; no previous knowledge is required.

Aims

To have fun learning a new language, which might prove useful for trips to Italy, to know about culture, food tradition and art or simply for work. To achieve this, the course introduces basic grammar and useful vocabulary, concentrating on communication and conversing with simple sentences. In addition, something of the history, geography and culture of Italy is given throughout the two terms.

Working methods/types of activities

All students are encouraged to participate in a friendly learning environment using different media and varying methods: reading, listening, writing, speaking – even singing!

Textbooks

The text book suggested is Living Italian (ISBN: 9780340990728). Students can purchase this book or bring their own books; if students wish to, you will be given some advice regarding selection. Students who wish to continue studying Italian after the first year will continue to use Living Italian with the new class. Handouts will be provided, as necessary.

What to bring to class

Students need to bring paper and a writing implement! It is suggested that file paper would be ideal as you will be given a number of hand-outs which could be placed alongside the week's work.

Homework

Suggested homework is 10 minutes per day revising or working on the topic/work done that week. (Regular short bursts of revision are far more effective than block study once a week.)

Topic areas

Given there is no examination pressure, some flexibility and amplification beyond the planned programme is feasible. Throughout both terms emphasis will be on communication, vocabulary, pronunciation, verbs and introductory grammar. Every effort is made to provide continuity whilst using a variety of learning methods to keep students interested and alert.

Typically:

Term 1 – alphabet, pronunciation, introductions, greetings, present tense of verbs, invitation, ordering food in a bar/restaurant, simple sentences and numbers.

Term 2 – some revision and elaboration of the above initially, then more complex work with role play, months, days, better sentence construction, like and dislikes, asking information, buying train tickets or traveling with public transportation, introduction to past tense 'passato prossimo'.

Next Steps

The course runs for a school year with classes taking place over two terms: an initial shorter term during the autumn, leading into a second longer term from January through to mid-May.

On completion of the course, you may feel inspired to continue studying Italian and join the Intermediate course the following year.