



Capitolo

01

# Mark arriva a Roma

## Chapter 1: Mark arrives in Roma

*Mark arrives at Rome Fiumicino Airport and heads towards passport control. He is ready to begin his Italian adventure.*



**Ufficiale:** Buongiorno<sup>1</sup>... passaporto, per favore.

Officer: Good morning... passport, please.

**Mark:** Buongiorno. Ecco<sup>2</sup> il mio passaporto.<sup>3</sup>

Mark: Good morning. Here is my passport.

**Ufficiale:** Grazie. (Guarda<sup>4</sup> il passaporto) È Americano!<sup>5</sup>

Officer: Thank you. (*He looks at the passport*) You're American!

**Mark:** Sì, sono americano.<sup>6</sup>

Mark: Yes, I'm American.

**Ufficiale:** È la Sua prima volta in Italia?<sup>7</sup>

Officer: Is this your first time in Italy?

**Mark:** Sì, è la mia prima volta.

Mark: Yes, it's my first time.



**Ufficiale:** Ah... allora, benvenuto in Italia!

Officer: Oh... So, welcome to Italy!

**Mark:** Grazie mille.<sup>8</sup>

Mark: Thank you very much.

**Ufficiale:** Prego.<sup>9</sup> Arrivederci!<sup>10</sup>

Officer: You're welcome. Goodbye!

**Mark:** Arrivederci!

Mark: Goodbye!

## Vocabulary



### Verbs

|          |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| essere   | to be                |
| arrivare | to arrive            |
| guardare | to look at; to watch |

### Nouns

|               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| il passaporto | the passport              |
| la volta      | time (as in "first time") |
| Italia        | Italy                     |

### Adjectives

|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| americano | American         |
| la prima  | the first (fem.) |
| il mio    | my               |
| la Sua    | your (polite)    |
| la mia    | my (fem.)        |



## Conjunctions

Allora, ...

So, ...

## Expressions & Set phrases

Buongiorno!

Good morning!

Ecco

Here is

per favore

please

Grazie mille

Thank you very much

Benvenuto in Italia!

Welcome to Italy!

Prego!

You're welcome!

Arrivederci!

Goodbye!

## Grammar & Culture Notes



### ➤ 1. Buongiorno:

This translates to "Good morning" or "Good day." It is a common greeting in Italy, typically used before noon. After noon, you're more likely to hear "Buon pomeriggio," meaning "Good afternoon" or "Buonasera," which means "Good evening."

### ➤ 2. Ecco:

Literally, "ecco" means "here" or "here it is." It's frequently used to hand something to someone, in this case, the passport.

### ➤ 3. ...il mio passaporto:

Literally, "the | my | passport." This means "my passport" in Italian. Italian words (nouns, articles, and adjectives) have gender and number. "Il" is the masculine singular form of "the," and "mio" is the masculine singular possessive adjective for "my."



See "Focus on Grammar": Chapters on "Italian Nouns", "Italian Definitive Articles" and "Italian Possessive Adjectives."

### ➤ 4. Guarda...:

Literally, "[He] takes a look," "[he] looks at." This is the third person singular present form of the verb "guardare," which means "to look" or "to watch." The Italian verb endings in the infinitive belong to three groups: "-are" verbs, "-ere" verbs, and "-ire" verbs. In Italian, the verb conjugation often provides enough context to determine the subject, eliminating the need for the explicit use of personal pronouns such as "I," "you," etc.



See "Focus on Grammar": Chapter on "The Three Conjugations of Italian Verbs".

➤ **5. È americano!:**

The verb "è" comes from "essere" (to be) and means "[he/she/it] is" in the third person singular. When formally addressing someone in Italian, you often use this third-person form, "lei è" (lit. "she is"), but "Lei" takes a capital L. This tradition of politeness uses "Lei" (which means "you" in a polite way) regardless of the person's gender. In "È americano!", the "Lei" (formal 'you') is implied, translating to "You are American!" in a formal context for a male. For a female, the phrase would be "È Americana!"

➤ **6. Sì, sono americano:**

"Sono" is the first person singular form of the verb "essere", translating to "[I] am." Here again, the personal pronoun "io" (I) is omitted because the verb form already indicates the subject.



See "Focus on Grammar": Chapters on "Italian Adjectives" and "The Verbs "essere" (to be) and "Avere (to have)."

➤ **7. È la Sua prima volta in Italia?:**

The use of "la Sua" (capitalized) is a polite way to say "your" in Italian. Not in capital letters, the word "la sua" means "his/her." As stated above, Italian has formal and informal ways of addressing someone.

➤ **8. Grazie mille:**

This translates to "thanks a lot" or "thank you very much." "Grazie" means "thanks" and "mille" means "thousand," so literally, it's "thanks a thousand."

➤ **9. Prego:**

In Italian, this commonly means "you're welcome," responding to "thank you" (grazie), like in "Grazie per il caffè! - Prego!" ("Thanks for the coffee! - You're welcome!"). It's also used to offer something or invite action, similar to "please" or "go ahead" in English, as in holding a door open and saying "Prego" to let someone enter first.

➤ **10. Arrivederci:**

"Arrivederci" is a standard Italian farewell meaning "goodbye." It combines "a" (to) + "riveder-" (to see again) + "-ci" (us / each other), literally translating to "until we see each other again."

