

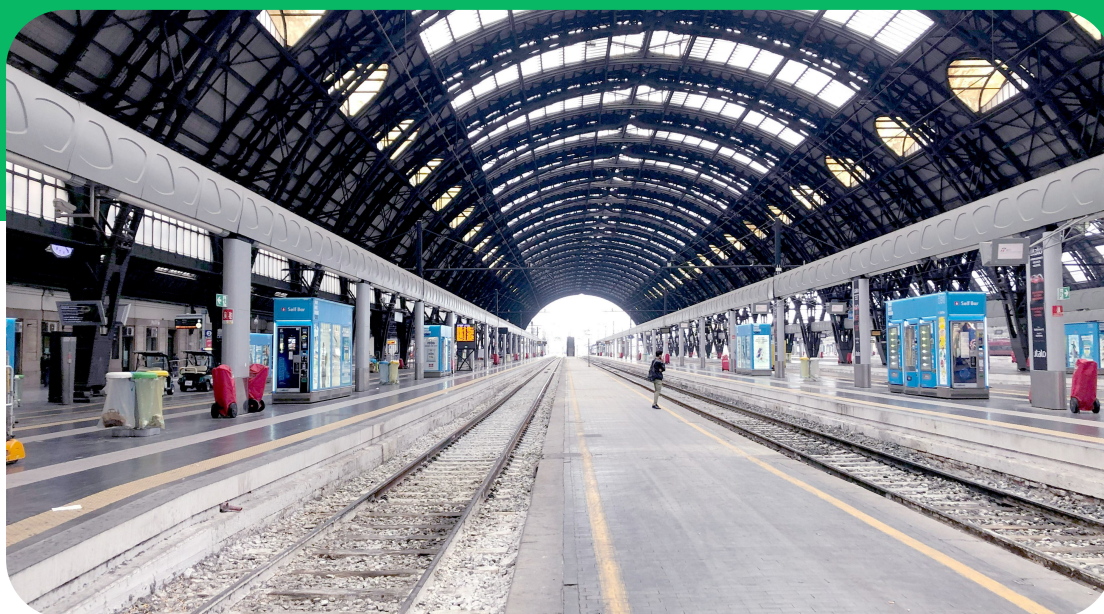


Capitolo
03

Alla ricerca del treno per Termini

Chapter 3: Searching for the Train to Rome's Termini Station

Despite his missing luggage, Mark looks for a way to reach Termini Station, the main gateway to the heart of Rome. He speaks with a girl working at the information desk.



- Mark:** Scusi... Cerco¹ il treno per Termini.
Mark: Excuse me... I'm looking for the train to Termini [Station].
- Signorina:** Certo! Dritto di qua² trova l'ingresso ai treni.
Young Lady: Sure! You'll find the entrance to the trains straight ahead.
- Mark:** Grazie! È lontano?
Mark: Thank you! Is it far?
- Signorina:** No, è vicino. Cinque minuti a piedi.³
Young Lady: No, it's close. A five minute walk.
- Mark:** E il biglietto?
Mark: And the ticket?
- Signorina:** C'è il distributore automatico⁴ vicino ai binari.⁵
Young Lady: There's a ticket machine near the tracks.



Mark: Bene. Un'altra cosa⁶: a che ora parte il prossimo treno?⁷

Mark: Good. One more thing: what time does the next train leave?

Signorina: Un attimo... Parte alle dieci e trenta dal binario tre.

Young Lady: One moment... It leaves at 10:30 from platform 3.

Mark: Perfetto, grazie. Ho poco tempo,⁸ però...

Mark: Great, thanks. I'm short on time, though...

Signorina: Ce la fa⁹ senza problemi. Buon viaggio!

Young Lady: You'll make it without any problems. Have a good trip!

Vocabulary



Verbs

cercare

to look for

partire

to leave, to depart

Nouns

il treno

the train

il distributore automatico

the vending machine

la cosa

the thing

il binario

the platform

il tempo

the time

Numbers

tre

three

cinque

five

dieci

ten

trenta

thirty



Adjectives

lontano	far
vicino	near
prossimo	next
poco	little, not much

Adverbs

dritto	straight
qui	here
lì	there
a piedi	on foot

Expressions & Set phrases

Certo!	Of course!
Bene.	Good.
Un'altra cosa...	One more thing...
Un attimo...	One moment...
Perfetto!	Great!
Ce la fa	You can make it (polite)
Buon viaggio!	Have a good trip!



Grammar & Culture Notes



➤ 1. Cerco...:

From "cercare," meaning "to look for" or "to search." In this context, "Cerco il treno per Termini" translates as "I am looking for the train to Termini." While in English we use the present continuous (e.g., "I am looking for") for this specific case, in Italian you can use the present simple (e.g., "cerco", e.g. "I look for"). There is also a present progressive form in Italian ("sto cercando") which could be used here, but "cerco" is more common.



See "Focus on Grammar": Section on "The Progressive Form in Italian."

➤ 2. ...dritto di qua:

"Dritto" means "straight" and "di qua" means "from here." Together, the phrase "Dritto di qua" means "Straight ahead from here."

➤ 3, Cinque minuti a piedi:

Lit. "five | minutes | at | foot." The word "piedi" means "foot," so this phrase means "A five minute walk."

➤ 4. C'è il distributore automatico:

This phrase starts with "c'è," which is a contraction of "ci" (there) + "è" (is). "C'è" can be translated as "there is." Its plural form is "ci sono," which means "there are." Following "c'è," we have "il distributore automatico." As already seen, "il" is the definite article "the" in its masculine forms, and "distributore automatico" translates to "automatic distributor" or more commonly known in English as a "vending machine." Also note how in Italian it is more natural to use "il" (the) here instead of "un" (a) as in English.



See "Focus on Grammar": Chapter on "C'è (There is) and "Ci sono" (There Are)."

➤ 5. ...vicino ai binari:

Here, "vicino" translates to "near." Think of the word "vicinity" in English, a name indicating a surrounding or neighboring region. "Ai" is formed by merging the preposition "a" (equivalent to "to" or "at" in English) with "i," the masculine plural article ("the" in English). "I binari" (the train tracks) is the plural form of "il binario" (the train track).

➤ 6. Un'altra cosa:

Literally, "another thing." It's a common way to introduce another question or topic. "Un'altra" is the contraction of "una" (an) + "altra" (other).

➤ 7. A che ora parte il prossimo treno?:

"A che ora" means "At what time," "parte" means "[it] departs," and "il prossimo treno" means "[the] next train."

➤ 8. Ho poco tempo...:

Directly translated, this means "I have little time," indicating that the speaker is in a hurry or doesn't have much time left.



➤ **9. Ce la fa...:**

This is a common colloquial expression which translates to "You'll make it" or "You can make it." In its colloquial version it becomes "ce la fai" (you can make it). It's a bit of a complex verbal form. Just remember the whole chunk (sound + meaning) at this stage.

