



Introduction



General information

Welcome to **SMART Italian - Level 1**. This course is designed to offer a **practical, concise, and non-academic approach** to getting a solid foundation in the Italian language.

Authored by **Luca LAMPARIELLO** and **Luca TOMA**, and produced in collaboration with the staff of the **Smart Language Learning Academy**, this course stands out for prioritizing real-world communication skills over a more traditional academic approach.

It is designed to immerse learners in **everyday Italian**, making it an ideal resource for those looking to enhance their conversational abilities.

If you have any questions or need help with the course, the **authors** and the **SLLA team** are readily available to assist, ensuring a comprehensive and engaging learning experience.

Course Description

SMART Italian - Level 1 is specifically designed for **absolute beginners** but also caters to learners at an **A1** and even **A2 level** in Italian.

The method recommended for analyzing and engaging with the material ensures the development of **all four key language skills** (reading, writing, listening, and speaking).

With this immersive approach, learners not only follow the storylines, but also interact with the language in a way that promotes **deep** and **practical understanding**.



Learning Objectives

As you progress through the stories, you will embark on a learning journey that immerses you in **Italian language** and **culture**, offering a structured yet enjoyable experience.

Our main goal is to **deeply immerse** students in the Italian language as it is **naturally used in daily life**, moving away from the overly simplistic methods commonly seen in traditional textbooks.

Content and Structure

SMART Italian - Level 1 is thoughtfully structured into **100 chapters**, which are grouped into **5 engaging stories**, each comprising **20 chapters**. This provides a captivating narrative framework that enhances the learning process.

To facilitate understanding, the course employs a **bilingual (Italian-English) format**.

This dual-language approach enables learners to compare and contrast the texts in both languages, significantly aiding in grasping the meaning and function of each Italian word.

Accompanying the main text are meticulously crafted **grammar notes**.

These notes are intended to clarify aspects of the Italian language that may not be immediately apparent when comparing the Italian text with its English translation.

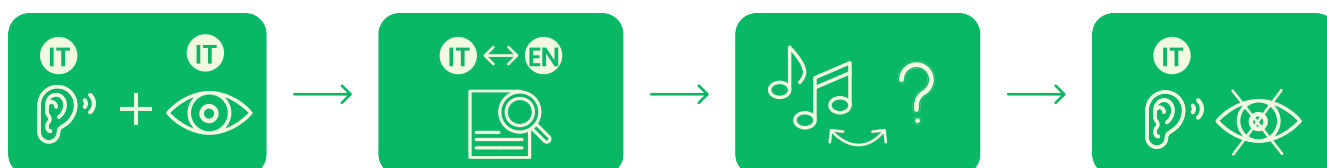
Additionally, the course provides **detailed guidance** on how to effectively use the presented content (see section below).

The steps outlined below are designed to familiarize students with the language and its structures in a **more natural** and **intuitive way** right from the start.

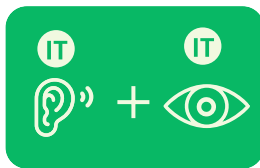
How to Use this Course

This course is versatile, and you can use it in any way you want, but we recommend the following **4 steps** for each chapter:

DAILY TEXT ANALYSIS ROUTINE - STEPS SEQUENCE



→ Step 1 - Initial Exposure to New Dialogue:



- Listen to the audio while reading the Italian text 2-3 times.
- Focus on the sounds and spelling of words in Italian.



Listening while reading in Italian will allow you to quickly make a connection between the spoken and written language.

→ Step 2 - Textual and Linguistic Analysis:

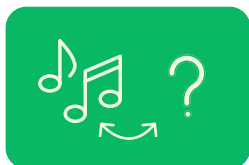


- Compare Italian and English sentence by sentence.
- Analyze each sentence, and try to infer the meaning of individual Italian words.
- Use the accompanying grammar notes to resolve any uncertainties.
- After completing your analysis, revisit the Italian text for reinforcement.



Adults have the amazing advantage of already being able to read, and they can use this skill and their knowledge of their native language to quickly understand the content in Italian.

→ Step 3 - Sound and Meaning Integration:



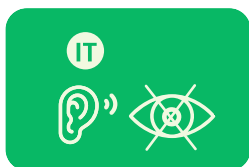
- Listen to the audio in Italian again while reading the text in Italian
- Do this 1-2 times, focusing on how the words sound in context.



This is where you combine step 1 and step 2, integrating sound, meaning, and text.



→ Step 4 - Listening Comprehension:

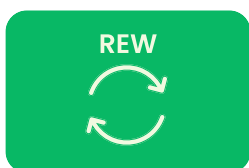


- Concentrate solely on listening to the Italian audio 1-2 times, without reading the text. This step enhances your listening skills and familiarizes you with the natural flow of the language.



Just listening is crucial to improving your listening comprehension, and at this step it is easy and rewarding because you have already gone through the previous steps.

→ REGULAR REVIEW



- Each day, revisit the previous 2-3 dialogues. You can either read along while listening to the audio or just listen to the audio. This regular review solidifies your learning.
- Begin a new chapter by applying the steps outlined above.
- Aim for a daily routine of about 30-45 minutes.
- Engage with a new unit each day while reviewing previous ones. Consistency is crucial.

Note on Progression

If moving to a new chapter daily proves challenging, allocate an additional day for reviewing and consolidating previous chapters.

These are the essential steps we recommend to go through this course and actively learn and absorb the content. However, if you want an even more advanced and systematic method that you can use in conjunction with this course, please visit the **Bidirectional Translation Course page** [link: [here](#)].



Additional Resources

Introduction to Italian Pronunciation

This guide lays a crucial groundwork for mastering Italian pronunciation, showcasing a table that matches each Italian letter with its International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) transcription, Italian name, and a corresponding English sound, making pronunciation more accessible for English speakers. Enhanced with audio, the resource also delves into pitch variations and rhythm, offering a well-rounded approach from fundamental sounds to the flow of sentences. This succinct yet thorough guide serves as an indispensable resource for anyone looking to perfect their Italian pronunciation.

Mini Guide on Grammar Terms

Since many students may be unfamiliar with grammatical terminology, we have included an introductory mini-guide at the beginning of the course. This guide provides a brief overview of the most important grammar terms, complete with 2-3 examples for each, making it ideal for beginners or those who need a quick review. These grammatical terms are often mentioned in the course notes and in the PDF "Focus on Grammar" that accompanies this course, which explores the grammatical structures you will encounter.

Focus on Grammar

This document serves as an additional resource to supplement the content of the main course. It explores a variety of grammatical structures and topics, going beyond the simple notes that accompany dialogues in the stories to offer an in-depth explanation of Italian grammar. The purpose of this document is to serve as a practical reference guide rather than a memorization tool. Simply keep it handy during your study sessions to clarify any grammar points that seem confusing. However, once you have gained a clear understanding, it is important to internalize grammatical forms naturally, both in their context and through practical use.

Conclusion

We hope that **SMART Italian Level 1** will become a **transformative tool** in your journey toward mastering the Italian language.

Our course, designed to cater to both **complete beginners** and to **those with some experience**, is more than just a learning resource; it is a **window** into the vibrant world of Italian culture and conversation.

With its innovative structure, bilingual format, and focus on practical language use, we aim to make your learning experience **enjoyable** and **effective**.

Every step you take in this course will be a step towards fluency.

Remember that the **journey** in learning a language is as rewarding as the destination. Embrace each chapter, engage in each dialogue, and let your curiosity guide you.

Buono studio!