IT

ITALIAN LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 2 · Introducing Yourself

🙋 Introducing Yourself — Presentarsi

*By the end of this chapter you will be able to say your name, ask someone else's, say who and what you are, introduce a third person and reply politely. You will also meet **essere** ("to be"), probably the most useful verb in the language. The people in the dialogs are invented, apart from Philip, who is borrowed for practice.*

① What's Your Name? (informal) — Come ti chiami?

A:

Ciao! Come ti chiami?

CHOW! KOH-meh tee KYAH-mee?

Hi! What's your name?

B:

Mi chiamo Sara. E tu?

mee KYAH-moh SAH-rah. eh TOO?

My name is Sara. And you?

A:

Io sono Philip.

EE-oh SOH-noh FEE-leep.

I'm Philip.

B:

Piacere, Philip!

pyah-CHEH-reh, FEE-leep!

Nice to meet you, Philip!

② A Formal Introduction — Come si chiama?

A:

Buongiorno. Lei come si chiama?

bwon-JOR-noh. LAY KOH-meh see KYAH-mah?

Good morning. What is your name?

B:

Mi chiamo Laura Conti.

mee KYAH-moh LOW-rah KOHN-tee.

My name is Laura Conti.

A:

Molto lieto. Sono Paolo Greco.

MOHL-toh LYEH-toh. SOH-noh PAH-oh-loh GREH-koh.

Delighted. I'm Paolo Greco.

B:

Piacere di conoscerLa.

pyah-CHEH-reh dee koh-NOH-shehr-lah.

A pleasure to meet you.

③ Are You Italian? — Sei italiana?

A:

④ Introducing a Friend — Ti presento Marco

Sei italiana?

SAY ee-tah-LYAH-nah?

Are you Italian?

B:

Sì, sono di Bologna. E tu?

SEE, SOH-noh dee boh-LOH-nyah. eh TOO?

Yes, I'm from Bologna. And you?

A:

Sono scozzese. Vivo a Edimburgo.

SOH-noh skoht-TSEH-seh. VEE-voh ah eh-deem-BOOR-goh.

I'm Scottish. I live in Edinburgh.

B:

Che bello!

keh BEHL-loh!

How lovely!

⑤ At the Reception Desk — Il Suo nome?

A:

Buonasera. Il Suo nome, per favore?

bwoh-nah-SEH-rah. eel SOO-oh NOH-meh, pehr fah-VOH-reh?

Good evening. Your name, please?

B:

Mi chiamo Philip.

mee KYAH-moh FEE-leep.

My name is Philip.

A:

E il cognome?

eh eel koh-NYOH-meh?

And your surname?

B:

A:

Anna, ti presento Marco.

AHN-nah, tee preh-ZEHN-toh MAR-koh.

Anna, meet Marco.

B:

Ciao, Marco. Sono Anna.

CHOW, MAR-koh. SOH-noh AHN-nah.

Hi, Marco. I'm Anna.

C:

Piacere. Sei un'amica di Giulia?

pyah-CHEH-reh. SAY oo-nah-MEE-kah dee JOO-lyah?

Nice to meet you. Are you a friend of Giulia's?

B:

Sì, siamo colleghe.

SEE, SYAH-moh kohl-LEH-geh.

Yes, we're colleagues.

⑥ Who's That? — Chi è?

A:

Chi è quel ragazzo?

kee EH kwehl rah-GAHT-tsoh?

Who is that young man?

B:

È Davide. È un tecnico informatico.

eh DAH-vee-deh. eh oon TEHK-nee-koh een-for-MAH-tee-koh.

That's Davide. He's an IT technician.

A:

È simpatico?

eh seem-PAH-tee-koh?

Is he nice?

B:

Molto. E ripara tutto!

Brown. Bi, erre, o, doppia vu, enne.
BROWN. BEE, EHR-reh, OH, DOHP-pyah VOO, EHN-neh.
Brown. B, r, o, w, n.

MOHL-toh. eh ree-PAH-rah TOOT-toh!
Very. And he fixes everything!

🔑 Key Phrases — Frasi chiave

*As in Chapter 1: **tu** for friends and people your own age, **Lei** for strangers and formal settings.*

SITUATION	FORMAL (LEI)	INFORMAL (TU)
What's your name?	**Come si chiama?** *KOH-meh see KYAH-mah*	**Come ti chiami?** *KOH-meh tee KYAH-mee*
My name is...	**Mi chiamo...** *mee KYAH-moh*	**Mi chiamo... / Sono...** *mee KYAH-moh / SOH-noh*
Who are you?	**Lei chi è?** *LAY kee EH*	**Tu chi sei?** *TOO kee SAY*
Nice to meet you	**Piacere di conoscerLa.** *pyah-CHEH-reh dee koh-NOH-shehr-lah*	**Piacere di conoscerti.** *pyah-CHEH-reh dee koh-NOH-shehr-tee*
The pleasure is mine	**Il piacere è mio.** *eel pyah-CHEH-reh eh MEE-oh*	**Piacere mio!** *pyah-CHEH-reh MEE-oh*
Let me introduce...	**Le presento...** *leh preh-ZEHN-toh*	**Ti presento...** *tee preh-ZEHN-toh*
Where are you from?	**Di dov'è?** *dee doh-VEH*	**Di dove sei?** *dee DOH-veh SAY*

> **Just "Piacere"**
> The single word *piacere*, often with a handshake, does the job in most introductions. *Molto lieto* (a man speaking) or *molto lieta* (a woman speaking) is more formal.

🔤 Three Verbs for Introductions — Verbi

__Essere__ ("to be") is irregular, so learn it by heart. __Chiamarsi__ (literally "to call oneself") is a regular -are verb with a small word in front that changes with the person. __Vivere__ ("to live") shows the second regular family, __-ere__: take off -ere and add the endings.

	ESSERE (TO BE)	CHIAMARSI (TO BE CALLED)	VIVERE (TO LIVE)
io (I)	sono *SOH-noh*	mi chiamo *mee KYAH-moh*	vivo *VEE-voh*
tu (you)	sei *SAY*	ti chiami *tee KYAH-mee*	vivi *VEE-vee*
lui, lei, Lei (he, she; you, formal)	è *EH*	si chiama *see KYAH-mah*	vive *VEE-veh*
noi (we)	siamo *SYAH-moh*	ci chiamiamo *chee kyah-MYAH-moh*	viviamo *vee-VYAH-moh*
voi (you, plural)	siete *SYEH-teh*	vi chiamate *vee kyah-MAH-teh*	vivete *vee-VEH-teh*
loro (they)	sono *SOH-noh*	si chiamano *see KYAH-mah-noh*	vivono *VEE-voh-noh*

LEAVE THE PRONOUN OUT

The verb already shows who is meant: *Sono Philip*, *Sei italiana?* Add *io*, *tu* or *Lei* for contrast or emphasis (*Io sono Anna, lui è Marco*). Note that *sono* means both "I am" and "they are".

🧩 Saying Who You Are — Chi sono

Many describing words change their ending: __-o__ for a man, __-a__ for a woman. Words ending in __-e__ stay the same for both. Nationalities get a full chapter in Chapter 4 and jobs in Chapter 6.

MEANING	A MAN	A WOMAN
I'm Italian	**Sono italiano.** *SOH-noh ee-tah-LYAH-noh*	**Sono italiana.** *SOH-noh ee-tah-LYAH-nah*
I'm Scottish	**Sono scozzese.** *SOH-noh skoht-TSEH-seh*	**Sono scozzese.** *SOH-noh skoht-TSEH-seh*
I'm a student	**Sono uno studente.** *SOH-noh OO-noh stoo-DEHN-teh*	**Sono una studentessa.** *SOH-noh OO-nah stoo-dehn-TEHS-sah*
I'm married	**Sono sposato.** *SOH-noh spoh-ZAH-toh*	**Sono sposata.** *SOH-noh spoh-ZAH-tah*
I'm single	**Sono single.** *SOH-noh SEEN-gol*	**Sono single.** *SOH-noh SEEN-gol*

👉 Introducing Other People — Presentare qualcuno

SAY	MEANING	NOTES
Questo è Marco. *KWEH-stoh eh MAR-koh*	This is Marco.	*questo* for a man
Questa è Anna. *KWEH-stah eh AHN-nah*	This is Anna.	*questa* for a woman
Si chiama Davide. *see KYAH-mah DAH-vee-deh*	His name is Davide.	also "her name is"
È un mio amico. *eh oon MEE-oh ah-MEE-koh*	He's a friend of mine.	a man
È una mia amica. *eh OO-nah MEE-ah ah-MEE-kah*	She's a friend of mine.	a woman

> **Names and Titles**

> Surnames such as *Conti* do not change for a man or a woman. You may hear titles used where English would not bother, for example *dottore* or *dottoressa* for a university graduate. How often depends on the place and the setting.

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabolario

20 key words. Read the Italian first, then check the respelling (CAPITALS = the stressed syllable).

#	ITALIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	**essere**	*EHS-seh-reh*	to be	verb
2	**chiamarsi**	*kyah-MAR-see*	to be called	verb
3	**vivere**	*VEE-veh-reh*	to live	verb
4	**presentare**	*preh-zehn-TAH-reh*	to introduce	verb
5	**il nome**	*eel NOH-meh*	name; first name	noun
6	**il cognome**	*eel koh-NYOH-meh*	surname	noun
7	**l'amico**	*lah-MEE-koh*	friend (male)	noun
8	**l'amica**	*lah-MEE-kah*	friend (female)	noun
9	**il / la collega**	*eel / lah kohl-LEH-gah*	colleague	noun
10	**il ragazzo**	*eel rah-GAHT-tsoh*	boy; young man	noun
11	**la ragazza**	*lah rah-GAHT-tsah*	girl; young woman	noun
12	**chi**	*KEE*	who	phrase
13	**come**	*KOH-meh*	how	adv
14	**dove**	*DOH-veh*	where	adv
15	**questo / questa**	*KWEH-stoh / KWEH-stah*	this	phrase

#	ITALIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
16	**piacere**	*pyah-CHEH-reh*	pleased to meet you	phrase
17	**molto**	*MOHL-toh*	very	adv
18	**simpatico / simpatica**	*seem-PAH-tee-koh / -kah*	nice, likeable	adj
19	**italiano / italiana**	*ee-tah-LYAH-noh / -nah*	Italian	adj
20	**scozzese**	*skoht-TSEH-seh*	Scottish	adj

> **È or E?**
>
> The accent matters in writing: *è* means "is", *e* means "and". *Marco è simpatico e Anna è simpatica.*

✍️ Try It Yourself — Prova tu

Say each answer aloud, then click to check.

1. Tell someone your name in two different ways (use *Philip*).

▼ Show answer

Mi chiamo Philip. / Sono Philip.

2. Ask an older stranger their name, politely.

▼ Show answer

Come si chiama?

3. Fill in with *essere*: *Noi ____ colleghi. Voi ____ italiani?*

▼ Show answer

Noi siamo colleghi. Voi siete italiani?

4. Introduce your friend Anna to someone you call *tu*.

▼ Show answer

Ti presento Anna. / Questa è Anna.

5. A woman says she is Italian. What does she say?

▼ Show answer

Sono italiana.

6. Say: "I live in Edinburgh. Where are you from?" (informal)

▼ Show answer

Vivo a Edimburgo. Di dove sei?

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-26, search summary only, pages not read): *Come ti chiami? / Come si chiama?*, *mi chiamo*, *sono*, *sei*, *è*, *Di dove sei? / Di dov'è?*, *piacere di conoscerti / conoscerLa*.
Not checked (general knowledge): the dialogs, the rest of the verb tables, spelling letter names, adjective endings, the introducing phrases, the title note, vocabulary and all respellings. No native speaker has reviewed the Italian.
Please review: the respellings and dialog 5.
Sources: Dummies (introductions) · Preply (introducing yourself) · Le presentazioni (open textbook)

Coming Up in Chapter 3

Next: **numbers, age and contact details**: 0 to 100, *avere* ("to have") for your age, and giving a phone number and email address.