IT

ITALIAN LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 7 · Days & Times

📅 Days, Dates & Telling the Time — Giorni, date e orari

*A long chapter in three parts: **Part 1** is the days of the week, **Part 2** the months and dates, and **Part 3** the clock. It leans on the numbers from Chapter 3, so look back if you need to. The people and plans are invented.*

Part 1 · Days of the Week — La settimana

① What Day Is It? — Che giorno è?

A:

Che giorno è oggi?

keh JOR-noh eh OH-jee?

What day is it today?

B:

Oggi è giovedì.

OH-jee eh joh-veh-DEE.

Today is Thursday.

A:

Già giovedì? Meno male!

JAH joh-veh-DEE? MEH-noh MAH-leh!

Thursday already? Thank goodness!

B:

Domani è quasi weekend.

doh-MAH-nee eh KWAH-zee wee-KEHND.

Tomorrow it's nearly the weekend.

② Making Plans — Sei libero sabato?

A:

Sei libera sabato?

SAY LEE-beh-rah SAH-bah-toh?

Are you free on Saturday?

B:

Il sabato vado al mercato.

eel SAH-bah-toh VAH-doh ahl mehr-KAH-toh.

On Saturdays I go to the market.

A:

E domenica?

eh doh-MEH-nee-kah?

And on Sunday?

B:

Domenica va bene.

doh-MEH-nee-kah vah BEH-neh.

Sunday's fine.

DAY	SAY IT	ENGLISH
lunedì	*loo-neh-DEE*	Monday

DAY	SAY IT	ENGLISH
martedì	*mar-teh-DEE*	Tuesday
mercoledì	*mehr-koh-leh-DEE*	Wednesday
giovedì	*joh-veh-DEE*	Thursday
venerdì	*veh-nehr-DEE*	Friday
sabato	*SAH-bah-toh*	Saturday
domenica	*doh-MEH-nee-kah*	Sunday

ONE MONDAY OR EVERY MONDAY

Days take a **small letter**. With no article, a day means one particular day: *Vengo lunedì* (I'm coming on Monday). With the article it means every week: *Il lunedì lavoro* (I work on Mondays). *Domenica* is feminine: *la domenica*.

Part 2 · Months & Dates — Mesi e date

③ Birthdays — Quando è il tuo compleanno?

A:

Quando è il tuo compleanno?

KWAHN-doh eh eel TOO-oh kohm-pleh-AHN-noh?

When is your birthday?

B:

Il tre maggio. E il tuo?

eel TREH MAHD-joh. eh eel TOO-oh?

The third of May. And yours?

A:

Il primo aprile.

eel PREE-moh ah-PREE-leh.

The first of April.

④ Holiday Dates — Quando parti?

A:

Quando vai in vacanza?

KWAHN-doh VAI een vah-KAHN-tsah?

When are you going on holiday?

B:

In agosto, dal cinque al venti.

een ah-GOH-stoh, dahl CHEEN-kweh ahl VEHN-tee.

In August, from the 5th to the 20th.

A:

Dove andate?

DOH-veh ahn-DAH-teh?

Where are you all going?

B:

Non è uno scherzo?

nohn eh OO-noh SKEHR-tsoh?

That's not a joke?

B:

Andiamo al mare.

ahn-DYAH-moh ahl MAH-reh.

We're going to the seaside.

MONTH	SAY IT	MONTH	SAY IT
gennaio (Jan)	*jehn-NAH-yoh*	**luglio** (Jul)	*LOO-lyoh*
febbraio (Feb)	*fehb-BRAH-yoh*	**agosto** (Aug)	*ah-GOH-stoh*
marzo (Mar)	*MAR-tsoh*	**settembre** (Sep)	*seht-TEHM-breh*
aprile (Apr)	*ah-PREE-leh*	**ottobre** (Oct)	*oht-TOH-breh*
maggio (May)	*MAHD-joh*	**novembre** (Nov)	*noh-VEHM-breh*
giugno (Jun)	*JOO-nyoh*	**dicembre** (Dec)	*dee-CHEHM-breh*

Writing and Saying Dates

The day comes first: *il tre maggio* (3 May). Only the first of the month uses "first": *il primo maggio*. All other days use ordinary numbers. Months take a small letter. Say *in agosto* or *ad agosto* for "in August".

Part 3 · The Clock — L'orologio

⑤ What's the Time? — Che ore sono?

A:

Scusi, che ore sono?

SKOO-zee, keh OH-reh SOH-noh?

Excuse me, what time is it?

B:

Sono le tre e un quarto.

SOH-noh leh TREH eh oon KWAR-toh.

⑥ Opening Times — A che ora apre?

A:

A che ora comincia il film?

ah keh OH-rah koh-MEEN-chah eel FEELM?

What time does the film start?

B:

Alle otto e mezza.

AHL-leh OHT-toh eh MEHD-dzah.

It's quarter past three.

A:

Di già? Sono in ritardo!

dee JAH? SOH-noh een ree-TAR-doh!

Already? I'm late!

B:

Corra!

KOHR-rah!

Run!

At half past eight.

A:

E quando finisce?

eh KWAHN-doh fee-NEE-sheh?

And when does it finish?

B:

Verso mezzanotte. È lungo!

VEHR-soh mehd-dzah-NOHT-teh. eh LOON-goh!

Around midnight. It's long!

TIME	SAY	SAY IT
1:00	**È l'una.**	*eh LOO-nah*
2:00	**Sono le due.**	*SOH-noh leh DOO-eh*
2:10	**Sono le due e dieci.**	*SOH-noh leh DOO-eh eh DYEH-chee*
2:15	**Sono le due e un quarto.**	*SOH-noh leh DOO-eh eh oon KWAR-toh*
2:30	**Sono le due e mezza.**	*SOH-noh leh DOO-eh eh MEHD-dzah*
2:45	**Sono le tre meno un quarto.**	*SOH-noh leh TREH MEH-noh oon KWAR-toh*
12:00 noon	**È mezzogiorno.**	*eh mehd-dzoh-JOR-noh*
12:00 midnight	**È mezzanotte.**	*eh mehd-dzah-NOHT-teh*

È OR SONO?

Use **è** with *l'una*, *mezzogiorno* and *mezzanotte*, and **sono le** with every other hour. "At" is *a*: *all'una, alle tre, a mezzogiorno*. Timetables and official notices often use the 24-hour clock: *alle diciotto* is 6 p.m.

🔑 Key Phrases — Frasi chiave

SITUATION	FORMAL (LEI)	INFORMAL (TU)
What's the time?	**Scusi, che ore sono?** *SKOO-zee, keh OH-reh SOH-noh*	**Che ora è?** *keh OH-rah EH*
Are you free?	**È libero / libera?** *eh LEE-beh-roh / -rah*	**Sei libero / libera?** *SAY LEE-beh-roh / -rah*
When is your birthday?	**Quando è il Suo compleanno?** *KWAHN-doh eh eel SOO-oh kohm-pleh-AHN-noh*	**Quando è il tuo compleanno?** *KWAHN-doh eh eel TOO-oh kohm-pleh-AHN-noh*
Happy birthday!	**Tanti auguri!** *TAHN-tee ow-GOO-ree*	**Buon compleanno!** *bwon kohm-pleh-AHN-noh*

Both birthday greetings work in either register.

🔤 Three Verbs for Plans — Verbi

***Andare** ("to go") is irregular. **Cominciare** ("to begin") is an -are verb that, like studiare, does not double the i. **Finire** ("to finish") is an -isc- verb like capire.*

	ANDARE (TO GO)	COMINCIARE (TO BEGIN)	FINIRE (TO FINISH)
io (I)	**vado** *VAH-doh*	**comincio** *koh-MEEN-choh*	**finisco** *fee-NEES-koh*
tu (you)	**vai** *VAI*	**cominci** *koh-MEEN-chee*	**finisci** *fee-NEE-shee*
lui, lei, Lei (he, she; you, formal)	**va** *VAH*	**comincia** *koh-MEEN-chah*	**finisce** *fee-NEE-sheh*
noi (we)	**andiamo** *ahn-DYAH-moh*	**cominciamo** *koh-meen-CHAH-moh*	**finiamo** *fee-NYAH-moh*
voi (you, plural)	**andate** *ahn-DAH-teh*	**cominciate** *koh-meen-CHAH-teh*	**finite** *fee-NEE-teh*

	ANDARE (TO GO)	COMINCIARE (TO BEGIN)	FINIRE (TO FINISH)
loro (they)	vanno *VAHN-noh*	cominciano *koh-MEEN-chah-noh*	finiscono *fee-NEES-koh-noh*

📖 Vocabulary — Vocabolario

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

#	ITALIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	il giorno	*eel JOR-noh*	day	noun
2	il mese	*eel MEH-zeh*	month	noun
3	la data	*lah DAH-tah*	date	noun
4	l'ora	*LOH-rah*	hour; time	noun
5	il minuto	*eel mee-NOO-toh*	minute	noun
6	il compleanno	*eel kohm-pleh-AHN-noh*	birthday	noun
7	il mercato	*eel mehr-KAH-toh*	market	noun
8	il mare	*eel MAH-reh*	sea; seaside	noun
9	andare	*ahn-DAH-reh*	to go	verb
10	cominciare	*koh-meen-CHAH-reh*	to begin	verb
11	finire	*fee-NEE-reh*	to finish	verb
12	oggi	*OH-jee*	today	adv
13	domani	*doh-MAH-nee*	tomorrow	adv
14	ieri	*YEH-ree*	yesterday	adv

#	ITALIAN	SAY IT	ENGLISH	TYPE
15	**quando**	*KWAHN-doh*	when	adv
16	**presto**	*PREH-stoh*	early; soon	adv
17	**tardi**	*TAR-dee*	late	adv
18	**in ritardo**	*een ree-TAR-doh*	late, behind time	phrase
19	**libero / libera**	*LEE-beh-roh / -rah*	free	adj
20	**verso**	*VEHR-soh*	around (a time)	phrase

✍️ Try It Yourself — Prova tu

Say each answer aloud, then click to check.

1. Say "I work on Fridays" and "I'm coming on Friday".

▼ Show answer

Il venerdì lavoro. Vengo venerdì.

2. Say the dates 1 June and 14 July.

▼ Show answer

il primo giugno, il quattordici luglio

3. It is 1:30. What do you say?

▼ Show answer

È l'una e mezza.

4. It is 6:45. Say it using *meno*.

▼ Show answer

Sono le sette meno un quarto.

5. Fill in with *andare*: *Io ___ al mercato. Noi ___ al mare.*

▼ Show answer

Io vado al mercato. Noi andiamo al mare.

6. Ask what time the film finishes.

▼ Show answer

A che ora finisce il film?

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-26, search summary only, pages not read): *che ora è / che ore sono*, *è* against *sono le*, quarters and halves.
Not checked (general knowledge): the days, months and date rules, the use of the article with days, the 24-hour clock note, the dialogs, verb tables, vocabulary and all respellings. No native speaker has reviewed the Italian.
Please review: the days and date rules, which the search did not cover.
Sources: Omniglot (time) · Berlitz (time) · Joy of Languages (time)

Coming Up in Chapter 8

Next: **ordering food and drink at a café**: *vorrei*, coffee and snacks, the counter and the table, and asking for the bill.