

Coffee Break **Italian**

Season 2, Lesson 1

Lesson notes



CoffeeBreak
Italian

Introduction

Benvenuti a Coffee Break Italian! Welcome to the first episode of Coffee Break Italian Season 2. These notes will help you make the most of the lesson and understanding everything covered. The notes provide a written version of all the Italian used in the dialogues in the lesson, along with bonus vocabulary and further practice of language introduced.



Introductory Conversation

Francesca: Ciao a tutti. Sono Francesca. Bentornati per un'altra stagione con Coffee Break Italian!

Mark: E io sono Mark. [...] Buongiorno, Isla.

Isla: Ciao, sono Isla e sono molto contenta di partecipare a Coffee Break Italian!

Mark: Allora, Francesca, come stai?

Francesca: Molto bene, Mark, grazie. E tu?

Mark: Benissimo, e molto contento di essere qua ancora una volta.

Francesca: Sì, anch'io, e anche molto felice di conoscere Isla.

Mark: Certo, certo. E Isla, come stai?

Isla: Sì, molto bene.

bentornati

welcome back

stagione (f)

season

partecipare a qualcosa

*to participate in something (note preposition **a** used in Italian)*

ancora una volta

once again

anch'io

me too

felice

happy

conoscere

to know, to get to know, to meet

Mark: [...] Va bene così?

Francesca: Direi di sì. Mettiamoci al lavoro!

Isla: E io, vi ascolto!

direi di sì

I would say so

mettiamoci al lavoro

let's get to work

io vi ascolto

I'll listen to you



Presentation

A review of the present tense

It's very important to understand the role that verbs play in using correct Italian, and one of the first things we'll be focusing on in this season of Coffee Break Italian is learning to conjugate both regular and irregular verbs in the present tense. While some of this may be review, we'll be introducing the verbs with new vocabulary, so it's the perfect opportunity to increase your understanding and build a strong foundation for future learning.

When we're conjugating a verb we use six forms, with each form referring to a different "person". Have a look at the table below to help you understand this pattern better:

la coniugazione dei verbi	
"I" (first person singular)	"we" (first person plural)
"you" (informal) (second person singular)	"you" (plural) (second person plural)
"he" / "she" / "it" (third person singular)	"they" (third person plural)

Let's put this into practise and conjugate a regular, **-are** verb, **lavorare**, meaning "to work".

lavorare: to work (present tense)	
lavoro	lavoriamo
lavori	lavorate
lavora	lavorano

Pay particular attention to the third person plural form, "they work": **lavorano**. The stress is on the **-o-** as in **lavorano**.

As Mark and Francesca explain in the lesson, the third person singular form **lavora** is also used for "you formal", e.g.:

Lei lavora in un ufficio?

do you work in an office?

Note that when **Lei** means "you formal", it is normally written with a capital **L: Lei**.

However, when **lei** is written in lower case, it means "she":

lei lavora in un ufficio

she works in an office

These same patterns work with other **-are** verbs. Consider **parlare** and **amare** below:

parlare: to speak (present tense)	
parlo	parliamo
parli	parlate
parla	parlano

amare: to love (present tense)	
amo	amiamo
ami	amate
ama	amano

Again, pay particular attention to where the stress falls in the third person plural forms:

parlano and **amano**.

Some verbs which end in **-are** have an additional vowel before the ending, like **studiare**.

Note that the **i** sound remains in the stem of the verb when it's conjugated:

studiare: to study (present tense)	
studio	studiamo
studi	studiate
studia	studiano

With this type of verb, however, pay attention to the 2nd person singular form: you say **studi** (not *studii*). Likewise with the 1st person plural form, there's an **-i-** in the ending, so you do not need to include the **-i-** of the stem, i.e. it's **studiamo** (not *studiiamo*).

The same pattern can be seen with **cominciare**, "to begin".

cominciare: to begin (present tense)	
comincio	cominciamo
cominci	cominciate
comincia	cominciano

Francesca: Attenzione, Mark, però.

Mark: Sì?

Francesca: Come sempre in italiano, c'è un'eccezione.

Mark: Ah, un'eccezione, ok. Qual è l'eccezione?

Francesca: Questa regola non è sempre valida...

eccezione (f)

exception

come sempre

as always

qual è l'eccezione?

what is the exception?

regola (f)

rule

valido/a

valid

As Francesca explains, some verbs follow a slightly different pattern. Consider **inviare** (to send):

inviare: to send (present tense)	
invio	inviamo
invii	inviate
invia	inviano

The 2nd person singular form doubles the **i** because the **i** is stressed in the 1st person singular, **invio**. The only real way to know whether or not to double the **i** is by knowing the 1st person singular form. Another verb which follows this same pattern is **sciare**, to ski:

sciare: to ski (present tense)	
scio	sciama
scii	sciate
scia	sciama

Practice

In the second section of the lesson, Mark and Francesca review what was covered in the presentation with Isla.

Topics covered:

- **lavorare** conjugation
- focus on the stress in the 3rd person plural form, e.g. **lavorano, cantano, amano, mangiano**
- **parlare** conjugation

Translation challenges

1. He works in an ice-cream parlour.
Lavora in una gelateria.
2. Do you work in an cinema?
Lei lavora in un cinema?
3. I work in a restaurant.
Lavoro in un ristorante.
4. Do you work in Rome?
Lavori a Roma? (Note the preposition **a** for cities!)
5. My friends work in a supermarket.
I miei amici lavorano in un supermercato.



Bonus episode

Mark and Francesca begin by review three further verbs which follow similar patterns to those included in the main lesson.

incontrare: to meet (present tense)	
incontro	incontriamo
incontri	incontrate
incontra	incontrano

abitare: to live (present tense)	
abito	abitiamo
abiti	abitate
abita	abitano

Note the stress in the present tense of **abitare**: **abito**, **abiti**, **abita**, **abitiamo**, **abitate**, **abitano**.

mangiare: to eat (present tense)	
mangio	mangiamo
mangi	mangiate
mangia	mangiano

There's no double **i** in **mangi** because the 1st person singular form is stressed on the first syllable: it's **mangio**, not *mangio*.

As an example of a verb that does conjugate in a similar way to **inviare** and **sciare**, Francesca suggests the verb **spiare** meaning "to spy":

spiare: to spy (present tense)	
spio	spiamo
spii	spiate
spia	spiano



Translation challenges

See overleaf for the suggested answers.

1. We learn Italian with Coffee Break Italian.
2. I love Florence because it's beautiful.
3. Do you live in Milan or Turin?
4. Madam, do you speak English?
5. Visitano spesso i musei italiani.
6. Questo inverno scii in Svizzera?
7. Spiamo i nuovi vicini.
8. Michele e Laura, passeggiate qui spesso con il vostro cane?

Suggested Answers

1. Impariamo l'italiano con Coffee Break Italian.
2. Amo Firenze perché è bellissima.
3. Abiti a Milano o a Torino? (Lei abita a Milano o a Torino?)
4. Signora, Lei parla inglese?
5. They often visit (the) Italian museums.
6. This winter are you skiing in Switzerland?
7. We're spying on the new neighbours.
8. Michele and Laura, do you often walk here with your dog?



Head over to <http://coffeebreakitalian.com> to find out how you can join in and practise your Italian with the Coffee Break Italian learning community.

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