



## Beginner Italian Course Pronunciation - Lesson 1

### VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Ciao! Welcome to the first video of a series about the secrets of the Italian pronunciation. Would you like to master the sounds of our beautiful and musical language? Keep watching!

To be honest, I said the word 'secrets' at the beginning just to grab your attention: the truth is that Italian is a very consistent language, it is read as it is spelled, and sounds do not change from one word to the other. Once you have learnt the sounds of our alphabet correctly, the pronunciation of a word won't be a secret anymore.

In this video, we'll learn about the consonants C and G when followed by vowels.

**C:** this consonant has two sounds, one hard and one soft. C is always hard before A, O, U:

CASA, CANE, SCONTO, MARCO, SCURO, CUORE

C is soft before E and I:

CIAO, CINTURA, CENA, CENTRO

However, to keep the sound hard before E and I, we add an H:

SCHERZO, CHE, CHIAVE, CHIODO

**G:** similarly, this consonant has two sounds, one hard and one soft. G is always hard before A, O, U:

GATTO, MAGA, GOLLA, ANGOLO,

G is soft before E and I:

GELATO, ANGELO, MAGIA, GIARDINO

However, to keep the sound hard before E and I, we add an H:

GHIANDA, GHIACCIO, MAGHE, STREGHE

Other two combinations of letters with G need special attention: **GL** and **GN**

The sound GN is similar to the sound in caNYon.

LASAGNE, RAGNO, SIGNORA

The sound GL is similar to the sound in miLLion.

AGLIO, GLI, BOTTIGLIA

In all other cases, when C and G are followed by consonants, the sound is always hard.

CLASSE, CREMA, GRANDE, GROSSO

Now try to pronounce the following:

CASA, CANE, CIBO

CURA, CORTO, CENA

GHIRO, GIORNO, GELATO

GHIACCIO, GRETA, GETTARE

MAGHE, AGLIO, SIGNORA.