



VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Today we'll go through 20 basic Italian phrases that we use all the time, and that will make your Italian sound natural. There's a bonus expression at the end, so keep watching! Let's dive right in!

1. CIAO

Everybody knows it! It means hello, and it's used between friends or people of the same age. What you may not know is that it's better not to use it with people who are much older than you! You should rather say...

2. BUONGIORNO!

Good morning. It's formal, but also friendly. Say it when you enter a shop or you meet someone that you don't know very well.

3. ARRIVEDERCI

Goodbye! It literally means Until we meet again! but it's formal. You can say it when you leave a restaurant or a shop. When parting from a friend you can say simply CIAO! or CI VEDIAMO! Same meaning.

We have a video all about Italian greetings, formal and informal. The link is here in the top right corner and in the description below, have a look!

4. COME VA?

How is it going? It's impersonal, so you can use it with anybody. Very common, even more than Come stai?, which means How are you?

5. TUTTO BENE

All good, everything okay. You can also use it as a question: Tutto bene? Is everything alright? This is also impersonal, so it's easier to use.

6. PIACERE

Nice to meet you. You can say it when you shake hands with someone that you just met, and they will say it back to you. Piacere! Piacere mio - My pleasure.

7. PER FAVORE

Please. Add Per favore to a request or a question to make it polite. Che ore sono, per favore? What time is it, please?

8. GRAZIE

Thank you. Grazie! Grazie mille, mille grazie: a thousand times thank you!

9. PREGO

You're welcome. You answer Prego when someone says Grazie to you, but you can also use it to mean: please, after you, very polite: Prego, vada avanti Lei! Please, you go first.

10. SCUSA / SCUSI

Sorry. Scusa is informal, scusi is the polite form. You say it if you bump into someone or you cause some kind of inconvenience to somebody. Oh, scusa!

It also means Excuse me, so you can use it to call a waiter, for example: Scusi? Or to ask for help: Scusi, può aiutarmi?

11. MI DISPIACE

It means I'm sorry, I feel sorry for something I did or for something that happened to the other person. Mi dispiace molto, I'm really sorry.

12. D'ACCORDO

All right, okay. It means agreed, I agree, but you can also say Okay! We say it all the time.

13. QUANTO COSTA?

How much is it? A useful phrase when you want to buy something and there's no label on it, which happens quite often! Scusi, quanto costa?

14. NON HO CAPITO

I didn't understand. Hai capito? No, non ho capito. You can add: Puoi ripetere - Can you say again?

15. ANDIAMO? ANDIAMO!

Shall we go? Let's go! In Italian it's exactly the same: andiamo? Andiamo! Andiamo via is Let's go away, let's leave this place.

16. BASTA

Enough! Stop it! It's quite strong: BASTA! But if someone is pouring you wine and you want them to stop, you can say Basta, grazie!

17. CHE NOIA!

Very common, it means How boring! I'm bored. It will probably be followed by: Andiamo! Che noia, andiamo via! Let's get outta here!

18. BELLISSIMO!

Wonderful, very beautiful! This is the masculine version: È un film bellissimo! The feminine would be Bellissima! You can say to a woman: Sei bellissima! You're so beautiful!

19. COMPLIMENTI

Congratulations! We say it to congratulate someone on their achievements. We also say it ironically, meaning the opposite: complimenti!

20. AUGURI

Auguri means best wishes. You can say it to someone who just got married, or on someone's birthday: Tanti auguri! You can also say it to wish good luck to somebody, but in this case you can also use a more sophisticated phrase: IN BOCCA AL LUPO! Literally, Into the wolf's mouth! It's the equivalent of the English Break a leg. And the other person will reply: CREPI! Let's hope that the wolf dies!