

My Italian Circle



Beginner Italian Course

Vocabulary - Lesson 2

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Today you will learn how to greet people in Italian. Greetings can vary slightly from region to region, but this is a quite reliable guideline. Andiamo!

CIAO!

I bet you all know this one. Ciao is the most common Italian greeting, you can use it at any time of the day, both when meeting people and when parting from them. It's informal, so we use it with family and friends, and with young people.

SALVE!

It means hello, and you can use it at any time of the day, especially when you're not sure if you should use a formal or informal register, it's somewhere in between. It's a bit more polite than CIAO, so we use it with strangers, not with family or friends.

BUONGIORNO!

It means good morning, and it's a formal greeting, we use it with people we don't know or in any formal context.

Politeness is always appreciated in Italy, so, for example, when you enter a shop it's a good idea to say buongiorno with a smile.

BUONA GIORNATA! Have a good day! Use it when you're taking leave from someone, and wish them to enjoy the rest of their day!

Similarly, you can say BUONA SERATA, starting from 7/8 pm, to wish people to enjoy their evening.

BUONASERA!

At around 2 pm we start to say BUONASERA, good evening, even if it's not evening yet. We do have BUON POMERIGGIO, good afternoon, but it's not very common nowadays, you can hear it maybe on television. So, stick to BUONASERA! formal and polite.

SAYING GOODBYE

CIAO!

Didn't I mention this one before? Yes I did! This is just to remind you that you can say CIAO also when parting from people, and you can also double it, CIAO CIAO! And if you're going to see that person the next day, you can say: CIAO, A DOMANI - See you tomorrow!

ARRIVEDERCI! ARRIVEDERCI!

It means goodbye and it's quite formal, We don't use it with family or friends.

CI VEDIAMO! CI VEDIAMO!

See you! It's quite informal, so you can say to a friend: CIAO, CI VEDIAMO!

A PIÙ TARDI!

See you later!

A PRESTO!

See you soon!

BUONANOTTE!

It means goodnight and it's for bedtime, or when you part from someone and think everybody is going to bed.

Dialogue:

Anna: Buongiorno! Come va? Tutto bene?

Diana: Ciao! Bene, grazie! Tu?

Anna: Benissimo! Ci vediamo dopo!

Diana: Sì, a dopo. Buona giornata!

Anna: Anche a te!