

greetings and introductions

Learn with television

Talk Italian: Programme 1

Catch a glimpse of life in Bologna and see how important greetings are to the Italians in oiling the wheels of everyday social contact.

Talk Italian is repeated regularly on BBC Learning Zone (BBC Two). Find the details on www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone and video the programmes to watch at your leisure.

Learn online

www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian

Italian Steps: Stage 1: Top ten words

Start off on the right foot by learning to pronounce Italian like the Italians.

Italianissimo: Ciao

Watch and listen to people of all ages meeting up, and get familiar with the differences in the way they greet each other. Do the online activities then see how you get on with the self-check.

Learning hint

Open a magazine at random and use the pictures to practise Italian greetings – you can usually tell from the background and the way people are dressed what time of day it is. Don't confine yourself to greeting people: practise asking how they are – be formal or informal depending on the picture – then introduce yourself and think of how they would reply. You'll find it a help when you come to do it for real.

Key language

Buongiorno Hello (morning/afternoon)

Buona sera Hello/Good evening

Ciao Hi

Arrivederci Goodbye

Buona notte Good night

Come stai? How are you? (informal)

Come sta? How are you? (formal)

Bene, grazie Fine, thanks

E tu/lei? And you (informal/formal)

Sì Yes

No No

io sono I'm

tu sei you are (informal)

lei è you are (formal)

Mi chiamo My name is

Questo/a è This (m/f) is

Piacere Pleased to meet you

Quiz

1. Stefano introduces his wife to you: _____ è mia moglie. Is the missing word **questo** or **questa**?
2. You hear a woman say **Come stai?** Is the other person someone she knows well or not?
3. Does the letter C sound like the English 'k', 'ch' or 'sh' in the following words: a) **ciabatta**; b) **prosciutto**; c) **bruschetta**; d) **Chianti**?
4. How would you greet an elderly woman neighbour at 6pm?
5. How would you ask a child his/her name?
6. You hear someone on his mobile phone saying **Bene, grazie. E lei?** What would the question have been?

Answers on www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/answers.shtml