

**ALT\_1**

**Getting started with Italian 1**

**About this free course**

This free course is an adapted extract from the Open University course developed from extract parts of [LXI001 - Beginners Italian 1: primi passi](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/lxi001) - <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/lxi001>.

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[Getting started with Italian 1](https://www.open.edu/openlearn/languages/getting-started-italian-1/content-section-0)

There you’ll also be able to track your progress via your activity record, which you can use to demonstrate your learning.

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978-1-4730-3179-1 (.kdl)  
978-1-4730-3180-7 (.epub)

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**Introduction**

## Introduction

Start of Figure



**Figure 1**

[View description - Figure 1](" \l "Unit1_Session1_Description1)

End of Figure

Are you fascinated by the Italian culture and lifestyle, cuisine, historic cities, art and beautiful landscapes? Have you always loved the sound and musicality of the Italian language? Perhaps you’ve visited an Italian city and wished you could chat with local people. Or maybe you would like to be able to read a menu, talk about yourself, or talk about yours or other people’s jobs.

Whatever your reasons for learning Italian, this two-week course gives you a chance to start a new exciting learning experience. You’ll start from the basics to ordering food and drinks at the bar.

Each week comprises of 3–4 hours of interactive activities, explanations, exercises and tips about language learning. It’s a good idea to keep notes either on paper or on your preferred digital device. Each week you’ll be encouraged to revise your notes and to add to your own personal phrase book and decide how best you can go about memorising and practising key phrases and vocabulary. Keep a record of your own learning journey, think about aspects you enjoy and aspects you find challenging and reflect on how you can overcome these challenges; this will help you consolidate your learning as well as adapt your own practice to your own learning style. Throughout the course, you will be invited to reflect on your learning in the consolidation activities at the end of each week.

There is also a weekly quiz for you to practise what you’ve been learning.

You’ll start by learning some vocabulary and expressions related to food and drink, but first of all, take some time to decide how you’ll allocate your time to your studies. Learning Italian, like learning any language, is a gradual process; it’s often described as ‘a marathon, not a sprint.’ ‘Little and often’ is the best approach, so if at all possible, spread your 3–4 hours over the week, rather than devoting one whole afternoon or evening. This will give you plenty of opportunities to revisit vocabulary and language structures, to revise quickly what you did last time and above all to practise and consolidate. This is the best way to learn vocabulary and improve your accent. Don’t forget to take notes of your own learning journey: jot down aspects of your learning that you find enjoyable as well as the challenging ones and think of the ways in which you overcame these challenges.

It’s also a very good idea to involve your family and friends; let them know you’ve decided to start learning Italian and maybe they can help you or leave you in peace when you need to study.

Now that you know what’s in store for you, you are ready to get started.

Buon lavoro!

## Open Centre for Languages and Cultures

This course has been developed from extract parts of [LXI001 - Beginners Italian 1: primi passi](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/lxi001). The Open University has launched a dedicated learning centre called [The Open Centre for Languages and Cultures](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/language-short-courses). OpenLearn is supporting this project and is providing extracted units of all courses on The Open Centre in our dedicated [Language and Cultures Hub](https://www.open.edu/openlearn/languages/learning-languages/open-centre-languages-and-cultures).

The Open Centre for Languages and Cultures is the exciting new home for non-accredited language and intercultural communication short courses. You can study a wide range of language and language related subjects with us anywhere in the world, in any time zone, whatever your motivation – leisure, professional development or academic.

It’s the one stop shop for engaging with languages, professional communication and intercultural dialogue.

Our short courses allow us to be agile and responsive to the needs of learners who want to be part of a global society. We offer non-accredited short courses in a range of subjects including modern languages and languages for business and the workplace. We are also leading the way in developing short courses for academic research methods and pre-sessional English with IELTS, which will be available for registration in due course.

The Open Centre for Languages and Cultures is an international leader in online language learning and intercultural communications, built on our pioneering pedagogy and research.

## What makes the Open Centre different?

* The OU is the leader in online learning and teaching with a heritage of more than 50 years helping student achieve their learning ambitions.
* The short courses are underpinned by academic rigour and designed by native speakers experienced in producing engaging materials for online learning of languages and cultures.
* The graduating nature of the courses means that learners can build up their language and skills over time.
* Learners will also gain a better understanding of the culture(s) associated with the language(s) they study enabling the development of intercultural communication skills.
* Learners can mix and match the short courses and study more than one course at a time.

Once this course is complete you will be directed to OpenLearn’s hub for language content where you will be able to build on your newly found language skills.

Now that you’re fully prepared, it’s time to start on [Week 1](https://www.open.edu/openlearn/ocw/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=106452).

**Week 1: Drinks and snacks at an Italian bar**

## Introduction

In this first week, you’ll be learning the names of some drinks and snacks commonly sold in Italian bars. You’ll hear how to pronounce them correctly, and learn some useful phrases for ordering. Finally, we’ll cover the basic principles of masculine and feminine nouns, and using indefinite articles. At the end, you can test your learning with a quick quiz.

This OpenLearn course is an adapted extract from the Open University course [LXI001 Beginners Italian 1: primi passi](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/lxi001).

## 1 Drinks sold at the bar

One of the first things visitors do when they visit Italy is enjoy a drink at a bar. You will start by learning the names of some popular drinks.

Start of Activity

**Activity 1**

Start of Question

Drag and drop the names of some popular drinks to its corresponding picture. Start with the ones you are already familiar with and try to guess the ones you don’t know. You may be surprised how many words you are already familiar with or are able to guess.

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

End of Question

End of Activity

## 2 Pronouncing the names of drinks

Now that you know the names of some drinks, it’s time to learn to pronounce them and learn more.

Start of Activity

**Activity 2**

Listen and repeat the names of different cold and hot drinks, trying to match the pronunciation and intonation of the speaker. Use the transcript to help you follow the audio and to learn how each word is written.

**Cold drinks**

Start of Question

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

[View transcript - Uncaptioned interactive content](" \l "Unit2_Session3_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

End of Question

**Hot drinks**

Start of Question

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

[View transcript - Uncaptioned interactive content](" \l "Unit2_Session3_Transcript2)

End of Media Content

End of Question

End of Activity

Start of Box

**Un caffè, per favore!**

You may find coffee-drinking traditions in Italy different from those in the UK or in your own culture. If you ask for un caffé, you will be served an espresso coffee. A caffè ristretto is an espresso which is even more concentrated than usual. An espresso with a tiny amount of milk is a macchiato, sometimes described as a macchiato caldo (if the milk is hot) or a macchiato freddo (if the milk is cold). You might like to try a caffè corretto, a coffee with a drop of a spirit or liqueur such as grappa in it.

For Italians un cappuccino is a morning drink only, never taken after a meal. If you want a long coffee, you should ask for un caffè americano. Another milky but not so frothy coffee is un caffelatte, which is sometimes served in hotels at breakfast.

Such is the importance of coffee in Italian life that some customers pay for two coffees, one to drink themselves and one paid for in advance as a charitable act for anyone in need who might drop in in the hope of a free coffee – the so-called caffè sospeso.

End of Box

## 3 Listening practice

Now have a go at Activity 3.

Start of Activity

**Activity 3**

Start of Question

A group of friends are ordering drinks from a waiter. Listen and identify the drinks mentioned. Then write down the names of the drinks in Italian.

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

[View transcript - Uncaptioned interactive content](" \l "Unit2_Session4_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

End of Question

*Provide your answer...*

[View answer - Activity 3](" \l "Unit2_Session4_Answer1)

End of Activity

Start of Box

**Per favore, grazie, prego**

The expression per favore (‘please’) is used much less often than ‘please’ is in English. It is not considered impolite to omit per favore when asking for something.

On the other hand, grazie (‘thank you’) is used often.

It is customary to respond to grazie by saying prego. This means ‘not at all / you’re welcome / don’t mention it’ (the literal meaning is ‘I beg you’) but is used more routinely than these equivalent English expressions.

End of Box

## 4 Nouns and their gender

Start of Figure



**Figure 1**

[View description - Figure 1](" \l "Unit2_Session5_Description1)

End of Figure

In Activity 3 you heard people ordering una birra and un bicchiere di vino bianco, among other drinks. In Italian the word for beer (birra) is feminine, while the word for glass (bicchiere) is masculine. Read the following explanation to find out about Italian nouns and their grammatical gender and why you need to get to grips with this concept as soon as possible in your Italian studies.

Start of Box

**Nouns and their gender**

When learning a foreign language for the first time, you will become familiar with simple grammatical terms such as ‘noun’, ‘verb’, ‘adjective’ and so on. People, animals, objects and abstract concepts are all nouns. All Italian nouns – not just people and animals – have a gender; they are either masculine or feminine.

Knowing the gender of nouns is important since it determines the form of the article (‘the’ or ‘a’ in English) that you use with them and the form of the adjectives that describe them.

Nouns ending in -o are usually masculine:

* un aperitivo an aperitif
* uno spuntino a snack

Nouns ending in -a are usually feminine:

* una birra a beer
* un’aranciata an orangeade

Nouns ending in -e are not so easy: some are masculine and some are feminine. Where they relate to people, it is easy to guess their gender.

* un padre a father (masculine)
* una madre a mother (feminine)

But in other cases, you simply have to learn the gender of each noun rather than following a rule.

* maionese mayonnaise (feminine)

It is also possible to identify the gender of some nouns ending in -e by looking at the cluster of letters that precede the -e . For instance, singular nouns ending in -ore are masculine, nouns ending in -zione are feminine.

* un liquore liqueur (masculine)
* una lezione lesson (feminine).

Most words imported into Italian from other languages are masculine:

* un caffè a coffee
* un tè a tea

As for any rule, there are exceptions. If in doubt, a dictionary will tell you the gender of each word.

End of Box

## 5 Distinguishing between masculine and feminine nouns

Based on what you have learned so far about masculine and feminine nouns, now try Activity 4.

Start of Activity

**Activity 4**

Start of Question

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

End of Question

End of Activity

Start of Box

**Vocabolario**

un amaro a digestive liqueur

un cornetto a croissant

End of Box

## 6 Indefinite articles

Start of Figure



**Figure 2**

[View description - Figure 2](" \l "Unit2_Session7_Description1)

End of Figure

All the nouns you’ve learnt so far are preceded by un, un’ and una. These are called indefinite articles and you will now learn how they are used.

Start of Box

**Un caffè e un cornetto**

The Italian equivalent of the English ‘a’ or ‘an’ (the indefinite article) is either un, uno, una or un’. The form depends on whether the noun it relates to is masculine or feminine and whether the noun starts with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) or a consonant.

**Masculine nouns**

* Use un with most masculine nouns.
  + un bicchiere a glass
  + un aperitivo an aperitif
* Use uno also before a masculine noun beginning with s + consonant (for example sc-, sp-).
  + uno scontrino a receipt
  + uno spuntino a snack
* Use uno before a masculine noun beginning with gn, pn, ps, x, z, or with i or y followed by another vowel.
  + uno zio an uncle
  + uno yogurt a yogurt

**Feminine nouns**

* Use una with a feminine noun beginning with a consonant.
  + una birra a beer
  + una pizza a pizza
* Use un’ before a feminine noun beginning with a vowel.
  + un’aranciata an orangeade
  + un’acqua minerale a mineral water

End of Box

## 7 Practice

Based on what you learned in the previous section, now try Activity 5.

Start of Activity

**Activity 5**

Select the appropriate indefinite articles un, uno, una or un’ for each of the words given below.

Start of Question

1. gelato

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction1)

Start of Question

2. acqua minerale

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction2)

Start of Question

3. succo di frutta

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction3)

Start of Question

4. bicchiere di vino bianco

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction4)

Start of Question

5. scontrino

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction5)

Start of Question

6. amaro

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction6)

Start of Question

7. bar

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction7)

Start of Question

8. pasta

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction8)

Start of Question

9. espresso

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction9)

Start of Question

10. succo di mela

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction10)

Start of Question

11. spremuta

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction11)

Start of Question

12. tè

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction12)

Start of Question

13. pizza

End of Question

un

uno

una

un'

[View answer - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Interaction13)

End of Activity

## 8 Un bar tipico

You will now look at how to order more than one item.

Start of Activity

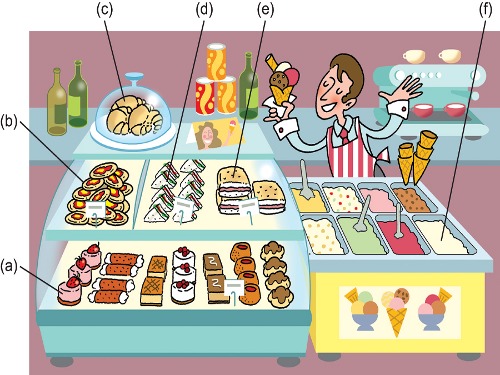
**Activity 6**

Start of Question

When you order more than one item, you need to use a plural noun.

Look at the illustration below of Un bar tipico and match each letter to the corresponding plural noun. Some of the words you have come across already; others will involve some guesswork.

Start of Figure



**Figure 3** Un bar tipico

[View description - Figure 3 Un bar tipico](" \l "Unit2_Session9_Description1)

End of Figure

End of Question

paste

pizzette

cornetti

tramezzini

panini

gelati

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

[View answer - Activity 6](" \l "Unit2_Session9_Interaction1)

End of Activity

## 9 Plural nouns

In Activity 6, you were given examples of nouns in their plural form. In Activity 7 you will match these to their singular form.

Start of Activity

**Activity 7**

Start of Question

All the words in the previous step were in the plural form. Read them again below and match each of them to the corresponding singular form. Then read the explanation below.

End of Question

pasta

pizzetta

cornetto

tramezzino

panino

gelato

paste

pizzette

cornetti

tramezzini

panini

gelati

[View answer - Activity 7](" \l "Unit2_Session10_Interaction1)

End of Activity

Start of Box

**Plural nouns**

The different groups of nouns have different plural forms.

* Masculine nouns ending in -o form their plural in -i:
  + un cornetto a croissant - due cornetti two croissants
* Feminine nouns ending in -a form their plural in -e:
  + una pizza a pizza - due pizze two pizzas
* Both masculine and feminine nouns ending in -e form their plural in -i:
  + un liquore a liqueur - due liquori two liqueurs
  + una lezione a lesson - due lezioni two lessons

As you might expect, there are exceptions. Some words do not change form in the plural, such as:

* nouns ending in a consonant and one-syllable nouns:
  + un bar a bar - due bar two bars
* nouns imported from another language:
  + una brioche a brioche - due brioche two brioches
* and nouns with a written accent on their final syllable:
  + un'attività an activity - due attività two activities
  + un caffé a coffee - due caffè two coffees

End of Box

## 10 Reading a bar menu

Now have a go at Activity 8.

Start of Activity

**Activity 8**

Start of Question

Look at the price list (listino prezzi) below and, using the box below, write the singular or plural, as appropriate, of each word in it. Notice that the food items are all in the plural form and the drinks are all in the singular.

Start of Figure



**Figure 4**

[View description - Figure 4](" \l "Unit2_Session11_Description1)

End of Figure

Start of Example

**Vocabolario**

una piadina a flatbread wrap

End of Example

Start of Example

**Esempio**

cornetti (plural) → cornetto (singular)

cappuccino (singular) → cappuccini (plural)

End of Example

End of Question

*Cappuccino → Caffè → Cioccolata → Tè → Birra → Aperitivo → Cornetti → Paste → Pizzette → Panini → Piadine →*

[View answer - Activity 8](" \l "Unit2_Session11_Answer1)

End of Activity

Start of Box

**Lo sapevi?**

Al banco o al tavolo

In most cafés in Italian towns there are two sets of prices, both of which, by law, should be clearly displayed: the price you pay standing at the counter (al banco) and the price you pay sitting down at a table (al tavolo). In smaller towns or rural areas, there is usually only one set of prices and you can sit either inside or outside without paying extra.

End of Box

## 11 This week’s quiz

Check what you’ve learned this week by taking the end-of-week quiz.

[Week 1 quiz](https://www.open.edu/openlearn/ocw/mod/quiz/view.php?id=106449)

Open the quiz in a new window or tab (by holding ctrl [or cmd on a Mac] when you click the link), then return here when you have done it.

## 12 Summary of Week 1

It is useful to keep notes on the main points to remember, which could be grammar rules, vocabulary or expressions. The way in which you choose to keep this record of your learning is up to you: a simple paper notebook, an electronic document, mind maps or any means which suits you. It is important that you add to it regularly so that all key learning points are together in one place and easily accessible for reference and revision. Many students also find that writing notes helps them to understand grammar points and to memorise vocabulary and expressions. Adding an example of your own to each rule, term and expression will help you fix them in your memory. A useful tip for you this week is to find a way to keep a record of new vocabulary: you can, for instance, use colour-coded flashcards organised by topics. You could start with two sets of cards, one for drinks and one for food and you could add new words as you learn them.

Start of Activity

**Keeping a record of your learning**

Start of Question

Whether you keep your notes on paper or digitally, it’s important to get organised, so here is an idea that may help, based on your Week 1 studies:

Start of Table

Table 1 Language notebook

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key phrases:** | *Provide your answer...* |
| **Pronunciation:** | *Provide your answer...* |
| **Culture:** | *Provide your answer...* |
| **Language:** | *Provide your answer...* |

End of Table

What would you write into each box, if anything? Would you add more boxes?

End of Question

End of Activity

**Week 2: Ordering at the bar**

## Introduction

Start of Figure



**Figure 1**

[View description - Figure 1](" \l "Unit3_Session1_Description1)

End of Figure

Now that you know the Italian names of the most popular drinks and snacks and can distinguish between masculine and feminine nouns, you are ready to learn how to order them in an Italian caffè. This week you will learn some of the key phrases you’ll need when ordering food and drinks through listening and reading activities. You will also have the opportunity to learn about some of the most famous Italian historic bars and the specialities you can savour when visiting them. Finally, you will look at definite articles and their use before singular and plural nouns.

Have you got a good dictionary? You might need to refer to one for some of the activities this week, so think about how you plan to look words up when you need to. There are many online dictionaries available, or perhaps you prefer to use a printed version. Either way, find one that suits you and that is also reliable and accurate.

Last week you started to keep your own language notebook; this week you’ll be adding to it. In particular we suggest you make notes on the grammar you’ll be studying.

Buon lavoro!

## 1 Al bar

Start of Figure



**Figure 2** La pausa caffé

[View description - Figure 2 La pausa caffé](" \l "Unit3_Session2_Description1)

End of Figure

Il bar is a very important part of Italian life. There are an estimated 121,000 in Italy, usually open from early morning until late evening. The bar is more like a café than an English bar, a place where one can drop in for un caffè during the working day (the so-called pausa caffè) and have a chat with friends and colleagues. Customers often share opinions on a variety of subjects ranging from politics and football, to work, gossip, cinema and fashion.

The Italian bar is probably at its busiest first thing in the morning, when people grab a coffee and a cornetto (‘croissant’) at the counter. It is busy again at lunchtime when those not going home for lunch eat a sandwich or a snack. Finally, in the early evening (at the end of the working day) people drop in for an aperitivo before dinner. Some people might also come and have a drink or an ice cream later in the evening. Most bars, however basic, have small tables on the pavement outside where you can sit and watch the world go by.

Another role played by the bar is that of a corner shop. Most of them will sell you milk if you run out.

The bar-gelateria will sell you ice cream in polystyrene boxes (vaschette) to take home for a special occasion, while at the bar-pasticceria you can buy trays of pasticcini ('little cakes') or dolci such as tiramisu to take to friends’ homes if you are invited for a meal.

Think about bars and cafés in your country. When do people go to them and what for?

## 2 Un caffè per favore

Based on what you have learnt so far in this course, have a go at Activity 1.

Start of Activity

**Activity 1**

Start of Question

Maria and Piera have met for breakfast in a caffè. Listen to the recording and try to work out what they are ordering. Listen as many times as necessary and then tick the food items and drinks that are mentioned by the speakers.

They seem to be placing their order twice. Do you know why that is?

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

[View transcript - Uncaptioned interactive content](" \l "Unit3_Session3_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

End of Question

un cappuccino

un cornetto

un aperitivo

un caffè

un panino

una brioche

un tè

una pasta

una cioccolata

[View answer - Activity 1](" \l "Unit3_Session3_Answer1)

End of Activity

## 3 Paying for drinks and snacks

Start of Figure



**Figure 3** Uno scontrino (left), Un cartello (right)

[View description - Figure 3 Uno scontrino (left), Un cartello (right)](" \l "Unit3_Session4_Description1)

End of Figure

In many Italian bars and caffès, particularly the more upmarket ones in cities, or in train stations and airports you go to the cash desk (la cassa) first and say what you want. You pay and are given a receipt which you then give to the person serving, repeating your order. In fact, there is often a sign (un cartello) telling you to go the cash desk first, pay the cashier (il cassiere / la cassiera) and get a till receipt (uno scontrino). The sign might say something like Si prega di fare lo scontrino alla cassa (‘Please obtain a receipt [first] from the till’) or simply Si prega di pagare alla cassa (‘Please pay [first] at the till’).

## 4 Desidera?

Start of Figure



**Figure 4** Caffè Gambrinus, Napoli

[View description - Figure 4 Caffè Gambrinus, Napoli](" \l "Unit3_Session5_Description1)

End of Figure

There are some common expressions that you will hear when in an Italian bar and caffè. Have a go at Activity 2 now to see if you can work out what these phrases mean.

Start of Activity

**Activity 2**

Start of Question

Listen to the recording from Activity 1 again (repeated below) and match each of the following expressions from the dialogue to its English equivalent. At this stage it is useful to learn common expressions like these as set phrases rather than trying to work out what each word means.

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

[View transcript - Uncaptioned interactive content](" \l "Unit3_Session5_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

End of Question

What would you like?

I would like

For me

Excuse me!

How can I help?

For you (formal)

So

Desidera?

Vorrei

Per me

Scusi!

Mi dica?

Per lei?

Allora...

[View answer - Activity 2](" \l "Unit3_Session5_Answer1)

End of Activity

## 5 Key phrases

In an Italian bar, the person serving (il cameriere or la cameriera) – or the cassiere if you have to pay first – will ask you what you want in one of the following ways:

* Desidera? What would you like? (literally: You want?)
* Mi dica. How can I help? (literally: Tell me.)
* E per Lei? (And) for you?

To say what you would like, use:

* Vorrei… I would like …
* (E) per me… (And) for me

If you need to attract the waiter’s or barman’s attention, you say:

* Scusi! Excuse me!

When the person serving adds up the order to check that they have got it right, they usually begin with:

* Allora... So...

You might also hear customers say buongiorno (‘good morning’) or buonasera (‘good afternoon/evening’) before they place their order.

## 6 Vocabulary practice

Now see if you can use the expressions you’ve just learnt.

Start of Activity

**Activity 3**

Start of Question

Read the dialogue and select the appropriate word from the drop-down menu to complete each sentence.

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

End of Question

End of Activity

## 7 Speaking practice

So far, you have practised listening to orders. In the next speaking activity you’ll have a go at ordering drinks yourself.

Start of Activity

**Activity 4**

Start of Question

Now you can order some drinks yourself. Listen to the audio and answer the questions following the prompts in English, as in the example below.

Start of Example

**Esempio**

* You hear: Buongiorno. Desidera?
  + (A coffee.)
* You say: Un caffè.
* You hear: Un caffè.

End of Example

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

[View transcript - Uncaptioned interactive content](" \l "Unit3_Session8_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

End of Question

End of Activity

## 8 Historic Italian coffee house

Start of Figure



**Figure 5** Caffè Greco, Roma

[View description - Figure 5 Caffè Greco, Roma](" \l "Unit3_Session9_Description1)

End of Figure

The history of the Gran Caffè in Italy goes back to the introduction of coffee into Europe in the early seventeenth century. The first European coffee houses were established in Venice, a centre of trade between Italy and the East. The coffee houses were a meeting place for intellectuals and artists, and often became cultural landmarks. A few famous examples are the Gran Caffè Gambrinus in Naples (1860), favoured by Oscar Wilde, Ernest Hemingway and Jean-Paul Sartre, the Florian in Venice (1720), frequented by Giacomo Casanova and Charles Dickens, the Caffè Pedrocchi in Padua (1831), the Caffè degli Specchi in Trieste (1839), the Caffè Greco in Rome (1760), haunt of Richard Wagner and Orson Welles, and the Caffè Fiorio in Turin (1780), whose customers included Cavour and Nietzsche.

Start of Activity

**Activity 5**

Start of Question

Now listen to the recording and match the name of each caffè and the town in which it is located.

Don’t worry if you only catch some of the words or only get a very general idea of what is being talked about. Remember that your main purpose for listening is to carry out the task and that you can do this without understanding every word; even when you listen to something in your own language you will find that you rarely hear every word, unless you are really concentrating on the message.

Start of Media Content

Audio content is not available in this format.

[View transcript - Uncaptioned interactive content](" \l "Unit3_Session9_Transcript1)

End of Media Content

End of Question

Caffè Fiorio

Caffè Gambrinus

Caffè Florian

Caffè Greco

Caffè San Marco

Turin

Naples

Venice

Rome

Trieste

[View answer - Activity 5](" \l "Unit3_Session9_Answer1)

End of Activity

## 9 Listening for more detail

Start of Figure



**Figure 6** La sfogliatella (left), Il babà (right)

[View description - Figure 6 La sfogliatella (left), Il babà (right)](" \l "Unit3_Session10_Description1)

End of Figure

Now have a go at Activity 6.

Start of Activity

**Activity 6**

Start of Question

Start of Media Content

Interactive content is not available in this format.

End of Media Content

End of Question

End of Activity

## 10 Definite articles

Now have a go at Activity 7.

Start of Activity

**Activity 7**

Start of Question

Read the transcript of the recording about historic Italian coffee houses (copied below). Write down the specialities of each coffee house with the correct form of the definite article that precedes them. Then read the explanation below on the definite article.

Start of Example

**Esempio**

Il gelato

End of Example

Transcript: In Italia ci sono molti caffè storici. Sono eleganti e raffinati, e offrono varie specialità. Il Caffè Fiorio è a Torino. Le sue specialità sono il gelato in estate e la cioccolata calda in inverno. A Napoli c’è il Caffè Gambrinus, famoso per le sfogliatelle e i babà. È anche molto conosciuto il Caffè Florian di Venezia, dove servono il tipico liquore al caffè. Un caffè storico molto importante di Roma è il Caffè Greco, rinomato per la focaccia di polenta. Il Caffè San Marco, invece, è a Trieste. Serve gli aperitivi con gli spuntini salati.

End of Question

*Provide your answer...*

[View answer - Activity 7](" \l "Unit3_Session11_Answer1)

End of Activity

Start of Box

**Definite article il, la, lo, l’, i, le, gli**

In Italian, the definite article (meaning ‘the’) is used, as in English, to indicate a specific person or object; for example, something just mentioned or requested.

* Ecco il cappuccino. Here is the cappuccino.
* Ecco la pizza. Here is the pizza.

It is also used, unlike English, when referring to a category of objects.

* Le sue specialità sono il gelato e la cioccolata calda. Its specialities are ice cream and hot chocolate.

The Italian word for English ‘the’ (the definite article) is il, la, lo, l’ and the plural forms i, le and gli. The form depends on the gender (masculine/feminine) and number (singular/plural) of the noun it refers to and also on the first letter of that noun.

Masculine nouns take il with singular and i with the plural.

* il bicchiere the glass - i bicchieri the glasses
* il cornetto the croissant - i cornetti the croissants

Masculine nouns beginning with s + consonant (for example sc, sp), gn, pn, ps, x, z, and i or y followed by another vowel, take lo with the singular and gli with the plural.

* lo scontrino the receipt - gli scontrini the receipts
* lo zio the uncle - gli zii the uncles
* lo yogurt the yogurt - gli yogurt the yogurts

Feminine nouns take la with the singular and le with the plural.

* la birra the beer - le birre the beers
* la pizza the pizza - le pizze the pizzas

Nouns beginning with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) take l’ in the singular and gli or le in the masculine and feminine plural forms respectively.

* l’aperitivo the aperitif - gli aperitivi the aperitifs
* l’aranciata the orangeade - le aranciate the orangeades

End of Box

## 11 This week’s quiz

Check what you’ve learned this week by taking the end-of-week quiz.

[Week 2 quiz](https://www.open.edu/openlearn/ocw/mod/quiz/view.php?id=106450)

Open the quiz in a new window or tab (by holding ctrl [or cmd on a Mac] when you click the link), then return here when you have done it.

## 12 Summary of Week 2

Well done for completing Week 2!

The phrases, vocabulary and cultural insights you learnt this week should give you the confidence to order food and drinks at an Italian caffè.

You have also learnt several grammatical rules and may wonder how it will be possible to learn them all and apply them when necessary. For example, if your first language is English, you may find it hard to learn the different types of Italian definite and indefinite articles.

Memorising all these rules now may be difficult but remember that you have just started and have only had a few opportunities to practise. Don't worry about remembering everything. Just make good notes and go back to them when you meet the same words and grammatical structures again. Little by little you will start recognising and even using them. One way to learn articles more quickly is to make lists of new words and their associated articles. Group these words according to the article that preceded them. As you move on with your studies, add more words to your list.

Start of Activity

**Keeping a record of your learning**

Use the boxes below to place the nouns you have learned so far into their correct categories / with their correct definite articles.

Start of Question

**Il + masculine singular noun**

End of Question

*Example: il caffè*

Start of Question

**La + feminine singular noun**

End of Question

*Example: la pizza*

Start of Question

**i + masculine singular noun**

End of Question

*Example: i bicchieri*

Start of Question

**gli + masculine plural noun**

End of Question

*Example: gli aperitivi*

Start of Question

**l’+ singular noun starting with a vowel**

End of Question

*Example: l’amaro*

End of Activity

This OpenLearn course is an adapted extract from the Open University course [LXI001 Beginners Italian 1: primi passi](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/lxi001).

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## Acknowledgements

This free course was first published in December 2020.

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## Solutions

## Activity 3

#### Answer

The drinks mentioned are:

* una birra
* un caffè
* un bicchiere di vino bianco
* un tè
* un succo di frutta

[Back to - Activity 3](" \l "Unit2_Session4_Activity1)

## Activity 5

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

un

**Wrong:**

uno

una

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part1)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

un'

**Wrong:**

un

uno

una

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part2)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

un

**Wrong:**

uno

una

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part3)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

un

**Wrong:**

uno

una

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part4)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

uno

**Wrong:**

un

una

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part5)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

un

**Wrong:**

uno

una

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part6)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

un

**Wrong:**

uno

una

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part7)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

una

**Wrong:**

un

uno

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part8)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

un

**Wrong:**

uno

una

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part9)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

un

**Wrong:**

uno

una

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part10)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

una

**Wrong:**

un

uno

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part11)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

un

**Wrong:**

uno

una

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part12)

### Part

#### Answer

**Right:**

una

**Wrong:**

un

uno

un'

[Back to - Part](" \l "Unit2_Session8_Part13)

## Activity 6

#### Answer

**The correct matches are:**

paste

a.

pizzette

b.

cornetti

c.

tramezzini

d.

panini

e.

gelati

f.

[Back to - Activity 6](" \l "Unit2_Session9_Activity1)

## Activity 7

#### Answer

**The correct matches are:**

pasta

paste

pizzetta

pizzette

cornetto

cornetti

tramezzino

tramezzini

panino

panini

gelato

gelati

[Back to - Activity 7](" \l "Unit2_Session10_Activity1)

## Activity 8

#### Answer

* Cappuccino – cappuccini
* Caffè – caffè
* Cioccolata – cioccolate
* Tè – tè
* Birra – birre
* Aperitivo – aperitivi
* Cornetti – cornetto
* Paste- pasta
* Pizzette – pizzetta
* Panini – panino
* Piadine - piadina

[Back to - Activity 8](" \l "Unit2_Session11_Activity1)

## Activity 1

#### Answer

**Right:**

un cappuccino

un caffè

una brioche

una pasta

**Wrong:**

un cornetto

un aperitivo

un panino

un tè

una cioccolata

Maria and Piera order twice because in many Italian caffé you need to go to the till to place and pay for your order before being served.

They order:

* un cappuccino
* un caffè
* una brioche
* una pasta

[Back to - Activity 1](" \l "Unit3_Session3_Activity1)

## Activity 2

#### Answer

**The correct matches are:**

What would you like?

Desidera?

I would like

Vorrei

For me

Per me

Excuse me!

Scusi!

How can I help?

Mi dica?

For you (formal)

Per lei?

So

Allora...

* Desidera? - What would you like?
* Vorrei - I would like
* Per me - For me
* Scusi!- Excuse me!
* Mi dica- How can I help?
* Per Lei- For you (formal)
* Allora- So

[Back to - Activity 2](" \l "Unit3_Session5_Activity1)

## Activity 5

#### Answer

**The correct matches are:**

Caffè Fiorio

Turin

Caffè Gambrinus

Naples

Caffè Florian

Venice

Caffè Greco

Rome

Caffè San Marco

Trieste

* Turin - Caffè Fiorio
* Naples- Caffè Gambrinus
* Venice - Caffè Florian
* Rome- Caffè Greco
* Trieste- Caffè San Marco

[Back to - Activity 5](" \l "Unit3_Session9_Activity1)

## Activity 7

#### Answer

Here are the specialities from the transcript, with some of the forms of the Italian word for ‘the’ before them.

* la cioccolata
* le sfogliatelle
* i babà
* il tipico liquore al caffè
* la focaccia di polenta
* gli aperitivi
* gli spuntini

[Back to - Activity 7](" \l "Unit3_Session11_Activity1)

# Figure 1

## Description

Photo of the tables and chairs of a bar in a cobbled street with a church at the end of it. There are customers sitting at tables opposite to the façade of attractive old buildings with shutters and a balcony.

[Back to - Figure 1](" \l "Unit1_Session1_Figure1)

# Figure 1

## Description

Picture showing a cup of hot chocolate.

[Back to - Figure 1](" \l "Unit2_Session5_Figure1)

# Figure 2

## Description

This is a photo of a croissant and a cup of coffee on a caffè table; there are sugar sachets in a container and a paper napkin under the croissant.

[Back to - Figure 2](" \l "Unit2_Session7_Figure1)

# Figure 3 Un bar tipico

## Description

This is a drawing of the counter of a bar, with a barman serving ice creams from the ice cream section beside the counter. The six items labelled are: (a) small cakes, (b) mini-pizzas, (c) croissants, (d) sandwiches, (e) panini, (f) ice creams.

[Back to - Figure 3 Un bar tipico](" \l "Unit2_Session9_Figure1)

# Figure 4

## Description

This is a café price list showing the following items: (in the first half): cappuccino, caffè, cioccolata, tè, birra, aperitivo. (in the second half): cornetti, paste, pizzette, panini, piadine; The prices are under the title Prezzi al banco.

[Back to - Figure 4](" \l "Unit2_Session11_Figure1)

# Figure 1

## Description

Photo of people having drinks at an outdoor bar.

[Back to - Figure 1](" \l "Unit3_Session1_Figure1)

# Figure 2 La pausa caffé

## Description

This photo shows some businessmen leaving an outdoor table of a bar, having finished their morning coffee break, in a street in Rome.

[Back to - Figure 2 La pausa caffé](" \l "Unit3_Session2_Figure1)

# Figure 3 Uno scontrino (left), Un cartello (right)

## Description

There are two photos, The photo on the left is of a till receipt from an airport bar, showing the following words: Servair Air Chef SRL, Bar Oro di Napoli, Aeroporto Napoli Capodichino, and a VAT (IVA in Italian) number. The purchases listed, with prices in euros, are: Cornetto fagottino graffa 1,70, Caffè 1,10, Caffè 1,10, Subtotale 3,90, TOTALE EURO 3,90, Contanti Totale pezzi: 3, and the date and time of issue. The photo on the right is of a laminated sign hanging from the ceiling reading: Si prega la gentile clientela di pagare alla Cassa.

[Back to - Figure 3 Uno scontrino (left), Un cartello (right)](" \l "Unit3_Session4_Figure1)

# Figure 4 Caffè Gambrinus, Napoli

## Description

Photo of an elegant, traditional-style caffè counter with veneer panelling below, marble floor and gilt-decorated arches above.

[Back to - Figure 4 Caffè Gambrinus, Napoli](" \l "Unit3_Session5_Figure1)

# Figure 5 Caffè Greco, Roma

## Description

Photo of a room of the Caffè Greco, with a gentlemen sitting on a red-covered bench seating reading a paper. There are paintings and mirrors on the walls and small round marble-topped tables.

[Back to - Figure 5 Caffè Greco, Roma](" \l "Unit3_Session9_Figure1)

# Figure 6 La sfogliatella (left), Il babà (right)

## Description

There are two photos. The left-hand photo is of a pastry on a small plate and an espresso-size cup of coffee beside it. The right-hand photo is of a rum-baba with cream and glace cherry on top, on a small plate.

[Back to - Figure 6 La sfogliatella (left), Il babà (right)](" \l "Unit3_Session10_Figure1)

# Uncaptioned interactive content

## Transcript

INSTRUCTOR:

Cold drinks. English - Italian - Italian.

An orangeade. Un’aranciata.//Un’aranciata.

An orange juice. Una spremuta d’arancia.// Una spremuta d’arancia.

An apple juice. Un succo di mela.// Un succo di mela.

An aperitif. Un aperitivo.//Un aperitivo.

A liqueur. Un liquore.//Un liquore.

A beer. Una birra.//Una birra.

A mineral water. Un’acqua minerale.//Un’acqua minerale.

A sparkling wine. Uno spumante.//Uno spumante.

A glass of white wine. Un bicchiere di vino bianco.// Un bicchiere di vino bianco

[Back to - Uncaptioned interactive content](" \l "Unit2_Session3_MediaContent1)

# Uncaptioned interactive content

## Transcript

INSTRUCTOR:

Hot drinks.

A coffee. Un caffè.//Un caffè.

A tea. Un tè.// Un tè.

A cappuccino. Un cappuccino.// Un cappuccino.

An espresso. Un espresso.//Un espresso.

A macchiato coffee. Un macchiato.//Un macchiato.

A milky coffee. Un caffelatte.//Un caffelatte.

A hot chocolate. Una cioccolata.// Una cioccolata.

[Back to - Uncaptioned interactive content](" \l "Unit2_Session3_MediaContent2)

# Uncaptioned interactive content

## Transcript

Listen to a group of friends ordering drinks from a waitress and try to identify what drinks they are ordering.

CAMERIERA:

Buongiorno. Prego.

PAOLO:

Vorrei una birra.

ANNA:

Per me, un caffè.

TOMMASO:

Un bicchiere di vino bianco.

MARISA:

Un tè.

FILIPPO:

Un succo di frutta.

CAMERIERA:

Va bene. Una birra, un caffè, un bicchiere di vino bianco, un tè e un succo di frutta. Ecco.

PAOLO:

Grazie.

[Back to - Uncaptioned interactive content](" \l "Unit2_Session4_MediaContent1)

# Uncaptioned interactive content

## Transcript

CASSIERE:

Desidera?

MARIA:

Vorrei un cappuccino e una brioche.

PIERA:

E per me un caffè e una pasta.

CASSIERE:

Quattro euro.

MARIA:

Ecco.

CASSIERE:

Ecco lo scontrino

MARIA:

Grazie.

Scusi!

BARISTA:

Mi dica.

MARIA:

Vorrei un cappuccino e una brioche.

BARISTA:

E per Lei?

PIERA:

Per me un caffè e una pasta.

BARISTA:

Allora, un cappuccino, un caffè, una brioche e una pasta.

[Back to - Uncaptioned interactive content](" \l "Unit3_Session3_MediaContent1)

# Uncaptioned interactive content

## Transcript

CASSIERE:

Desidera?

MARIA:

Vorrei un cappuccino e una brioche.

PIERA:

E per me un caffè e una pasta.

CASSIERE:

Quattro euro.

MARIA:

Ecco.

CASSIERE:

Ecco lo scontrino

MARIA:

Grazie.

Scusi!

BARISTA:

Mi dica.

MARIA:

Vorrei un cappuccino e una brioche.

BARISTA:

E per Lei?

PIERA:

Per me un caffè e una pasta.

BARISTA:

Allora, un cappuccino, un caffè, una brioche e una pasta.

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# Uncaptioned interactive content

## Transcript

Now you will be placing some orders yourself. Listen to the questions and follow the prompts, as in the example.

Esempio

You hear: Buongiorno. Desidera?

(a coffee)

You say: Un caffè.

You hear: Un caffè.

Your turn now.

1 – Che cosa prendi?

(For me, a beer.)

– Per me una birra.

2 – Tu cosa prendi, Antonella?

– (An ice cream.)

– Un gelato.

3 – Carlo, per te?

(A glass of red wine.)

– Un bicchiere di vino rosso.

4 – Buongiorno. Desidera?

(A mineral water.)

– Un’acqua minerale.

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# Uncaptioned interactive content

## Transcript

INSTRUCTOR:

Here is some information about some historic Italian coffee houses.

In Italia ci sono molti caffè storici. Sono eleganti e raffinati, e offrono varie specialità. Il Caffè Fiorio è a Torino. Le sue specialità sono il gelato in estate e la cioccolata calda in inverno. A Napoli c’è il Caffè Gambrinus, famoso per le sfogliatelle e i babà. È anche molto conosciuto il Caffè Florian di Venezia, dove servono il tipico liquore al caffè. Un caffè storico molto importante di Roma è il Caffè Greco, rinomato per la focaccia di polenta. Il Caffè San Marco, invece, è a Trieste. Serve gli aperitivi con gli spuntini salati.

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