



ITALIAN TABLE

Parts of speech in Italian



Like in all languages, we form Italian sentences using terms that provide specific types of information. These are some of the most important ones:

Sostantivi (nouns)

Nouns are words that represent people, things, animals, ideas, or actions, such as: *uomo* (man), *tavolo* (table), *tigre* (tiger), *generosità* (generosity), *correre* (running)

Pronomi (pronouns)

Words that replace nouns allowing to talk about them, without explicitly naming them.

Marco compra una bottiglia d'acqua.

Marco buys a bottle of water.

Sub nouns with pronouns and the sentence becomes:

(Lui) La compra.

He buys it.

Verbi (verbs)

Verbs are words used to describe an action, state, or occurrence, like **correre** (to run), **esistere** (to exist), **accadere** (to happen).

Articoli (articles)

Words that precede nouns and indicate their gender and number. In Italian, articles are divided into articoli determinativi (definite articles), articoli indeterminativi (indefinite articles), and articoli partitivi (partitive articles).

il gatto (the cat)

una lumaca (a snail)

degli uccelli (some birds)

Aggettivi (adjectives)

Adjectives are words that are used to describe something, including people, animals, things, places, or ideas.

Adjectives are used to make many types of descriptions, such as stating the color, amount, category, appearance, or possession of something or someone.

una ragazza simpatica (a nice girl)



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Avverbi (adverbs)

Words that modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. In Italian, adverbs often have the suffix *-mente* (-ly).

*Parlano **sinceramente**.*

They speak sincerely.

Preposizioni (prepositions)

Prepositions are short words used to indicate location (on, at, in), movement (to), time (since, for), place (behind, beside) etc.

The basic Italian prepositions are *di, a, da, in, con, su, per, tra/fra*.

*Gianni è **a** (or, **in**) casa.*

Gianni is in the house.

*Maria va **a** teatro **con** Gianni.*

Maria goes to the theater with Gianni.

Congiunzioni (conjunctions)

Conjunctions are words or phrases that are used to link words, phrases, or “clauses” (sentences within sentences) together.

*Ho mangiato formaggio **e** grissini.*

I ate cheese **and** breadsticks.

*Gli piacciono i cani che sono **o** molto piccoli **o** molto grandi.*

He likes dogs that are **either** very small **or** very large.

*Marco ha mangiato il formaggio **ma** non ha mangiato i grissini.*

Marco ate cheese **but** did not eat the crackers.

*A Lucia piacciono i cani di piccola taglia **perché** può portarli sull'aereo con sè quando viaggia.*

Lucia likes small dogs **because** she can take them on the plane with her when she travels.

Interiezioni (interjections)

Little words that express emotions, like *Oh!, Ah!, Boh!* (Dunno!)

