

LIST OF ITALIAN RESOURCES

GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY

- **WordReference Bilingual Dictionary** (based on Oxford-Paravia, the best bilingual dictionary): <http://www.wordreference.com/enit/>
- **Garzanti Monolingual Dictionary** (Scroll down and look on the right of the screen for *Consulta Gratis* and the *Italiano* tab. Signup is free. <http://garzantilinguistica.sapere.it/>
- **Verb Conjugator:** <http://www.italian-verbs.com/verbi-italiani.htm> and <http://www.wordreference.com/conj/ITverbs.aspx>
- **Spaced Repetition: Proven Method for Learning and Retaining Vocabulary**
Memorize a list of words or facts (e.g., state capitals, U.S. presidents) of any kind, then test yourself a week later. You'll probably find that you've failed to retain at least half of them.

The spaced repetition system tests you at regular intervals (daily, twice daily, every other day—the choice is yours), and by constant repetition, the words or facts stick in your memory. Ten minutes a day every day is better than an hour once a week.

When the system was devised, it was paper-based. Nowadays, there are computer-based programs (electronic flashcards). You are adding new words all the time, and as you test yourself, you are able to grade words from “0 = totally failed to remember” to “5 = remembered instantly.” How you grade a word controls the frequency with which the program displays it to you, so the words you know are displayed less frequently than the ones with which you have difficulty.

Free Software

Among the various programs, the best may be **Mnemosyne**. It's a free download (with background information on the theory of spaced repetition and other things). Mnemosyne allows you to type vocabulary in a word at a time and import Excel and other files if that is how you store your vocabulary.

<http://www.mnemosyne-proj.org/>

LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Italy

- Università per Stranieri di Perugia (the most prestigious place in Italy to attend language courses and the most demanding). There are courses from absolute beginners (A-1) through extremely advanced (C-2). A written and verbal placement test before the course begins determines the level. Full courses are three months, but it is possible to attend for as little as one month: <http://www.unistrapg.it/en/university>
- Università di Pisa: http://www.emigrati.it/Ricerca/Pisa_University.asp
- Private language school with branches in Florence, Lucca, Elba, Cortona, and Bologna:
<http://www.koinecenter.com/>

- Private language school in Taormina, Sicily: <http://www.babilonia.it/>

Less well-known than la Stranieri in Perugia, but well-regarded:

- Il Centro Linguistico Università Stranieri Siena: <http://cluss.unistrasi.it/index.asp>

Washington Metro Area

- Arlington County Adult Ed: <http://www.apsva.us/adulted>
- Casa Italiana Scuola di Lingua: <http://www.casaitalianaschool.org/>
- Fairfax County Adult and Community Ed: <http://fcps.edu/aceclasses/>
- Italian Cultural Society: <http://www.italianculturalsociety.org/langprog.html>
- Northern Virginia Community College (classes and open language lab): <http://www.nvcc.edu/index.html>
- Maddalena Borea, group and private lessons, contact mmborea@earthlink.net

USA

- Middlebury College: Summer sessions in many languages including Italian. Requires signing a pledge to speak no English for the entire course: "In signing this Language Pledge, I agree to use _____ as my only language of communication while attending the Middlebury Language Schools. I understand that failure to comply with this Pledge may result in my expulsion from the School without credit or refund." <http://www.middlebury.edu/l/>. Check out the RAI video and "A Day at Middlebury Italian School: Graduate Level (Ricardo)" at http://www.middlebury.edu/l/italian/in_language/video

Conversation Practice

- Meetup: Italian conversation get-togethers in various places in DC, Northern Virginia, and Maryland. Signup is free. Go to <http://www.meetup.com/> and click on "Find" at the top of the screen.

CELI (Certificato di Conoscenza della Lingua Italiana)

- CELI is an internationally recognized qualification in the Italian Language from the Università per Stranieri di Perugia. There are examinations at several levels from beginners to extremely advanced. Casa Italiana, the Italian Cultural Society, and online sources offer preparatory courses, and you can sit the exam locally at various centers.
 - Get past papers here: http://www.lingua-italiana.gr/italiano/past_papers.htm

ITALIAN CULTURE

Print Media

- Corriere della Sera: <http://www.corriere.it/>
- La Repubblica: <http://www.repubblica.it/>
- La Stampa: <http://www.lastampa.it/>
- Oggi: <http://www.oggi.it/>
- Other Italian newspapers: <http://www.ciao-italy.com/categories/newspapers.htm>

TV

- RAI: <http://www.rai.it/>
- RAI Super Quark (great documentaries): <http://www.superquark.rai.it>

General Websites

- Ciao Italy. Main site is in English and links are to a mix of Italian and English sites: <http://www.ciao-italy.com/>
- Ebooks in Italian. List of sources for downloadable public domain (free) ebooks for Kindle, Nook, iPad, etc. <http://multilingualbooks.com/ebooks-italian.html>. Amazon also has out-of-copyright free Italian books for Kindle.
- Google Earth aerial view of the Pompeii excavations: <http://www.friendsofsorrento.co.uk/map-pompeii.htm> with links to aerial views of other places
- Il Narratore (audiobooks). Free content as well as paid, but you do have to dig around for the free stuff: <http://www.ilnarratore.com/>
- Italians in Washington, DC: Directed at expat Italians, but open to all for movies, lectures, events (including monthly aperitivo italiano), other information including Italian current events at <http://www.italiansindc.com/>
- Maxmondo Incontro Italiano. An online magazine targeted at foreigners learning Italian. There are podcasts, videos, audio, a newsletter, and the magazine. Some content is free and some is premium (paid): <http://www.maxmondo.com/>
- Oilproject. A virtual school with broad cultural content, lessons, and interactive activities. Thank you, Roberto, for giving me this link: <http://oilproject.org/>
- Princeton Dante Project: Full text of the Commedia; verse translation; audio of the poem in Italian; interpretive notes; other works of Dante: <http://etcweb.princeton.edu/dante/index.html>