

VOI
nostro
tu

The A-Z of Italian Pronouns

What is an Italian pronoun?

Pronouns help us refer to or call things without actually having to say their name. These nifty words replace nouns so that we don't have to continue using the noun's name over and over. You can use pronouns to refer to both people and things, and they are an integral part of everyday speech.

This booklet is a handy and comprehensive guide on all the Italian pronouns. Use this booklet as a quick reference or to practice on the go and you'll be a master of Italian pronouns in no time!

Italian subject pronouns

English	Italian	Italian example	English translation
I	<i>io</i>	<i>Io sono Italiana, e tu?</i>	I'm Italian, and you?
You	<i>tu</i>	<i>Tu lavori o studi?</i>	Do you work or study?
He	<i>lui</i>	<i>Lui è mio fratello.</i>	He's my brother.
She	<i>lei</i>	<i>Lei è mia cugina.</i>	She's my cousin.
We	<i>noi</i>	<i>Noi studiamo filosofia.</i>	We are studying philosophy.
You	<i>voi</i>	<i>Voi siete degli ingegneri?</i>	Are you engineers?
They	<i>loro</i>	<i>Loro non sanno l'inglese.</i>	They do not speak English.



Italian direct object pronouns

Direct object pronouns replace a direct object, which is the direct recipient of a verb, and usually answers the questions Cosa? (what?) or Chi? (whom?).

English	Italian
I am reading (what?) a book.	<i>Io sto leggendo (cosa?) un libro.</i>

Un libro is a direct object in the sentence above. Now, let's replace the direct object with a direct object pronoun:

English	Italian
I am reading <i>it</i> .	<i>Io lo sto leggendo.</i>



Direct object pronouns usually go before the verb.

English	Italian	Italian example	English translation
Me	<i>mi</i>	<i>Mi chiamerai tu?</i>	Will you call me?
You	<i>ti</i>	<i>Ti ho visto ieri.</i>	I saw you yesterday.
Him	<i>lo</i>	<i>Lo incontro spesso per caso.</i>	I often see him by chance.
Her	<i>la</i>	<i>La sento bene.</i>	I can hear her well.
It	<i>lo/la</i>	<i>È iniziata la musica. La senti?</i>	The music started. Can you hear it?
Us	<i>ci</i>	<i>Ci chiamate voi?</i>	Will you call us?
You	<i>vi</i>	<i>Vi chiamo domani.</i>	I'll call you tomorrow
Them (masculine)	<i>li</i>	<i>Li ho visti ieri.</i>	I saw them yesterday.
Them (feminine)	<i>le</i>	<i>Le ho viste ieri.</i>	I saw them yesterday.

Direct object pronouns can also attach to the end of a verb, in the case of imperatives or infinitives:

Italian	English
<i>Chiamalo!</i>	Call him!
<i>Vorrei chiamarli, ma non so se è una buona idea.</i>	I'd like to call them, but I don't know if it's a good idea.

Stress object pronouns

English	Italian	Italian example (sentence)	English translation
Me	<i>me</i>	<i>Perché hai chiamato me?</i>	Why did you call me?
You	<i>te</i>	<i>Ho chiamato te apposta.</i>	I called you on purpose.
Him/Her	<i>lui/lei</i>	<i>Hai visto lui o lei?</i>	Did you see him or her?
Us	<i>noi</i>	<i>Ha ascoltato noi alla fine.</i>	He listened to us in the end,

Italian direct object pronouns

English	Italian	Italian example (sentence)	English translation
To me	<i>mi</i>	<i>Mi hai detto qualcosa?</i>	Did you say something to me?
To you	<i>ti</i>	<i>Ti ha spiegato come funziona?</i>	Did she explain to you how it works?
To him	<i>gli</i>	<i>Gli hai offerto qualcosa?</i>	Did you offer something to him?
To her	<i>le</i>	<i>Le hai detto che non andremo?</i>	Did you tell her we're not going?
To us	<i>ci</i>	<i>Ci hanno portato la cena.</i>	They brought us dinner.
To you	<i>vi</i>	<i>Vi hanno detto dove andare?</i>	Did they tell you where to go?
To them	<i>loro (gli)</i>	<i>Gli hai detto che arriverò più tardi?</i>	Have you told them I am arriving later?



In the third person plural, you can either use **loro** after the verb or **gli** before the verb as an indirect object pronoun:

- **Gli** hai detto che arriverò tardi?
- Hai detto **loro** che arriverò tardi?

Gli is far more common, but loro is more grammatically correct. Indirect object pronouns, like direct ones, **can also attach to the end of a verb**, in the case of imperatives or infinitives:

Italian	English
<i>Spiegagli!</i>	Explain it to him!
<i>Vorrei dirle che mi dispiace.</i>	I'd like to tell her I'm sorry.

Italian reflexive pronouns

English	Italian	Italian example (sentence)	English translation
Myself	<i>mi</i>	<i>Mi alzo sempre presto.</i>	I always get up early.
Yourself	<i>ti</i>	<i>Ti lavi spesso?</i>	Do you wash yourself often?
Himself	<i>si</i>	<i>Lui/lei non si lava mai.</i>	He/she never washes himself/herself.
Ourselves	<i>ci</i>	<i>Ci siamo svegliati alle 7.</i>	We woke up at 7.
Yourselves	<i>vi</i>	<i>A che ora vi siete alzati?</i>	What time did you get up?
Themselves	<i>si</i>	<i>Si sono svegliati tardi.</i>	We woke up late.

Note that the reflexive pronoun agrees with the subject even when attached to the infinitive:

Italian	English
<i>Alzati!</i>	Get up!
<i>Voglio alzarmi./Mi voglio alzare.</i>	I want to get up.



Italian possessive pronouns

English	Masculine singular	Feminine singular	Masculine plural	Feminine plural
Mine	<i>mio</i>	<i>mia</i>	<i>miei</i>	<i>mie</i>
Yours (of tu)	<i>tuo</i>	<i>tua</i>	<i>tuoi</i>	<i>tue</i>
His, hers, its	<i>suo</i>	<i>sua</i>	<i>suoi</i>	<i>sue</i>
Ours	<i>nostro</i>	<i>nostra</i>	<i>nostri</i>	<i>nostre</i>
Yours (of voi)	<i>vostro</i>	<i>vostra</i>	<i>vostr</i>	<i>vostre</i>
Theirs	<i>loro</i>	<i>loro</i>	<i>loro</i>	<i>loro</i>

A possessive pronoun is used to replace a noun, so that we do not repeat it in a sentence.

Italian	English
<i>Questa tazza è la mia, quella è la sua.</i>	This cup is mine, that one is hers.
<i>I giornali sono i nostri, non i vostri.</i>	The magazines are ours, they are not yours!
<i>Quelle scarpe non sono le loro, sono le tue!</i>	Those shoes are not theirs, they're yours!

Italian relative pronouns

In Italian we have two invariable relative pronouns: *che*, and *cui*. *Che* is used in place of a subject or a direct object (thing or person). In English, it can often be translated as “that” or “who”.

Italian	English
<i>La bambina che hai visto con Luca è mia sorella.</i>	The girl that you saw with Luca is my sister.

Cui can have many different translations, as it indicates an indirect object. The pronoun itself always stays the same, but it can take various prepositions:

Italian	English
<i>Questo è il bar di cui ti ho parlato.</i>	This is the bar that I talked to you about.
<i>La ditta per cui lavoro è chiusa per ferie.</i>	The company I work for is closed for holidays.

We can also use *cui* preceded by an article to connect two related clauses to express a form of possession. In this case, it means “whose”.

Italian	English
<i>Giuliana, la cui figlia lavora con me, ha la mia età.</i>	Giuliana, whose daughter works with me, is my age.
<i>Quel gatto, i cui padroni sono Arnaldo e Mara, da cucciolo era bellissimo.</i>	That cat, whose owners are Arnaldo and Mara, was very cute as a puppy.



Italian indefinite pronouns

We use indefinite pronouns to talk about an indefinite person or thing. Some of the most commonly used are: **qualcuno** (some, someone), **qualcosa** (something), **nessuno** (no one) and **niente** (nothing).

Qualcuno, qualcosa, nessuno, niente: Rules

- **Qualcuno** can indicate an undefined quantity of things or people. It has a feminine form, **qualcuna**, and it is always singular.
- **Qualcuno** can also indicate one unspecified person. In this case, it is always masculine. *C'è qualcuno fuori.* (There is someone outside.)
- **Qualcosa** or **qualche cosa** are used to talk about one or more things. It only has a singular form and takes masculine adjectives. *C'è qualcosa di strano.* (There is something strange.)
- **Nessuno** means no one/ not one. It has a feminine form, **nessuna**, and it is always singular. *Non c'era nessuno al cinema.* (There was no one at the cinema.)
- **Niente** and **nulla** are synonyms, and they mean “nothing”. They are invariable and are masculine. *Oggi non c'era niente di buono da mangiare.* (Today there was nothing good to eat.)

Indefinite pronouns: More examples

There are many more indefinite pronouns in Italian, here are some examples:

- **Alcuni / alcune** (Some)
- **Chiunque** (Anyone)
- **Ognuno / ognuna** (Every one / Each one)

Italian demonstrative pronouns

English	Masculine singular	Feminine singular	Masculine plural	Feminine plural
This	<i>questo</i>	<i>questa</i>	<i>questi</i>	<i>queste</i>
That	<i>quello</i>	<i>quella</i>	<i>quelli</i>	<i>quelle</i>

Combined pronouns

Combined pronouns are the combination of indirect pronouns + direct pronouns or the particle “ne”.

Note that indirect pronouns “mi, ti, ci, vi”, when they join another pronoun, change the “i” to an “e”.

	Lo	La	Li	Le	Ne
Mi	<i>Me lo</i>	<i>Me la</i>	<i>Me li</i>	<i>Me le</i>	<i>Me ne</i>
Ti	<i>Te lo</i>	<i>Te la</i>	<i>Te li</i>	<i>Te le</i>	<i>Te ne</i>
Gli	<i>Glielo</i>	<i>Gliela</i>	<i>Glieli</i>	<i>Gliele</i>	<i>Gliene</i>
Le	<i>Glielo</i>	<i>Gliela</i>	<i>Glieli</i>	<i>Gliele</i>	<i>Gliene</i>
Ci	<i>Ce lo</i>	<i>Ce la</i>	<i>Ce li</i>	<i>Ce le</i>	<i>Ce ne</i>
Vi	<i>Ve lo</i>	<i>Ve la</i>	<i>Ve li</i>	<i>Ve le</i>	<i>Ve ne</i>

