100 Italian phrases from shows Dalle serie

The tags: casual friends, family and people your age. polite strangers, older people, shops. rude hear it, don't say it. careful can offend. slang young, street Italian. Rome Naples north where you hear it. No tag: anyone, anywhere.

Greetings and goodbyes

Ciao casual
hi, and also bye

Buongiorno
good morning, hello. Until early afternoon

Buonasera
good evening, hello, from mid-afternoon

Buonanotte
good night, when someone goes to bed

Salve
hello, when you're not sure about tu or Lei

Come va? casual
how's it going?

Come stai? casual
how are you? To someone you call Lei: Come sta?

Tutto bene?
all good? everything OK?

Ehi! casual
hey!

A dopo
see you later, later today

Ci vediamo
see you

Arrivederci
goodbye

ArrivederLa polite
goodbye, very formal, to one person you call Lei

Uè! Naples
hey! hi! (Milan says uei)

Bella! Rome slang
hi! hey! Bella zio, bella raga

Reactions

Dai!
come on! go on! Also: give it here

Ma dai!
no way! you're kidding!

Boh casual
dunno. Comes with a shrug

Magari!
I wish! if only!

Ma va! casual
get away! no way! Also: of course not

Mamma mia
oh my God, wow. Italians really say it

Davvero?
really?

Meno male
thank goodness

Basta!
enough! stop!

Figurati casual
don't mention it. Also: as if!

Che figata! casual
how cool! awesome!

Che schifo!
gross! disgusting!

Accidenti!
darn! the mild one, fine in front of nonna

Cavolo!
damn! (it means cabbage)

Mannaggia! casual
damn it! oh no!

Uffa! casual
ugh! when bored or fed up

Che palle! careful
what a drag! (palle: balls)

Ammazza! Rome
wow! (from ammazzare, to kill)

Daje! Rome
come on! let's go! you can do it!

Ciumbia! north
wow! gosh! a bit old-school

Figa! north careful
wow! dude! It's also a crude word for a woman

Italian around Italy. Everything without a tag works everywhere. Rome says **daje**, **annamo**, **mo'** and **ammazza**. Naples says **uè** and **guagliò**. Milan and the north say **ciumbia**, **figa** and **zio**. In Tuscany a c between vowels can sound like an h: **la hasa** for **la casa**.

Love and fights Amore e litigi

Love and drama

Ti amo
I love you, to a partner

Ti voglio bene
I love you, to family and friends

Mi manchi
I miss you

Scusami
I'm sorry, forgive me

Perdonami
forgive me, for something big

Non lasciarmi
don't leave me

Sei tutto per me
you're everything to me

Mi sono innamorato
I've fallen in love. A woman says innamorata

Mi ami?
do you love me?

Fidati di me
trust me

Dobbiamo parlare
we need to talk

È finita
it's over

Mi hai mentito
you lied to me

Non è come sembra
it's not what it looks like

Arguments

Lasciami in pace!
leave me alone!

Stai zitto! casual
shut up! Just Zitto! for short

Vattene!
go away! get out!

Ma che dici?
what are you on about?

Smettila!
stop it!

Ma sei scemo? casual
are you stupid?

Ma che vuoi? casual
what do you want? what's your problem?

Che ti prende?
what's got into you?

Non toccarmi!
don't touch me!

Non è giusto!
that's not fair!

Bugiardo!
liar! To a woman: bugiarda

Mi dai sui nervi
you're getting on my nerves

Chi se ne frega! casual
who cares! I couldn't care less

Va' a quel paese! casual
go to hell! the polite way to say it

Vaffanculo! rude
f*** off!

Ti amo or ti voglio bene? **Ti amo** is romantic love, for a partner, and it's a big thing to say. **Ti voglio bene** is warm love for family and friends, and partners say it too, every day. Texts shorten it to TVB.

Mi manchi works backwards. Word for word it's you are missing to me, so the person you miss is the subject: **mi manchi**, I miss you. **Ti manco** means you miss me. **Ti manco?** Do you miss me?

-o for him, -a for her: bugiardo! to a man, bugiarda! to a woman. The same goes for **stai** zitto and **stai** zitta, **sei** scemo and **sei** scema, innamorato and innamorata.

Everyday talk La vita di tutti i giorni

Everyday and spoken Italian

Ho fame
I'm hungry (word for word: I have hunger)

Che ore sono?
what time is it?

Non fa niente
never mind, it doesn't matter

Va bene
OK, fine

Andiamo
let's go

Aspetta
wait. To someone you call Lei: aspetti

Dimmi
tell me. Also: yes? what is it?

Non lo so
I don't know

Prego
you're welcome, and more. See below

Permesso
may I? excuse me, coming through

Allora
so, well then. Starts half of all lines

Senti
listen, hey. To someone you call Lei: senta

Ecco
here it is, there you go

Come no!
of course! sure!

Tranquillo
relax, don't worry. To a woman: tranquilla

Ci sta
casual

fair enough, that works

Che casino!
casual

what a mess!

Sono stanco morto
casual

I'm dead tired. A woman says stanca morta

Cin cin!
cheers!

Buon appetito
enjoy your meal

Salute!
bless you! Also: cheers!

Mo'
Rome Naples

now, in a moment: mo' arrivo, coming

Annamo!
Rome

let's go! The Roman andiamo

Prego does a lot of jobs. After grazie it means you're welcome. Holding a door, it's after you. A host saying it means come in, sit down, help yourself. In a shop, **Prego?** means what can I get you? **Permesso?** is what you say as you walk into someone's home.

Hands talk too

Italians talk with their hands, and shows are full of it. Four you'll see all the time, and what people say with them. **Boh** comes with a shrug and a pushed-out lower lip.

Pinched fingers
All the fingertips pressed together, pointing up, and the hand moved up and down.

Ma che vuoi? Ma che dici? Ma dai!

Cheek twist
The tip of the index finger pressed into the cheek and twisted.

Buono! Tasty!

Chin flick
The back of the fingers brushed forward from under the chin.

Chi se ne frega!

Loose wrist shake
An open hand shaken loosely at the wrist, as if flicking off water.

Mamma mia! Ammazza!

Calling people Tu o Lei?

Two ways to say you. **tu** is close, **Lei** keeps a polite distance. Saying tu is **dare del tu**. Shows mark the switch: **Diamoci del tu** means let's say tu, and the characters have just got closer.

tu

casual

you, casual

Friends, family, kids, people your age, and most people online.

Lei

polite

you, polite

Strangers, older people, bosses, shops. It takes the she form of the verb: Come sta?

la signora, il signore

polite

madam, sir, Mrs, Mr

With Lei, in shops and at work. With a surname: la signora Rossi, buongiorno signor Rossi.

dottore, dottoressa

polite

doctor, and a polite title

Not just doctors: anyone with a degree, lawyers, officials, a boss. Flattery works.

amore

love, my love

Partners, and parents to their kids: Amore, dove sei? Love, where are you?

tesoro

darling (word for word: treasure)

Partners and kids. From a waitress or a nonna it's just friendly.

caro, cara

dear, darling

Partners and old friends. Mio caro can also sound cold, as in a threat.

fratello, frate

Rome

brother, bro

Friends, mostly guys. Frate is the short Roman form, big in rap.

ragazzi

guys, everyone

Any group, men, women or mixed: Ciao ragazzi! Raga for short.

zio

slang

dude, bro (word for word: uncle)

Young people. It started in Milan and now you hear it everywhere.

guagliò

Naples

kid, lad, mate

Naples, to a boy or a young guy. A girl is guagliona.

voi

you all

Any group, casual or polite: Venite anche voi? Are you coming too?

Not sure? start with **Lei** and wait to be offered **tu**. The older person or the boss offers it. Young people say tu to each other straight away. The articles are in the usual colours: il blue, la pink.

Practice Pratica

5 · ten lines to cover and recall

How: cover the right side with a strip of paper. Read the English, say the Italian out loud, then slide the strip down to check. Do it again tomorrow with the lines you missed.

1	**I miss you**	**Mi manchi** word for word: you are missing to me
2	**leave me alone!**	**Lasciami in pace!** la pace: peace
3	**I don't know**	**Non lo so** lo: it, so: I know
4	**thank goodness**	**Meno male** word for word: less bad
5	**I love you, to family and friends**	**Ti voglio bene** family and friends, not a crush
6	**what are you on about?**	**Ma che dici?** comes with pinched fingers
7	**see you**	**Ci vediamo** add dopo, domani or presto
8	**stop it!**	**Smettila!** smetti: stop, la: it
9	**don't mention it. Also: as if!**	**Figurati** to someone you call Lei: si figuri
10	**never mind, it doesn't matter**	**Non fa niente** word for word: it does nothing

The subtitle may not match the accent. Italian shows mix regional accents and dialect. Gomorra and L'amica geniale are full of Neapolitan, Suburra of Roman. The subtitles show standard Italian, so you may read **andiamo** while the actor says **annamo**, or **ragazzo** for **guagliò**. Some dialect is so far from Italian that Italians watch it with subtitles too.

Meet a word you don't know? In Kitsumi, hover any word in Italian subtitles to see what it means.