



Andante: beginners' Italian

Ordering food and drinks

One of the important aspects you will need to work on in order to improve your speaking skills is your pronunciation.

To start with, the most important thing is that you try to pronounce the vowels as clearly as possible. It is especially important that the vowels at the end of words are clear. So it's not "pasta" or "panino", as you would say in English! Listen to the model, and repeat after it:

Pasta, pasta
Panino, panino
Gelato, gelato
Vino, vino
Prego, prego
Va bene, va bene

All the words and expressions we've been listening to end in a vowel, and it is important you try to pronounce the vowels as accurately as possible.

The other area you will probably need to work on is the combinations, "er", "or", "ar", and so on. This is not one sound, as in English "er", "or", or "ar", but two, "er", "or", "ar": so it's not 'bar', but *bar*. Listen, and repeat after the model:

Bar, bar

And now, an expression with both "er" and "or":

Per favore, per favore

As well as greetings, unit 1 also covers **ordering food and drinks**. Listen to this dialogue in a bar. What are they asking for?

Waitress: Buona sera. Prego.
Customer 1: Per me una birra.
Customer 2: E per me un'aranciata. Ci porta anche delle patatine?

Listen to the waitress as she checks the order. Were you right?

Waitress: Allora, una birra, un'aranciata, e le patatine.

Yes, they wanted a beer, and orange juice, and some crisps. When you go to a bar in Italy you may have to order your drink and pay for it first at the till, and then give the waiter the ticket when you place your order. Listen to this dialogue, and pay attention to what the cashier says:

Cassiere: Buon giorno. Prego.
Customer 1: Per me un caffè e una brioche.
Customer 2: E per me un cappuccino e una pasta.
Cassiere: 4 euro.
Customer 1: Ecco.
Cassiere: Ecco lo scontrino.

The cashier said the price, 4 euro, and also said: "Ecco lo scontrino", here's your receipt. Listen again:

Cassiere: Buongiorno. Prego.
Customer 1: Per me un caffè e una brioche.
Customer 2: E per me un cappuccino e una pasta.
Cassiere: 4 euro.
Customer 1: Ecco.
Cassiere: Ecco lo scontrino.

If you go to Italy with your friends and family, you might find yourself having to translate for them. Listen to this dialogue in which Davide, an Italian man, has to do just that for his friends Ruth and Anne.

Waiter: Buonasera, prego.
Davide: What would you like, Ruth?
Ruth: Can I have a beer?
Davide: Una birra. And for you Ann?
Ann: An orange juice and an ice-cream for me.
Davide: Una spremuta di arancia e un gelato.
Waiter: E per lei?
Davide: Per me, un'acqua minerale, per favore.
Waiter: Allora: una birra, un'acqua minerale, una spremuta d'arancia e un gelato.
Va bene?
Davide: Va bene.

Now it's your time to speak! Let's listen to the dialogue again, and this time you will have to play the role of Davide, and translate the orders into Italian.

Waiter: Buonasera, prego.
Davide: What would you like, Ruth?
Ruth: Can I have a beer?
Davide: <now you say it in Italian> <gap> Una birra. And for you Ann?
Ann: An orange juice and an ice-cream for me.
Davide: <now translate what Ann wants> <gap> Una spremuta di arancia e un gelato.
Waiter: E per lei?
Davide: <Say: For me, a mineral water, please><gap> Per me, un'acqua minerale, per favore.
Waiter: Allora: una birra, un'acqua minerale, una spremuta d'arancia e un gelato. Va bene?
Davide: <Say: that's right><gap> Va bene.

Well, we have reached the end of this episode. We hope you have enjoyed it, and that it has been useful. See you again soon!