



Andante: beginners' Italian

Greetings in Italian

Hello, and welcome to the first podcast for the Open University Italian beginners' course L195, *Andante*.

In the first unit of the course you come across different greetings, so let's start by listening to Ana greet her daughter, Susanna, and her niece, Vale.

- Ciao Susanna.
- Ciao mamma.
- Ciao Vale.
- Ciao Zia.

Did you notice that Vale says: "*Ciao zia*". "*Zia*" is the Italian for auntie.

Ana is going out. She says "see you later". Listen out for how she says that expression in Italian.

- Ciao Susanna, ci vediamo più tardi.
- Ciao Mamma, a dopo!

Did you catch the expression for "See you later"? Ana said: "*Ci vediamo più tardi*", and Susanna replied "*A dopo!*", literally, "until later."

Now, listen to Anna and Vale. What time of day is this greeting?

- Ciao Vale, buonanotte.
- Ciao Zia, buonanotte.

They wished each other "*buonanotte*", good night. Now listen to Ana wish Susanna good night too.

- Ciao Susanna, buonanotte.
- Ciao Mamma, anche a te.

Ana said "*buonanotte*" and Susanna replied: "*Anche a te*", you too. The following morning, Ana asks the girls what they want for breakfast. Can you understand what they want?

- Allora, Vale. Cosa vuoi per colazione?
- Latte e cereali, come sempre.
- Ciao Susanna. Cosa vuoi per colazione?
- Della cioccolata calda con dei biscotti.

Vale wants milk and cereals, as always: "*Latte e cereali, come sempre*". Susanna wants "*della cioccolata calda con dei biscotti*", hot chocolate and biscuits. Did you notice that the girls didn't say please? When ordering a drink or a snack in a bar, or when asking a relative or friend for something, it is quite acceptable in Italian not to say please and thank you all the time, like you do in English. It might sound a bit harsh to English speakers, but it is not rude in Italian.

Unit 1 also covers some other greetings. Listen to Ana introduce Patrizio to Pier Luigi.

- Patrizio, questo è Pierluigi.
- Ciao, Pierluigi. Piacere.
- Come va?
- Bene bene. Tutto bene.

Did you notice that Patrizio used the expression: "*Piacere*", pleased to meet you. Pier Luigi asked Patrizio "*Come va?*", how are you? Let's listen to it again:

- Patrizio, questo è Pierluigi.
- Ciao, Pierluigi. Piacere.
- Come va?
- Bene bene. Tutto bene.

Now listen to Patrizio greeting Rita. He also uses the expression "*come va*", how are you?

- Ciao Rita, come va?
- Bene, grazie.