

Chapter 3: Sound Like an Italian

In This Chapter

- Italian pronunciation
- Your ABCs
- To stress or not to stress
- Different letter combinations
- Spelling your name in Italian

Learning a new language is like having a box filled with puzzle pieces that haven't been fit together. At first, it's all just a jumble of sounds and letters and words, but slowly, almost imperceptibly, your *confusione* is replaced with *comprensione* as a clear picture emerges.

Italian Pronunciation

Initially, it seems as though anyone speaking Italian is singing. There is a continuity and fluidity that reminds you of a beautifully sustained note. This has a great deal to do with the fact that almost all Italian words end in a vowel and are often pronounced as if joined together.

With few exceptions, Italian pronunciation is very easy to learn. As a phonetic language, what you see is what you say—at least most of the time. Once you learn how to read the music, you'll be able to play along with anyone.

The key is to understand the basic differences between the English and Italian rules of pronunciation. For example, in Italian, the word *cinema* is written exactly the same as in English; however, in Italian it is pronounced *chee-nee-mah*. The same *ci* is used in the word *ciao*.

You'll find that certain Italian sounds may initially present a challenge to the English speaker, most notably the rolled *R* and the letter combination *gli* (pronounced *ylee*, like "million"). Nonetheless, after some time even these sounds will come easily to the attentive listener.

Attenzione!

When pronouncing Italian words, keep your tongue and mouth alert. Emphasize double consonants without overstressing letters or syllables; otherwise you'll end up sounding like someone trying a little too hard.

Italian requires clean diction with clearly pronounced vowels and *s*. Double consonants in words such as *anno* (year), *birra* (beer), and *gatto* (cat) should be emphasized. Avoid sounding overly nasal or guttural.

You will see less of the pronunciation in later chapters. Flip back to this chapter if you are not sure of how a word should be pronounced.

Your ABCs

The Italian language uses the Latin alphabet. Unlike English, however, the Italian alphabet contains only 21 letters, borrowing the letters *j*, *k*, *w*, *x*, and *y* for words of foreign origin.

As you read, you'll discover that the spelling of Italian words follows a logical pattern.

Getting the Accent

In this case, we're not talking about what Sofia Loren and Roberto Benigni have when speaking English. Italian uses the grave accent (̀), pronounced *grav*, on words where the stress falls on the final syllable: *caffè*, *città*, *università*.

With Italians being who they are, and Italian being what it is, you may also see the acute accent used (especially in older text and phrasebooks), particularly with the words *benché* (although) and *perché* (because/why). Don't be surprised to find conflicting examples.

The written accent is also used to distinguish several Italian words from others that have the same spelling but a different meaning.

è	is	e	and
sì	yes	si	oneself
dà	gives	da	from
sè	himself	se	if
là	there	la	the
né	nor	ne	some

La Bella Lingua

In Italian, the apostrophe is generally used to indicate the dropping of the final vowel:

l'animale instead of *lo animale*

d'Italia instead of *di Italia*

dov'è instead of *dove è*

Don't Get Stressed Out

As a rule, most Italian words are stressed on the next-to-last syllable, such *signorina* (*see-nyoh-ree-nah*), and *minestrone* (*mee-neh-stroh-neh*).

Exceptions exist, making rules rather difficult to follow. Some words are stressed on the third-to-last syllable, such as *automobile* (*ow-toh-moh-bee-leh*) and *dialogo* (*dee-ah-loh-goh*).

Other words—mostly verb forms—are stressed on the fourth-to-last syllable, such as *studiano* (*stoo-dee-ah-noh*), and *telefonano* (*teh-leh-foh-nah-noh*).

Finally, stress should be placed on the last syllable when you see an accent mark at the end of a word, such as *città* (*chee-tah*), *università* (*oo-nee-ver-see-ta*), and *virtù* (*veer-too*).

Attenzione!

Some Italian letter combinations are seldom found in English. These sounds include the *gl* combination in words such as *figlio* (son) (pronounced *fee-lyoh*); the word *gli* (the) (pronounced *ylee*, like the *ll* in the English word *million*); and the *gn* combination, seen in words such as *gnocchi* (potato dumplings) (pronounced *nyoh-kee*), and *bagno* (bathroom) (pronounced *bah-nyoh*, like the *ny* sound in *canyon* or the *ni* sound in *onion*).

I've indicated in the early chapters where to put the stress in words of three syllables or more, and in words of two syllables with an accented (and thus stressed) syllable. In the future, consult a good dictionary when you are unclear about which syllable should be emphasized. Generally, you will see either an accent placed above, or a dot placed below the stressed vowel.

As a Rule

For the purposes of clarity, the pronunciation used in this text is designed to be read phonetically.

Always remember to enunciate vowels clearly and not to slur your words. Say what you see.

Double *RR*'s should be held and emphasized when trilled.

Double consonants should always be emphasized—but never as separate sounds. They should be joined and slide into one another, as in the word *pizza* (*pee-tsah*).

Rolling Your *R*'s

There are a few sounds in Italian that are not found in English, the most obvious being the rolled *R*. Some people can roll their *R*'s forever, but if you are not one of them, here's a mini-guide on rolling your

R: place the tip of your tongue so that it's touching the roof of your mouth just behind your front teeth. Now curl the tip of your tongue and exhale. You should get the beginning trill of a rolled *R*. Once you get it, be subtle—a little trill will do.

La Bella Lingua

In linguistic parlance, the term "rhotacism" is defined, among other things, as the incorrect or overuse of *R*'s in pronunciation.

The Long and the Short of It: Vowels

The Italian word for "vowel"—*vocale*—is almost the same as the English word "vocal," a good reminder that Italian vowels should always be pronounced clearly. If you can master the vowels, you're already halfway to the point of sounding Italian. The following table shows how the vowels are pronounced. Read aloud to practice.

Pronouncing Vowels Properly

Vowel	Sound	Example	Pronunciation
a	ah	artista	ar-tee-stah
e	eh	elefante	eh-leh-fahn-teh
i	ee	isola	ee-zoh-lah
o	oh	opera	oh-peh-rah
u	oo	uno	oo-noh

The Hard and Soft of It: Consonants

The following table contains a list of consonants and includes letters recognized in foreign languages. Once you get the hang of it, Italian is so easy to pronounce that it would be just as simple to read the words without the pronunciation guide. Most Italian consonants are pronounced like the English ones. It's the different letter combinations that take a little study. Roll on.

Pronouncing Consonants Properly

Letter	Sound	Example	Pronunciation	Meaning
b	bee	bambino	bahm-bee-noh	child, m.
c + a, o, u	hard c (as in "cat")	candela	kahn-deh-lah	candle
c + e, i	ch (as in	centro	chen-troh	center/downtown

	"chest")			
ch	hard <i>c</i> (as in "cat")	<i>Chianti</i>	<i>kee-ahn-tee</i>	Chianti (a red wine)
d	<i>dee</i>	<i>due</i>	<i>doo-eh</i>	two
f	<i>eff</i>	<i>frase</i>	<i>frah-zeh</i>	phrase
g + a, o, u	hard <i>g</i> (as in "go")	<i>gatto</i>	<i>gah-toh</i>	cat
g + e, i	<i>j</i> (as in "gem")	<i>gentile</i>	<i>jen-tee-leh</i>	kind
gli	<i>ylee</i> (as in "million")	<i>figlio</i>	<i>fee-lyoh</i>	son
gn	<i>nya</i> (as in "onion")	<i>gnocchi</i>	<i>nyoh-kee</i>	potato dumplings
h	silent	<i>hotel</i>	<i>oh-tel</i>	hotel
j*	<i>juh</i> (hard j)	<i>jazz</i>	<i>jaz</i>	jazz
k*	<i>kuh</i> (hard k)	<i>koala</i>	<i>koh-ah-lah</i>	koala
l	<i>ell</i>	<i>lingua</i>	<i>leen-gwah</i>	language
m	<i>em</i>	<i>madre</i>	<i>mah-dreh</i>	mother
n	<i>en</i>	<i>nido</i>	<i>nee-doh</i>	nest
p	<i>pee</i>	<i>padre</i>	<i>pah-dreh</i>	father
q	<i>kew</i>	<i>quanto</i>	<i>kwahn-toh</i>	how much
r	<i>er</i> (slightly rolled)	<i>Roberto</i>	<i>roh-ber-toh</i>	Robert
rr	<i>err</i> (really rolled)	<i>birra</i>	<i>bee-rah</i>	beer
s (at beginning of word)	<i>ess</i> (as in "see")	<i>serpente</i>	<i>ser-pen-teh</i>	snake
s	<i>s</i> (as in "rose")	<i>casa</i>	<i>kah-zah</i>	house
sc + a, o	<i>sk</i>	<i>scala</i>	<i>skah-lah</i>	stair
sc + e, i	<i>sh</i>	<i>scena</i>	<i>sheh-nah</i>	scene
t	<i>tee</i>	<i>tavola</i>	<i>tah-voh-lah</i>	table
v	<i>v</i>	<i>vino</i>	<i>vee-noh</i>	wine
w*	<i>wuh</i>	<i>Washington</i>	<i>wash-eeng-ton</i>	Washington
x*	<i>eeks</i>	<i>raggi-x</i>	<i>rah-jee eeks</i>	x-ray
y*	<i>yuh</i>	<i>yoga</i>	<i>yoh-gah</i>	yoga
z	<i>z</i>	<i>zebra</i>	<i>zeh-brah</i>	zebra
zz	<i>ts</i>	<i>pazzo</i>	<i>pah-tsoh</i>	crazy

*These letters are used in words of foreign origin.

La Bella Lingua

The best way to remember how a particular letter combination should be pronounced is to simply recall a word that you already know. *Per esempio*, the word *ciao* is pronounced with the soft *c*, as in "chow." Other words with the *c + i* combination include *cinema*, *bacio*, and *amici*.

The word *Chianti* is pronounced with a hard *c*, as in *kee-ahn-tee*. When you come across other words (such as *chi* and *perchè*) with this combination, you'll know just how they're pronounced.

Practice Those Vowels

Now try to pronounce these words, focusing just on the vowels.

A

Say *ah*, as in "father":

madre	fila	canto	casa	strada	mela
<i>mah-dreh</i>	<i>fee-lah</i>	<i>kahn-toh</i>	<i>kah-zah</i>	<i>strah-dah</i>	<i>meh-lah</i>
(mother)	(line)	(song)	(home)	(street)	(apple)

E

Say *eh*, as in "make" or "let":

padre	sera	festa	bene	età	pensione
<i>pah-dreh</i>	<i>seh-rah</i>	<i>fes-tah</i>	<i>beh-neh</i>	<i>eh-tah</i>	<i>pen-see-oh-neh</i>
(father)	(evening)	(party)	(well)	(age)	(motel)

I

Say *ee*, as in "feet":

idiota	piccolo	pulire	in	idea	turista
<i>ee-dee-oh-</i>	<i>pee-koh-</i>	<i>poo-lee-</i>	<i>een</i>	<i>ee-deh-</i>	<i>too-ree-</i>

<i>tah</i>	<i>loh</i>	<i>reh</i>		<i>ah</i>	<i>stah</i>
(idiot)	(small)	(to clean)	(in)	(idea)	(tourist)

O

Say *oh*, as in "note" or "for":

donna	bello	cosa	albero	gatto	uomo
<i>doh-nah</i>	<i>beh-loh</i>	<i>koh-zah</i>	<i>ahl-beh-roh</i>	<i>gah-toh</i>	<i>woh-moh</i>
(woman)	(beautiful)	(thing)	(tree)	(cat)	(man)

U

Say *oo*, as in "crude":

luna	una	cubo	lupo	tuo
<i>loo-nah</i>	<i>oo-nah</i>	<i>koo-boh</i>	<i>loo-poh</i>	<i>too-oh</i>
(moon)	(a)	(cube)	(wolf)	(your)

Give Me the Combo

Italian pronunciation follows a pretty consistent, easy-to-remember format. The rules change depending on what vowel is connected to what consonant. By remembering even one word's pronunciation that follows a given rule, you can always fall back on that word as a way of checking yourself.

The following examples illustrate many letter combinations you'll find in Italian.

C Is for Casa

Look at all that you can do with the letter *c*.

Letter Combination	Sound	Pronunciation Guide	
c + a, o, u	k	Say <i>c</i> , as in "camp"	
casa	amico	caro	bocca
<i>kah-zah</i>	<i>ah-mee-koh</i>	<i>kah-roh</i>	<i>boh-kah</i>
(house)	(friend)	(expensive/dear)	(mouth)
colore	conto	cultura	giacca

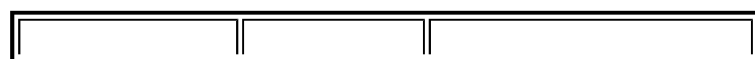
<i>koh-loh-reh</i>	<i>kohn-toh</i>	<i>kool-too-rah</i>	<i>jah-kah</i>
(color)	(bill/check)	(culture)	(jacket)
c + h	k	Say c, as in "camp"	
chiamare	occhio	perché	Machiavelli
<i>kee-ah-mah-reh</i>	<i>oh-kee-yoh</i>	<i>per-keh</i>	<i>mah-kee-ah-veh-lee</i>
(to call)	(eye)	(why)	(Machiavelli)
chiaro	chiuso	macchina	ricchi
<i>kee-ah-roh</i>	<i>kee-yoo-zoh</i>	<i>mah-kee-nah</i>	<i>ree-kee</i>
(clear/light)	(closed)	(car)	(rich, m.p.)
c + e, i	ch	Say ch, as in "cherry"	
accento	cena	città	ceramica
<i>ah-chen-toh</i>	<i>che-nah</i>	<i>chee-tah</i>	<i>cheh-rah-mee-kah</i>
(accent)	(dinner)	(city)	(ceramic)
ciao	bacio	Francia	cioccolata
<i>chow</i>	<i>bah-choh</i>	<i>frah-chah</i>	<i>choh-koh-lah-tah</i>
(hi/bye)	(kiss)	(France)	(chocolate)

G Is for Gamba

Practice getting your g's right.

Letter Combination	Sound	Pronunciation Guide	
g + a, o, u	g	Say g, as in "great"	
gamba	lago	gufo	prego
<i>gahm-bah</i>	<i>lah-goh</i>	<i>goo-foh</i>	<i>preh-goh</i>
(leg)	(lake)	(owl)	(you're welcome)
gambero	mago	strega	gusto
<i>gahm-beh-roh</i>	<i>mah-goh</i>	<i>streh-gah</i>	<i>goo-stoh</i>
(shrimp)	(wizard)	(witch)	(taste)

The letter combination *gh* is also pronounced like the *g* in *go*, as in *funghi* (mushrooms).



Letter Combination	Sound	Pronunciation Guide	
g + e, i	j	Say <i>g</i> as in "gem"	
gelato	giovane	giacca	viaggio
<i>jeh-lah-toh</i>	<i>joh-vah-neh</i>	<i>jah-kah</i>	<i>vee-ah-joh</i>
(ice cream)	(young)	(jacket)	(voyage)
formaggio	gente	giorno	maggio
<i>for-mah-joh</i>	<i>jen-teh</i>	<i>jor-noh</i>	<i>mah-joh</i>
(cheese)	(people)	(day)	(May)
g + n	ny	Say "onion"	
lavagna	signore	legno	gnocchi
<i>lah-vah-nyah</i>	<i>see-nyoh-reh</i>	<i>leh-nyoh</i>	<i>nyoh-kee</i>
(blackboard)	(sir, Mr.)	(wood)	(potato dumplings)
ragno	compagna	signora	guadagno
<i>rah-nyoh</i>	<i>kohm-pah-nyah</i>	<i>see-nyoh-rah</i>	<i>gwah-dah-nyoh</i>
(spider)	(countryside)	(Mrs., Ms.)	(earnings)

S Is for Scandolo

The letter *s* is quite slippery.

Letter Combination	Sound	Pronunciation Guide	
sc + a, h, o, u	sk	Say <i>sk</i> , as in "skin"	
sconto	scusa	scandalo	pesca
<i>skohn-toh</i>	<i>skoo-zah</i>	<i>skahn-dah-loh</i>	<i>pes-kah</i>
(discount)	(excuse)	(scandal)	(peach)
scuola	schifo	fiasco	schizzo
<i>skwoh-lah</i>	<i>skee-foh</i>	<i>fee-ah-skoh</i>	<i>skee-tsoh</i>
(school)	(disgust)	(fiasco)	(sketch)
sc + e, i	sh	Say <i>sh</i> , as in "sheet"	
sci	pesce	scena	lasciare
<i>shee</i>	<i>peh-sheh</i>	<i>sheh-nah</i>	<i>lah-shah-reh</i>
(skiing)	(fish)	(scene)	(to leave

			something)
scioppo	sciocco	sciopero	scelto
<i>shee-roh-poh</i>	<i>shee-oh-koh</i>	<i>shoh-peh-roh</i>	<i>shel-toh</i>
(syrup)	(fool)	(strike)	(choice)

As a Rule

Try using this expression the next time you want to ask someone how to say something in Italian:

Come si dice ...? (How do you say ...?)

Question: *Come si dice ice cream in italiano?*

Answer: *Si dice gelato.*

Did you notice any similarity between the words you just read and their English counterparts? You know more than you think! It's important to see how much Italian and English share. Remember that a lot of English derives from Latin. It helps to make associations with familiar words. Each time you do this, you are creating a bridge from one shore to another. For example, the word *luna* (moon) comes from Latin, as we see in the English word "lunatic." It was once believed that "lunacy" came from the full moon. All sorts of associations can be made to "illuminate" (in Italian, *illuminare*) these connections.

Attenzione!

Say "Ah!" The real key to success is to make sure you are pronouncing your vowels correctly: *a* (*ah*), *e* (*eh*), *i* (*ee*), *o* (*oh*), and *u* (*oo*).

Diphthongs

No, a diphthong is not a teeny-weeny bikini. The term "diphthong" refers to any pair of vowels that begins with one vowel sound and ends with a different vowel sound within the same syllable. The term literally means "two voices" (*di* = "two"; *thong* = "tongue/ voice") and originally comes from Greek.

Italian utilizes many diphthongs such as *olio* (pronounced *ohl-yoh*), *quanto* (*kwahn-toh*), and *pausa* (*pow-sah*). Keep in mind that not all pairs of vowels form diphthongs.

Double Consonants

Anytime you see a double consonant in a word, such as *birra* (beer) or *anno* (year), it is important to emphasize that consonant, or you may be misunderstood. Take a look at a few words whose meanings change when there is a double consonant. As you will see, in some cases you *definitely* want to emphasize those double consonants:

<i>ano</i> (ah noh)	anus	<i>anno</i> (ahn noh)	year
<i>casa</i> (kah zah)	house	<i>cassa</i> (kahs sah)	cash register
<i>pena</i> (peh nah)	pity	<i>penna</i> (pehn nah)	pen
<i>pene</i> (peh neh)	penis	<i>penne</i> (pen neh)	pens
<i>sete</i> (seh teh)	thirsty	<i>sette</i> (set teh)	seven
<i>sono</i> (so noh)	I am	<i>sonno</i> (sohn noh)	sleepy

As a Rule

Unless beginning a word, a single *s* is pronounced like *z*, as in the name *Gaza*, or *s*, as in "busy" and the Italian word *casa* (house).

A double *ss* is pronounced like the *s* in the English word "tassel" and the Italian word *passo* (pass).

A single *z* is pronounced like the *z* in the word "zebra."

A double *zz* is pronounced like the *ts* in the English word "cats" and the Italian word *piazza* (plaza).

Double consonants will not be highlighted in the pronunciation. It's up to you to emphasize them. Practice pronouncing the following words, remembering to slide the syllables together:

mamma	sorella	cappello	atto	pazzo	bocca	Anna
mah-mah	soh-reh-lah	kah-peh-loh	ah-toh	pah-tsoh	boh-kah	ah-nah
(mom)	(sister)	(hat)	(act)	(crazy)	(mouth)	(Ann)

What's What

In Italian, two vowels do not necessarily produce a diphthong. The word *zia* (*zee-ah*) maintains two distinct, separate sounds and consequently does not produce a diphthong.

On the other hand, the word *Italia* (*ee-tahl-yah*) does produce a diphthong.

Keep in mind that diphthongs are always pronounced as one sound.

A Is for Ancona

When spelling out words, rather than using proper names like you do in English (*T* as in Tom), Italians often use the names of Italian cities. For example, *A come Ancona*, *I come Imola*, *T come Torino* (*A* as in *Ancona*, *I* as in *Imola*, *T* as in *Torino*), and so on. A practical way of remembering the alphabet is to learn how to spell your name in Italian. The name of the Italian letter is given beside the letter. The stressed syllable is in bold. Examples of foreign letters are given with commonly used nouns.

Letter	Italian Name of Letter	Example	Pronunciation
A	<i>a</i>	<i>Ancona</i>	<i>ahn-koh-nah</i>
B	<i>bi</i>	<i>Bologna</i>	<i>boh-loh-nyah</i>
C	<i>ci</i>	<i>Cagliari</i>	<i>kahl</i> -yah-ree
D	<i>di</i>	<i>Domodossola</i>	doh-moh- <i>doh</i> -soh-lah
E	<i>e</i>	<i>Empoli</i>	<i>em</i> -poh-lee
F	<i>effe</i>	<i>Firenze</i>	fee- <i>ren</i> -zeh
G	<i>gi</i>	<i>Genova</i>	<i>jeh</i> -noh-vah
H	<i>acca</i>	<i>hotel</i>	oh-tel
I	<i>i</i>	<i>Imola</i>	<i>ee</i> -moh-lah
J*	<i>i lunga</i>	<i>jolly</i>	jah-lee
K*	<i>cappa</i>	<i>kaiser</i>	ky-zer
L	<i>elle</i>	<i>Livorno</i>	lee- <i>vor</i> -noh
M	<i>emme</i>	<i>Milano</i>	mee- <i>lah</i> -noh
N	<i>enne</i>	<i>Napoli</i>	<i>nah</i> -poh-lee
O	<i>o</i>	<i>Otranto</i>	oh- <i>tran</i> -toh
P	<i>pi</i>	<i>Palermo</i>	pah- <i>ler</i> -moh
Q	<i>cu</i>	<i>quaderno</i> (notebook)	kwah- <i>der</i> -noh
R	<i>erre</i>	<i>Roma</i>	roh-mah
S	<i>esse</i>	<i>Sassari</i>	<i>sah</i> -sah-ree

T	<i>ti</i>	<i>Torino</i>	<i>toh-ree-noh</i>
U	<i>u</i>	<i>Udine</i>	oo-dee-neh
V	<i>vu</i>	<i>Venezia</i>	veh-neh-zee-ah
W*	<i>doppia vu</i>	<i>Washington</i>	wash-eeng-ton
X*	<i>Ics</i>	<i>raggi-x</i>	<i>rah-jee eek-seh</i>
Y*	<i>ippsilon</i>	<i>York</i>	<i>york</i>
Z	<i>zeta</i>	<i>Zara</i>	<i>zah-rah</i>

*These letters have been borrowed from other languages.

Get Help!

The best way to learn how to speak another language is to spend time listening to it. If you don't have live entertainment, some suggestions include these:

- **Audiocassettes.** Visit your local *biblioteca* (library) or *libreria* (bookstore) to see what they have on hand. Audio cassettes are excellent for developing listening skills. You may want to see if your local *università* has a language lab you can use.

La Bella Lingua

Expand your vocabulary. Play the Italian name game with friends interested in learning Italian. Using the letters of a famous Italian name, see how many Italian words you can come up with. Keep your Italian dictionary close by.

For example: Leonardo Di Caprio

<i>leone</i> (lion)	<i>capra</i> (goat)
<i>lepra</i> (hare)	<i>rana</i> (frog)
<i>principe</i> (prince)	<i>cena</i> (dinner)
<i>onore</i> (honor)	<i>delirio</i> (delirium)

- **Language CDs for the computer.** If you're computer-savvy, invest in an Italian/English *dizionario* or educational translation program appropriate for your computer and purposes. Some even have "talking" programs that will pronounce the words for you.

- **Internet.** There are many wonderful sites now offering audio samples.
- **Music.** Listen to the Italian radio station or invest in some music you've never heard before. Aside from opera, you'll find Italian hip-hop, rock and roll, and traditional folk songs, often with lyrics. Listen to the different dialects.

Patience and Practice Pay Off

Anyone who has ever studied—or even heard someone studying—a new musical instrument knows that the first time you pick up a violin, you're not going to sound like a *virtuoso* (yet another Italian word). Fortunately, learning Italian is much easier than playing a *violino*. With a dash of *pazienza*, a dollop of dedication, and a pinch of *pratica*, you'll be rolling your *R*'s and sounding like a true Italian speaker in no time. Keep renting films, listening to *musica*, and getting out there. Practice makes *perfetto*.

The Least You Need to Know

- Let your tongue do the talking. Tickle a single *R*, but rrrrrroll your double *RR*'s. Rev them like an engine, purr like a cat, or growl like a bear.
- Don't slur—enunciate vowels, yet keep your Italian from sounding forced and unnatural.
- Fluidity is key. Slide those syllables together!
- Look for interesting Italian Web sites and language cassettes to support your language studies.
- Practice, practice, practice!

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