

The 'past' the Italian way

To talk about events in the past in Italian you need the **passato prossimo**, which is made up of the present tense of **essere** or **avere** + past participle.

essere (to be)

(io) sono
(tu) sei
(lui/lei) è
(noi) siamo
(voi) siete
(loro) sono

avere (to have)

(io) ho
(tu) hai
(lui/lei) ha
(noi) abbiamo
(voi) avete
(loro) hanno



Using the 'past' the Italian way

Most verbs have **regular** past-participles:
mangiare (to eat) = **mangiato**
vendere (to sell) = **venduto**
dormire (to sleep) = **dormito**

Most verbs will take **avere** to form the passato prossimo:
Ho mangiato una pizza = I ate a pizza
Hai dormito molto? = Did you sleep a lot?
Abbiamo bevuto molto! = We drank a lot!

Verbs that take **essere** are generally:

verbs of movement, i.e.
sono andato (I went)
sono arrivato (I arrived)
sono tornato (I came back)

verbs that indicate 'being' or 'change', i.e.
sono stato (I was/I stayed)
sono nato (I was born)
sono ingrassato (I put on weight)

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Did you know?

- 73% percent of employers are looking to employ people with conversational language skills.
- Recent graduates who study Modern Foreign Languages have entered careers in public administration, business consultancy, the media, education, IT, marketing, banking, the law, the civil service, and tourism.
- In a poll of 500 employers, two in five recruiters said speaking a second language gives a candidate the 'x-factor' when applying for a job.
- Speaking a second language also boosts earnings. Research reveals the mean salary of language graduates three years after finishing university is ahead of engineering, maths, physics and astronomy, and chemistry graduates.
- 1 in 10 British people are living and working abroad after learning a foreign language.

Scioglilingua *Tongue twisters*

Apelle, figlio di Apollo, fece una palla di pelle di pollo e tutti i pesci vennero a galla, per vedere la palla di pelle di pollo fatta da Apelle, figlio di Apollo.

Apelle, son of Apollo, made a ball of chicken skin and all the fish rose to the surface to see the ball of chicken skin made by Apelle, son of Apollo.

Trentatré Trentini entrarono a Trento,
tutti e trentatré, trotterellando.

*Thirty three people from Trento came into Trento,
all thirty three trotting.*



Falsi amici *False friends*

Don't get confused when staying in Italian hotels...

camera = room

caldo means hot, and cold is **freddo**, so be careful with taps labelled C!

eventualmente means possibly, so it may not happen however long you wait...

morbido = soft, so that's a good thing for your bed to be

Siete forestieri? = Are you foreigners?
It did have something to do with the forest, but that is lost in the mists of time...

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