

Student Grammar Appendix

A. Usi dell'articolo determinativo

1. In contrast to English, the definite article is required in Italian:
 - a. before nouns used to express a concept or a category of something in its entirety
La generosità è una virtù.
Le matite non sono care.
 - b. before names of languages, unless directly preceded by a form of **parlare** or **studiare**
Lo spagnolo è bello.
La signora Javier parla spagnolo e tedesco.
 - c. with proper names accompanied by a title or an adjective
Il signor Bandelli vuole andare a Chicago e a San Francisco.
Il piccolo Franco, però, vuole andare a Disneyland!
 - d. with days of the week to indicate a routine event
Il martedì ho lezione di matematica.
 - e. with dates
Oggi è **il** quattro dicembre.
 - f. with possessive forms
Ecco **la** mia casa!
 - g. with parts of the body and items of clothing
Mi lavo **le** mani prima di mangiare.
Perché non ti sei messo **la** cravatta?
 - h. with geographical names
Quest'estate visiteremo l'Italia e **la** Francia.

2. Note that the category of geographical names includes not only continents and countries but also states, regions, large islands, mountains, and rivers.

L'estate scorsa abbiamo visitato **il** Colorado, l'Arizona e **la** California. *Last summer we visited Colorado, Arizona, and California.*

Ho ricevuto una cartolina **dalla** Sardegna. *I've received a card from Sardinia.*

3. The definite article is omitted after **in** (*in, to*) if the geographical term is feminine, singular, and unmodified.

Chi vuole andare in Italia? *Who wants to go to Italy?*

but

Chi vuole andare **nell'**Italia centrale? *Who wants to go to central Italy?*

If the geographical term is masculine or plural, **in** + *article* is used.

Aspen è **nel** Colorado. *Aspen is in Colorado.*

Mio padre non è nato **negli** Stati Uniti. *My father wasn't born in the United States.*

Vado in vacanza nelle Hawaii. *I am going on vacation to Hawaii.*

4. The definite article is not used with names of cities. *In* or *to* before the name of a city is expressed with **a** in Italian.

La Torre Pendente è **a** Pisa. *The Leaning Tower is in Pisa.*

5. Names of U.S. states that are feminine in Italian follow the same rules as those for feminine countries.

la California
la Carolina (del Nord, del Sud)
la Florida
la Georgia

la Louisiana
la Pennsylvania
la Virginia

Conosci **la** California? *Do you know California?*
Dov'è l'Università **della** Georgia? *Where's the University of Georgia?*
Quante cartoline hai ricevuto **dalla** Louisiana? *How many cards have you received from Louisiana?*
Sei mai stato **in** Virginia? *Have you ever been to Virginia?*

The names of all other states are masculine* and usually take the article whether used alone or with a preposition.

Il Texas è un stato grande. *Texas is a big state.*
L'Università **del** Colorado è a Boulder. *The University of Colorado is in Boulder.*
New Haven è **nel** Connecticut. *New Haven is in Connecticut.*

*The only exception is Hawaii, which is feminine plural: **le Hawaii**.

B. Gerundio e il presente progressivo

1. The gerund (**il gerundio**) corresponds to the *-ing* verb form in English. The gerund is formed in Italian by adding **-ando** to the stem of **-are** verbs and **-endo** to the stems of **-ere** and **-ire** verbs. Its form is invariable.

lavorare → **lavorando**
scrivere → **scrivendo**
partire → **partendo**

2. Italian constructions with the gerund have many possible English equivalents.

Lavorando con un compagno, completate l'esercizio.	<i>Working with a classmate, complete the exercise.</i>
Frequentando regolarmente le lezioni, imparo molto.	<i>By attending classes regularly, I learn a lot.</i>
Andando in macchina , penso sempre ai miei problemi!	<i>While I drive, I always think about my problems!</i>

3. The present tense of **stare** can be combined with the gerund to form the present progressive tense (**il presente progressivo**): **sto lavorando** (*I am working*). This tense is used to stress that an action is in progress.

Che cosa state guardando ?	<i>What are you watching?</i>
Stiamo studiando .	<i>We are (in the process of) studying.</i>
Dove stai andando ?	<i>Where are you going (right now)?</i>
Sto andando a scuola.	<i>I am going to school.</i>

4. In Italian, unlike English, the gerund is never used as the subject of a sentence or as a direct object. The infinitive is used in these cases.

Imparare bene una lingua non è facile.	<i>Learning a language well is not easy.</i>
Preferisci cantare o ballare ?	<i>Do you prefer singing or dancing?</i>

5. **Bere**, **dire**, and **fare** have irregular gerunds: **bevendo**, **dicendo**, and **facendo** respectively.

Sto bevendo un'aranciata.	<i>I'm drinking an orange soda.</i>
Cosa stai dicendo ?	<i>What are you saying?</i>
La nonna sta facendo una passeggiata.	<i>Grandma is taking a walk.</i>

6. Remember that Italian constructions with the gerund have many possible English equivalents.

Leo passa il suo tempo libero andando a caccia.	<i>Leo spends his free time hunting.</i>
Puoi imparare a cucinare leggendo libri di cucina!	<i>You can learn how to cook by reading cookbooks!</i>
Cosa dice il professore uscendo dalla classe?	<i>What does the professor say as he's leaving class?</i>

C. Futuro anteriore

1. The future perfect (**il futuro anteriore**) (*I will have worked, they will have left*) is formed with the future of **avere** or **essere** + *past participle*.

FUTURE PERFECT	
WITH AVERE	WITH ESSERE
avrò } avrà } avrà } avremo } avrete } avranno }	sarò } sarai } sarà } saremo } sarete } saranno }
lavorato	partito/a partiti/e

2. The future perfect is used to express an action that will already have taken place by a specific time in the future or when a second action occurs. The second action, if expressed, is always in the future tense.

Alle sette avremo già mangiato. *By seven, we'll already have eaten.*
Dopo che avranno visitato la *After they have visited Sicily,*
Sicilia, torneranno a casa. *they'll return home.*

3. Just as the future tense is used to express probability, the future perfect can be used to indicate probability or speculation about something that may or may not have happened in the past.

Renato ha trovato una *Renato found a room in Venice.*
camera a Venezia. Avrà *He must have made*
prenotato molto tempo fa! *reservations a long time ago!*
Le finestre sono chiuse. I Fossati *The windows are closed. The*
saranno andati a letto. *Fossatis must have gone to bed.*

D. Congiunzioni che richiedono il congiuntivo

1. A conjunction (**una congiunzione**) is a word that connects other words, phrases, or clauses. None of the conjunctions you have learned so far require the subjunctive.

Ti telefonerò **appena** usciranno *I'll call you as soon as the ads*
gli annunci. *come out.*
Leggero **mentre** aspettavo *I was reading while I was waiting*
l'autobus. *for the bus.*
Ha preparato la cena **dopo che** *She fixed supper after her husband*
suo marito era tornato dal *had come home from work.*
lavoro.

2. Some conjunctions *always* take the subjunctive. The most common are

affinché } perché }	<i>so that</i>
a meno che... non	<i>unless</i>
prima che	<i>before (someone doing something)</i>
senza che	<i>without (someone doing something)</i>
benché } sebbene }	<i>although</i>
a condizione che } purché }	<i>provided that</i>

Danno dei corsi **perché** gli impiegati **siano** aggiornati.

They offer courses so that their employees are up-to-date.

Non posso darti un passaggio **a meno che** mio marito **non riporti** la macchina.

I can't give you a ride unless my husband brings back the car.

Telefonale **prima che** lei **assuma** un altro!

Call her before she hires someone else!

Devi fare domanda **senza che** lui lo **sappia**.

You must apply without his knowing.

3. The subjunctive is used after **prima che**, **senza che**, and **perché** or **affinché** (in the sense of *so that*) *only* when the subjects of the two connected clauses are different. When they are the same, use **prima di** + *infinitive*, **senza** + *infinitive*, or **per** + *infinitive*. Compare:

Fa' domanda **prima che parta** la signora Bruni!

Apply before Mrs. Bruni leaves!

Fa' domanda **prima di partire!**
Lavora **perché (affinché)** i figli **possano** frequentare l'università.

Apply before you leave!
She works so that her children can go to college.

Lavora **per poter** frequentare l'università.

She works so that she can go to college.

E. Altri usi del congiuntivo

The subjunctive is also used in the following situations:

1. in a dependent clause introduced by an indefinite word or expression

chiunque	<i>whoever, whomever</i>
comunque	<i>no matter how</i>
dovunque	<i>wherever</i>
qualunque	<i>whatever, whichever (adjective)</i>
qualunque cosa	<i>whatever, no matter what (pronoun)</i>

Chiunque tu **sia**, parla!
Dovunque tu **vada**, troverai
lavoro.
Qualunque cosa succeda,
informateci!

Whoever you are, speak!
Wherever you go, you'll find a job.

Whatever happens, let us know!

2. in a clause introduced by a relative superlative

È l'azienda **più grande** che ci **sia**.
È la persona **più interessante**
con cui io **abbia** mai **parlato**.

It's the largest firm that there is.
She is the most interesting person
with whom I've ever spoken.

3. in a clause introduced by a negative

Mi dispiace, ma non c'è **niente**
che io **possa** fare.
Non c'è **nessuno** a cui io **voglia**
telefonare.

I'm sorry, but there's nothing I
can do.
There isn't anyone whom I want
to call.

4. in a relative clause that follows an indefinite expression (someone or something that is hypothetical or unspecified). Compare the following.

Abbiamo una segretaria che
conosce il francese e l'inglese.
Cerchiamo una segretaria che
conosca il francese e l'inglese.

We have a secretary who knows
French and English.
We're looking for a secretary who
knows French and English.

F. Imperfetto del congiuntivo

1. The imperfect subjunctive (**l'imperfetto del congiuntivo**) uses the same stem as the imperfect indicative—the stem formed by dropping the **-re** of the infinitive—and adds the same set of endings to verbs of all conjugations.

	lavorare	scrivere	dormire	capire
che io	lavorassi	scrivessi	dormissi	capissi
che tu	lavorassi	scrivessi	dormissi	capissi
che lui/lei/Lei	lavorasse	scrivesse	dormisse	capisse
che	lavorassimo	scrivessimo	dormissimo	capissimo
che	lavoraste	scriveste	dormiste	capiste
che	lavorassero	scrivessero	dormissero	capissero

Note:

essere	bere	dare	dire	stare	fare
fossi	bevevsi	dessi	dicessi	stessi	facevsi
fossi	bevevsi	dessi	dicessi	stessi	facevsi
fosse	bevesse	desse	dicesse	stesse	facesse
foſsimo	bevevſimo	deſsimo	dicevſimo	ſteſsimo	facevſimo
foſte	bevevte	deſte	dicevte	ſteſte	facevte
foſſero	bevevſero	deſſero	dicevſero	ſteſſero	facevſero

2. The conditions that call for the use of the present subjunctive also apply to the use of the imperfect subjunctive. The imperfect subjunctive is used when the verb in the independent clause is in any *past tense* or the *conditional* and the action of the dependent clause occurs *simultaneously with* or *after* the action of the independent clause.

Credo che **abbia** ragione.

I think she's right.

Credevo che **avesse** ragione.

I thought she was right.

Non è probabile che **prendano**
una decisione.

*It isn't likely they'll make a
decision.*

Non **era** probabile che
prendessero una decisione.

*It wasn't likely they would make a
decision.*

G. Trapassato del congiuntivo

1. The pluperfect subjunctive (**il trapassato del congiuntivo**) is formed with the imperfect subjunctive of **avere** or **essere** + *past participle* of the verb.

VERBI CONIUGATI CON AVERE	VERBI CONIUGATI CON ESSERE
che io avessi	che io fossi
che tu avessi	che tu fossi
che lui/lei avesse	che lui/lei fosse
che avessimo	che fossimo
che aveste	che foſte
che avessero	che foſſero

lavorato }
partito/a }
partiti/e }

2. The pluperfect subjunctive is used in place of the **trapassato indicativo** whenever the subjunctive is required.

Avevano capito.

They had understood.

Speravo che **avessero capito.**

I was hoping they had understood.

3. It is also used in a dependent clause when the verb in the independent clause is in a *past tense* or the *conditional* and the action of the dependent clause occurred *before* the action of the independent clause.

Ho paura che non **abbiano risolto** quel problema.

I'm afraid they didn't resolve that problem.

Avevo paura che non **avessero risolto** quel problema.

I was afraid they hadn't resolved that problem.

È il più bel paesaggio che io **abbia** mai **visto**.

It's the most beautiful landscape I have ever seen.

Era il più bel paesaggio che io **avessi** mai **visto**.

It was the most beautiful landscape I had ever seen.

H. Correlazione dei tempi nel congiuntivo

As you know, the tense of the subjunctive is determined by the tense of the verb in the independent clause and by the time relationship between the two clauses.

1. When the independent clause is in the present tense, future tense, or command forms, the dependent clause may be in the present tense if its action occurs at the same time or in the future, or in the past tense if its action happened in the past.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE	DEPENDENT CLAUSE
presente futuro imperativo	congiuntivo presente (<i>same time or future</i>) congiuntivo passato (<i>past</i>)

Spero che lui non **interferisca**.
Non **vorranno** che lui **interferisca**.

I hope he doesn't interfere.
They won't want him to interfere.

Spero che lui non **abbia interferito**.

I hope he didn't interfere.

Sii contento che lui non **abbia interferito!**

Be glad he didn't interfere!

2. When the independent clause is in any past tense or in the present or past conditional, the dependent clause may be in the **imperfetto del congiuntivo** if its action occurred at the same time or later than that of the independent clause, or in the **trapassato del congiuntivo** if its action preceded that of the independent clause.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE	DEPENDENT CLAUSE
imperfetto passato prossimo passato remoto trapassato condizionale condizionale passato	congiuntivo imperfetto (<i>same time or future</i>) congiuntivo trapassato (<i>past</i>)

Credevo che non soffrissero di solitudine.	<i>I thought they weren't suffering from loneliness.</i>
Avevo sperato che non soffrissero di solitudine.	<i>I had hoped they wouldn't suffer from loneliness.</i>
Vorrei che non soffrissero di solitudine.	<i>I wish they wouldn't suffer from loneliness.</i>
Credevo che non avessero sofferto di solitudine.	<i>I thought they hadn't suffered from loneliness.</i>
Vorrei che non avessero sofferto di solitudine.	<i>I wish they hadn't suffered from loneliness.</i>

Attenzione! If the subject of both clauses is the same, the infinitive is used.

Credevo di rimanere troppo a casa.	<i>I thought I was staying home too much.</i>
Credevo di essere rimasto/rimasta troppo a casa.	<i>I thought I had stayed home too much.</i>

I. Periodo ipotetico con l'indicativo

Conditional sentences consist of two clauses: an *if* clause that specifies a condition and a main clause that indicates the outcome of that condition: *If I don't sleep, I become irritable. If they arrive early, we'll go to the beach.*

1. In Italian, **se** introduces the condition. When the condition is real or possible, the **se** clause is in an indicative tense (present, future, or past), and the main clause is in either the indicative or the imperative.

SE CLAUSE	MAIN CLAUSE
INDICATIVE	INDICATIVE OR IMPERATIVE
present tense se + future tense past tenses	present tense future tense past tenses imperative

Se vuole vedere il film, venga con noi.

Se avevate fame, perché non avete mangiato?

Se andrai in Italia, dovrai visitare Venezia.

If you want to see the film, come with us.

If you were hungry, why didn't you eat?

If you go to Italy, you must visit Venice.

2. When the main clause is in the future tense, the **se** clause must *also* be in the future. In English, by contrast, the *if* clause is in the present tense.

Se **leggerete** il romanzo, **apprezzerete** di più il film.

If you read the novel, you will appreciate the film more.

J. Periodo ipotetico con il congiuntivo

1. In conditional sentences that describe contrary-to-fact situations in the present (whether likely or unlikely to happen), the **se** clause is in the *imperfect subjunctive* and the main clause is in the *conditional*.

SE CLAUSE	MAIN CLAUSE
SUBJUNCTIVE	CONDITIONAL
se + imperfect subjunctive	present conditional conditional perfect

Se **avessi** più tempo, **vedrei** tutti i film di Pasolini.

Se tu non **fossi** tanto pigro, **avresti** già **mandato** gli inviti.

If I had more time, I would see all of Pasolini's films.

If you weren't so lazy, you would have sent the invitations already.

2. Contrary-to-fact situations in the past are expressed with a **se** clause in the *pluperfect subjunctive* and the main clause in the *conditional*.

SE CLAUSE	MAIN CLAUSE
PLUPERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE	CONDITIONAL
se + pluperfect subjunctive	present conditional conditional perfect

Se **avessi avuto** più tempo, **avrei visto** tutti i film di Pasolini.

Se tu non **fossi stato** tanto pigro, **avresti** già **mandato** gli inviti.

If I had had more time, I would have seen all of Pasolini's films.

If you hadn't been so lazy, you would have sent the invitations already.

3. The conditional is used *only* in the main clause, *never* in the **se** clause. Only the subjunctive may be used in the **se** clause of a contrary-to-fact sentence.

K. Fare + infinito

1. **Fare** + *infinitive* is used to express *to have something done* or *to have someone do something*. A noun object follows the infinitive. Compare these sentences.

Il falegname ripara la porta.	<i>The carpenter repairs the door.</i>
Il proprietario fa riparare la porta.	<i>The owner has the door repaired.</i>
Scrivo la pubblicità.	<i>I'm writing the ad.</i>
Faccio scrivere la pubblicità.	<i>I'm having the ad written.</i>

2. When a pronoun replaces the noun object, it ordinarily precedes the form of **fare**. The pronoun may attach to **fare** only when **fare** is in the infinitive form or in the first or second person of the imperative.

Faccio lavare la macchina; la faccio lavare ogni sabato.	<i>I'm having the car washed; I have it washed every Saturday.</i>
Desidero far mettere il telefono; desidero farlo mettere nel mio studio.	<i>I wish to have a phone put in; I wish to have it put in my study.</i>
Fa' riparare il televisore; fallo riparare al più presto!	<i>Have the TV set repaired; have it repaired as soon as possible!</i>

3. When the sentence has only one object, it is a direct object. When there are two objects, the *thing* is the direct object and the *person* is the indirect object. When the indirect object is a noun or a disjunctive pronoun, it takes the preposition **a**.

Fanno leggere Marco .	<i>They make Marco read.</i>
Lo fanno leggere.	<i>They make him read.</i>
Fanno leggere le notizie a Marco .	<i>They make Marco read the news.</i>
Fanno leggere le notizie a lui . Gli fanno leggere le notizie. }	<i>They make him read the news.</i>
Gliele fanno leggere.	<i>They make him read them.</i>

In compound tenses, the past participle **fatto** agrees in gender and number with the direct object.

Mi hanno fatto portare le valige.	<i>They had me carry the luggage.</i>
Me le hanno fatte portare.	<i>They had me carry them.</i>

4. When the use of **a** could cause ambiguity, **a** + *person* is replaced by **da** + *person*.

TWO POSSIBLE MEANINGS

Ho fatto scrivere una lettera a Mario .	{ <i>I had Mario write a letter.</i> <i>I had a letter written to Mario.</i>
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ONE POSSIBLE MEANING

Ho fatto scrivere una lettera *I had Mario write a letter.*
da Mario.

5. **Farsi** + *infinitive* + **da** + *person* means *to make oneself heard/understood/ seen by someone*. **Essere** is used in compound tenses.

Come possiamo **farci capire da** *How can we make ourselves*
tutti? *understood by everyone?*
Si sono fatti fotografare. *They had themselves photographed.*

L. *Lasciare* e i verbi di percezione + infinito

1. Like **fare**, the verb **lasciare** (when meaning *to let, allow*) and verbs of perception (**vedere, guardare, sentire**, and so on) are followed by the infinitive.

Non ci **lascia scrivere** *He doesn't allow us to write*
a mano. *by hand.*
Abbiamo sentito leggere *We heard the poet read.*
il poeta.

2. An object noun typically follows the infinitive, but an object pronoun precedes the main verb. A pronoun attaches to the main verb only when it is in the infinitive or in the first or second person of the imperative.

—Hai sentito piangere la *—Did you hear Mom cry?*
mamma?
—Sì, l'ho **sentita** piangere. *—Yes, I heard her cry.*
Perché non lasci giocare i *Why don't you let the children*
bambini? **Lasciali** giocare! *play? Let them play!*
Non voglio **vederti** correre. *I don't want to see you run.*

3. **Lasciare** may also be followed by **che** + *subjunctive*.

Perché non **lo** lasciate **parlare**? } *Why don't you let him talk?*
Perché non lasciate **che lui parli**? }

M. Forma passiva del verbo

1. All the verb forms introduced in *Prego!* have been presented in the active voice. In the active voice, the subject of the verb performs the action. In the passive voice (**la forma passiva**), the subject of the verb is acted on. Compare these sentences.

ACTIVE VOICE: The car hit her.
PASSIVE VOICE: She was hit by the car.

2. The passive voice in Italian is formed exactly as in English. It consists of **essere** in the appropriate tense + *past participle*. If the agent (the person performing the action) is expressed, the noun or pronoun is preceded by **da**. All past participles must agree with the subject in gender and number.

soggetto + **essere** + *participio passato* (+ **da** + *persona*)

Il caffè **è fatto da** Giacomo.

The coffee is made by Giacomo.

Il caffè **è stato fatto da** Giacomo.

The coffee was made by Giacomo.

Il caffè **sarà fatto da** Giacomo.

*The coffee will be made by
Giacomo.*

Note that the passive voice can consist of two words (simple tenses) or three words (compound tenses). In compound tenses, both participles agree with the subject.