

The Vocabcord 500: Italian

The Vocabcord 500 is a collection of 500 Italian phrases for the situations of a first month abroad, grouped by what happens in a day rather than by grammar. Every row carries the phrase, what it means in English, and a note wherever register, a regional variant or a false friend changes what you should say.

Standard Italian as spoken in Italy; regional words noted where daily use differs. Register: polite adult stranger; Lei by default, tu noted where colleagues would use it.

198

SURVIVE

158

TRAVEL

144

WORK

CONTENTS: 17 SECTIONS, 500 PHRASES

First contact: greeting, thanking, apologising, the repair kit	40
Arrival: the airport, the passport, the first taxi	24
Getting around: tickets, trains, buses, directions	36
Hotel and rental: checking in, room problems, checking out	26
Eating out: the bar, the restaurant, the bill	40
Shopping and money: shops, the market, cards and cash	34
Home: the flat, the landlord, the bills, the delivery	24
Health: the pharmacy, the doctor, the symptoms	28
Emergencies: help, police, lost things	20

Phone and admin: a SIM, a codice fiscale, forms and appointments	30
First day at work: introductions, the team, the basics	34
Meetings, in the room and on a call	34
Email and messages: what you write, what you read	30
Asking for help, deadlines and saying no	28
Pay, contracts and time off	18
Small talk and sightseeing: strangers, the bar, the weekend	32
Feelings and opinions: how you are and what you think	22

Read the list, and the method behind it, at vocabcord.com/the-vocabcord-500.

Version 1, 2026-09-10. Written and reviewed by Vocabcord.

First contact: greeting, thanking, apologising, the repair kit

SURVIVE · 40 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Buongiorno.	Good morning.	Works until mid-afternoon; after that people switch to buonasera.
Buonasera.	Good evening.	From late afternoon on, and it also covers 'good afternoon'.
Salve.	Hello.	A greeting used without choosing a time of day. Buongiorno or buonasera is a straightforward option in more formal settings.
Ciao.	Hi.	Informal. With an unfamiliar shop assistant or an official, buongiorno is a safer opening; follow their lead.
Arrivederci.	Goodbye.	The polite goodbye. ArrivederLa exists but sounds stiff; nobody expects it.
Buona giornata.	Have a good day.	
Buona serata.	Have a good evening.	
A domani.	See you tomorrow.	
A presto.	See you soon.	
Grazie.	Thank you.	
Grazie mille.	Thanks a lot.	
Prego.	You're welcome.	Also what a waiter or shopkeeper says for 'go ahead' or 'after you'; the same word opens and closes an exchange.
Di niente.	Don't mention it.	
Scusi.	Excuse me.	Lei form; scusa is the informal. Use it to get attention as well as to apologise.
Mi scusi, posso chiederle una cosa?	Excuse me, could I ask you something?	
Mi dispiace.	I'm sorry.	For real regret or bad news. For bumping into someone, scusi is enough.
Permesso.	Excuse me, coming through.	Useful when squeezing past people or entering someone's home. Scusi can also get attention or accompany a request to pass.
Parla inglese?	Do you speak English?	
Non parlo bene l'italiano.	My Italian isn't very good.	
Sto imparando l'italiano.	I'm learning Italian.	Explains that you are learning. If you need slower speech, ask Può parlare più piano?

First contact: greeting, thanking, apologising, the repair kit

SURVIVE · 40 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Non ho capito.	I didn't get that.	I didn't understand what was just said. Non capisco means I don't understand; both are ordinary Italian.
Può ripetere, per favore?	Could you say that again, please?	
Più piano, per favore.	Slower, please.	Piano covers both slower and quieter; here the context makes it slower.
Me lo può scrivere?	Could you write that down for me?	
Come si dice in italiano?	How do you say it in Italian?	Point at the thing, or say the English word first: 'come si dice receipt in italiano?'
Cosa vuol dire?	What does that mean?	
Come si scrive?	How do you spell it?	
Un momento, per favore.	One moment, please.	
Un attimo.	Just a sec.	
Sì.	Yes.	
No, grazie.	No, thank you.	
Va bene.	OK.	The all-purpose yes: fine, alright, deal. You will hear it fifty times a day.
D'accordo.	Agreed.	
Certo.	Of course.	
Non lo so.	I don't know.	
Mi chiamo Anna.	My name is Anna.	
Come si chiama?	What's your name?	Lei form. 'Come ti chiami?' with colleagues your age once you are on ciao terms.
Piacere.	Nice to meet you.	Said while shaking hands; the full 'piacere di conoscerla' is for formal introductions.
Come sta?	How are you?	Lei form. 'Come stai?' is the informal, and 'come va?' works for both.
Bene, grazie. E lei?	Fine, thanks. And you?	

Arrival: the airport, the passport, the first taxi

TRAVEL · 24 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Sono qui per lavoro.	I'm here for work.	
Sono qui in vacanza.	I'm here on holiday.	
Mi fermo due settimane.	I'm staying two weeks.	
Ecco il passaporto.	Here's my passport.	
Dov'è il ritiro bagagli?	Where's baggage claim?	
La mia valigia non è arrivata.	My suitcase didn't arrive.	
Dove sono i taxi?	Where are the taxis?	Asks for the taxi rank. Use the airport's official taxi or booked-transfer arrangements; check the vehicle and fare information.
Dov'è la fermata del bus per il centro?	Where's the bus stop for the city centre?	
Quanto costa un taxi fino al centro?	How much is a taxi to the centre?	
A questo indirizzo, per favore.	To this address, please.	
Può accendere il tassametro?	Could you turn on the meter?	Asks to use the meter. Some routes have official fixed fares; check which tariff applies before the trip.
Posso pagare con la carta?	Can I pay by card?	Asks to pay by card. Check the payment arrangements before the ride; a reported terminal fault does not establish the driver's intent.
Ha il resto di cinquanta?	Do you have change for fifty?	
Mi può fare la ricevuta?	Could I get a receipt?	
Dov'è un bancomat?	Where's a cash machine?	Bancomat is the everyday word for the cash machine and the debit card alike.
Dove posso comprare una SIM?	Where can I buy a SIM card?	
C'è il wifi qui?	Is there wifi here?	
Qual è la password del wifi?	What's the wifi password?	
Dov'è il bagno?	Where's the toilet?	Bagno is the word in every register; toilette sounds fussy and gabinetto dated.
È lontano da qui?	Is it far from here?	
Quanto ci vuole?	How long does it take?	
Mi può aiutare con la valigia?	Could you help me with my suitcase?	

Arrival: the airport, the passport, the first taxi

TRAVEL · 24 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Ho una prenotazione.	I have a reservation.	
Mi viene a prendere un collega.	A colleague is picking me up.	

Getting around: tickets, trains, buses, directions

TRAVEL · 36 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Un biglietto per Milano, per favore.	One ticket to Milan, please.	
Solo andata.	One way.	
Andata e ritorno.	Return, please.	
A che ora parte il prossimo treno?	What time is the next train?	
Da quale binario parte?	Which platform does it leave from?	
Questo treno ferma a Bologna?	Does this train stop in Bologna?	
È in ritardo?	Is it running late?	
Devo convalidare il biglietto?	Do I need to validate the ticket?	Some paper tickets need stamping; digital validation depends on the operator and product. Check the instructions for your ticket.
Dove si comprano i biglietti dell'autobus?	Where do you buy bus tickets?	At a tabaccheria, a newsstand or by app; drivers usually do not sell them.
Questo autobus va in centro?	Does this bus go to the centre?	
Mi può dire quando devo scendere?	Could you tell me when to get off?	
Scendo alla prossima.	I'm getting off at the next stop.	
Scusi, devo scendere.	Excuse me, I need to get off.	
Dov'è la metro più vicina?	Where's the nearest metro?	
Quale linea devo prendere?	Which line do I take?	
Dov'è l'uscita?	Where's the exit?	
Sto cercando via Roma.	I'm looking for via Roma.	
Mi sono perso.	I'm lost.	A woman says 'mi sono persa'.
È da questa parte?	Is it this way?	
Sempre dritto.	Straight ahead.	

Getting around: tickets, trains, buses, directions

TRAVEL · 36 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
A destra o a sinistra?	Right or left?	
È la seconda a sinistra.	It's the second on the left.	
Si può andare a piedi?	Can you walk there?	
Sono dieci minuti a piedi.	It's a ten-minute walk.	
Mi chiama un taxi, per favore?	Could you call me a taxi, please?	
Quanto le devo?	How much do I owe you?	
Mi lasci qui, grazie.	You can drop me here, thanks.	
Ho perso il treno.	I missed the train.	Perdere is both to lose and to miss; the context does the work.
Il treno è stato cancellato.	The train's been cancelled.	
Vorrei cambiare il biglietto.	I'd like to change my ticket.	
Mi rimborsate il biglietto?	Will you refund the ticket?	
C'è uno sciopero oggi?	Is there a strike today?	Transport strikes are announced days ahead and usually spare the rush hours; ask, then check the times.
Dov'è il parcheggio?	Where's the car park?	
Qui si può parcheggiare?	Can I park here?	Blue lines mean pay, white free, yellow reserved. Ask anyway; the signs stack exceptions.
Il pieno, per favore.	Fill it up, please.	
A che ora è l'ultimo treno?	What time is the last train?	

Hotel and rental: checking in, room problems, checking out

TRAVEL · 26 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Ho prenotato una camera a nome Rossi.	I have a room booked under Rossi.	
Avete una camera per stanotte?	Do you have a room for tonight?	Avete, the plural you, is the normal way to address a business, even with one person at the desk.
Per due notti.	For two nights.	
Quanto costa a notte?	How much is it per night?	

Hotel and rental: checking in, room problems, checking out

TRAVEL · 26 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
La colazione è inclusa?	Is breakfast included?	
A che ora è la colazione?	What time is breakfast?	
A che ora è il check-out?	What time is check-out?	Check-in and check-out are said in English and everyone understands them.
Sono nella camera trecentodue.	I'm in room 302.	
Ho perso la chiave.	I've lost my key.	
La chiave non funziona.	The key doesn't work.	
Non c'è acqua calda.	There's no hot water.	
Il riscaldamento non funziona.	The heating isn't working.	Heating schedules can be regulated by climate zone and building type, with exceptions. Ask whether this is a fault or a scheduled shut-off.
L'aria condizionata non va.	The air conditioning isn't working.	'Non va' is the spoken 'doesn't work'; non funziona is the same, a shade more formal.
C'è troppo rumore.	It's too noisy.	
Posso cambiare camera?	Can I change rooms?	
Mi può portare un altro asciugamano?	Could you bring me another towel?	
Posso lasciare il bagaglio fino alle cinque?	Can I leave my luggage until five?	
Mi può svegliare alle sei e mezza?	Could you give me a wake-up call at half past six?	
Vorrei pagare il conto.	I'd like to settle the bill.	
C'è la tassa di soggiorno?	Is there a tourist tax?	Most cities charge it per night at the desk, on top of what you paid online.
Dove lascio le chiavi?	Where do I leave the keys?	
Vorrei restare un'altra notte.	I'd like to stay another night.	
Ho dimenticato il caricabatterie.	I forgot my charger.	
Il wifi non prende in camera.	The wifi doesn't reach my room.	Prendere is what a signal does: 'non prende' means no reception, for wifi or phone.
A che ora chiude il portone?	What time does the front door lock?	
Grazie di tutto.	Thanks for everything.	

Eating out: the bar, the restaurant, the bill

TRAVEL · 40 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Un caffè, per favore.	An espresso, please.	Caffè means espresso. Ask for a caffè americano or a lungo if you want something bigger.
Un cappuccino e un cornetto.	A cappuccino and a croissant.	Cornetto in most of Italy, brioche in the north west. Cappuccino after lunch marks you as a tourist, but nobody will stop you.
Pago prima o dopo?	Do I pay first or after?	Payment order varies by bar. Some ask you to pay first and bring the receipt to the counter; others let you pay afterwards.
Al banco o al tavolo?	At the counter or at a table?	The bar asks this. Table service costs more; standing at the counter is normal.
Un tavolo per due, per favore.	A table for two, please.	
Avete un tavolo fuori?	Do you have a table outside?	
Ho prenotato a nome Bianchi.	I have a booking under Bianchi.	
Il menù, per favore.	The menu, please.	
Avete un menù in inglese?	Do you have an English menu?	
Possiamo ordinare?	Can we order?	
Cosa mi consiglia?	What do you recommend?	
Qual è il piatto del giorno?	What's today's special?	
Cos'è questo?	What's this?	
Prendo questo.	I'll have this.	
Per me una carbonara.	I'll have the carbonara.	Per me plus the dish is a concise way to order. Vorrei is also a natural, polite option.
Da bere, acqua naturale.	To drink, still water.	
Acqua frizzante, per favore.	Sparkling water, please.	
Un bicchiere di vino rosso della casa.	A glass of the house red.	
Una birra media.	A medium beer.	Piccola is 0.2 l, media 0.4, grande 0.66. Nobody asks for a pint.
Uno spritz, per favore.	A spritz, please.	
Sono vegetariano.	I'm vegetarian.	Vegetariana for a woman. Vegano, vegana for vegan.

Eating out: the bar, the restaurant, the bill

TRAVEL · 40 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Sono allergico alle noci.	I'm allergic to nuts.	Allergica for a woman. Noci is walnuts; say arachidi for peanuts, nocciole for hazelnuts, and check the sauce.
Senza glutine, per favore.	Gluten-free, please.	
Ci sono latticini?	Is there any dairy in it?	
Basta così, grazie.	That's all, thanks.	
Buon appetito.	Enjoy your meal.	Said by whoever serves and by the table to each other; the reply is 'grazie, altrettanto'.
Grazie, altrettanto.	Thanks, same to you.	
È tutto buonissimo.	It's all delicious.	
Non ho ordinato questo.	I didn't order this.	
Manca ancora un piatto.	We're still missing one dish.	
Possiamo avere ancora un po' di pane?	Could we have some more bread?	
Il conto, per favore.	The bill, please.	Ask for the bill when you are ready to pay. Its arrival by itself does not prove the waiter wants you to leave.
Possiamo pagare separatamente?	Can we pay separately?	Splitting by item is unusual; 'alla romana' means dividing the total equally, which is what most groups do.
Il coperto è incluso?	Is the cover charge included?	Coperto is a per-head charge for bread and the table, 1 to 3 euro, printed on the menu. Tipping is separate.
Tenga il resto.	Keep the change.	Tipping means rounding up by a euro or two; card machines have no tip line.
Posso portare via gli avanzi?	Could I take the leftovers?	
Da portare via.	To take away.	
Un pezzo di pizza margherita, per favore.	A slice of margherita, please.	Pizza al taglio is sold by weight or the piece; you point and say 'un pezzo'.
Un gelato piccolo, due gusti.	A small ice cream, two flavours.	Coppetta is the cup, cono the cone; you choose the size first, then the flavours.
Posso avere un bicchiere d'acqua del rubinetto?	Could I have a glass of tap water?	Legal to ask, rarely offered; most places bring bottled and charge for it.

Shopping and money: shops, the market, cards and cash

SURVIVE · 34 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Sto solo guardando, grazie.	I'm just looking, thanks.	
Quanto costa?	How much is it?	
Quanto viene?	How much does that come to?	The spoken version of quanto costa, used at markets and counters for a total.
Sono dodici euro e cinquanta.	That's twelve euro fifty.	Prices are read 'dodici e cinquanta'. Euro never takes a plural s.
È troppo caro.	That's too expensive.	
Avete qualcosa di meno caro?	Do you have anything cheaper?	
Mi fa uno sconto?	Can you give me a discount?	Fine at markets and with small traders; chain shops have fixed prices.
Ce l'ha in un'altra taglia?	Do you have it in another size?	
Posso provarlo?	Can I try it on?	
Dov'è il camerino?	Where's the fitting room?	
Lo prendo.	I'll take it.	
Contanti o carta?	Cash or card?	
Carta, grazie.	Card, please.	
Posso pagare con il telefono?	Can I pay with my phone?	Ask whether mobile payment is accepted and whether your payment method works with the terminal.
Lo scontrino, per favore.	The receipt, please.	Asks for the receipt. Keep proof of purchase for returns or complaints; what is accepted depends on the situation.
Vorrei fare un cambio.	I'd like to exchange this.	
Vorrei il rimborso.	I'd like a refund.	
Ho lo scontrino.	I have the receipt.	
Una busta, per favore.	A bag, please.	Sacchetto in the supermarket, busta at the counter; both are understood and both cost a few cents.
Ha la tessera?	Do you have a loyalty card?	Every supermarket till asks this. 'No, grazie' ends it.
Mi dà mezzo chilo di pomodori?	Could I have half a kilo of tomatoes?	
Due etti di prosciutto crudo.	Two hundred grams of prosciutto.	Un etto is 100 g, so due etti is 200 g. Etti is common at deli counters; asking in grammi is also perfectly ordinary.

Shopping and money: shops, the market, cards and cash

SURVIVE · 34 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Un po' di più, va bene.	A bit more is fine.	The deli asks 'va bene un po' di più?' when the slice runs over. This is the yes.
Posso toccare?	Can I touch?	At markets you do not handle the fruit yourself; the seller picks it. Ask, or point.
Chi è l'ultimo?	Who's last in line?	Queues at counters and post offices are loose. Say this on arrival, remember who answers, and go after them.
Tocca a me.	It's my turn.	
Prego, vada pure.	Go ahead, after you.	
A che ora chiudete?	What time do you close?	
Siete aperti domenica?	Are you open on Sunday?	
Il bancomat non funziona.	The cash machine isn't working.	
Vorrei prelevare duecento euro.	I'd like to withdraw two hundred euro.	
Mi ha dato il resto sbagliato.	You gave me the wrong change.	
Vorrei aprire un conto.	I'd like to open a bank account.	You will need a codice fiscale and proof of address; ask for a conto corrente and expect an appointment.
Posso fare un bonifico?	Can I make a bank transfer?	Bonifico is how rent, deposits and most bills between people get paid; card transfers are rare.

Home: the flat, the landlord, the bills, the delivery

SURVIVE · 24 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Cerco un appartamento in affitto.	I'm looking for a flat to rent.	
Quant'è l'affitto al mese?	How much is the rent per month?	
Le spese sono incluse?	Are bills included?	Spese condominiali are the building charges; utenze are gas, electricity and water. Ask about both.
Quant'è la caparra?	How much is the deposit?	Caparra or deposito cauzionale, usually two or three months, returned when you leave.
Posso vedere l'appartamento?	Can I see the flat?	
Quando posso entrare?	When can I move in?	

Home: the flat, the landlord, the bills, the delivery

SURVIVE · 24 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Il contratto è registrato?	Is the lease registered?	Asks whether the lease is registered. Registration and proof-of-address requirements depend on the lease and procedure.
Posso prendere la residenza?	Can I register my address here?	Residenza is registered with the comune. Clarify any proposed restriction with the comune or a tenant-advice service before signing.
Il riscaldamento è autonomo o centralizzato?	Is the heating individual or shared?	Centralizzato means fixed hours set by the building; autonomo means you control it and pay your own gas.
Non c'è la lavatrice.	There's no washing machine.	
Si è rotto lo scaldabagno.	The water heater's broken.	
Il rubinetto perde.	The tap's leaking.	
È saltata la luce.	The power's gone off.	'La luce' is electricity in daily speech. If it trips, the meter switch is often out in the hallway.
Può mandare qualcuno?	Can you send someone?	
Quando viene l'idraulico?	When is the plumber coming?	
Ho pagato l'affitto con bonifico.	I paid the rent by bank transfer.	
Mi manda la ricevuta?	Could you send me the receipt?	
Dove si butta la spazzatura?	Where does the rubbish go?	Recycling rules are set by each comune and enforced with fines; ask a neighbour which bin goes out which night.
Ho un pacco in arrivo.	I have a parcel coming.	
Può lasciare il pacco al portiere?	Can you leave the parcel with the doorman?	Portiere or portinaio: many city buildings have one and they take deliveries. Otherwise say 'dal vicino'.
Fate consegne a domicilio?	Do you deliver?	
Il corriere non ha suonato.	The courier didn't ring.	
Buongiorno, sono il nuovo vicino.	Hello, I'm the new neighbour.	Vicina for a woman. Worth saying once: neighbours are your parcel service and your recycling guide.
Vorrei dare la disdetta.	I'd like to give notice.	Usually six months on a 4+4 lease, in writing by raccomandata or PEC; check the contract.

Health: the pharmacy, the doctor, the symptoms

SURVIVE · 28 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Dov'è una farmacia?	Where's a pharmacy?	
Qual è la farmacia di turno?	Which pharmacy is on duty tonight?	Asks for the duty pharmacy. Check the local rota and access instructions; a night service may use a bell or require a call.
Ho mal di testa.	I have a headache.	
Ho mal di gola.	I have a sore throat.	
Ho mal di pancia.	I have a stomach ache.	
Ho la febbre.	I have a fever.	
Ho la tosse.	I have a cough.	
Mi gira la testa.	I feel dizzy.	
Ho la nausea.	I feel sick.	
Ho vomitato.	I've been throwing up.	
Mi fa male qui.	It hurts here.	
Da due giorni.	For two days.	The answer to 'da quanto?' Da plus the length of time; no verb needed.
Mi serve qualcosa per il raffreddore.	I need something for a cold.	
Mi serve un antidolorifico.	I need a painkiller.	
Ci vuole la ricetta?	Do I need a prescription?	Ricetta is both recipe and prescription. Antibiotics always need one; pharmacists can hand over a lot without.
Sono incinta.	I'm pregnant.	
Prendo questa medicina.	I'm on this medication.	
Sono allergico alla penicillina.	I'm allergic to penicillin.	
Vorrei prenotare una visita.	I'd like to book an appointment.	Visita is a doctor's appointment; appuntamento is for everything else.
Mi serve un medico di base.	I need a GP.	You pick one at the ASL office once you have a tessera sanitaria; at night the guardia medica is free.
Ho la tessera sanitaria.	I have a health card.	
Quanto costa la visita?	How much is the appointment?	

Health: the pharmacy, the doctor, the symptoms

SURVIVE · 28 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Mi serve un certificato medico.	I need a doctor's note.	Your employer needs it from day one of sick leave; the GP files it with INPS online and gives you the number.
Ho bisogno di un dentista.	I need a dentist.	
Mi si è rotto un dente.	I've broken a tooth.	
Ho perso gli occhiali.	I've lost my glasses.	
Posso avere qualcosa per dormire?	Could I have something to help me sleep?	
Quante volte al giorno?	How many times a day?	

Emergencies: help, police, lost things

SURVIVE · 20 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Aiuto!	Help!	
Chiami un'ambulanza!	Call an ambulance!	
Chiami il centododici.	Call 112.	112 is the single emergency number for police, ambulance and fire. Say 'uno uno due' if the operator asks.
C'è stato un incidente.	There's been an accident.	
È urgente.	It's urgent.	
Non mi sento bene.	I don't feel well.	
Qualcuno è ferito.	Someone's hurt.	
Dov'è il pronto soccorso?	Where's the emergency room?	Asks for the emergency department. Triage staff assess urgency and assign priority; a phrase or colour alone cannot predict your wait.
Mi hanno rubato il portafoglio.	My wallet's been stolen.	
Mi hanno rubato il telefono.	My phone's been stolen.	
Ho perso il passaporto.	I've lost my passport.	
Devo fare una denuncia.	I need to report it to the police.	Denuncia is the police report; your insurer and your embassy will ask for the copy.
Dov'è il commissariato più vicino?	Where's the nearest police station?	Carabinieri and Polizia both take reports; go to whichever is closer.

Emergencies: help, police, lost things

SURVIVE · 20 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Non è stata colpa mia.	It wasn't my fault.	
Mi serve un interprete.	I need an interpreter.	
Posso chiamare l'ambasciata?	Can I call my embassy?	
Ho lasciato la borsa sul treno.	I left my bag on the train.	
Dov'è l'ufficio oggetti smarriti?	Where's the lost property office?	
C'è un incendio.	There's a fire.	
Lasciami stare!	Leave me alone!	Tu form on purpose; politeness is off here. Say it loud.

Phone and admin: a SIM, a codice fiscale, forms and appointments

SURVIVE · 30 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Vorrei una SIM ricaricabile con internet.	I'd like a pay-as-you-go SIM with data.	Asks for prepaid mobile service with data. Bring ID and check the provider's tax-code and visitor-registration requirements.
Quanti giga sono inclusi?	How many gigs are included?	
Quanto costa al mese?	How much is it per month?	
Vorrei fare una ricarica da dieci euro.	I'd like a ten-euro top-up.	
Non ho campo.	I've got no signal.	
Ho finito i giga.	I've run out of data.	
Mi può dare il suo numero?	Could I have your number?	
Le mando un messaggio.	I'll text you.	Everyone is on chat apps; 'ti scrivo' is the informal version and means the same.
La richiamo tra cinque minuti.	I'll call you back in five minutes.	
Pronto?	Hello?	Only when answering the phone. It means 'ready'; face to face you say buongiorno.
Buongiorno, chiamo per l'annuncio.	Hello, I'm calling about the listing.	
Parlo con l'ufficio anagrafe?	Is this the registry office?	Anagrafe is the comune's residents' office: residenza, ID cards, certificates.
La linea è disturbata.	The line's bad.	

Phone and admin: a SIM, a codice fiscale, forms and appointments

SURVIVE · 30 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Non la sento bene.	I can't hear you well.	
Mi serve il codice fiscale.	I need a tax code.	The Italian tax identifier, used for many contracts and procedures. How you obtain it depends on your status; check Agenzia delle Entrate.
Dov'è l'Agenzia delle Entrate?	Where's the tax office?	
Devo fare il permesso di soggiorno.	I need to apply for a residence permit.	Non-EU only. The application kit is at the post office; EU citizens register at the comune instead.
Ho un appuntamento alle nove e mezza.	I have an appointment at half past nine.	
L'appuntamento è martedì tre ottobre.	The appointment is on Tuesday the third of October.	Dates are day then month, and 'il tre ottobre' with no 'of'.
Quali documenti servono?	Which documents do I need?	
Ho portato tutto.	I've brought everything.	
Mi manca un documento.	I'm missing one document.	
Dove devo firmare?	Where do I sign?	
Posso avere una copia?	Can I have a copy?	
Quando sarà pronto?	When will it be ready?	
Devo prendere il numero?	Do I need to take a number?	Most offices use a ticket machine sorted by service; the wrong letter sends you back to the start.
Posso farlo online?	Can I do this online?	Some procedures are available online using SPID or another accepted identity method. Check the service and identity requirements.
Come faccio ad avere lo SPID?	How do I get SPID?	
Mi può mandare una mail?	Could you email me?	Mail is the everyday word for email. Posta can mean mail, the postal service or the post office; posta elettronica is email.
Ha una PEC?	Do you have a certified email address?	PEC is certified email, used for some formal communications. Check whether the particular procedure requires it.

First day at work: introductions, the team, the basics

WORK · 34 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Sono nuovo, ho iniziato oggi.	I'm new, I started today.	
Di cosa si occupa?	What do you do here?	Lei form. The switch to tu depends on the workplace and relationship; Possiamo darci del tu? lets you ask.
Possiamo darci del tu?	Can we use tu?	The phrase that moves you to informal. The senior person usually offers first, but a newcomer asking is fine.
Sono nel commerciale.	I'm in sales.	Commerciale is sales in office speech; vendite is what the org chart says.
Ho un contratto di sei mesi.	I'm on a six-month contract.	
Chi è il mio responsabile?	Who's my manager?	
A chi devo chiedere?	Who should I ask?	
Dov'è la mia scrivania?	Where's my desk?	
Non riesco ad accedere.	I can't log in.	
Mi servono le credenziali.	I need my login details.	
Devo timbrare?	Do I need to clock in?	Timbrare il cartellino: many workplaces still clock in and out with a badge; ask on day one.
A che ora si inizia?	What time do we start?	
A che ora si finisce?	What time do we finish?	
Quando è la pausa pranzo?	When's the lunch break?	
Dove si mangia di solito?	Where do people usually eat?	
Ci sono i buoni pasto?	Do we get meal vouchers?	Buoni pasto are a standard perk, paper or app; bars and supermarkets take them.
Andiamo a prendere un caffè?	Shall we grab a coffee?	The real onboarding. Ten minutes at the bar downstairs, standing; say yes.
Offro io.	My treat.	Coffee rounds alternate; whoever says it first pays. Splitting a one-euro coffee is not done.
C'è un armadietto per me?	Is there a locker for me?	
Mi serve un badge.	I need a badge.	
Mi fa vedere come si fa?	Could you show me how it's done?	'Mi fai vedere' with colleagues on tu.
Lo faccio subito.	I'll do it right away.	

First day at work: introductions, the team, the basics

WORK · 34 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Ci penso io.	I'll take care of it.	Said when you take a task off someone's hands; it commits you.
Ho capito, grazie.	Got it, thanks.	
Da dove comincio?	Where do I start?	
Chi si occupa delle risorse umane?	Who handles HR?	
Grazie per l'accoglienza.	Thanks for the welcome.	
Buon lavoro.	Have a good day at work.	Said when leaving someone at their desk; there is no English equivalent, and it is used all day.
Vado a pranzo.	I'm off to lunch.	
Sono in ufficio fino alle sei.	I'm in the office until six.	
Domani lavoro da casa.	I'm working from home tomorrow.	Smart working is the Italian term for remote work; 'sono in smart' is what people say.
Dov'è la sala riunioni?	Where's the meeting room?	
Posso fare una domanda?	Can I ask a question?	
Scusate il ritardo.	Sorry I'm late.	Scusate addresses a group; scusi is for one person.

Meetings, in the room and on a call

WORK · 34 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Iniziamo?	Shall we start?	
Ci siamo tutti?	Is everyone here?	
Aspettiamo Luca cinque minuti.	Let's give Luca five minutes.	
Mi sentite?	Can you hear me?	
Non ti sento, sei in muto.	I can't hear you, you're on mute.	Muto is the word on every call; 'togliti dal muto' is the fix. Tu, as between colleagues.
Condivido lo schermo.	I'll share my screen.	
Vedete lo schermo?	Can you see my screen?	
Ho la connessione lenta.	My connection's slow.	
È caduta la linea.	The call dropped.	

Meetings, in the room and on a call

WORK · 34 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Posso intervenire?	May I jump in?	
Un attimo, finisco il punto.	One second, let me finish the point.	
Qual è l'ordine del giorno?	What's on the agenda?	
Passiamo al punto successivo.	Let's move to the next point.	
Chi se ne occupa?	Who's taking that on?	
Me ne occupo io.	I'll take that.	
Entro quando?	By when?	
Entro venerdì.	By Friday.	
Ricapitoliamo.	Let's recap.	
Sono d'accordo.	I agree.	
Non sono del tutto d'accordo.	I don't quite agree.	The soft no. A flat 'non sono d'accordo' lands harder than it looks in an Italian meeting.
Ha senso.	That makes sense.	
Facciamo così.	Let's do that.	Closes a decision. Once someone says it, the discussion is over.
Ci aggiorniamo domani.	Let's pick this up tomorrow.	Aggiornarsi here means to reconvene; ci aggiorniamo ends most meetings.
Mando io il riepilogo.	I'll send the summary.	
Ho un'altra riunione alle tre.	I have another meeting at three.	
Possiamo spostare la riunione?	Can we move the meeting?	
Facciamo una call veloce?	Quick call?	Call is said in English in Italian offices; chiamata is for the phone.
Ti mando l'invito.	I'll send you the invite.	Tu form, as it would be between colleagues.
A che ora vi va bene?	What time works for you?	
Alle dieci ora italiana.	At ten Italian time.	
Scusate, devo scappare.	Sorry, I have to run.	
Grazie a tutti.	Thanks, everyone.	
Prendo appunti io.	I'll take notes.	
Possiamo registrare?	Can we record this?	

Email and messages: what you write, what you read

WORK · 30 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Gentile dottor Rossi, buongiorno.	Dear Mr Rossi, good morning.	Dottore or dottoressa is the default title for any graduate; when in doubt, use it.
Buongiorno a tutti.	Good morning, everyone.	
Le scrivo per la fattura di marzo.	I'm writing about the March invoice.	
In allegato trova il documento.	Please find the document attached.	'In allegato' opens the sentence in nearly every Italian work email.
Mi conferma la ricezione?	Could you confirm receipt?	
Resto a disposizione.	I'm available if you need anything.	The standard line before 'cordiali saluti'; it signals politeness rather than free time.
Cordiali saluti.	Kind regards.	The neutral close. 'Distinti saluti' is stiffer, 'un saluto' is for people you know.
Grazie in anticipo.	Thanks in advance.	
Mi scuso per il ritardo nella risposta.	Sorry for the late reply.	
Le confermo l'appuntamento di lunedì.	I confirm Monday's appointment.	
Come da accordi, le invio il preventivo.	As agreed, here's the quote.	Come da accordi: as agreed. A set phrase you will read daily.
Può inviarmi il file in PDF?	Could you send me the file as a PDF?	
Ho ricevuto, grazie.	Received, thanks.	
Rispondo entro domani.	I'll reply by tomorrow.	
Metto in copia Marco.	I'm copying Marco in.	In copia is cc; 'in copia nascosta' is bcc.
Le inoltro la mail.	I'm forwarding you the email.	
Il link non funziona.	The link doesn't work.	
Non riesco ad aprire l'allegato.	I can't open the attachment.	
Mi sono dimenticato l'allegato.	I forgot the attachment.	
Scrivimi in chat.	Message me.	Tu form; office chat threads run on tu even when meetings do not.
Hai visto il mio messaggio?	Did you see my message?	
Rispondo appena posso.	I'll reply as soon as I can.	
Sono in riunione, ti scrivo dopo.	I'm in a meeting, I'll message you later.	

Email and messages: what you write, what you read

WORK · 30 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Ok, perfetto.	OK, perfect.	
Hai un minuto?	Got a minute?	
Ti chiamo?	Shall I call you?	
Puoi mandarmi il link?	Can you send me the link?	
Ci sentiamo dopo.	Talk later.	
Sono fuori ufficio fino al dodici.	I'm out of office until the 12th.	The autoreply line. 'Fuori ufficio' is the phrase; dates as numbers.
Per qualsiasi cosa, chiamatemi.	Call me if anything comes up.	

Asking for help, deadlines and saying no

WORK · 28 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Mi può dare una mano?	Could you give me a hand?	'Mi dai una mano?' with colleagues on tu.
Ho bisogno di aiuto con questo.	I need help with this.	
Non so come si fa.	I don't know how to do this.	
È la prima volta che lo faccio.	It's my first time doing this.	
Puoi controllare?	Can you check it?	
Ho fatto un errore.	I made a mistake.	
Ho sbagliato, lo sistemo.	My mistake, I'll fix it.	
Qual è la scadenza?	What's the deadline?	
La scadenza è il trenta.	The deadline is the 30th.	
Ce la faccio per domani.	I can get it done by tomorrow.	Farcela: to manage it. 'Ce la fai?' is the question you will be asked.
Non ce la faccio per venerdì.	I can't make Friday.	
Mi serve più tempo.	I need more time.	
Possiamo spostare la scadenza di due giorni?	Can we push the deadline back two days?	
Quanto è urgente?	How urgent is it?	
Qual è la priorità?	What's the priority?	

Asking for help, deadlines and saying no

WORK · 28 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Ho troppo da fare.	I have too much on.	
Oggi non riesco.	I can't today.	Riuscire, to manage: the polite way to decline a task without a flat no.
Posso farlo lunedì?	Can I do it on Monday?	
Non si preoccupi.	Don't worry.	Lei form; 'non ti preoccupare' or 'tranquillo' with colleagues on tu.
Nessun problema.	No problem.	
Sono indietro.	I'm behind.	
Ho quasi finito.	I'm nearly done.	
Fatto.	Done.	
L'ho mandato ieri.	I sent it yesterday.	
Mi puoi spiegare di nuovo?	Can you explain it again?	
Va bene così?	Is this OK?	
Cosa ne pensi?	What do you think?	Tu form. 'Cosa ne pensa?' to a manager you are still on Lei with.
Vado avanti così?	Should I keep going like this?	

Pay, contracts and time off

WORK · 18 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Ho un colloquio alle dieci.	I have an interview at ten.	
Quando arriva lo stipendio?	When does pay come in?	Usually the 27th, or the 10th of the next month. La busta paga is the payslip.
Non ho ricevuto la busta paga.	I haven't received my payslip.	
Quante ferie ho?	How many holiday days do I get?	Ferie are annual leave; permessi are hours off. Both appear on the payslip as balances.
Vorrei prendere ferie dal dieci al venti agosto.	I'd like to take leave from the 10th to the 20th of August.	August is when the country stops; ask early and be ready to hear the dates are already taken.
Posso prendere un permesso domani mattina?	Can I take tomorrow morning off?	
Oggi sto a casa, sono malato.	I'm staying home today, I'm sick.	Malata for a woman. Tell your manager by 9 and get the GP's certificate the same day.

Pay, contracts and time off

WORK · 18 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Mando il certificato.	I'll send the doctor's certificate.	
Stasera faccio gli straordinari.	I'm working overtime tonight.	
Gli straordinari sono pagati?	Is overtime paid?	
Il contratto è a tempo indeterminato?	Is the contract permanent?	Indeterminato is permanent, determinato is fixed-term. The difference decides your lease, your loan and your permit.
Quanto è il netto?	What's the net pay?	Italians talk in net monthly; 'lordo annuo' (gross yearly) is what the contract states. Ask for both.
C'è la tredicesima?	Is there a thirteenth-month payment?	Most contracts pay a 13th salary in December; some sectors add a 14th in June.
Devo firmare il contratto.	I need to sign the contract.	
Ho un preavviso di un mese.	I have a month's notice period.	
Vorrei parlare del mio stipendio.	I'd like to talk about my salary.	
Come si chiedono i rimborsi spese?	How do I claim expenses?	
Quando scade il periodo di prova?	When does the probation period end?	

Small talk and sightseeing: strangers, the bar, the weekend

TRAVEL · 32 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Di dov'è?	Where are you from?	Lei form. 'Di dove sei?' once you are on tu.
Vengo da Londra.	I'm from London.	
Sono irlandese.	I'm Irish.	
Da quanto tempo è in Italia?	How long have you been in Italy?	
Sono qui da un mese.	I've been here a month.	
Vivo a Torino.	I live in Turin.	
Le piace qui?	Do you like it here?	
Mi piace molto.	I like it a lot.	
Che bel posto.	What a nice place.	
Che tempo fa?	What's the weather like?	

Small talk and sightseeing: strangers, the bar, the weekend

TRAVEL · 32 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Fa caldo oggi.	It's hot today.	
Che freddo!	It's freezing!	
Cosa c'è da vedere qui?	What's worth seeing here?	
A che ora apre il museo?	What time does the museum open?	
Due biglietti, per favore.	Two tickets, please.	
C'è uno sconto per studenti?	Is there a student discount?	
Si può fotografare?	Can I take photos?	
Mi fa una foto, per favore?	Could you take a photo of me, please?	
È chiuso il lunedì.	It's closed on Mondays.	The answer you will hear at most museums; state sites are often free on the first Sunday of the month.
Cosa fa nel weekend?	What are you doing at the weekend?	
Andiamo al mare.	We're going to the seaside.	
Che lavoro fa?	What do you do for a living?	
Ha figli?	Do you have kids?	
Quanti anni ha?	How old are you?	Asked more freely than in English; the answer is 'ho trentadue anni', I have 32 years.
Ho trentadue anni.	I'm thirty-two.	
Ci vediamo per un aperitivo?	Fancy meeting for a drink?	
Volentieri.	I'd love to.	The warm yes to any invitation; sì alone sounds flat.
Magari un'altra volta.	Maybe another time.	The polite no. Magari on its own means 'if only' and is a yes; the 'un'altra volta' makes it a no.
Salute!	Cheers!	Cin cin also works. Look people in the eye when you clink; skipping it gets noticed.
Che bello!	How lovely!	
Davvero?	Really?	
È stato un piacere.	It was a pleasure.	Said when parting from someone you have just met; the answer is 'piacere mio'.

Feelings and opinions: how you are and what you think

SURVIVE · 22 PHRASES

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	NOTE
Sono stanco.	I'm tired.	Stanca for a woman. Adjectives agree with the speaker; the notes in this list give the feminine.
Ho fame.	I'm hungry.	Hunger, thirst, cold and heat are things you 'have' in Italian: ho fame, ho sete, ho freddo, ho caldo.
Ho sete.	I'm thirsty.	
Ho freddo.	I'm cold.	
Sono contento.	I'm happy.	
Sono preoccupato.	I'm worried.	
Sono agitato.	I'm nervous.	Agitata for a woman. Agitato can describe pre-interview nerves; nervoso can also mean anxious or irritable.
Sono un po' stressato.	I'm a bit stressed.	
Mi manca casa.	I miss home.	Mancare works backwards: casa is the subject. 'Mi manchi' is I miss you.
Mi trovo bene qui.	I'm settling in well here.	Trovarsi bene: to be comfortable somewhere. 'Ti trovi bene?' is the question everyone will ask you.
Non mi piace.	I don't like it.	
Secondo me sì.	I think so.	
Secondo me no.	I don't think so.	
Non sono sicuro.	I'm not sure.	
Dipende.	It depends.	
Forse.	Maybe.	
Ha ragione.	You're right.	Lei form; 'hai ragione' with tu. Italian says you 'have reason' rather than you are right.
Non importa.	It doesn't matter.	
Che peccato!	What a shame!	
Non vedo l'ora.	I can't wait.	
Congratulazioni!	Congratulations!	Auguri also works and covers birthdays, weddings and any good news.
In bocca al lupo!	Good luck!	Literally 'into the wolf's mouth'. Crepi (il lupo)! is the traditional reply to learn alongside it.