



Italian ab initio Summer Work

Ciao a tutti ! Welcome to the ab initio Italian course. In this homework, you will encounter the basics of language learning and some key vocabulary.

Task 1 – Why we don't use translation bots

Read the text below carefully. Complete the comprehension questions below in English.

A note on AI translation in language learning...

Translation is not a requirement of the IB ab initio exam. However, sometimes we want a quick way to find out what a piece of text means.

With the rise of software (otherwise known as translation bots) like Google Translate, DeepL and ChatGPT, it is important that linguists remain cautious about their benefits. Unfortunately, these tools have limited cultural knowledge of the language and cannot produce accurate translations to our desired contexts. As a result, they make lots of grammatical errors and have a hard time translating colloquial or idiomatic expressions.



Furthermore, using these tools removes an important feature of your learning: thinking. You must remember that **“learning occurs when people have to think hard”** (Coe, 2013). Your mind can only move something from your **working memory** to your **long term memory** with frequent, independent practice.

For the accurate translation of single words and some phrases, use an accredited dictionary, such as WordReference.com (owned by Collins) [English to French, Italian, German & Spanish Dictionary - WordReference.com](https://www.wordreference.com/)

- 1) You will be required to translate into English in your Italian exam. T or F ? [1]
- 2) Why do AI translators not do a great job? [1]
- 3) What inaccuracies can this lead to? [2]
 - a.
 - b.
- 4) How and when does learning occur? [2]
- 5) What should you use instead of a translation bot? [1]



Task 2 – Greetings in Italian

- A) Watch and listen carefully to the following video (up to 03:29). Complete the grid below with the Italian greeting and its uses (you can write these in English).
- B) After you have completed the grid, practise saying all these phrases aloud. Follow the examples given in the video.

[How to greet people in Italy | Super Easy Italian 4 - YouTube](#)

English equivalent	Italian	Uses
<i>Example: Hi / bye</i>	Ciao!	Arriving / leaving
<i>Hello / good day (x2)</i>		
<i>Good evening</i>		
<i>Goodbye</i>		
<i>Goodnight</i>		
<i>Nice to meet you (x2)</i>		
<i>My name is</i>		
<i>I'm</i>		
<i>How are you? (x3)</i>		



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Task 3 – Counting to 20

- A) Below are the numbers 1-20 in Italian. Watch the video (up to 02:49) and order the numbers correctly. [Italian Numbers 1-20 | Count in Italian | Learn Italian for Beginners - YouTube](#)
- B) After you have ordered the numbers, learn their spelling using the LOOK, COVER, SAY, WRITE, CHECK method. If you are unfamiliar with this technique, you may find the following video useful [Look, say, cover, write, check - YouTube](#)

quattordici undici sette uno diciannove diciassette tre diciotto
cinque otto dieci tredici quattro sei sedici quindici dodici
 venti due nove

1.	5.	9.	13.	17.
2.	6.	10.	14.	18.
3.	7.	11.	15.	19.
4.	8.	12.	16.	20.



Task 4 – The Italian Alphabet

- A) Below are the letters of the Italian alphabet. Watch this video (up to 02:25) and copy the basic phonetic spelling of next to each letter.
- B) After you have copied out the phonetic sounds, practice saying each letter.

Extension – Which lessons do not appear in the original Italian alphabet? Why?

A)	I)	Q)
B)	J)	R)
C)	K)	S)
D)	L)	T)
E)	M)	U)
F)	N)	V)
G)	O)	W)
H)	P)	X)
		Y)
		Z)