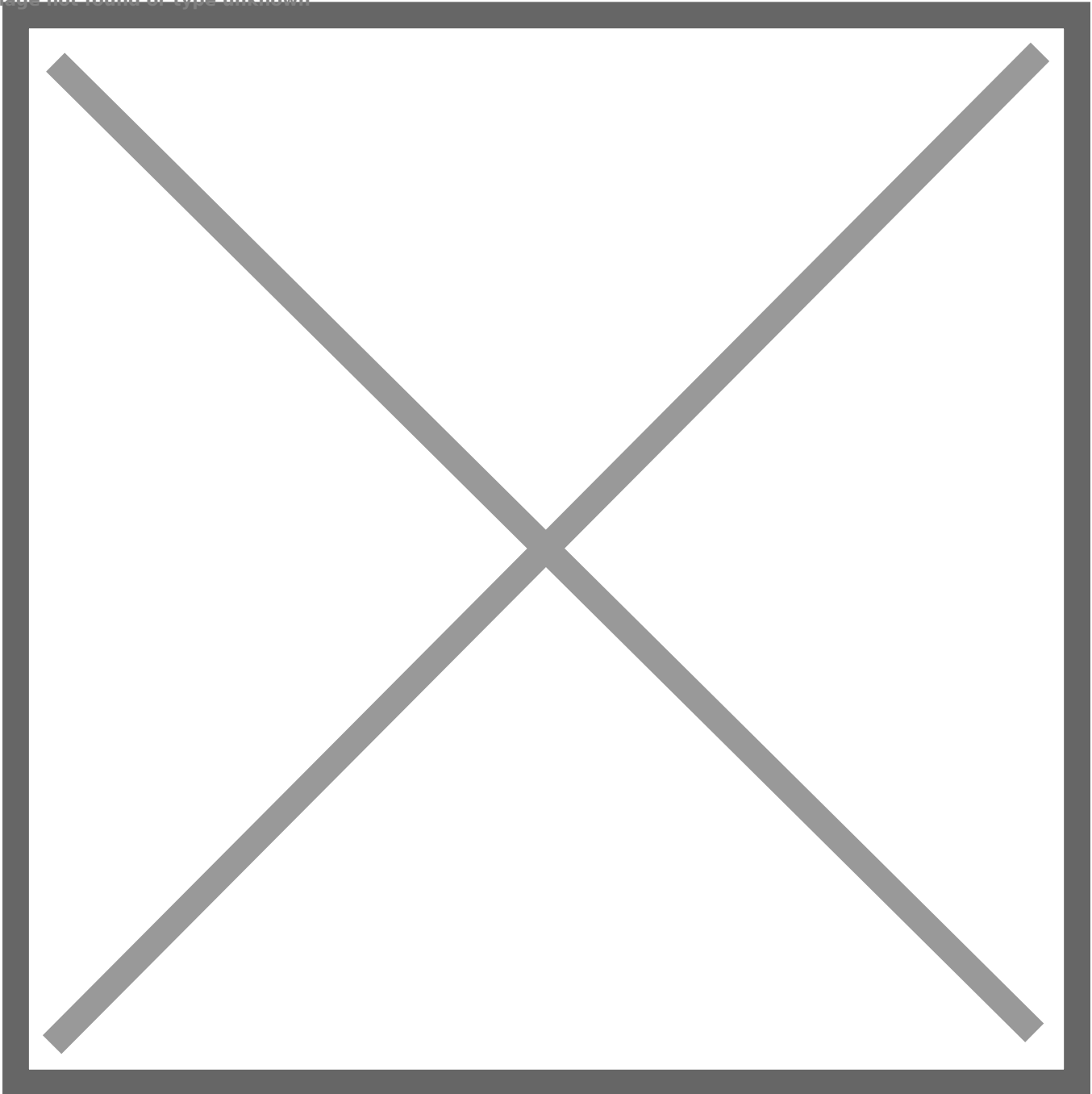


Act 4: Movie Set Travel Agency

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Welcome back, everybody! Today is a big day. As I mentioned to you last time, today Connor will tell Silvia all about a special dream he's been cherishing for quite some time now. "I want people to be able to travel back in time", he explains to her. Cool, Silvia is intrigued, "How exactly would this work?" she asks. So, what about you? Are you feeling intrigued? Well, I think we're ready to join Silvia and Connor. First, though, let me ask you a couple of questions... did you take some time to familiarize yourself with the words on the flashcard? Did you study the lesson available on our website? Today we'll explore the verb *avere*, which, as you will know by now, means *to have*. We will also see how the verb *avere* is used

in many idiomatic Italian expressions. All right. Let's dive into the show then!

Introduction

Silvia: Buongiorno Connor!

Connor: Buongiorno Silvia!

Silvia: You are dressed formal, oggi.

Connor: Sí. Ci sono some good news, Silvia!

Silvia: News? Novità?

Connor: I'm going to meet with some people who might be interested in my project...

Silvia: May I ask you what your progetto is about?

Connor: I haven't told you. Well... My progetto... È una cosa about Italia...

Silvia: Sono curiosa! Go ahead and tell me more!

Connor: I'm not sure I can say all of that in Italiano yet.

Silvia: You know that you can switch back to English when you are running out of words in Italian... and then go back to Italian quickly.

Connor: Let me try then... C'è un sogno. C'è Italia in this dream of mine. I want to open a travel agency! Here we go, I said it!

Silvia: Dove?

Connor: Here, in America!

Silvia: Will your agenzia di viaggi help people go to Italia?

Connor: Sì! But è un'agenzia... unique...

Silvia: Allora è un'agenzia speciale!

Connor: Sì! Here is my idea... I want people to be able to travel back in time!

Silvia: ...It sounds like a lot of fun! And how exactly would this work?

Connor: You already know that I am in love with Fellini, Mastroianni, Sofia Loren, e i film anni Cinquanta e anni Sessanta!

Silvia: Sì, certo.

Connor: So, every trip will be a recreation of un film!

Silvia: Your clienti will choose un film italiano e...

Connor: ...È molto romantico! Molto bello! May I give you un esempio?

Silvia: Sì, certo.

Connor: OK... Just picture the scene of the Fontana di Trevi from La Dolce Vita. Due clienti from America, just married, they want to be Marcello e Sylvia e dance at midnight in the Fontana di Trevi! My agency will arrange that for them!

Silvia: Movie Set Travel Agency?

Connor: Sì! Esatto! Maybe that could be the name...

Silvia: Is this why you want to imparare l'italiano?

Connor: Sì... ci sono molte ideas in my head. Ci sono many movie scenes that I want to recreate!

Silvia: Ma you know that c'è un problema?

Connor: What problema?

Silvia: Italy is not like that anymore...

Connor: Ma la Fontana di Trevi c'è?

Silvia: Certo, c'è! Still there...

Connor: So, non ci sono problemi, Silvia.

Silvia: Well, I don't want to disappoint you, ma I see more than un problema. Ma c'è una cosa I can help you with.

Connor: Tell me about it!

Silvia: I can help you explore hidden places, places off the beaten track... dove c'è still the Italia that you dream about, or at least something resembling your idee romantiche...

Connor: Come tu... how do you say to dream?

Silvia: Sognare.

Connor: Silvia, io non sono un americano who wants to visit Italy in a week and then go home! I want to breathe and fully appreciate the local culture!

Silvia: Tu sei un poeta, caro Connor!

Connor: Grazie, Silvia... wish me luck! Fortuna!

Silvia: In bocca al lupo, Connor!

Connor: What?

Silvia: It means *"in the mouth of the wolf"*!

Connor: Why would I want to go there?

Silvia: Well... Let's start our lezione di grammatica and then we'll go over the wolf's mouth in our expression section, OK?

Grammar 1: The verb *Avere*

Silvia: Let's learn a few things about the verbo **avere** - *to have*. **Avere** is as important a verb as the verbo essere. **Avere** and essere share the same characteristics. Sono entrambi verbi ausiliari, auxiliary verbs, e sono verbi irregolari, which means they do not follow a predictable pattern of conjugation. Ecco the verb **avere** conjugated in the present indicative:

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

Connor: È molto irregular... irregolare!

Silvia: I know. È also un verbo che **ha** una caratteristica that no other verbo italiano **ha**. The forms **ho**, **hai**, **ha** e **hanno** begin with a silent "h", the letter h is not pronounced. Do you happen to remember how we say that una lettera è "silent" in Italiano?

Connor: Silvia, I don't remember...

Silvia: Muta.

Connor: Right! So the "h" is un'acca muta!

Silvia: Esatto. Time to practice the verbo **avere** with some esempi. Tell me about the Movie Set Travel Agency using the verb "avere".

Connor: Io **ho** un problema.

Silvia: Molto bene!

Connor: Molto bene? Io **ho** un problema and you say "molto bene"?!

Silvia: No, dear, I was just happy with your grammar usage! So... tu **hai** un problema ... tell me about it.

Connor: Well, OK... ma **ho** un problema molto big!

Silvia: Che tipo di problema **hai**?

Connor: Io non **ho** any money...

Silvia: In italiano the parola è "soldi".

Connor: But loro **hanno** i soldi!

Silvia: Chi sono loro?

Connor: Loro sono the people who want to help me.

Silvia: Sono qui in America?

Connor: No, sono in Italia! They love my idea!

Silvia: Loro **hanno** un'agenzia di viaggi?

Connor: No, loro **hanno** soldi e passione...

Silvia: That è un inizio...

Connor: Noi **abbiamo** un progetto together. The first step... how do you say that?

Silvia: First step? Primo passo.

Connor: The primo passo è **avere** un place for the agenzia di viaggi.

Silvia: I see... Have you already seen this place?

Connor: I'm checking it out today!

Silvia: So, is this why you are wearing a suit oggi?

Connor: Sì! **Ho** un... app... I had learned that parola the other day by myself but I can't say it now...

Silvia: Appuntamento?

Connor: Sì, io **ho** un appuntamento with Mr. Mark. Lui **ha** un movie theater, piccolo, a bit old-fashioned. Un real movie theater! He needs to sell it and... I would like to buy it!

Silvia: This is exciting! **Avete** un appuntamento after our lezione?

Connor: Sì! The first appuntamento!

Silvia: **Hai** paura that something may go wrong?

Connor: What does that mean?

Silvia: **Avere paura** means "to be afraid".

Connor: Io **ho** molta **paura**.

Silvia: Why? Is that because è il primo appuntamento?

Connor: Sì, but also because my idea è very speciale...

Silvia: **Abbiamo** the same parola in italiano, idea. It's spelled the same way as in Italian, only the pronunciation è diversa.

Connor: **Ho paura** my idea speciale may not be understood... you don't come across a Movie Set Travel Agency every day, you know it might seem a little too strange, io non **ho paura** di Mark, though. Lui è molto gentile.

Silvia: Secondo passo avanti! Let's recap now!

Connor: Io **ho** un'idea speciale. Mark **ha** un movie theater. Noi **abbiamo** un primo appuntamento oggi. Loro **hanno** soldi. Io **ho paura**.

Silvia: This is absolutely perfect! You have learned how to use the verbo **avere** very well. We will see a few expressions that feature the verbo **avere** in the seconda parte of our lezione di grammatica!

Grammar 2: Idiomatic expressions with **Avere**

Silvia: Now that we know what the present tense of the verbo **avere** looks like, we can use it to form some idiomatic expressions. This can be a little tricky for an English speaker. In fact, while in English expressions are generally formed with the verb "to be" followed by an adjective, in Italian we use **avere** followed by a noun. To describe our feelings, for example, we use the verbo **avere**. We have already mentioned **avere paura**.

Connor: Right. Connor **ha paura** about the primo appuntamento. Io **ho paura**.

Silvia: Esatto. Un'altra espressione è **avere bisogno di**, which means "to need".

Connor: So, we need money would be... **abbiamo bisogno di** soldi?

Silvia: Sì, **avete bisogno di** un cinema e **avete bisogno di** soldi to buy it.

Connor: Mr. Mark **ha bisogno di** sell the cinema.

Silvia: Looks like he does! Un'altra espressione è **avere voglia di** which means "to feel like" or "to want". **Hai voglia di...** che cosa, Connor?

Connor: **Ho voglia di** open my agenzia di viaggi very soon! **Ho voglia di** avere molti clienti!

Silvia: You will, sono sicura.

Connor: Grazie, Silvia. I think that people **hanno bisogno di** essere felici e io **ho voglia di** make them felici! Am I right?

Silvia: Perfetto, Connor! Actually, you can use an expression to say "to be right"! Italians say **avere ragione**.

Connor: Io **ho ragione**?

Silvia: Tu hai ragione!

Connor: I am learning a lot of things oggi! **Ho voglia di** learn more!

Silvia: Certo! To ask "how old are you" we say something whose literal translation would sound like "how many years do you have?" Funny, **ho ragione**?

Connor: Sì, molto funny! Let me try to translate that... So, how è quanti... years è anni... to have è **avere...**

Silvia: I am impressed! So, if I ask you: quanti **anni hai**? How would you answer?

Connor: Io **ho** 28 anni.

Silvia: Bravo! Your turn.

Connor: Quanti **anni ha** your dog?

Silvia: **Ha 5 anni**. Quanti **anni ha** the cinema?

Connor: **Ha 83 anni**, Silvia! Like nonno Giovanni! È un sign!

Silvia: **Hai ragione**, è un segno of fate! But tu **hai pazienza**? Can you wait?

Connor: What is **avere pazienza**?

Silvia: To be patient...

Connor: Ah! Non **ho pazienza**, but... **ho bisogno di avere pazienza**, molta pazienza.

Silvia: Patience is a virtue, as we say in italiano, la pazienza è una virtù!

Connor: Ci sono momenti that io non **ho** any **pazienza**!

Silvia: Quali sono?

Connor: Sono due, when I feel sleepy and when I am hungry!

Silvia: Quando **hai sonno** e quando **hai fame**. That's understandable, io sono come te.

Connor: Tu **hai fame**, now?

Silvia: No, non **ho fame** but **ho voglia di** cioccolato!

Connor: Noi non **abbiamo fame**, but **abbiamo bisogno di** un caffè!

Silvia: Why?

Connor: Because **abbiamo sonno**! And I cannot go to my appointment being sleepy, **ho ragione**?

Silvia: You are wrong, tu **hai torto**.

Connor: I am wrong? **Ho torto**?

Silvia: I am kidding!

Expressions: In bocca al lupo! / Crepi il lupo!

- Silvia:** Connor, before we get to our nuova espressione idiomatica, let's go over the espressioni that you already know.
- Connor:** C'è Mamma mia, for example. And then ci sono the espressioni which use numeri!
- Silvia:** Could you pick a couple of them and put them into context?
- Connor:** I am going to fare quattro chiacchiere with Mr. Mark about his cinema, but ho paura.
- Silvia:** That's more than great, Connor! This is absolutely excellent! So, as you can imagine, in italiano abbiamo una miriade of this funny piccole espressioni. Oggi we'll get to know the expression "**in bocca al lupo**", which is how we wish someone buona fortuna in italiano.
- Connor:** **In bocca al lupo**. What does that mean exactly?
- Silvia:** *In the mouth of the wolf!*
- Connor:** What?
- Silvia:** Mouth means **bocca** and wolf means **lupo**.
- Connor:** You're scaring me now... essere in the **bocca** of the **lupo**, I mean, you need molta buona fortuna, ho ragione?
- Silvia:** Sì, hai ragione, c'è bisogno di fortuna! Would you like me to tell you the whole story?
- Connor:** È una cosa scary again?
- Silvia:** Well... I'll let you be the judge of that! We say "**crepi il lupo**"! A literal translation for that would be "*may the wolf die*"... although its English equivalent would be "*knock on wood*".
- Connor:** Voi avete una rough way to say knock on wood, Silvia!
- Silvia:** Well, if somebody says to you "**in bocca al lupo**" you are not supposed to answer *grazie*. If you do, people will look at you in a very strange way, they will be puzzled...
- Connor:** You can't be serious!
- Silvia:** Davvero, caro Connor. Concepts such as fortuna e sfortuna sono molto importanti in a country filled with little superstitious rituals, such as Italy!
- Connor:** Good to know, Silvia. I'll be careful not to make mistakes once I get there!
- Silvia:** Let's practice a little. **In bocca al lupo** for your appuntamento!
- Connor:** **Crepi il lupo**, Silvia!
- Silvia:** That was easy, wasn't it?
- Connor:** Sì, but ho paura I won't be persuasive enough.
- Silvia:** You mean, during the appuntamento?
- Connor:** Sì! My sogno è tanto grande... if I get distracted dreaming about it, the wolf, the **lupo** will eat me! Just playing with parole... but, well... who knows...
- Silvia:** And the **lupo** would be Mr. Mark, I'm guessing. Lui ha bisogno di sell the cinema... Sono sicura that he doesn't want to fall in the **bocca** of the **lupo** either. And to him, tu sei the **lupo**!
- Connor:** Io sono un lamb, Silvia! Ho una domanda. When would it be an appropriate time to say buona fortuna when you want to wish good luck to someone?
- Silvia:** If you care about this person... NEVER!
- Connor:** C'mon, Silvia!

Silvia: It is considered impolite (and quite uncool) to wish someone good luck by saying buona fortuna. The socially acceptable way to wish buona fortuna è **in bocca al lupo**, which is the equivalent of the espressione inglese *“break a leg”*.

Connor: OK, got it.

Silvia: Bravo. Hai fretta, are you in a rush to go to the appuntamento?

Connor: Sì, Silvia, un po'.

Silvia: Non avere paura, OK?

Connor: Hai ragione, Silvia! This will be my new mantra. Non ho paura!

Silvia: **In bocca al lupo**, Connor! Alla prossima!

Connor: **Crepi il lupo**, Silvia! Ciao!