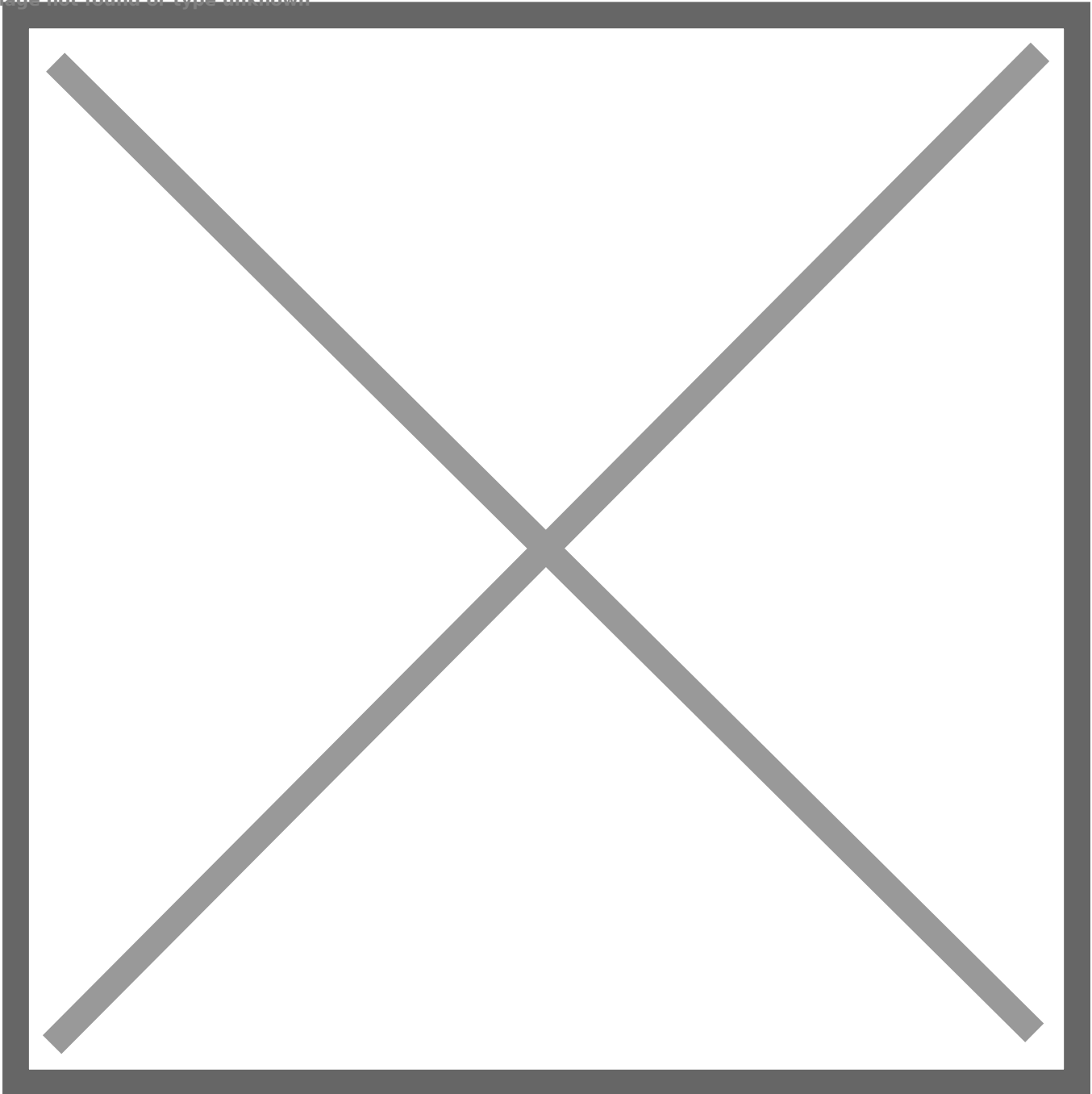


Act 5: Comunicare, viaggiare e mangiare!

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Hello again, amici, I hope you have been enjoying our show so far! As you'll probably remember from last time, Connor has found a very special building he would like to turn into his office. Coincidentally... the building is an old movie theater! A gorgeous building. And currently for sale! It needs some restoration, sure, but it would be just perfect...

Connor has been meeting with the building's current owner, Mr. Mark, who wants to sell the property and go sailing around the world. Well, that's a nice plan, I can't blame him!

So... did you study our new grammar lesson? Today we'll be focusing on two key topics: regular verbs in the first conjugation and Italian definite articles. Have you memorized all the words on the flashcard? I'm sure you know all about the expression Silvia and Connor are exploring today. Assolutamente sì? OK, let's dive in, then! Enjoy Act 5!

Introduction

Silvia: Buongiorno Connor!

Connor: Buongiorno Silvia!

Silvia: Sei un po' in ritardo oggi.

Connor: I'm sorry, Silvia... This morning ho tanto sonno. I actually had to run to get here!

Silvia: Were you up late last night?

Connor: Well, I had my secondo appuntamento with Mr. Mark!

Silvia: That's great! So, how did the meeting go?

Connor: Great! I think we get along well!

Silvia: Describe Mr. Mark for me.

Connor: Lui ha 62 anni. Ha voglia di una nuova adventure! He wants to go sailing around the world. This is why ha fretta di sell the cinema!

Silvia: I see... I imagine that lui ha bisogno di soldi, ho ragione?

Connor: Hai ragione! Now, io ho bisogno di investors...

Silvia: E ci sono these people, right?

Connor: Well, sì e no. Loro sono in Italia. They like the idea, but they are far away.

Silvia: Who are they? Chi sono?

Connor: A couple members of the famiglia. I still haven't met in person...

Silvia: You mean famiglia in Italia?

Connor: Sì.

Silvia: Are you planning to go to Italia soon... presto?

Connor: Sì, molto presto!

Silvia: Hai already the biglietto to travel to Italia?

Connor: Sì, ce l'ho.

Silvia: Hai the dates?

Connor: Sì, ce le ho.

Silvia: Quando are you leaving?

Connor: I'm going there in due months!

Silvia: Due mesi! Allora, abbiamo bisogno di parlare in italiano più spesso!

Connor: Hai ragione, Silvia. Io sono... worried!

Silvia: Preoccupato?

Connor: Sì, I want to go there and be able to speak Italian!

Silvia: OK, let me set up a few rules. You study the lezione di grammatica e fill in the quizzes before coming here. Also, I would like you to read carefully the lezione on the espressione idiomatica. When we meet up, we can talk about anything we want... on una condizione. Each week, I will expect you to focus on the topic explored in the lezione di grammatica. And I would like the same to happen during our conversation involving the espressione idiomatica.

Connor: Well then, I'd say we have a deal!

Silvia: I'm glad, sono contenta, you like my idea.

Connor: Silvia, I am hungry! I forgot how to say that in Italian...

Silvia: Ho fame. Did you eat this morning?

Connor: No, this is why ho fame.

Silvia: Right, right! You had to rush out...

Connor: Ho also sete. I like fresh pressed orange juice.

Silvia: Ho sete anch'io... so do I. I, too, love fresh pressed orange juice.

Connor: Ho tanta voglia to go to Italy and when I think about all the amazing food there, ho also tanta fame!

Silvia: Mia zia è una fantastica cuoca, an amazing cook!

Connor: Come nonna Carmela!

Silvia: Where, dove sono your relatives? The ones who will invest in your idea?

Connor: Somewhere in the South, non sono sicuro.

Silvia: Well, wherever they are, you need to be able to parlare with them.

Connor: I totally agree!

Silvia: To parlare we need to study the rules of some verbi italiani... Are you ready? Sei pronto?

Connor: Sono pronto, Silvia!

Grammar 1: Italian verbs of the first conjugation

Silvia: The verbo **parlare** è un esempio perfetto di verbo belonging to the prima coniugazione.

Connor: What does the prima coniugazione mean?

Silvia: I verbi della prima coniugazione, come "parlare", sono verbi ending in **-are**. Before we learn how to **coniugare** the present indicative form, *indicativo presente*, I would like to ask you something. Ci sono some verbi italiani that you happen to remember from our conversazioni?

Connor: Verbi ending in **-are**?

Silvia: Sì.

Connor: I think I can name a few... **sognare, viaggiare e studiare!**

Silvia: Molto bene, Connor. Do you know what **mangiare** means?

Connor: Sì, nonna Carmela always tells me *"mangia Connor, mangia"* when I'm having lunch at her place. I guess what she really means is *"eat everything that's on your plate! You're not leaving the table until you finish your meal!"*

Silvia: Very funny, Connor! Well, mangiare normally just means "to eat". Benissimo, abbiamo already cinque verbi we can use to make up some esempi. But before we do so, we'll have to **studiare** a few basic rules, regole. First off, regular verbs are composed of two elements, due elementi: the **radice**, che è the part of the verbo that stays the same and the **suffisso** che è the parte finale of the verbo, the one that will give you a hint as to whether un verbo belongs to the prima, seconda o terza coniugazione.

Connor: Wow! OK... I'm sure that learning the coniugazioni of the verbi will help me **parlare** better, so, let's keep going.

Silvia: Sì, learning the verbi è molto importante. Let's take a look at the verbo **viaggiare** e let's see quali sono i suffissi that we must add to the **radice** in order to conjugate this verb in the presente indicativo.

io viaggio
tu viaggi
lui/lei/Lei viaggia
noi viaggiamo
voi viaggiate
loro viaggiano

Connor: Wonderful! Let me try... Io viaggio in Italia. The clienti **viaggiano** in Italia. The family **viaggia** in America.

Silvia: Quale famiglia?

Connor: My famiglia! The famiglia from the South! They are coming soon.

Silvia: You'll have to be able to communicate with them once they get here! Let's try to conjugate the verbo **parlare**.

Connor: Io parlo, tu parli, lui/lei parla, noi parliamo, voi parlate, loro parlano.

Silvia: **Tu** cosa **parli**, Connor?

Connor: **Io parlo** inglese. **Io parlo** un po' of italiano.

Silvia: Che lingua **parla** the famiglia italiana?

Connor: Nonno Giovanni e nonna Carmela **parlano** italiano e inglese e the family from the South **parla** only italiano.

Silvia: **Loro non parlano** inglese?

Connor: Not at all!

Silvia: **Noi** adesso **studiamo** italiano, so you'll be able to speak with them.

Connor: Sì e loro... how do you say *"they are studying"*?

Silvia: You can say "**loro studiano**".

Connor: So, if I said **loro studiano** inglese, would it mean that they are studying English now?

Silvia: Sì. Additionally, the present indicative can be used to describe a certain action that will take place in the near future. For example: **Tu viaggi** in Italia tomorrow? Sì, **viaggio** in Italia domani.

Connor: OK.

Silvia: **Tu sogni** l'Italia?

Connor: **Io sogno** l'Italia all the time.

Silvia: E la famiglia from the South?

Connor: **Loro sognano** l'America...

Silvia: Well, adesso, now, **studiamo** la seconda parte of the lezione di grammatica italiana.

Connor: Sì, **studiamo!**

Grammar 2: Definite articles

Silvia: Adesso studiamo the definite articles, **gli** articoli determinativi.

Connor: Quanti sono **gli** articoli determinativi?

Silvia: Well, considering their English equivalent is the invariable form "*the*", I'm guessing they may seem like many, tanti, to you.

Connor: Are you saying all your articoli determinativi can be translated into English as "*the*"?

Silvia: Esattamente. In italiano **gli** articoli determinativi take on different forms depending on the gender, number, and first letter of the noun or adjective they are introducing.

Connor: Such as...

Silvia: **La** lezione, **il** regista, **i** parenti italiani.

Connor: C'è una regola?

Silvia: Of course! In Italiano ci sono 6 articoli determinativi: 3 forme singolari (**il**, **lo**, **la**) e 3 forme plurali (**i**, **gli**, **le**). L'articolo maschile ha due forme singolari (**il**, **lo**) e due forme per **il** plurale (**i**, **gli**) depending on the initial letter of the noun that follows.

Connor: **Il** cinema e **la** pasta italiana.

Silvia: **I** treni e **le** ruote.

Connor: **La** acqua. **Lo** inglese.

Silvia: Actually "**la**" e "**lo**" drop their vowel when the following noun begins with a vowel. In those cases, the letter "L" is followed by an apostrophe.

Connor: So, **l'**acqua e **l'**inglese?

Silvia: Correct! Let's practice some more.

Connor: **La** famiglia italiana is coming soon. Loro studiano **l'**inglese to viaggiare to America. Loro parlano **l'**italiano.

Silvia: Now tell me something using **le** forme plurali: **i**, **gli** and **le**.

Connor: Yesterday I went to see **il** cinema of Mr. Mark. **I** soldi he's asking for it sono molti! But I understand why... **Il** building è molto bello. **Le** chairs... how do you say that?

Silvia: “Sedia” singolare, “sedie” plurale.

Connor: Sì! So, **le** sedie sono belle! **Le** sedie sono antique!

Silvia: Are you planning to keep tutte **le** sedie?

Connor: Some of them. C’è enough room to create due offices...

Silvia: Uffici, offices.

Connor: **Gli** uffici. I want to decorate **gli** uffici with **le** belle sedie.

Silvia: C’è uno screen, uno schermo?

Connor: Sì! **Lo** schermo will be my gem! I will be showing **i** film italiani e **le** commedie anni Cinquanta!

Silvia: **Il** progetto è molto bello, Connor.

Connor: **I** clienti will be amazed!

Silvia: E **la** famiglia from the South?

Connor: I have a plan. As soon as they get here, we’ll go see **il** cinema. And then... I’m sure nonna Carmela will make **la** pasta fatta in casa.

Silvia: Mangiare **la** pasta di nonna Carmela è un treat!

Connor: Silvia! I know the names of some dishes that are part of nonna Carmela’s repertoire... **Il** pasticcio di carne, **i** peperoni ripieni, **la** focaccia con **il** rosmarino, **lo** spezzatino con **le** patate e, my favorite, **il** budino alla vaniglia.

Silvia: **Il** cibo meraviglioso of nonna Carmela!

Connor: **L’**Italia e **il** cibo meraviglioso!

Silvia: Well, dear Connor, we have covered some key grammar topics, so far. You do remember our deal about next lezione, right?

Connor: Sì, io studio **la** lezione di grammatica italiana before coming here e noi parliamo italiano.

Silvia: Bravo, Connor!

Expressions: Assolutamente!

Silvia: Now, Connor, I would like to introduce you to un’espressione italiana that has been enjoying increasing popularity in recent years.

Connor: È una nuova espressione?

Silvia: **Assolutamente!**

Connor: **Assolutamente** è l’espressione?

Silvia: **Assolutamente** sì!

Connor: What does it mean?

Silvia: Well, first of all, it means *absolutely*.

Connor: We use the same parola in inglese, absolutely!

Silvia: Yes, you may well use la stessa parola, however, **assolutamente** plays a double semantic role in the Italian language. When used in affirmative sentences, **assolutamente** will emphasize the positive value of “sì”, whereas, within a negative context, it will stress the “no” connotation of the sentence.

Connor: Which means...

Silvia: Which means that, in this case, **assolutamente** is a simple intensifier.

Connor: Got it.

Silvia: Let's try! Proviamo! Are you going to find i soldi per il cinema?

Connor: Well, I would say... I don't know...

Silvia: I would say **assolutamente sì!**

Connor: **Assolutamente sì!**

Silvia: So what are your parents saying about il progetto of l'agenzia di viaggi? Sono entusiasti?

Connor: **Assolutamente no!**

Silvia: Why is that? Perché?

Connor: Because, because... they think...

Silvia: To think... pensare, in italiano.

Connor: Loro pensano that non è una buona idea. Hanno ragione?

Silvia: The way I see it, **assolutamente no**. L'idea è bellissima, insolita e molto speciale.

Connor: **Assolutamente sì**, Silvia, I agree with you. But loro pensano that nowadays you can buy your viaggio online...

Silvia: Organizzare your viaggi requires un'agenzia with un ufficio to welcome your clienti. E tu hai bisogno di parlare l'italiano molto bene e conoscere, to know, la cultura italiana.

Connor: **Assolutamente sì**. Sono molto contento that you get my vision, Silvia.

Silvia: I do. Tu pensi that Mr. Mark is eager to sell, vendere, il cinema?

Connor: **Assolutamente sì!** He wants to viaggiare around the world e sogna a sailing boat... Abbiamo due sogni diversi, but molto simili at the same time. Cosa pensi?

Silvia: **Assolutamente**, Connor. Tutti abbiamo, we all have dei sogni nel cassetto, some secret wishes... sometimes, è difficile realizzarli, to make them come true.

Connor: **Assolutamente no**, Silvia, I don't agree, you know?

Silvia: Explain to me why, perché...

Connor: If you really want something, you'll do everything that's in your power to make your sogno come true. Then, it's no longer un sogno, è la realtà.

Silvia: Molto filosofico, Connor, I would say: **assolutamente sì!**

Connor: Bene!

Silvia: Molto bene! Well, it's time to say goodbye, arrivederci, Connor. And don't forget, non dimenticare di studiare next lezione before coming here!

Connor: **Assolutamente no!**

Silvia: Bravissimo! Ciao, Connor.

Connor: Ciao, Silvia!