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**Should shouldn't**

Do you think you **should** study more English? Do you think  
that you **might** be improving? I'm sure you are ☺  
*Credi di dover studiare più inglese? Credi che miglioreresti? Io  
credo di sì ☺*

The words "should" and "might" are called **modal verbs**.

Modal verbs are very common in English when we want to express possibility, ability and obligation, amongst other things.

*Le parole "should" e "might" si definiscono "modal verbs"*

*(verbi modali). I verbi modali sono molto comuni in inglese quando si vuole esprimere possibilità, capacità e obbligo, tra altre cose.*

Here is a list of some of them. Qui di seguito ti propongo una lista dei verbi modali più comuni e ciò che significano ed esprimono. Non si tratta di una lista completa! The most common modal verbs and the main thing or things they express. This is not an exhaustive list.

*Qui di seguito ti propongo una lista dei verbi modali più comuni e ciò che significano ed esprimono. Non si tratta di una lista completa!*

**should - advice or suggestions**

**could - possibility**

**would - a desire or a wish**

**might - probability**

**ought to - advice or suggestions.** "ought to" is more formal than "should".

**can - ability**

**must - strong obligation or advice**

Look at the following text containing some of the above modal verbs:

*Leggi il seguente testo che include alcuni dei verbi modali della lista qui sopra:*

Matthew is a doctor. He works at Brighton General Hospital. Matthew must wake up at 6 o'clock every morning in order to get to work on time. He lives 45 miles from the hospital but he doesn't have a car so he takes the train and then a bus. All his friends think he ought to buy a car, but he tells them he can't afford it. Matthew believes people shouldn't buy a car unless it's absolutely necessary and that they should use public transport, because cars pollute the air and cause many diseases.

*Matthew è un medico. Lavora al Brighton General Hospital.*

*Ogni mattina Matthew deve alzarsi alle 6 per poter arrivare al lavoro in orario. Vive a 45 miglia dall'ospedale ma non ha una macchina, per cui prende prima il treno e poi l'autobus. Tutti i suoi amici pensano che dovrebbe comprarsi una macchina, ma lui dice loro che non se la può permettere. Matthew crede che le persone non dovrebbero comprarsi una macchina a meno che non sia assolutamente necessario e che tutti quanti dovrebbero usare i mezzi di trasporto pubblici dato che le macchine inquinano l'aria e sono causa di molti problemi.*

Here are a few useful things to remember about modal verbs:

Ecco alcuni punti da tenere in mente sui verbi modali:

- We **can't** put two modal verbs together. Here's an example:  
*Non possiamo usare due verbi modali insieme. Ad esempio:*

He ~~might can~~ come to the party.

He might be able to come to the party.

*È possibile che (lui) riesca a venire alla festa.*

- You can't conjugate modal verbs. For example:  
*I verbi modali non si possono coniugare. Ad esempio:*

He ~~musts~~ buy milk later.

He must buy milk later.

*Più tardi deve comprare il latte.*

- After a modal verb we use the base form of the verb, i.e. the infinitive without "to", for example:

*Dopo un verbo modale dobbiamo usare un verbo all'infinito senza il "to", ad esempio:*

He ~~can to~~ swim.

He can swim.

*Lui sa nuotare.*

I hope this has helped you understand modal verbs better. For general information on modal verbs, go to [unit 49](#) of the online ABA course. You will study each of the verbs in more detail in the subsequent units.

Have a nice weekend!

See you soon!

Best wishes,

[Torna al sommario](#)

### **The present simple or simple present and the present continuous.**

We are going to look at two present tenses today known as the present simple or simple present and the present continuous.

They are similar in that they both refer to the present time.  
However, there are some major differences, so let's take a look.

#### **We use the present simple...**

- for regular actions or events (*per azioni ed eventi regolari*)
- I go to the gym every Monday and Wednesday.

*Vado in palestra ogni lunedì e mercoledì.*

• I study English with ABA English four times a week.  
*Studio inglese con ABA English quattro volte alla settimana.*

- for facts (*per dati di fatto*)

• The sun rises in the east.  
*Il sole sorge a est.*

• When you heat ice, it melts.  
*Quando scaldi il ghiaccio, esso si scioglie.*

- for schedules (*per gli orari*)

• The boat leaves at 6 a.m.  
*La barca parte alle 6 del mattino.*

• The theatre opens at eight.  
*Il teatro apre alle otto.*

We use the present continuous...

- to describe actions at (now) or around the time of speaking  
(*per descrivere azioni che si stanno verificando dove e quando si parla*)

• She is studying for her exams right now so she can't go to the cinema with you.

*Ora sta studiando per i suoi esami, per cui non può venire al cinema con te.*

• We are looking for a new house as our current one is too small.

*Stiamo cercando una casa nuova perché quella di adesso è troppo piccola.*

• Jack is learning Japanese because he is moving to Japan next month.

*Jack sta imparando il giapponese perché il mese prossimo si trasferirà in Giappone.*

- future plans (*per progetti futuri*)

• I'm taking my wife out to dinner tonight.  
*Stasera porto mia moglie a cenare fuori.*

• We are having a party on Saturday night.  
*Sabato sera daremo una festa.*

Remember that we can use adverbs of frequency with the present simple to express how often we do something. They are

normally placed before the verb BUT are placed after the verb “to be”. Here are some adverbs of frequency:

every day/week/month, etc.  
once/twice/three times, etc, a week/a month/a year...  
always  
often  
normally  
usually  
sometimes  
rarely  
never

Look at some examples:

- I always study hard.  
*Studio sempre molto.*
- She never understands me.  
*(Lei) Non mi capisce mai.*
- They are very happy people and are rarely sad.  
*Sono delle persone molto felici, sono tristi raramente.*

Before the present continuous we may use:

at the moment  
today  
now  
right now  
For example,

- She is learning Italian at the moment.  
*(Lei) Sta imparando l'italiano adesso.*
- Today we are eating out with Tom and his girlfriend.  
*Oggi mangiamo fuori insieme a Tom e alla sua ragazza.*

I hope this has been helpful. For more on this topic, check out unit 38 of the online ABA course.

Bye for now!

All the best,

[Torna al sommario](#)

### **Why When ?**

Today we are going to have a look at two common question words in English: **why** and **when**.

It is important to know exactly how to form questions using these words. The rules also apply to other question words like “where”, “how” and “who”.

\* We usually form wh-questions with **wh- + an auxiliary verb (to be, to do or to have) + a subject + the main verb.**

**Why** is used to obtain information or ask the reason for something.

**When** is used to ask about a time or an occasion.

Look at some examples:

- Why do they always drive so fast?

*Perché guidano sempre così veloce?*

- Why is the sky blue?

*Perché il cielo è blu?*

- Why is John staying at your house at the moment?

*Perché adesso John sta a casa vostra?*

- When are they leaving?

*Quando vanno via?*

- When do you usually go to the supermarket?

*Di solito quando vai al supermercato?*

- When do the school holidays start?

*Quando iniziano le vacanze per le scuole?*

\* We also use this form with modal verbs (can, should, must, etc):

**wh- + a modal verb + a subject + the main verb.**

For example,

- Why can't I go to the party, Mum?

*Mamma, perché non posso andare alla festa?*

- When must we give you back your computer?

*Quando ti dobbiamo ridare il computer?*

Remember that **why** and **when** are not yes or no questions and require a given answer.

For example,

Why are you so tired today?

*Perché oggi sei così stanco?*

Because I went to bed late last night.  
*Perché ieri sono andato a dormire tardi.*

For more on this topic, take a look at [unit 22](#) of the ABA online course.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

[Torna al sommario](#)

## Improve memory

Today I want to talk about an important aspect of learning a new language: memorizing vocabulary. It can be boring and not much fun, but sooner or later a little bit of memorizing can really help.

*Oggi ti voglio parlare di un aspetto importante da considerare quando si studia una nuova lingua: la memorizzazione del vocabolario. Può essere noioso, ma prima o poi è necessario in quanto rappresenta un grande aiuto.*

So I want to share 5 tips on improving your memory:

1. Sleep! - When you're sleep deprived, your brain doesn't work properly.

*Dormi! Quando non dormi il tempo necesario, il tuo cervello non rende al 100%.*

Sleeping is critical to learning and memory because in the deep stages of sleep, the brain does a lot of work related to memory.

2. Laugh - Laughter is the best medicine, right?

*Ridi. La risata è la cura migliore, non credi?*

Enjoying a joke with a friend, for example, is a great way to boost learning and creativity. The happier you are, the better you think!

3. Don't worry,... meditate!

*Non preoccuparti... medita!*

Meditation produces more activity in the left prefrontal cortex of the brain, which is the part that makes you happy. It also creates more connections in the brain. And more connections in the brain mean better mental ability and memory.

4. Eat healthy food!

*Mangia sano!*

A good diet with lots of fruit and vegetables provides lots of health benefits, including a better memory.

## 5. Exercise your brain! *Esercita la tua mente!*

Memory is like a muscle: the more you use it, the stronger it gets. Activities that use your hands, for example, are fantastic. Try playing an instrument, juggling or playing ping pong.

So here are my suggestions: have a banana, have a laugh with a friend and then keep practicing some English in our campus.

See you next week  
[Torna al sommario](#)

### **Past simple regular verb.**

Today we are going to look at how to form **the past simple of regular verbs in the affirmative** in English. There are a few things to bear in mind so let's get started.

The past simple of regular verbs is formed by adding -ed to the base form of the verb (the infinitive without "to"). For example:

*Il passato semplice dei verbi regolari si ottiene aggiungendo –ed alla forma base del verbo (l'infinito senza il “to”). Per esempio:*

work - worked

wash- washed

watch - watched

jump - jumped

Take a look at some example sentences with the above regular past simple verbs:

John worked all day yesterday.  
*Ieri John ha lavorato tutto il giorno.*

I washed my hair last night.  
*Mi sono lavato i capelli ieri sera.*

Susan watched the football match on TV two days ago.  
*Susan ha guardato la partita di calcio in tv due giorni fa.*

They jumped for joy when we told them our great news.  
*Hanno fatto i salti di gioia quando abbiamo detto loro la bella notizia.*

\* Remember that the past simple form of regular verbs is the same for all persons (I, you, he, etc).

\* Ricorda che il passato semplice dei verbi regolari è identico per tutte le persone (I, you, he, ecc).

It's also important to remember that there are a few rules to bear in mind when changing verbs into the regular past form:

- For regular verbs ending in the vowel -e, just add -d, for example,

*Nei verbi regolari che terminano con la vocale -e, si aggiunge solo -d, per esempio:*

hate - hated

hope - hoped

free - freed

- For some verbs that end in a vowel other than -e, add -ed, for example,

*Nei verbi che terminano con una vocale diversa da -e, si aggiunge -ed, per esempio:*

ski - skied

echo - echoed

- For regular verbs that end in a consonant -y, change the -y to -i and add -ed, for example,

*Nei verbi regolari che terminano con -y, si sostituisce -y con -i e si aggiunge -ed, per esempio:*

cry - cried

try - tried

dirty - dirtied

I hope this has been informative for you. To learn more, check out [unit 66](#) of the online ABA course.

Have a great weekend!

All the best,

Make formal request

Today we are going to look at how to make formal requests in English.

Oggi impareremo a formulare richieste formali in inglese.

Most commonly we use “could” and “may” to make formal requests.

Have a look at a dialogue between Frank (F) and John (J) to see how to use them correctly:

F: Good morning, John. May I open the window in here? It's very hot.

Buongiorno, John. Posso aprire la finestra? Fa molto caldo qui.

J: Sure, Frank! As you are standing up, could you also turn on the fan to cool down the room?

Certo Frank! Già che sei in piedi, potresti anche accendere il ventilatore così rinfreschiamo la stanza?

F: OK, no problem!

OK , non c'è problema!

J: Could you and Mike go to the bank for me later? I urgently need to convert 500 pounds into US dollars and have no free time today.

Dopo tu e Mike potreste andare in banca per me? Ho bisogno di cambiare 500 pounds in dollari e oggi non ho tempo.

F: OK. May we go to a few banks to get the best rate?

OK, possiamo andare in un paio di banche per trovare il cambio migliore?

J: Of course you may!

Sì certo!

As you can see, we use “may” and “could” to ask for permission.

Questions with “may” or “could” are more formal than questions with “can”.

Le domande con “may” o “could” sono più formali di quelle con “can”.

\*An important rule to remember is that we only use “may” in questions with the first person forms “I” and “we”. We can use “could” with all persons.

\* Importante: “may” si usa solo nelle domande in prima persona (I e We). “Could” si può impiegare con tutte le persone.

We use “can”, “could” and “may” to ask for permission.

However, we use “can” and “may”, but not “could”, to give permission. For example:

Si può usare “can”, “could” e “may” per chiedere permesso.

Tuttavia, usiamo “can” e “may”, ma non “could”, per dare il permesso di fare qualcosa. Ad esempio:

- May I use your car tomorrow?  
Posso usare la tua macchina domani?

- Yes, you may.  
Sì.

- Can I go out tonight?  
Posso uscire stasera?

- Yes, you can, but be home by ten.  
Sì, però devi tornare a casa entro le 10.

- Could I borrow your car this afternoon?  
Mi presti la tua macchina oggi pomeriggio?

- Sorry, you can't, it's at the mechanic's.  
Mi spiace, è dal meccanico.

I hope this has been useful for you! For more information on this topic, please check out unit 52 of the ABA online course.

Have a great weekend!

Bye for now!  
[Torna al sommario](#)

### **Possessive and adjective**

I'm enjoying my day, especially because I get to help you learn something new in English.

Are you ready?

Today we are learning about possessive adjectives.

Possessive adjectives are used to show possession or ownership of something. While we use them when we refer to people, it is more in the sense of relationship than ownership. For example,  
*Usiamo gli aggettivi possessivi per esprimere possesso.*  
*Quando li usiamo riferendoci alle persone indicano una relazione. Ad esempio:*

This is Sarah. She is my wife.  
*Ti presento Sarah. È mia moglie.*

The possessive adjectives are as follows:

I — My  
You — Your  
He — His  
She — Her

It — Its  
We — Our  
You(plural) — Your  
They — Their

Check out some sentences with possessive adjectives:

- \* My brother helped me build this house.  
*Mio fratello mi ha aiutato a costruire questa casa.*
- \* Is this your luggage?  
*Questo è il tuo bagaglio?*
- \* I think Mike has lost his suitcase!  
*Credo che Mike abbia perso la sua valigia!*
- \* Jane is sad because her grandpa died recently.  
*Jane è triste perché poco tempo fa è venuto a mancare suo nonno.*
- \* That butterfly is beautiful; its wings look like a face.  
*Questa farfalla è bellissima, le sue ali sembrano un viso.*
- \* Our parents are away this weekend so we are having a party!  
*Questo fine settimana i nostri genitori sono via per cui daremo una festa!*
- \* Don't touch their books, John!  
*John non toccare i loro libri!*

Well, that's easy enough, isn't it? For more on this please topic, check out unit 30 of the ABA online course.

Have a great weekend!

Bye for now

**Torna al sommario**

### **Form contract to be**

Today we're going to look at the contracted forms of the verb "to be" in the present simple. Remember that contractions are very common in informal writing and speech in English.  
Oggi daremo un'occhiata insieme alle forme contratte del verbo "to be" al Present Simple. Ricorda che le contrazioni sono molto comuni sia nell'inglese scritto informale che in quello parlato.

Before we continue, here's a reminder of the verb "to be" in the present simple:

I am

You are

He / She / It is

We are

You (plural) are

They are

To make a contraction with a subject pronoun and the verb “to be”, join the two words and replace the first letter of the conjugated verb “to be” with an apostrophe.

Per effettuare una contrazione con un pronomo personale e il verbo “to be”, basta unire le due parole e sostituire la prima lettera della forma coniugata del verbo “to be” con un apostrofo:

I am

I'm

You are

You're

He / She / It is

He's / She's / It's

We are

We're

You (plural) are

You're

They are

They're

Have a look at the following dialogue between Richard (R) and Sandra (S) to see contractions in everyday speech:

S: Hey, Rich! I heard you're going to Brazil this week!  
Ehi Rich! Mi hanno detto che questa settimana vai in Brasile!

R: Yes, I'm leaving on Thursday morning.  
Sì, parto giovedì mattina.

S: You're so lucky. I'm just staying here the whole summer.  
Beato te. Io invece starò qui tutta l'estate.

R: That's unfortunate. Did you hear that John's coming with me to Brazil? He's buying his ticket tonight. We're both really excited.

Che sfortuna! Sai che John viene con me in Brasile? Stasera compra il biglietto. Tutti e due ne siamo davvero entusiasti.

S: Have a great time!

Divertitevi!

To make a negative sentence, just add “not” after the contraction. For example,

Per creare una frase negativa basta aggiungere “not” dopo la contrazione. Ad esempio:

- I'm not happy because it's raining.  
Non sono felice perché sta piovendo.

- She's not coming to the party.  
Lei non viene alla festa.

- They're not tired today.  
Oggi non sono stanchi.

- We're not going to the party because we haven't been invited.  
Non andiamo alla festa perché non siamo stati invitati.

It is also possible to say “you aren't” instead of “you're not”, “he / she / it isn't” instead of “he / she / it's not”, “we aren't” instead of “we're not” and “they aren't” instead of “they're not”. For example,

- She isn't coming to the party.

- They aren't tired today.

- We aren't going to the party because we weren't invited.

I hope this has been helpful! Remember that for more on this subject, you can check out unit 3 of the online ABA course.

Have an awesome weekend!

Take care,

[\*\*Torna al sommario\*\*](#)

### **The verb to like**

I am sure that you have heard of the verb "to like" before in English! It's one of our favourite verbs. We use it all the time to talk about things that we enjoy doing.

Sono sicura che hai già sentito il verbo "to like" in inglese! È uno dei miei verbi preferiti. Lo usiamo per parlare delle cose che ci piace fare.

If we don't like doing something, we don't enjoy doing it!

Let's have a look at some examples of how to use "to like" in the present simple in the affirmative and negative forms.

Bob likes playing cards with his friends on Saturday mornings.  
Di sabato mattina a Bob piace giocare a carte con i suoi amici.

I like going shopping with my friends every weekend.  
Mi piace andare a fare shopping con le mie amiche ogni fine settimana.

Mike doesn't like going to the gym. He prefers going running.  
A Mike non piace andare in palestra. Preferisce andare a correre.

Sara likes studying in the library because it's much more peaceful there.

A Sara piace studiare in biblioteca perché è molto più tranquillo.

In general, children don't like doing their homework.  
Generalmente ai bambini non piace fare i compiti.

The verb "to like" is often followed by a gerund, the "-ing" form of the verb. However, it is also possible to put an infinitive after the verb "to like". It is possible to say, for example, Spesso il verbo "to like" è seguito da un gerundio, cioè il verbo in "ing". Tuttavia è anche possibile usare l'infinito dopo il verbo "to like". Possiamo dire ad esempio:

Bob likes to play cards with his friends on Saturday mornings.

Some other verbs which indicate preference are...

to love

to prefer

to hate

Look at some examples:

James loves watching films on TV whereas his sister prefers going to the cinema. James hates spending so much money just to see a film.

James loves to watch films on TV whereas his sister prefers to go to the cinema. James hates to spend so much money just to see a film.

A James piace guardare film alla tele, mentre sua sorella preferisce andare al cinema. James non sopporta dover spendere molti soldi solo per guardare un film.

I hope this has been helpful!

For more on "to like", check out unit 17 of the ABA online course.

I hope that you have a great weekend!

Kind regards,

### **Torna al sommario**

#### **There is There are**

Today we are going to have a look at "there was" and "there were" to see exactly when and how to use them.

Oggi studieremo "there was" e "there were" per sapere quando e come usarli esattamente.

We use "there was" and "there were" when we want to say something existed or something was present in the past.

Usiamo "there was" e "there were" quando vogliamo dire che qualcosa è esistito o era presente nel passato.

\* Remember that "there was" and "there were" refer to the past and are the past tense of "there is" and "there are".

\* Ricorda che "there was" e "there were" sono il passato di "there is" e "there are".

- We use there was with singular nouns. For example:

Usiamo "there was" con i sostantivi singolari. Ad esempio:

There was a big garden in the front of the house.

C'era un giardino grande davanti alla casa.

There was a man at the bus stop.

Alla fermata dell'autobus c'era un uomo.

- We use there were with plural nouns. For example:

Usiamo "there were" con i sostantivi plurali. Ad esempio:

There were many travel guides at the bookshop yesterday.

Ieri c'erano molte guide di viaggio in librerie.

There were seven hundred people at the convention last week.

La settimana scorsa al convegno c'erano 700 persone.

Look at this dialogue between Eric (E) and Pam (P) to see how to use “there was” and “there were” in conversation:

E: Were there many people at the show, Pam?  
C’era molta gente allo spettacolo Pam?

P: Yes, it was packed. You should have come! There was enough room in the car for you.  
Sì era pieno. Saresti dovuto venire! C’era posto anche per te in macchina.

E: I know, I just didn’t feel like going out. There was a great film on TV last night anyway.  
Lo so, ma non avevo voglia di uscire. Comunque c’era un bel film in tele ieri sera.

P: There were amazing decorations set up too around the stage area and there was a new guitar player who I hadn’t seen before.  
C’erano anche delle meravigliose decorazioni tutt’intorno al palco e un nuovo chitarrista che non avevo mai visto prima.

E: It sounds great. Next time I might come along.  
Sembra meraviglioso. Magari la prossima volta vengo anche io.

As you can see, we make questions by placing “was” or “were” at the beginning of the sentence followed by “there.”

- Were there many people at the show?  
C’era molta gente allo spettacolo?
- Was there anything good on TV last night?  
C’era qualcosa di bello alla tele ieri sera?

To form the negative we add “not” to “was” or “were” to form “was not” or “were not.” Alternatively, you can use the contracted forms “wasn’t” or “weren’t”. Look at some examples:

- There were not / There weren’t many people at the show.  
Non c’era molta gente allo spettacolo.
- There was not / wasn’t anything good on TV last night.  
Non c’era niente di bello alla tele ieri sera.

I hope this has been helpful for you. For more information on this topic, please take a look at unit 64 of the online ABA course.

Have a great weekend!

Bye for now!

[Torna al sommario](#)

### To speak by phone

Even new English learners may have to speak English on the phone at some time or another.

Perfino i principianti, prima o poi, dovranno parlare al telefono in inglese.

Normally speaking over the phone in English is difficult because we can't see the other person's face or see their mouth move and so we may have trouble understanding them. However, when making and receiving phone calls, we normally follow some sort of structure.

Di solito parlare al telefono in inglese risulta difficile perché non possiamo vedere il viso dell'altra persona, o la sua bocca muoversi mentre ci parla, per cui riscontriamo più problemi nel capire l'altra persona. Tuttavia, quando effettuiamo o riceviamo delle chiamate, seguiamo una certa struttura.

Let's have a look at a few ways of speaking on the phone.

Firstly, let's look at a common phone conversation between Tom (T) and Mrs Smith (MS):

T: Hello, can I speak to Max please?  
Pronto? Posso parlare con Max per favore?

MS: Sure. May I ask who's calling?  
Certo. Chi parla?

T: My name is Tom. Is that Mrs Smith?  
Mi chiamo Tom. Lei è la signora Smith?

MS: Yes, it is Tom. Just hang on a second. I'll check if he's here.  
Sì sono io Tom. Un momento, vado a vedere se c'è.

(A few seconds later) I'm afraid he's not home. Can I take a message?  
(Qualche secondo dopo). Mi spiace ma non è in casa. Vuoi lasciarmi un messaggio?

T: It's OK, thank you, I'll call back later. Thanks so much, Mrs Smith.  
No, grazie. Chiamerò più tardi. Grazie mille signora Smith.

MS: Not at all. Have a nice day.  
Non c'è di che. Buona gironata!

T: You too.

Anche a lei!

MS: Goodbye!

Arrivederci!

T: Goodbye, Mrs Smith!

Arrivederci signora Smith!

We may also use many variations in our conversation and the list below will help you structure your sentences in a better way.  
Possiamo anche usare delle varianti per i nostri dialoghi. La lista qui sotto ti può aiutare a costruire meglio le tue frasi.

Answering the phone:

- Hello!
- Good morning/afternoon/evening

Asking for a person:

- May / Can I speak to (name)?
- Is (name) there?

Asking to take a message:

- Can I take a message?
- Would you like to leave a message?

Asking who is calling:

- Who's calling please?
- May I ask who's calling?

Introducing yourself:

- This is (name)
- (Name) speaking

Asking a person to wait:

- Hold on
- Hang on, I'll call (name)
- Just a second

I hope this has been helpful. For more information on speaking on the phone, take a look at unit 11 of the online ABA course.

Until next week!

Have a nice weekend

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[Torna al sommario](#)

## Some and any Quantifier

I hope all's well with you today.

Our quick English tip for today is going to be related to the quantifiers "some" and "any". The words "some" and "any" are used when a speaker cannot or does not specify amounts or numbers of things or people.

Oggi la nostra dritta sull'inglese riguarda i quantificatori "some" e "any". Le parole "some" e "any" si utilizzano quando chi parla non può specificare (o non specifica) la quantità di cose o persone di cui sta parlando.

Have a look at the following sentences:

- While driving to school yesterday, we saw three kids playing in the park.

Mentre andavamo a scuola in macchina abbiamo visto tre bambini giocando nel parco.

In this sentence the number of children is specified and it is important to know how many kids the speaker saw.

In questa frase il numero dei bambini viene specificato ed è importante per chi parla.

- While driving to school yesterday, we saw some kids playing in the park.

Mentre andavamo a scuola in macchina abbiamo visto dei bambini giocando nel parco.

In this sentence the speaker is unsure of how many children were playing in the park or the number is unimportant.

In questa frase chi parla non è sicuro di quanti bambini stessero giocando nel parco, oppure il numero non è rilevante.

some is normally used in affirmative sentences. For example:

- Some people are coming to the party but I don't know how many.

Alcune persone verranno alla festa, ma non so quante.

- If I have some free time after work, I will come visit you.

Se dopo il lavoro ho un po' di tempo libero ti vengo a trovare.

any is normally used in negative sentences. For example:

- The company still hasn't got any news about the merger.

L'impresa non ha ancora novità sulla fusione.

- I didn't see any of my friends at the party.  
Non ho visto nessuno dei miei amici alla festa.

In the following dialogue between Chris (C) and Marta (M) we can see how to use the quantifiers "some" and "any" in conversation.

C: Morning, Marta. Would you like to go get some coffee?  
Buongiorno Marta. Vuoi bere un caffè?

M: Morning, Chris. No I don't drink coffee any more. I stopped last month.  
Buongiorno Chris. No grazie. Non bevo più caffè dal mese scorso

C: That's OK. Some friends of mine are at a coffee shop nearby so I thought I'd offer.  
Ok. Ci sono dei miei amici in un bar qui vicino, per quello te l'avevo proposto.

M: I'd love to come but I have to study for next week's test. I haven't had any time to study yet.  
Mi piacerebbe ma devo studiare per il mio esame di settimana prossima. Non ho ancora avuto tempo per studiare.

Normally we use "any" to make questions to ask about the existence of something, for example,

- Is there any rice left?  
È rimasto un po' di riso?

- Do you have any children?  
Hai figli?

However, "some" can also be used when we are offering or suggesting something. Here are some examples:

- Would you like to go get some coffee?  
Vuoi andare a bere un caffè?  
  
- Would you like some new shoes for your birthday?  
Ti piacerebbe un nuovo paio di scarpe per il tuo compleanno?

It may also be used when asking for something.

- Could I have some water please?  
Mi può dare un po' d'acqua per favore? ?  
  
- Can I have some fries with my burger?  
Mi può dare anche delle patatine fritte con il mio hamburger per favore?

I hope this has been helpful for you. For more information, take a look at unit 27 of the online ABA course.

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes,

**Torna al sommario**

## Can

Can you speak English? Can I help make it easier for you? The questions I am asking are formed by using the modal verb "can." It is a very important modal verb that is used all the time so I am going to show you how and when to use it correctly. Parli inglese? Posso aiutarti a renderlo più semplice? Come puoi vedere queste domande si formano con il verbo modale "can". Si tratta di un verbo modale molto importante e molto frequente, per cui ora ti spiegherò come usarlo correttamente.

Ready? Let's go!

can is used for the following:

"Can" si usa nei seguenti casi:

- to talk about possibility or ability

Per esprimere possibilità e abilità

- to ask or give permission

Per chiedere o dare un permesso

- to make requests.

Per fare richieste.

To talk about ability or possibility, "can" is usually placed before the action verb. For example:

Per parlare di abilità e possibilità, "can" si colloca di solito prima del verbo dell'azione. Ad esempio:

- James is a good sportsman. He can play tennis, football and cricket very well. (ability)

James è un buon sportivo. Sa giocare a tennis, calcio e cricket molto bene. (capacità)

- Cathy can come to the party because she finishes work at 6. (possibility)

Cathy può venire alla festa perché finisce di lavorare alle 6. (possibilità)

To form questions asking for permission, "can" is placed at the beginning of the sentence.

Per formulare domande per chiedere permesso, "can" si colloca all'inizio della frase.

To give permission, "can" is placed after the subject.

Per dare il permesso invece "can" va dopo il soggetto.

- Can I go to Lucy's party on Saturday night?

Posso andare alla festa di Lucy sabato sera?

- Can I smoke in this room?

Posso fumare in questa stanza?

- You can take my car to work if yours isn't working.

Puoi prendere la mia macchina per andare al lavoro se la tua non funziona.

To form questions making requests, "can" is placed at the beginning of the sentence.

Per formulare delle richieste, "can" si posiziona all'inizio della frase.

Look at some examples:

- Can I have a coffee please?

Mi fa un caffè per favore?

- Can you please help me paint my house this afternoon?

Oggi pomeriggio mi puoi aiutare a dipingere casa mia per favore?

- Can you give me a lift to work?

Mi puoi dare un passaggio al lavoro?

For negatives we use "cannot" or the contraction "can't", for example:

Per le negazioni si usa "cannot" o la contrazione "can't", ad esempio:

- You can't arrive late because it's an important day.

Non puoi arrivare tardi perché è un giorno importante.

- The boys can't go out tonight as they have not finished their homework.

I ragazzi stasera non possono uscire dato che non hanno finito i compiti.

- He cannot play in the match as he is injured. ("cannot" is usually more emphatic)

Lui non può giocare la partita perché è ferito. ("cannot" di solito è più enfatico)

I hope this quick lesson has been helpful for you. For more on “can”, please refer to Unit 50 and Unit 51 of the online ABA course.

Have a great weekend.

Bye for now

**Torna al sommario**

## **Was wasn't**

Intermediate

Continua a studiare

In today's lesson we are going to look at the verb “to be” in the past and how it is used in questions and answers.

Come stai? Nella lezione di oggi analizzeremo il verbo “to be” al passato e come usarlo nelle domande e nelle risposte.

Let's look at a dialogue between a mum (M) and her son (S) about their days.

Diamo un'occhiata alla conversazione tra una madre (M) e suo figlio (S) sulla loro giornata.

M: How was your day at school?

Come è andata oggi a scuola?

S: Fine thanks, Mum. Was your day good?

Bene, grazie mamma. E la tua è stata una bella giornata?

M: Yes, it was. I went shopping and had a coffee with my friend Susan.

Sì. Sono andata a fare shopping e poi mi sono presa un caffè con la mia amica Susan.

S: Wasn't she supposed to come round for dinner tonight?

Non doveva venire a cena stasera?

M: Yes, she was but she had to cancel because she is not feeling well. Were you busy at school today?

Sì, ma ha dovuto cancellare l'impegno perché non si sente molto bene. Hai avuto molto da fare oggi a scuola?

S: Yes, I was. We have a lot to do before the end of the year.

Sì. Abbiamo molte cose da fare entro la fine dell'anno.

M: Were all your friends there today too?

E c'erano tutti i tuoi amici oggi?

S: No, they weren't because most of the class went on a science trip so just a few of us were at school.

No, perché la maggior parte della classe è andata a un'escursione di scienze per cui eravamo in pochi a scuola.

Here are some of the important rules to remember when using “was” or “were” in the past simple:

Ecco alcune delle regole più importanti quando si usa “was” o “where” al Past Simple:

- To form questions we change the position of “was” or “were” and the subject around, for example:

Per formulare le domande cambiamo la posizione di “was” o “were” e quella del soggetto, ad esempio:

Were you busy at school today?

- With questions containing the question words “which”, “when”, “where”, “why”, “how”, ecc, “was” or “were” just follow the question word. For example:

Nelle domande che includono i pronomi interrogativi “which”, “when”, “where”, “why”, “how”, et+cc., “was” o “were” si collocano subito dopo il pronome. Ad esempio:

How was your day at school?

- “Was” or “were” may be used in short answers.

For example, the possible short answers to the question “Were all your friends there today too?” are:

Nelle risposte brevi si possono usare “was” e “were”.

Ad esempio le possibili risposte brevi alla domanda “Were all your friends there today too?” sono:

- Yes, they were.
- No, they weren't / No, they were not (per dare enfasi)

I hope this has been helpful for you. Remember that for more information on this topic, you can have a look at unit 63 of the ABA online course.

See you soon!

Have a nice weekend.

**Torna al sommario**

**Modal verb**

Good afternoon!

How are you today?

Do you think you should study more English? Do you think that you might be improving? I'm sure you are ☺  
Credi di dover studiare più inglese? Credi che miglioreresti? Io credo di sì ☺

The words “should” and “might” are called modal verbs. Modal verbs are very common in English when we want to express possibility, ability and obligation, amongst other things.

Le parole “should” e “might” si definiscono “modal verbs” (verbi modali). I verbi modali sono molto comuni in inglese quando si vuole esprimere possibilità, capacità e obbligo, tra altre cose.

Here is a list of some of the most common modal verbs and the main thing or things they express. This is not an exhaustive list.  
Qui di seguito ti propongo una lista dei verbi modali più comuni e ciò che significano ed esprimono. Non si tratta di una lista completa!

should - advice or suggestions

could – possibility

would - a desire or a wish

might – probability

ought to - advice or suggestions. “ought to” is more formal than “should”.

can – ability

must - strong obligation or advice

Look at the following text containing some of the above modal verbs:

Leggi il seguente testo che include alcuni dei verbi modali della lista qui sopra:

Matthew is a doctor. He works at Brighton General Hospital. Matthew must wake up at 6 o'clock every morning in order to get to work on time. He lives 45 miles from the hospital but he doesn't have a car so he takes the train and then a bus. All his friends think he ought to buy a car, but he tells them he can't afford it. Matthew believes people shouldn't buy a car unless it's absolutely necessary and that they should use public transport, because cars pollute the air and cause many diseases.

Matthew è un medico. Lavora al Brighton General Hospital.

Ogni mattina Matthew deve alzarsi alle 6 per poter arrivare al lavoro in orario. Vive a 45 miglia dall'ospedale ma non ha una macchina, per cui prende prima il treno e poi l'autobus. Tutti i suoi amici pensano che dovrebbe comprarsi una macchina, ma lui dice loro che non se la può permettere. Matthew crede che le persone non dovrebbero comprarsi una macchina a meno che non sia assolutamente necessario e che tutti quanti dovrebbero usare i mezzi di trasporto pubblici dato che le macchine inquinano l'aria e sono causa di molti problemi.

Here are a few useful things to remember about modal verbs:  
Ecco alcuni punti da tenere in mente sui verbi modali:

- We can't put two modal verbs together. Here's an example:  
Non possiamo usare due verbi modali insieme. Ad esempio:

He might can come to the party.  
He might be able to come to the party.  
È possibile che (lui) riesca a venire alla festa.

- You can't conjugate modal verbs. For example:  
I verbi modali non si possono coniugare. Ad esempio:

He musts buy milk later.  
He must buy milk later.  
Più tardi deve comprare il latte.

- After a modal verb we use the base form of the verb, i.e. the infinitive without "to", for example:  
Dopo un verbo modale dobbiamo usare un verbo all'infinito  
senza il "to", ad esempio:

He can to swim.  
He can swim.  
Lui sa nuotare.

I hope this has helped you understand modal verbs better. For general information on modal verbs, go to unit 49 of the online ABA course. You will study each of the verbs in more detail in the subsequent units.

Have a nice weekend!

See you soon!

Best wishes,

[\*\*Torna al sommario\*\*](#)

### **Possessive pronomi**

Do you know how to use possessive pronouns? I'll show you.

Possessive pronouns are used when we want to show that something belongs to or is part of someone or something else. For example in the sentence "These books are mine, not yours", the words "mine" and "yours" are possessive pronouns and are used to replace the longer forms "my books" and "your books." I pronomi possessivi si usano quando vogliamo dire che qualcosa appartiene o fa parte di qualcuno o qualcosa. Ad

esempio nella frase “These books are mine, not yours” (Questi libri sono miei, non tuoi), “mine” e “yours” sono pronomi possessivi che vengono impiegati per sostituire i sostantivi “my books” e “your books”.

There are some rules though which we need to remember so let's take a look.

Tuttavia ci sono delle regole da tenere presente, diamoci un'occhiata insieme.

We use possessive pronouns depending on:  
Usiamo i pronomi possessivi in base a:

- number: singular (eg: mine) or plural (eg: ours)  
numero: singolare (es. “mine”) o plurale (es. “ours”)
- person: 1st person (eg: mine), 2nd person (eg: yours) or 3rd person (eg: his)  
persona: 1<sup>a</sup> persona (es. “mine”), 2<sup>a</sup> persona (es. “yours”) o 3<sup>a</sup> persona (es. “his”)
- gender: male (his), female (hers)  
genere: maschile (“his”), femminile (“hers”)

The words mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours and theirs are possessive pronouns. They show who or what something belongs to.

Le parole “mine”, “yours”, “his”, “hers”, “its”, “ours” e “theirs” sono pronomi possessivi. Indicano a chi o a cosa appartiene qualcosa.

Let's look at some examples below of how to use them.  
Vediamo ora degli esempi per capire come si usano.

- That house is ours.  
Quella casa è nostra.
- Those cars are theirs, not ours.  
Quelle macchine sono loro, non nostre.
- This is my book, not yours.  
Questo libro è mio, non tuo.
- Those people are your friends, not mine!  
Quelle persone sono tuoi amici, non miei!
- The bicycle is his, not his brother's.  
La bicicletta è sua (di lui), non di suo fratello.
- This is my bedroom. Hers is bigger.  
Questa è la mia camera. La sua (di lei) è più grande.

Look at the possessive pronouns in these sentences and note that they may be used as subjects or objects.

Dai un'occhiata ai pronomi possessivi delle seguenti frasi e presta attenzione a come possono essere usati sia come soggetto che oggetto.

- Look at those houses. Mine is the biggest one.(subject = my house)

Guarda quelle case. La mia è la più grande.

- I really like your car. Do you like mine? ( object = my car)  
Mi piace davvero tanto la tua macchina. A te piace la mia?

I hope this has helped you understand possessive pronouns better. For more information on this topic, please refer to unit 33 of the online ABA English course and check out our blog!

See you next week!

Take care,

**Torna al sommario**

### **Going To**

I'm going to teach you about "going to" and how to use it correctly. Here I have used "I'm going to teach you" because it's my intention ☺

Oggi ti voglio insegnare a utilizzare correttamente "going to". Come puoi notare, ho già usato questa costruzione nella frase "I'm going to teach you", dato che si tratta di una mia intenzione. ☺

"Going to" is used for events which are planned or expected.  
"Going to" si usa per eventi che sono già stati pianificati o attesi.

Look at the following conversation between Chris (C) and Stacey (S) to see how it is used:

Dai un'occhiata al seguente dialogo tra Chris (C) e Stacey (S) per vedere come si usa:

C: Good morning, Stacey. Do you have any plans for the summer holiday? I'm going to spend a week in Ibiza with my friends.

Buongiorno Stacey. Hai già piani per le vacanze estive? Io andrò a Ibiza con i miei amici.

S: I'm not sure what I'm going to do, Chris. I may just stay here and spend time with my family. I'm very excited about next winter though as my family and I are going to go skiing in the Alps.

Non sono sicura di quello che farò, Chris. Forse me ne starò qui e passerò un po' di tempo con la mia famiglia. Comunque non vedo l'ora che arrivi l'inverno perché andrò a sciare sulle Alpi con la mia famiglia.

C: That sounds like fun, Stacey. My family and I are going to Thailand to escape the cold winter. We do that every year. Anyway, Stacey, I have to go. I'm going to have lunch with a close friend this afternoon.

Sembra divertente, Stacey! Io e la mia famiglia andremo in Thailandia per scappare dal freddo dell'inverno. Lo facciamo ogni anno. Ora devo andare Stacey. Oggi pomeriggio vado a pranzare con un mio caro amico.

S: OK, Chris, see you tomorrow!  
Ok Chris, ci vediamo domani!

Remember we form this verb form using subject + the verb to be conjugated correctly + going to + the base form of the verb and to form the negative we just add "not" after the verb "to be" and follow the same structure, for example:

Ricorda che questo verbo si forma usando il soggetto + il verbo "to be" coniugato correttamente + il verbo all'infinito (senza "to"). Per creare la forma negativa basta aggiungere "not" dopo il verbo "to be" e impiegare la stessa struttura, ad esempio:

We are not going to come to the party. (or the contracted form "We're not going to come to the party.")  
Noi non verremo alla festa.

"Going to" may also be used for predictions based on evidence we are able to see as we speak. For example, "Going to" può essere usato anche per fare previsioni che siamo in grado di intuire mentre parliamo. Ad esempio:

- That book is going to fall off the table!  
Quel libro sta per cadere dal tavolo!
- Look at those clouds! I think it's going to rain today.  
Guarda quelle nuvole! Credo che oggi andrà a piovere.
- I have just broken my wife's favorite vase. She's not going to be happy!  
Ho appena rotto il vaso preferito di mia moglie. Non ne sarà contenta!

Well, there you have it! I hope this has been helpful for you. For more information on "going to", please check out unit 47 of the ABA online course.

See you soon!

Have a nice weekend

[Torna al sommario](#)

## Improve your pronunciation

First of all, I want to teach you a famous sentence:  
*Prima di tutto voglio insegnarti una frase famosa:*

**“The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog”**

It's a very popular sentence because it uses all the letters of the alphabet. This makes it a great way to practice your English pronunciation every day.

*Si tratta di una frase molto conosciuta perché include tutte le lettere dell'alfabeto. Questo la rende un buon metodo per allenare la pronuncia quotidianamente.*

Today, I want to give you some tips on how to practice speaking in English. We're going to start this lesson by remembering the difference between enunciating and pronouncing.

*Oggi ti voglio dare alcuni consigli per allenarti a parlare inglese. Inizieremo questa lezione ripassando la differenza tra articolare e pronunciare qualcosa.*

**Pronunciation is properly saying each group of letters to make the correct sounds.**

*Pronunciare significa dire ogni gruppo di lettere in modo da emettere il suono corretto.*

**Enunciation is speaking clearly in order to allow someone to understand what you are saying.**

*Articolare significa pronunciare in modo corretto così da permettere a chi ti ascolta di capire cosa stai dicendo.*

Let's look at an example with the word “**February**”:

*Diamo un'occhiata a un esempio con la parola “February”:*

Correct pronunciation - “Feb-rue-air-ee”

*Pronuncia corretta*

Correct enunciation: saying the word **slowly and clearly**.

*Articolazione corretta: dire la parola lentamente e chiaramente.*

However, if you said “Feb-you-air-ee” slowly and clearly, you would be enunciating well but your pronunciation would not be correct.

*Tuttavia, se dicesse “Feb-you-air-ee” lentamente e chiaramente, articoleresti la parola in modo corretto ma la pronuncia sarebbe errata.*

Or, if you said “Feb-rue-air-ee” properly but you said it very quickly and quietly, your pronunciation is correct but nobody will be able to hear you.

*Se invece dicesse “Feb-rue-air-ee” correttamente ma velocemente e a bassa voce, la pronuncia potrebbe non risultare chiara.*

This is why I always tell my students that to speak like the Queen of England, **you must enunciate AND pronounce words well.**

*Ecco perché dico sempre ai miei studenti che per parlare come la Regina d’Inghilterra si deve pronunciare E articolare bene le parole.*

If you’d like to keep practicing your pronunciation, I recommend you watch our new Youtube series. In each video you’ll learn a new word, how to pronounce it and how to use it in a sentence.

*Se vuoi continuare ad allenare la tua pronuncia, ti consiglio di guardare le nostre nuove serie su Youtube. In ogni video imparerai una parola nuova, come pronunciarla e come usarla nelle frasi.*

You can start by learning how to pronounce the word “thoroughly”. Just click on the video to watch the correct enunciation and pronunciation:

*Puoi cominciare dalla parola “thoroughly”. Clicca sul video per imparare l’articolazione e la pronuncia corretta:*

I hope you enjoyed this pronunciation class!

See you next week,

**Torna al sommario**

### **Present perfect**

For today’s fun English tip we are going to look at the **present simple** in English. I’ll show you exactly when and how to use it correctly. Are you ready?

*Per il consiglio d’inglese di oggi daremo un’occhiata al Present Simple. Ti insegnereò quando e come usarlo correttamente. Pronto/a?*

Right, let’s start by looking at the following conversation between Robert (R) and Maria (M):

*Ok, iniziamo con il seguente dialogo tra Robert (R) e Maria (M):*

**R: The plane leaves for Barcelona at six tomorrow morning so I need to have an early night.**

*L'aereo per Barcellona parte domani alle sei del mattino, per cui devo andare a letto presto.*

**M: I know. You brother lives there doesn't he?**

*Lo so. Tuo fratello vive lì, vero?*

**R: Yes he lives there too and so does my sister. I miss them a lot. I call them every weekend for a chat and now I can finally visit them.**

*Sì, vive lì, e anche mia sorella. Mi mancano molto. Li chiamo ogni fine settimana per chiaccherare con loro, ma ora finalmente li posso andare a trovare.*

**M: Well, have a great time then! I leave for my holiday on Monday too so I'll see you when you get back.**

*Divertiti allora! Anche io parto per le vacanze Lunedí, per cui ti rivedrò quando torni.*

Firstly, **we use the present simple for something that is always true.** Look at the following example from the text above:

*Prima di tutto il Simple Present si usa quando qualcosa è sempre vero. Dai un'occhiata ai seguenti esempi presi dal testo precedente:*

- **Your brother lives there too, doesn't he?**

- *Tuo fratello vive lì, vero?*

(In this conversation we can see that at the present moment Robert's brother and sister live in Barcelona.)

(*Da questo dialogo possiamo capire che, al momento in cui si parla, il fratello e la sorella di Robert vivono a Barcellona.*)

Remember that with the present simple we place an “s” **at the end of verbs in the third person singular.** “Do” becomes “does” in the third person singular present form.

*Ricorda che al Present Simple aggiungiamo una “s” alla terza persona singolare. “Do” diventa “does” alla terza persona singolare.*

Secondly, we use the present simple **for things that happen repeatedly** and normally we use the adverbs “often”, “always”, “every day”, “sometimes”, etc, with the present simple. For example:

*Usiamo inoltre il Present Simple per cose che accadono ripetutamente e di solito impieghiamo gli avverbi “often”, “always”, “every day”, “sometimes”, ecc. Ad esempio:*

- **I call them every weekend for a chat.**

- *Li chiamo ogni fine settimana per chiaccherare..*

Lastly, it can be used **for something that is fixed or based on a**

**schedule.** For example:

*Infine si può usare per parlare di qualcosa che è stato già programmato o fissato in base a un orario. Ad esempio:*

- **The plane leaves for Barcelona at six tomorrow morning.**
- *L'aereo per Barcellona parte domani alle sei del mattino.*

I hope this has helped you understand the present simple a bit better. For more on this topic, please refer to [unit 14](#) of the full online ABA course.

Goodbye for now

### **Torna al sommario**

### **The zero conditional**

Today's quick English tip is conditional sentences with the present simple in both clauses. This conditional is also known as the zero conditional. The zero conditional is used to talk about normal or real-life situations and when the result of the condition is always true, like a scientific fact.

La nostra dritta d'inglese di oggi riguarda le frasi ipotetiche che presentano il Present Simple in entrambe le parti della proposizione. Questo tipo di condizionale è conosciuto anche come "zero conditional". Si usa per parlare di situazioni della vita reale quando il risultato di una condizione è sempre vero, come un fatto scientifico.

We use the following structures to form zero conditional sentences:

If / When+ the simple present, + the simple present

or

The simple present + if / when+ the simple present.

Here are some examples of zero conditional sentences

When you heat ice, it melts

Quando riscaldi il ghiaccio, si scioglie.

When I wake up in the morning, I go for a run.

Quando mi alzo la mattina vado a correre.

Jim helps me when he has time.

Quando ha tempo Jim mi aiuta.

If I go on holiday in summer, I usually go to my beach house.

Se vado in vacanza d'estate di solito vado alla mia casa al mare.

I read books at night if I am not too busy.  
Se non sono troppo impegnato di sera leggo libri.

What does he do when he finishes work each day?  
Cosa fa ogni giorno quando finisce di lavorare?

How do you feel if someone laughs at you?  
Come ti senti quando qualcuno ride di te?

Well, I hope this has been useful. For more on present conditional sentences, check out unit 57 of the online ABA course.

I'll write to you again next week.

Take care,

Best wishes

### **Torna al sommario**

### **The futur conditional**

If I study English every day, I will go to London at the end of the year!

*Se studio inglese ogni giorno, a fine anno andrò a Londra!*

If I don't study hard, I won't be able to go.  
*Se non mi metto a studiare non potrò andare.*

Do you know what form I am using in the above sentences?

It is called the **future conditional**, also known as the **first conditional**.

Look at the following conversation between Mike (M) and Jane (J) to see how it is used:

**M: Jane, if I study hard, will I pass the year?**  
*Jane, se studio tanto, supererò l'anno?*

**J: I hope so, Mike, but you need to work very hard. If you need help, I will help you.**  
*Spero di sì Mike, però dovrà lavorarci sodo ogni giorno. Se hai bisogno, ti aiuto io.*

**M: But the teacher says that I won't pass the year if I don't get at least 80% in my next exam!**  
*Ma il professore dice che non supererò l'anno se non passo almeno l'80% del mio prossimo esame!*

**J: Don't worry. If you come to my house every day after**

**school, you will pass your exam for sure! We can study together.**

*Non preoccuparti. Se vieni da me ogni giorno dopo scuola lo passerai di sicuro! Possiamo studiare insieme.*

**M: OK, great! Thanks so much, Jane!**

*OK, perfetto! Grazie mille Jane!*

The first conditional is used to talk about the consequences of an action or something that might happen in the future with a condition.

*Il First Conditional si usa per parlare delle conseguenze di un’azione o di qualcosa che potrebbe succedere nel futuro con una certa condizione.*

Look at how to form it:

If + present simple, + will / won’t + the infinitive without “to”.

It may also be swapped around:

*Possiamo anche capovolgerlo:*

subject + will / won’t + the infinitive without “to” + if + present simple.

Look at the following sentence from Mike and Jane’s conversation:

***I won’t pass the year if I don’t get at least 80% in my next exam.***

*Non supererò l’anno se non passo almeno l’80% del mio prossimo esame!*

Another way of saying this is...

***If I don’t get at least 80% in my next exam, I won’t pass the year.***

*Se non passo almeno l’80% del mio prossimo esame, non supererò l’anno.*

Both sentences mean that if Mike gets less than 80%, he will have to retake the year.

*Entrambe le frasi significano che se Mike prende un punteggio più basso dell’80%, dovrà ripetere l’anno.*

I hope this has helped you understand the first conditional. For further information, don’t forget to check out unit 58 of the ABA online course.

See you next Friday!

Best wishes,

[\*\*Torna al sommario\*\*](#)

## **4 tips to improve progress**

Do you enjoy revising? Probably not! A lot of people don't really like studying but today I want to share some tips to help make your revision time effective and fun. I know it sounds impossible but with these 4 tips you can make the most of your study time and then you'll have time to do the things you love!  
*Ti piace fare i ripassi? Probabilmente no! A molte persone non piace studiare, ma oggi voglio darti alcuni suggerimenti per rendere il tempo che dedichi a ripassare efficace e divertente. Lo so che può sembrarti impossibile, ma con questi 4 consigli vedrai che approfitterai al massimo del tempo che dedichi allo studio, in modo da avere poi tutto il tempo per fare altre cose che ti piacciono.*

### Tip Number 1: Eat Bananas

A healthy body means a healthy brain and a healthy brain is much more efficient at learning English! Instead of eating junk food and sweets, have a banana. Bananas have lots of potassium which increases your energy levels. Also, bananas are delicious!  
*Avere un corpo sano significa avere una mente sana, ed una mente sana è molto più efficiente per imparare l'inglese. Invece di mangiare dolci e cibo spazzatura, mangia una banana. Le banane contengono molto potassio, che fa aumentare il tuo livello di energia. Oltre tutto sono davvero buone!*

### Tip Number 2: Exercise

If you're feeling really tired and bored, do some exercise! You can go for a jog, go swimming or even have a mini dance party at home. I like going for a long walk with my dog.

*Se ti senti molto stanco o annoiato, fai un po' di esercizio! Potresti andare a correre, a nuotare o puoi iniziare a ballare per casa. A me piace uscire a fare una passeggiata con il mio cane.*

### Tip Number 3: Quiz Yourself

Studying all the time can get really boring so make it more fun by quizzing yourself. Take your notebook and write questions down one side of the page. Then, try answering them as best as you can. Check if you answered them correctly and if you did, be happy with yourself as it means you're ready to take your exam :)

*Starsene sempre a studiare può diventare davvero noioso, per cui rendilo più interessante "interrogandoti" da solo. Prendi un quaderno e scrivi le domande da un lato della pagina. Poi rispondi come meglio riesci. Controlla infine se hai risposto*

*correttamente, e se sì, congratulati con te stesso, vuol dire che sei pronto per il tuo esame :)*

#### Tip Number 4: Take a Break

This is my last tip for the day: don't be too hard on yourself. Remember to take breaks to give your mind and body a rest. Spend half an hour going for a walk, playing a game or having coffee with your friends.

*Questo è il mio ultimo consiglio del giorno: non essere troppo duro con te stesso. Ricorda di fare delle pause per far riposare un po' corpo e mente. Prenditi mezz'oretta per camminare, giocare o per berti un caffè con gli amici.*

I hope these tips make you enjoy studying more!

Are you practising for the TOEFL? If so, I recommend you watch [this video](#) from our friends at Magoosh to learn about the best TOEFL practice.

*Ti stai preparando per il TOEFL? Perché nel caso ti consiglio di guardare [questo video](#) dei nostri amici di Magoosh per imparare i migliori trucchi del TOEFL.*

See you next Friday!

Take care

**Torna al sommario**

#### Must or to have

Today we are going to look at two verbs used in English to indicate obligation. Often people get confused with the modal verb "must" and the verb "to have to" and are unsure how to use them correctly. I will show you how.

*Oggi daremo un'occhiata a due verbi che si usano in inglese per esprimere un obbligo. Le persone si confondono spesso con il verbo modale "must" ed il verbo "to have to" e non sanno come usarlo correttamente. Oggi te lo spiego!*

Both "must" and "to have to" express obligation, often strong obligation depending on the tone of the speaker or the situation. However, there is a slight difference in the way they are used.  
*Sia "must" che "to have to" esprimono un obbligo, spesso molto autorevole in base al tono dell'emittente. Tuttavia esiste una leggera differenza tra i due.*

"must" often shows that the obligation is not external or is not a rule or law. It is expressed by the speaker and is often the speaker's opinion. For example,  
*"must" di solito esprime un obbligo che non viene dall'esterno, che non è una regola né una legge. Viene espresso*

dall'emittente e di solito è una sua opinione. Ad esempio:

- You must be on time tomorrow or you will be in trouble.
- *Devi essere puntuale domani o saranno guai.*
- I must call my mother tonight.
- *Devo chiamare mia madre stasera.*
- You must come to my new house as it has been ages since you last visited us.
- *Devi venire a vedere la mia casa nuova, perché è già da molto che non ci vieni più a trovare.*

“must” often indicates stronger obligation than “to have to”.

“to have to” shows us that the obligation comes from something or someone else. Normally it is a law or rule. For example:

“*to have to*” indica che l’obbligo proviene da qualcosa o qualcun altro. Di solito è una legge o una regola. Ad esempio:

- In class you have to switch off your phones.
- *Dovete spegnere i telefoni in classe.*
- I have to hand in my assignment tomorrow; it’s the last day.
- *Domani devo consegnare il mio lavoro; è l’ultimo giorno.*
- John has to work every day just like the rest of us.
- *John deve lavorare tutti i giorni come tutti noi.*

They take on totally different meanings, however, when used in the negative.

“must not” (or its contracted form “mustn’t”) expresses prohibition.

- You mustn’t hit your sister.
- *Non devi picchiare tua sorella.*
- They mustn’t talk in the exam or they will be punished.
- *Non devono parlare durante l’esame o verranno puniti.*

do not have to (or its contracted form don’t have to) or does not have to (or its contracted form doesn’t have to) are used to state that there is NO obligation to do something or that something is not necessary.

- We don’t have to go to school on Saturday.
- *Non dobbiamo andare a scuola di sabato.*
- The students don’t have to study any more as the exams are all finished.
- *Gli alunni non devono più studiare dato che sono finiti gli*

*esami.*

- He doesn't have to sign the documents if he doesn't want to.
- *Non deve firmare i documenti se non vuole.*

I hope this has been informative for you. For more on “must” and “to have to”, please refer to unit 54 of the ABA online course.

Have a great weekend!

Bye!

[\*\*Torna al sommario\*\*](#)

### **Who what?**

It's Friday and time for another fun English tip to help you improve your English. Today we are going to look at the words we use in English to find out information: **question words**.  
*È venerdì ed è giunto il momento per un'altra lezione d'inglese che ti aiuterà a fare progressi. Oggi impareremo le parole che si usano per ottenere informazioni in inglese: le “**question words**”.*

**What?:** *Cosa...? / Quale...?*

- **What do you want to eat?**
- *Cosa vuoi mangiare?*
- **What is the capital of Finland?**
- *Qual è la capitale della Finlandia?*

**When?:** *Quando...?*

- **When are they coming for dinner?**
- *Quando vengono a cenare?*

**Where?:** *Dove...?*

- **Where is your house? I can't remember!**
- *Dov'è casa tua? Non me lo ricordo!*

**Who?:** *Chi...?*

- **Who is your best friend in your class?**
- *Chi è il tuo migliore amico nella tua classe?*

**How?:** *Come...?*

- **How do I write my name in Chinese?**
- *Come scrivo il mio nome in cinese?*

**Which?:** used to talk about choices or alternatives in questions.  
*Which: si usa per indicare scelte o alternative nelle domande.*

- **Which bag should I choose? I like all of them!**
- *Quale borsa dovrei scegliere? Mi piacciono tutte!*

Look at an interview in which Janet (J) interviews Mark (M), an actor, to see how to use them more naturally.

**J: Hi, Mark! I'm really happy to finally meet you! I have lots of questions for you today. First of all, how are you feeling? Are you nervous?**

*J: Ciao, Mark! È un piacere conoscerti, finalmente! Ho molte domande per te oggi. Prima di tutto come ti senti? Sei nervoso?*

**M: No. I never get nervous during interviews.**

*M: No, non sono mai nervoso durante le interviste.*

**J: OK, so where were you born?**

*J: Ok, dove sei nato?*

**M: I was born in the UK but I moved to LA a few years ago.**

*M: Nel Regno Unito ma mi sono trasferito a Los Angeles un paio d'anni fa.*

**J: When exactly did you move there?**

*J: Quando ti sei trasferito esattamente?*

**M: I moved there in 2010. In the UK I was a waiter but now I am an actor.**

*M: Mi sono trasferito nel 2010. Nel Regno Unito facevo il cameriere, ma ora sono un attore.*

**J: Which do you prefer: being a waiter or an actor?**

*J: Cosa preferisci, cameriere o attore?*

**M: An actor, of course! I earn more money!**

*M: Attore, ovviamente! Guadagno di più!*

**J: What do you like doing in your free time?**

*J: Cosa ti piace fare nel tempo libero?*

**M: I love swimming, playing computer games and seeing my friends and family.**

*M: Adoro andare a nuotare, giocare con il computer e stare con i miei amici e la famiglia.*

**J: Who is the most important person in your life?**

*J: Chi è la persona più importante nella tua vita?*

**M: My wife!**

*M: Mia moglie!*

There you go! I hope this makes it a bit easier for you.

Remember that you can find out more information about these question words and some other ones by looking at [unit 18](#) and 20 of the ABA online course.

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

**Torna al sommario**

### **The verb do**

Today we are going to look at an important **auxiliary verb** in English: the verb **do**.

*Oggi studieremo un importante verbo ausiliare in inglese: il verbo “do”.*

We use the auxiliary verb **do** in negative sentences, questions and short answers for most verbs (except for the verbs “be” and “have got” and also modal verbs) in the Present Simple.

Remember that in the third person singular we use **does**.

*Usiamo il verbo ausiliare “do” nelle frasi negative, nelle domande e nelle risposte brevi con la maggior parte dei verbi al Present Simple (ad eccezione dei verbi “be”, “have got” e dei verbi modali). Ricorda che per la terza persona singolare si usa “does”.*

Let's take a look at the use of **do** in questions, short answers and negative sentences.

*Diamo un'occhiata all'utilizzo di “do” nelle domande, nelle risposte brevi e nelle frasi negative.*

#### QUESTIONS and SHORT ANSWERS:

• **Do you like to study English? Yes, I do.**

*Ti piace studiare l'inglese? Sì.*

• **Does she go to the same school as you? No, she doesn't.**

*Lei va alla tua stessa scuola? No.*

• **Do you understand French? No, I don't.**

*Capisci il francese? No.*

#### NEGATIVE SENTENCES:

• **He doesn't like to play football.**

*A lui non piace giocare a calcio.*

• **John doesn't enjoy school very much.**

*A John non piace tanto la scuola.*

• **I play the piano but I don't play the guitar.**

*Suono il piano ma non la chitarra.*

• **They don't eat pizza very often.**

*Loro non mangiano spesso la pizza.*

Do you want to learn more about this topic? You can check out unit 15 of the complete ABA online course for more information on the auxiliary verb “do”.

Have a great weekend!

Bye!

[\*\*Torna al sommario\*\*](#)

## **Want question**

How are you today? I hope your Friday is going well.

Today we are going to look at questions with “Do you want” or “Do you want to” in English.

Oggi daremo un’occhiata alle domande con “Do you want” e “Do you want to” in inglese.

Take a look at the following conversation between Victoria and Michael to see how they are used:

Victoria: Hi, Michael. Do you want to come to the cinema with me today at 5.30?

Victoria: Ciao Michael. Vuoi venire al cinema con me oggi alle 5.30?

Michael: OK, Victoria. Do you want me to invite Sally too?

Michael: Ok, Victoria. Vuoi che inviti anche Sally?

Victoria: You can but I think she’s busy.

Victoria: Va bene, ma penso sia occupata.

Michael: What movie do you want to watch?

Michael: Che film vuoi vedere?

Victoria: I’m not sure. Let’s decide in the car.

Victoria: Non ne sono sicura. Decidiamo in macchina.

Michael: OK! Do you want me to come pick you up?

Michael: Ok! Vuoi che ti venga a prendere io?

Victoria: Yes please.

Victoria: Sì, per favore.

Michael: Do you want dinner afterwards at Pizza Mania?

Michael: Dopo vuoi cenare al Pizza Mania?

When we use “Do you want to” in English, we normally use a verb after the preposition “to”. It is used in questions to find out if someone wants to do something. For example:

Di solito quando usiamo “Do you want to” in inglese, dopo la preposizione “to” aggiungiamo un verbo. Si impiega per scoprire se qualcuno vuole fare qualcosa. Ad esempio:

Do you want to eat out tonight?

Vuoi andare a mangiare fuori stasera?

Do you want to go to the cinema on Sunday afternoon?

Vuoi andare al cinema domenica pomeriggio?

If you want to offer to do something for someone else, use the structure “Do you want me to” + the base form of the verb, for example:

Se vuoi offrirti di fare qualcosa per qualcuno, usa la struttura “Do you want me to” + l’infinito del verbo senza “to”, ad esempio:

Do you want me to help you with your homework?

Vuoi che ti aiuti con i tuoi compiti?

Do you want me to make dinner tonight as you are tired?

Visto che sei stanca, vuoi che prepari io la cena stasera?

We can also use “Do you want” followed by a noun after to offer someone something. For example:

Possiamo anche usare “Do you want” seguito da un sostantivo per offrire qualcosa a qualcuno. Ad esempio:

Do you want some water?

Vuoi un po’ d’acqua?

Do you want some more coffee?

Vuoi ancora un po’ di caffè?

I hope this has helped you understand how to use these structures. Remember that you can check out units 43 and 45 of the full ABA English online course for more information on this topic.

Now you have learnt a little bit more English, join me on the campus to practice some vocabulary:

[\*\*Torna al sommario\*\*](#)

**Capital**

Today let's look at when and where to use **CAPITAL** letters in English.

*Oggi studieremo quando e dove usare le maiuscole in inglese.*

Firstly and very importantly the first person singular subject pronoun "I" is always capitalised. Look at a couple of examples:

- **I have already seen that movie.**

*Io ho già visto quel film.*

- **Jack said that I could go on holiday with him.**

*Jack ha detto che sarei potuto andare in vacanza con lui.*

Days of the week, months of the year and important holidays start with capital letters in English, for example:

- **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday**

*Lunedì, martedì, mercoledì*

- **January, February, March**

*Gennaio, febbraio, marzo*

- **Christmas, Easter**

*Natale, Pasqua*

We also use capital letters for countries, cities, continents and monuments. Look...

- **Last year I visited several cities in Spain, for example, Barcelona, where I saw the Sagrada Familia.**

*L'anno scorso ho visitato varie città della Spagna, ad esempio Barcellona, dove ho visto la Sagrada Familia.*

- **I love Big Ben in London.**

*Adoro il Big Ben a Londra.*

- **He has visited Europe and Asia.**

*Ha visitato l'Europa e l'Asia.*

- **Her favourite country is Italy.**

*Il suo Paese preferito è l'Italia.*

We also use them for people's names and titles. Look at some examples:

- **William Shakespeare**

- **Mrs Jones**

- **Dr Smith**

- **Queen Elizabeth**

They are also used whenever you start a new sentence or after a full stop.

- **The car drove very fast. It was hard to see it in the dark.**

*La macchina andava molto veloce. Era difficile vederla al buio.*

- **Would you like more tea? No, thank you!**

*Vuoi un po' di tè? No, grazie.*

- **My parents like to go swimming on the weekend. However, my sister prefers seeing her friends.**

*Ai miei piace andare a nuotare durante il fine settimana.*

*Tuttavia mia sorella preferisce vedersi con gli amici.*

Languages are also capitalised in English. Here are some examples:

- **She speaks Spanish very well.**

*Parla molto bene lo spagnolo.*

- **I can't believe how hard Chinese is. I have studied it for years and still don't understand anything!**

*Non riesco a credere quanto sia difficile il cinese. Lo studio da anni e continuo a non capirci niente.*

- **English is a very useful language for travelling and work.**

☺

*L'inglese è una lingua molto utile per viaggiare e per lavoro.*

☺

Writing in any language is important so remember that in section 3 in each unit in the ABA online course there is a section dedicated to writing for you to practise and improve your writing and spelling.

Have you tried the first one? Practice makes perfect!

Have a great day,

Best wishes,

[\*\*Torna al sommario\*\*](#)

## **Preposition Time**

For today's Friday fun tip let's take a look at some prepositions of time commonly used in English: **IN**, **ON** and **AT**.

*Oggi studieremo alcune delle preposizioni di tempo più usate in inglese: **IN**, **ON** y **AT**.*

Let's look at a quick text and see how we use these prepositions

correctly when reading, speaking or writing.

**At 1 o'clock today I am going to my grandparents' house for lunch. My grandma told us to come at noon but Mum said it was too early. We always go there on Sundays and spend the whole day there. I actually like to spend the night too because Granddad and I wake up at sunrise and spend the morning walking in the mountains.**

Last year on Christmas day Granny prepared the best meal ever for the whole family. She said that on my birthday this year she would make a big cake and I could invite my friends.

**In summer I normally go visit my grandparents too because they live on a farm and it's much better than the city. Once when I had school holidays in 2012 I stayed with my grandparents for 2 months. We had great fun!**

*Oggi all'1 in punto andrò a casa dei miei nonni per pranzo.*

*Mia nonna ci ha detto di arrivare a mezzogiorno ma mia mamma ha detto che era troppo presto. Andiamo lì sempre di domenica e ci fermiamo tutto il giorno. A me piace starci anche la notte perché io e mio nonno ci alziamo all'alba e passiamo tutta la mattina camminando per le montagne.*

*L'anno scorso a Natale mia nonna ha preparato il miglior pranzo di sempre per tutta la famiglia. Ha detto che quest'anno, il giorno del mio compleanno, preparerà una torta enorme e che posso invitare i miei amici.*

*Di solito anche d'estate vado a trovare i miei nonni, perché vivono in una fattoria, ed è molto meglio della città. Nel 2012 durante le vacanze sono stato dai miei nonni per 2 mesi. Ci siamo divertiti moltissimo!*

Now let's take a look at the rules so we can see how easy it is!

AT	IN	ON
<b>a specific time</b>	<b>months, years, seasons, decades</b>	<b>days and dates</b>
at 3 o'clock	in May	on Sunday
at 10.30am	in summer	on Tuesdays
at noon	in the summer	on March 6th
at dinnertime	in 1990	on December 25th
at bedtime	in the 90s	on Christmas day
at dawn	in the next century	on New Year's day
at sunrise	in July	on my birthday

Well, I'm sure you understand prepositions better now!

Remember, if you want to, you can always refer to [unit 21](#) of the course for more information on how to use these prepositions correctly.

Have a great weekend!

Best regards,

## **What starts with T, ends in T and has T in it?**

---

Today we're going to look at something short but fun: a riddle (*un indovinello*). A riddle is a **puzzling** question or a joke which seems nonsense but in fact has a clever or funny answer.

Look at the following riddle:

### **What starts with T, ends in T and has T in it?**

Take a guess but if you think it's too difficult, here's a **hint**:

The letter "t" is pronounced in the same way as the hot drink "tea".

**The answer is a teapot.** The word "teapot" starts with the letter "t", ends in the letter "t" and is a container used for making and serving tea. :)

**La risposta è "a teapot" (una teiera).** La parola "teapot" comincia con "t", finisce in "t" ed è un oggetto che serve per fare e servire il tè :)

Here are the translations of the words in bold which I used in this message plus some examples:

**to bet:** scommettere

For example:

**I bet you will get good marks in all your exams as you have been studying very hard recently.**

*Dato che hai studiato molto ultimamente, scommetto che prenderai buoni voti in tutti i tuoi esami.*

**puzzling:** sconcertante, incomprendibile

For example:

**It's a puzzling matter.**

*È una questione sconcertante.*

**a hint:** una dritta, un suggerimento

For example:

**Since you're finding it difficult to solve the riddle, I will give you a hint.**

*Dato che ci stai mettendo molto a risolvere l'indovinello, ti darò un suggerimento.*

Well that's just it for our Friday riddle. If you got the correct answer with or without the hint, then excellent job!

Please remember that you can learn more new words by checking out the units of the ABA English course. Some of the words here were used in unit 10 of our complete course.

See you next time!

Best regards,

**Torna al sommario**

### A quickly lesson frequency adverb

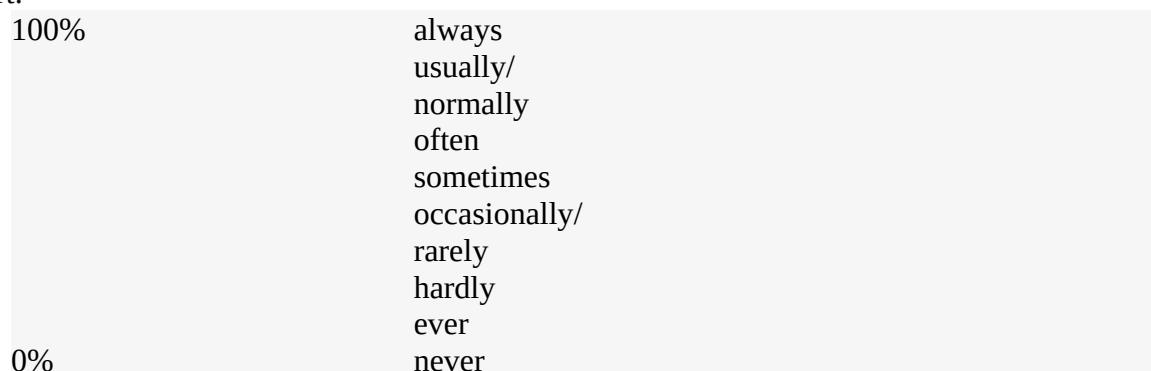
Have a look at my daily routine:

I always start my day with a cup of coffee but I rarely eat breakfast at home. I usually go to work by subway but I sometimes take the bus. I often watch TV in the evening but I hardly ever go to the cinema during the week. I never go to bed before 10 p.m.

*Inizio sempre la mia giornata con una tazza di caffè ma raramente faccio colazione a casa. Di solito vado al lavoro in metro ma a volte prendo l'autobus. Spesso di sera guardo la TV, ma non vado quasi mai al cinema durante la settimana. Non vado mai a letto prima delle 10 di sera.*

In the text above, adverbs of frequency were used. Adverbs of frequency are used to state how often we do something.

To understand adverbs of frequency better, look at the following chart:



Note that adverbs of frequency usually go between the subject and the verb. For example:

He never drinks beer.

*Non beve mai la birra.*

They usually have cereal for breakfast.

*Di solito fanno colazione con i cereali.*

You always wake up early.

*Ti svegli sempre presto.*

However, adverbs of frequency go after the verb “to be”. Here are some examples:

She is hardly ever happy.

*Non è quasi mai felice.*

We are often tired.

*Siamo spesso stanchi.*

Have a nice weekend!

Best regards,

[\*\*Torna al sommario\*\*](#)

## **Homephones**

Today we are going to look at some more homophones, i.e. words that are spelt differently and have different meanings but sound the same.

*Oggi studieremo altri omofoni, cioè quelle parole che si scrivono in modo differente e hanno significati diversi, ma che si pronunciano allo stesso modo.*

Let's start with the words “flower” and “flour”.

**a flower** (countable): *un fiore*

For example,

**Last week I received a beautiful bunch of flowers from a friend.**

*La settimana scorsa ho ricevuto un bellissimo mazzo di fiori da parte di un amico.*

**flour** (uncountable): *farina*

For example,

**I need to buy a bag of flour before I make the biscuits.**

*Ho bisogno di comprare un pacco di farina prima di fare i biscotti.*

Another couple of words which are spelt differently, have different meanings but sound the same are “allowed” and

“aloud”.

**allowed** is the past simple and past participle form of the verb “to allow”. “To allow someone to do something” is ““permettere a qualcuno di fare qualcosa” in Italian.

Here are two examples with "allowed". In the first one “allowed” is the past simple form and in the second one it is a past participle in a passive structure.

**His parents never allowed him to play in the streets when he was a kid.**

*I suoi genitori non gli hanno mai permesso di giocare in strada quando era piccolo.*

**You are not allowed to smoke in here.**

*Non si può fumare qui.*

When you say or read something **aloud**, you speak so that others can hear you. A synonym of “aloud” is “out loud”.

For example,

**Stand in front of the rest of the class and read your poem aloud.**

*Mettiti in piedi e leggi ad alta voce la tua poesia a tutta la classe.*

Now let's look at some more homophones: “pear” and “pair”.

**a pear:** *una pera*

**a pair:** *un paio*

Look at a couple of examples:

**I ate an apple, a pear and an orange yesterday.**

*Ieri ho mangiato una mela, una pera e un'arancia.*

**Last Saturday I bought a new pair of shoes.**

*Sabato scorso ho comprato un nuovo paio di scarpe.*

Find another example of homonyms and lots of other confusing words in English on our blog.

Have a great weekend.

All the best

**Torna al sommario**

**Imperative verb**

Have you ever had to give instructions in English to someone who is lost in your town/city?

*Hai mai dovuto dare indicazioni stradali in inglese a qualcuno che si è perso nel tuo paese / nella tua città?*

We use the IMPERATIVE when giving INSTRUCTIONS or ORDERS.

There is just one imperative form for both “you” singular and plural and it is used when being polite or not so polite.

We use the base form of the verb, i.e. the infinitive without “to”, to form the imperative in English.

So, if a lost person asks you for instructions to get to a specific place you could reply, for example,

*Perciò, se qualcuno ti chiede istruzioni per andare da qualche parte, potresti rispondere ad esempio:*

**Go straight on and turn left after about 100 metres.**

*Prosegui tutto dritto e dopo circa 100 metri gira a sinistra.*

Here, “go” and “turn” are imperatives.

We use “do not”, or its contracted form “don’t”, followed by the base form of the verb, to tell someone or some people not to do something, for example, you could tell the lost person:

**Remember to turn left. Don’t turn right by mistake!**

*Ricorda: gira a sinistra. Non girare a destra!*

“Remember” and “Don’t turn” are both imperatives.

In every unit of our course you will read and listen to lots of imperatives.

Have a lovely weekend but don’t forget to study English if you have some free time!

As Bobby McFerrin used to say, “Don’t worry, be happy”!

*Come dice Bobby McFerrin: "Non ti preoccupare, sii felice!"*

Have a lovely weekend.

Best regards,

**Torna al sommario**

**Desert Dessert**

I bet you will agree with me if I tell you that cakes, ice-cream and fruit don’t only look good but also taste good, right? We

can eat all of them but can we pronounce them properly?  
*Sicuramente sarai d'accordo anche tu: i dolci, i gelati e la frutta non solo hanno un bell'aspetto, ma anche un buon sapore. Possiamo mangiarli ma... sappiamo pronunciarli correttamente?*

Of course you can but make sure not to say “desert”! This word is pronounced as *DEZZ-urt* ('dezət).

“a desert” is “un deserto” in Italian.

For example: The Sahara is a vast desert.  
*Il Sahara è un deserto immenso.*

The word “dessert”, pronounced *dee-ZERT* (di'zɜ:t), is “un dolce” in italiano.

It is from the French word “desservir” meaning “to clear the table”.

*Proviene dalla parola francese “desservir”, che significa “sparecchiare”.*

Here is an example containing the word “dessert”:

For me, the best part of any meal is the dessert!  
*Per me la parte migliore di un pasto è il dolce!*

Here's an easy way to remember how to spell “dessert”. The two s's stand for “sweet stuff”.

*Ecco come ricordarsi facilmente di come si scrive “dessert”. Ricordati delle due “s” come le “sweet stuff” (le cose dolci).*

If you'd like to keep practicing your speaking skills, complete the following exercise. By hearing yourself speaking in English, you will gain confidence. Let's do it now!

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### **The verb modal must**

Today we're going to look at the modal verbs “**must**” and “**mustn't**”.

As you probably already know, “must” expresses obligation and “mustn't” expresses prohibition.

Look at some rules you might find on a piece of paper on the wall in a classroom where people are studying English.

*Osserva alcune regole che potrebbero trovarsi alle pareti di un'aula d'inglese.*

**You must listen to the teacher.**

*Devi ascoltare l'insegnante.*

**You must do your homework.**

*Devi fare i compiti.*

**You must try to speak in English at all times.**

*Devi cercare di parlare sempre in inglese.*

**You must follow the teacher's instructions.**

*Devi seguire le istruzioni dell'insegnante.*

**You mustn't chew gum.**

*Non devi mastigare gomme.*

**You mustn't shout.**

*No devi gridare.*

**You mustn't speak when the teacher is speaking.**

*Non devi parlare quando sta parlando l'insegnante.*

**You mustn't run in the classroom.**

*No devi correre nell'aula.*

The most important rule when studying English in a classroom is “You must try to speak in English at all times”!

A good rule for online students is “You must try to write to your teacher in English at all times” ;)

*Una buona regola per studenti come te che stanno seguendo un corso d'inglese online è “Devi cercare di scrivere sempre in inglese alla tua teacher!” ;)*

Remember the above rule next time you write to your teacher :)  
*Ricordati della regola di prima la prossima volta che scriverai alla tua teacher!*

Have a lovely weekend.

Take care,

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**The verb modal may**

I'm a very indecisive person and today I'm going to teach you how to express possibility in English ☺

Let's start with the modal verbs “may” and “might”.

The modal verb “**may**” indicates possibility.

For example,

**I may have pizza for dinner tonight.**  
*Probabilmente cenerò pizza questa sera.*

**It may rain this weekend.**  
*Può piovere questo weekend.*

Here you can use the modal verb “**might**” instead of “may” and say:

I might have pizza for dinner tonight.

It might rain this weekend.

Here “may” is slightly more formal than “might”.  
*In queste frasi, “may” è un po’ più formale di “might”.*

We sometimes use the adverbs “**maybe**” and “**perhaps**” to express possibility. “Perhaps” is more formal than “maybe”.

When referring to possible future events like the ones in the examples above, we use these adverbs followed by the future with “will”.

*Quando ci riferiamo a possibili eventi futuri come quelli degli esempi di prima, questi avverbi vanno seguiti dal futuro con “will”.*

Look...

**Perhaps I will have pizza for dinner tonight.**

or

**Maybe I will have pizza for dinner tonight.**

*Forse cenerò pizza questa sera.*

**Perhaps it will rain this weekend.**

or

**Maybe it will rain this weekend.**

*Forse pioverà questo weekend.*

**Hopefully it won’t rain this weekend!**

*Speriamo che non piove questo weekend!*

Now, watch the ABA Film 49 and see how Andrew helps Emily learn the modal verbs!

Put your headset on!

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

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## **Seasons**

Today I want you to read a short text about music and the seasons to practice your reading skills. You can find definitions of the words in bold under the text.

*There's always a song **suited** to every **season**. When it's **summer or spring**, we normally listen to **upbeat** happy songs. When it's **autumn or winter**, we normally listen to calm relaxing music.*

Whatever the season, we like to listen to nice **catchy** songs because they change our **mood**. No matter how bad, lonely or hard times are, music **seems** to do magic and helps us think and feel that at the end of the day, there's always something good we need to be thankful for.

## **Vocabulary**

**suited:** *adatto, idoneo per*

For example: I think the other applicant is better suited to the job.

*Credo che l'altro candidato sia più adatto per questo lavoro.*

**season:** *stagione*

For example: My favourite season is summer.

*La mia stagione preferita è l'estate.*

**summer:** *estate*

For example: We always go to the beach in the summer.

*D'estate andiamo sempre in spiaggia.*

**spring:** *primavera*

For example: In spring, the flowers start to bloom.

*In primavera i fiori cominciano a sbucciare.*

**autumn:** *autunno*

For example: Leaves change colour in autumn.

*In autunno le foglie cambiano colore.*

**winter:** *inverno*

For example: Winter is my worst season. I hate the cold!

*L'inverno è la peggiore stagione. Odio il freddo!*

**upbeat:** *allegro, positivo*

For example: She looked upbeat even though she was tired.  
*Sembrava allegra anche se era stanca.*

**catchy:** *orecchiabile*

For example: Lady Gaga's songs are always catchy.  
*Le canzoni di Lady Gaga sono sempre orecchiabili.*

**mood:** *umore, animo*

For example: He's always in a bad mood on Monday mornings.  
*Il lunedí mattina è sempre di cattivo umore.*

**to seem:** *sembrare*

For example: You seem happy today.  
*Sembri felice oggi.*

And one of the best ways to learn is to practice, right? So I'm inviting you to practice a little English with the following exercise:

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### **Past obligation**

Today we are going to look at talking about past obligation.

Remember that in the present we use the modal verb "must" and the verb "to have to" to express obligation. They are very similar in meaning but "must" indicates stronger obligation.

Look at some examples:

You must study more! If not, you will fail all your exams.  
*Devi studiare di più, altrimenti verrai bocciato a tutti gli esami.*

I have to go to the supermarket this evening. I need to buy fruit, biscuits and milk.

*Oggi pomeriggio devo andare al supermercato. Ho bisogno di comprare frutta, biscotti e latte.*

The past of both "must" and "to have to", however, is the same:  
**had to**.

Here are some examples:

Last week I had to go to hospital as I broke my arm.  
*La settimana scorsa sono dovuto andare all'ospedale perché mi sono rotto un braccio.*

We had to work hard in order to get a raise.

*Abbiamo dovuto lavorare sodo per ottenere un aumento di stipendio.*

You had to pass all your exams to become a doctor.

*Hai dovuto passare tutti gli esami per diventare dottore.*

To form questions, we use the following structure:

Did + subject + have to + the base form of the verb, i.e. the infinitive without “to”

For example,

Did you have to get up early on Saturday morning?

*Ti sei dovuto alzare presto sabato mattina?*

Did they have to study last night?

*Hanno dovuto studiare ieri sera?*

“did not have to” or, with contraction, “didn't have to” indicates that something was not necessary. For example,

You didn't have to help me but thank you anyway. It was very kind of you.

*Non c'era bisogno che mi aiutassi, però grazie lo stesso. È stato molto gentile da parte tua.*

We didn't have to work yesterday because it was a bank holiday.

*Ieri non abbiamo dovuto lavorare perché era festivo.*

I hope this has been helpful. For more on this please topic, take a look at unit 71 of our course.

Have a lovely weekend!

Bye for now!

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### **Negative past**

Last week we looked at how to form affirmative sentences in the past simple with regular verbs.

Today we are going to look at **how to form negative sentences and questions in the past simple with regular verbs and most irregular verbs**. Don't worry; it's easy ☺

To form negative sentences in the past simple with regular verbs and most irregular verbs, except the verb “to be” and modal

verbs, we just put a subject and then “did not” (or with contraction, “didn’t”) before the base form of the verb, i.e. the infinitive without “to”.

Look at some examples:

I didn't play football last Saturday but I played football two Saturdays ago.

*Sabato scorso non ho giocato a calcio, ma due sabati fa sì.*

We didn't go out last night.

*Ieri sera non siamo usciti.*

They didn't work yesterday. Their office was closed.

*Ieri non hanno lavorato. L'ufficio era chiuso.*

To form questions, you need to put the auxiliary verb “did” followed by a subject and then the base form. For example,

Did you read the newspaper this morning?

*Hai letto il giornale stamattina?*

Did they like the food at the new French restaurant?

*A loro è piaciuto il cibo al ristorante francese?*

Did you eat pizza for dinner last night?

*Ieri sera a cena avete mangiato la pizza?*

Did he do his homework yesterday?

*Ha fatto i suoi compiti ieri?*

Look at a question and an affirmative and negative answer:

Did you watch TV last night?

*Hai guardato la tele ieri sera?*

Yes, I watched TV last night.

*Si, ho visto la tele ieri sera*

No, I didn't watch TV last night.

*No, ieri sera non ho guardato la tele.*

The short answers to this question would be “Yes, I did” or “No, I didn’t”.

Here's another example:

Did she go to the beach on Saturday?

*Sabato è andata in spiaggia?*

Yes, she went to the beach on Saturday. (or the short answer, “Yes, she did”)

*Sì, sabato è andata in spiaggia. (O la risposta breve, “Yes, she did”)*

No, she didn't go to the beach on Saturday. (or the short answer, “No, she didn't”)

*No, sabato non è andata in spiaggia. (O la risposta breve, “No, she didn't”)*

I hope you have found today's lesson useful. For more on this topic, check out unit 69 of our complete course.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Take care,

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## Articles

The boy next door is good at football. (We presume that the listener knows there is a boy living next door)

*Il ragazzo di fianco a casa nostra è bravo a giocare a calcio.  
(Supponiamo che l'interlocutore sappia già che c'è un ragazzo che vive nella casa di fianco)*

The moon is so beautiful. (There is only one moon)

*La luna è così bella. (Di luna ce n'è una sola!)*

The French president is in Australia at the moment. (There is only one president per country)

*Ora il presidente francese si trova in Australia. (C'è un solo presidente per paese)*

“The” is also used for:

\* Countries which are formed of states or other divisions or with words like “kingdom” or “republic” and groups of islands, for example, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Republic of South Africa and the Bahamas

\* Famous landmarks (*luoghi emblematici*), for example, the Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower.

\* Geographical features (*elementi geografici*) such as rivers, seas and mountain ranges (*catene montuose*), for example, the (river) Thames, the Mediterranean (sea) and the Alps.

We use “**a**” before a word that starts with a **consonant**. We use it when we don't specify the things or people we are talking about.

*Usiamo “a” per le parole che iniziano per consonante. Si usa quando non vengono specificate le cose o persone di cui si*

*parla.*

Here are some examples:

My brother wants to buy a car.

*Mio fratello vuole comprare una macchina.*

A friend of mine called this morning.

*Questa mattina mi ha chiamato un mio amico.*

After lunch we went to watch a movie.

*Dopo pranzo siamo andati a guardare un film.*

We use “an” before a word that starts with a **vowel** (*una vocale*).

She is an accountant.

*Lei è una contabile.*

I’m hungry. Can I have an orange please?

*Ho fame. Posso mangiare un’arancia?*

James needs to buy an umbrella. It has rained a lot recently.

*James ha bisogno di comprare un ombrello. Ultimamente ha piovuto molto.*

Note that **when referring to general things, we don’t put an article**, for example,

I love chocolate. (NOT “the chocolate”)

*Adoro il cioccolato.*

His favourite music is classical music. (NOT “the classical music”)

*Il suo genere di musica preferito è la classica.*

I hope this has been informative for you! Please learn more by checking out unit 4 of the ABA online course.

Have a great weekend!

Take care

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**I love don’t you?**

Today we are going to look at question tags with the auxiliary verb "to do" in English. Remember that we use question tags in English when we want confirmation that something we believe is correct is indeed correct.

*Oggi studieremo le "question tags" con il verbo ausiliare "to*

*do*" in inglese. Ricorda che in inglese usiamo le "question tags" quando desideriamo che ci confermino la veridicità di qualcosa che riteniamo corretto.

If the first part of the sentence is in the present simple affirmative, it is nearly always followed by a negative question tag using "don't" or "doesn't". Exceptions are the verb "to be" and modal verbs.

*Se la prima parte di una frase è al Present Simple affermativo, seguirà quasi sempre una "question tag" con "don't" o "doesn't". Le eccezioni sono il verbo "to be" e i verbi modali.*

Look at some examples:

- You like John, don't you?
- *Ti piace John, vero?*
- Yes, I do.
- *Sì, mi piace.*
  
- We leave for Paris on Monday, don't we?
- *Andiamo a Parigi lunedì, vero?*
- No, we don't. We leave for Paris on Tuesday!
- *No. Andiamo martedì!*
  
- She likes pasta, doesn't she?
- *A lei piace la pasta, vero?*
- I think so!
- *Credo di sì!*

A negative statement is followed by an affirmative "question tag" with the auxiliary verbs "do" or "does".

*Una frase negativa viene seguita da una "question tag" affermativa con "do" o "does".*

For example:

- They don't have many friends in their new school, do they?
- *Loro non hanno tanti amici nella nuova scuola, vero?*
- No they don't, but I'm sure they will soon meet people.
- *No, non ne hanno, ma sono sicura che conosceranno presto nuove persone.*
  
- Mike doesn't have much work left, does he?
- *Mike non ha quasi più lavoro da fare no?*
- No, he has nearly finished.
- *No, ha quasi finito.*
  
- You play the guitar, don't you?
- *Suoni la chitarra, no?*
- Yes, I do. I also play the piano.
- *Sì, suono anche il pianoforte.*

When a statement contains a word with a negative meaning, the question tag needs to be positive.

*Quando una frase contiene una parola con un significato negativo, la "question tag" deve essere positiva.*

For example,

- She hardly ever speaks to him, does she?  
- *Lei non parla quasi mai con lui, no?*

- They rarely eat out, do they?  
- *Loro non mangiano quasi mai fuori, no?*

There you go! I hope this has been helpful for you. Remember that for more information on this topic, you can refer to Unit 24 of the online ABA course.

See you next week!

All the best,

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