

Italian in everyday situations

Module 3: The café

7 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

The café

Italian

Read & listen online ↗



I numeri 0–10

Form	Example	Meaning
zero	Zero chiavi.	zero
uno, due, tre	Uno, due, tre.	one, two, three
quanti?	Quanti euro ha?	how many? (masculine plural)
quante?	Quante chiavi ha?	how many? (feminine plural)

In Italian, numbers from 0 to 10 are very common in everyday life: phone numbers, keys, tables, and simple counting. In this module, you hear them one by one, especially in a phone number.

To ask about quantity, Italian uses **quanti** with masculine plural nouns and **quante** with feminine plural nouns. For example: **Quanti euro?** but **Quante chiavi?**

For telephone numbers, people often say each digit separately: **zero, uno, due...** This is easier than saying big number groups. Listen carefully, because one wrong digit changes everything.

You already know simple questions by intonation. So **Quante chiavi ha?** is a natural polite question with **Lei**.

I numeri 11–20

Form	Example	Meaning
undici	Ordine undici.	eleven
sedici	Sedici mele?	sixteen
diciannove	Diciannove?	nineteen
molto / molta / molti / molte	Molto pesce. Molte mele.	a lot of / many

Italian numbers from 11 to 20 are important for order numbers and shopping. In the café, you hear **undici, dodici, tredici...** and in the shop Sofia counts apples: **sedici, diciassette, diciotto, diciannove.**

These forms are best learned as whole words. At A1 level, it helps to repeat them in small groups: **undici, dodici, tredici** and then **quattordici, quindici...**

Italian can also use **del, della, dei, delle** to mean some quantity, but in this module they are optional and not the main focus. For beginners, **un po' di** is often easier: **un po' di pane, un po' d'acqua.**

You also see **molto** and **poco**. Before nouns, these change form: **molto pesce, molta acqua, molte mele.**

20–100 e i prezzi

Form	Example	Meaning
venti	Ho venti euro.	twenty
ventidue	In tutto ventidue euro.	twenty-two
Quanto costa?	Quanto costa un caffè?	How much does it cost?
centesimi	Novanta centesimi.	cents

For shopping and café bills, you need numbers above 20. In this module you see **venti, ventidue**, and prices like **due euro e dieci** or **otto euro**.

To ask the price, use **Quanto costa?** for one thing: **Quanto costa un caffè?** If you ask about several things, Italian often says **Quanto costano?** but here the singular pattern is the key chunk to learn first.

Italian prices can be said in different natural ways. You may hear **due euro e trenta** or **due e trenta** in fast speech. For learners, the full form with **e** is clearer.

The money words are **euro** and **centesimi**. After a higher number, use the number normally: **novanta centesimi, ventidue euro**.

Un chilo di e un po' di

Form	Example	Meaning
un chilo di	Un chilo di mele, per favore.	a kilo of
un po' di	Un po' di pane, per favore.	a bit of / some
molta	Molta acqua.	a lot of (feminine singular)
molte	Molte mele.	many (feminine plural)

When you buy food, Italian often uses quantity phrases before nouns. Two useful chunks are **un chilo di** and **un po' di**. They work with many foods: **un chilo di mele, un po' di pane, un po' d'acqua**.

After these quantity expressions, Italian uses **di**. If the next word begins with a vowel, **di** may combine in pronunciation, and you often see **un po' d'acqua**.

Molto changes with the noun when it comes before nouns: **molto pesce, molta acqua, molti euro, molte mele**. This is a very useful everyday pattern.

At A1 level, you do not need many complex shopping expressions. Short chunks like **un po' di latte** and **un chilo di pesce** are enough.

Con, senza e lo stesso

Form	Example	Meaning
con	Tè con latte.	with
senza	Tè senza zucchero.	without
lo stesso	Lo stesso, per favore.	the same
il conto	Il conto, per favore.	the bill, please

To order food and drinks, Italian often uses **con** and **senza**: **tè con latte, senza zucchero, pane con formaggio**. These are very useful fixed chunks.

A complete simple café order can be short and natural: **Un tè senza zucchero, un panino e il conto, per favore**. You can also begin with **Vorrei...** for a polite tone.

Lo stesso means the same. In a café, you can copy another person's order and say **Lo stesso, per favore** or simply repeat the whole order. In an earlier café scene, the learner copies another person's order exactly.

Remember that in this course, polite service language can include useful chunks like **Si siede** or **Che cosa desidera?** You do not need to build all polite forms yourself yet; learn them as expressions.

GRAMMAR**G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN**

Underline the form practised in this unit.

- 1 Ho due chiavi.

Meaning: I have two keys.

- 2 Ordine dodici: tè e pane!

Meaning: Order twelve: tea and bread!

- 3 Quanto costa il tè?

Meaning: How much does the tea cost?

- 4 Vorrei un chilo di mele.

Meaning: I'd like a kilo of apples.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 Ho _____ chiavi.

- ☐ A dieci
- ☐ B zero
- ☐ C due

Meaning: I have two keys.

2 Ordine _____: tè e pane!

- ☐ A venti
- ☐ B due
- ☐ C dodici

Meaning: Order twelve: tea and bread!

3 Quanto _____ il tè?

- ☐ A costa?
- ☐ B costa
- ☐ C chiavi

Meaning: How much does the tea cost?

4 Vorrei _____ mele.

- ☐ A molto
- ☐ B quanto costa
- ☐ C un chilo di

Meaning: I'd like a kilo of apples.

5 Vorrei un tè _____ zucchero.

- ☐ A con
- ☐ B senza
- ☐ C molto

Meaning: I'd like a tea without sugar.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

costa? costa

Quanto _____ il tè?

Meaning: How much does the tea cost?

molto un chilo di

Vorrei _____ mele.

Meaning: I'd like a kilo of apples.

con senza

Vorrei un tè _____ zucchero.

Meaning: I'd like a tea without sugar.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1

chiavi.

due

Ho

Meaning: I have two keys.

2 pane! dodici: e tè Ordine

Meaning: Order twelve: tea and bread!

3 tè? Quanto il costa

Meaning: How much does the tea cost?

4 Vorrei un mele. chilo di

Meaning: I'd like a kilo of apples.

5 senza Vorrei tè zucchero. un

Meaning: I'd like a tea without sugar.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I have two keys. You say:

- ☐ A Ho due chiavi.
- ☐ B Ho zero chiavi.

2 Order twelve: tea and bread! You say:

- ☐ A Ordine due: tè e pane!
- ☐ B Ordine dodici: tè e pane!

3 How much does the tea cost? You say:

- ☐ A Quanto costa il tè?
- ☐ B Quanto costa? il tè?

4 I'd like a kilo of apples. You say:

- ☐ A Vorrei molto mele.
- ☐ B Vorrei un chilo di mele.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ① Vorrei un tè senza zucchero. | ⑤ I'd like a tea without sugar. |
| ② Ordine dodici: tè e pane! | ④ I have two keys. |
| ③ Ho due chiavi. | ③ I'd like a kilo of apples. |
| ④ Quanto costa il tè? | ② Order twelve: tea and bread! |
| ⑤ Vorrei un chilo di mele. | ① How much does the tea cost? |

G7) SPEAK AS YOURSELF

Use the form for Lukas or Lena.

1 Lukas: Sono _____.

- ☐ A stanche
- ☐ B stanchi
- ☐ C stanco

Meaning: I am tired.

2 Lena: Sono _____.

- ☐ A stanchi
- ☐ B stanca
- ☐ C stanche

Meaning: I am tired.

3 Lukas: Sono il nuovo _____.

- ☐ A vicine
- ☐ B vicino
- ☐ C vicini

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

4 Lena: Sono la nuova _____.

- ☐ A vicine
- ☐ B vicina
- ☐ C vicini

Meaning: I am the new neighbour.

5 Lukas: Non sono _____.

- ☐ A stanche
- ☐ B stanchi
- ☐ C stanco

Meaning: I am not tired.

6 Lena: Non sono _____.

- ☐ A stanchi
- ☐ B stanca
- ☐ C stanche

Meaning: I am not tired.

7 Lukas: Sono un _____ di Marco.

- ☐ A vicini
- ☐ B vicino
- ☐ C vicine

Meaning: I am a neighbour of Marco.

8 Lena: Sono una _____ di Marco.

- ☐ A vicine
- ☐ B vicina
- ☐ C vicini

Meaning: I am a neighbour of Marco.