



Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts
Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri - PLIDA 101

The PLIDA program

PLIDA stands for Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri (Dante Alighieri Project for Italian Language). The *PLIDA* program aims at creating a modern course of study in Italian that will be more dynamic, engaging and proficiency-oriented than in the past. In this important process and in order to ensure our students the best of this program, the Cambridge Dante is working in close cooperation with the Central Headquarters of the Dante Alighieri Society* in Rome, its language committee, and the Scholastic Office of the Boston Consulate General.

The *PLIDA* program follows the guidelines of the European Committee for the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Hence, the program aims at implementing the procedures for language learning concerning the four basic linguistic competencies (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with a particular focus on cultural matters, as suggested by this Committee. Students will learn to hone their language skills and to develop strategies that they can employ progressively to improve their expertise in each of the above competencies.

Our approach

As *PLIDA* instructors, our most important objective is to enable our students to *communicate* in Italian (i.e. to be able to transmit information back and forth in a given context), rather than just speak it with rigid, memorized phrases. Our approach is *communicative*, meaning that students will solely be addressed in Italian from day one and that functions, vocabulary, and grammar will be introduced in a conversational and contextualized atmosphere. Practice in the target language and interaction with both the instructor and with peers will be critical, as well as students' active participation in *discovering* grammar rules with help from the instructor. We design our classes to be proficiency-driven, therefore we will provide our students with as many opportunities as possible to hear and speak Italian. We believe that our students are the real center of our classes and we like to think of ourselves more as coordinators than as teachers. This is because we trust that the more students participate in the class the more easily they will master the target language.

Course description and objectives

This course is designed for students with little or no knowledge of Italian and aims to develop students' basic communicative skills in Italian. Students will learn the Italian sound system and

* The *Dante Alighieri Society* in Rome is a 120 year old cultural association with about 500 chapters all over the world. For more information, please visit <http://www.dantealighieri-roma.it/>

the rudiments of vocabulary and grammar necessary for basic communication.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Introduce themselves and others;
- Give others personal information about themselves;
- Ask others about their personal information;
- Talk about their habits at breakfast, lunch and dinner;
- Read a simple menu, order drinks and food from a bar menu, ask for the bill;
- Ask and say the time; Ask and say at what time events happen;
- Express their likes and dislikes;
- Talk about their daily and weekend activities; Ask about others' daily and weekend activities.

By the end of this course, students will also:

- Have general geographical knowledge of Italy;
- Know about Italians' habits on breakfast, lunch, dinner;
- Know how to make some of the most common Italian gestures;
- Have knowledge of the most common public transportation means in Italy and of how to look for and find Italian train schedules.

Textbook

- Savorgnani/Bergero, *Chiaro! Al, Corso di italiano, Libro dello studente e eserciziario*. Prima edizione. Alma Edizioni, Firenze, 2010 (The textbook can be purchased at the Dante Alighieri in Cambridge).
- Recommended grammar: *Practice Makes Perfect: A Complete Italian Grammar*, by Marcel Danesi, McGraw-Hill, Company, 2009.
- Students are also encouraged to purchase an Italian/English dictionary.

Attendance and Participation

Although attendance is not mandatory for this class, we recommend that you come regularly. In class, you will be invited to participate actively and constructively in all the activities in order to practice acquired knowledge and make the best of your communication skills in Italian. It's in class that you will find people to practice with and someone who will help you understand your mistakes. And remember: Don't be shy! You are here to learn and making mistakes is a natural part of the learning process. After all mistakes are part of the fun!

Emergency Contacts:

In case of an emergency, students can receive the school cancellation notice on the TV stations NBC Channel 7 News and CW Channel 56. They can also be notified on their cell phones by going to www.whdh.com and click on "Snow Day Alert". Students will need to input their cell phone number, the name of the carrier and can choose the schools they are interested in hearing about. Students can easily add or remove schools from their profile at any time.

Calendar:

Giorno	Obiettivi della lezione
Lesson 1	<p data-bbox="505 304 885 336">Lezione 1: Studio l'Italiano!</p> <p data-bbox="505 388 860 420">Communicative Objectives:</p> <ul data-bbox="505 430 1242 756" style="list-style-type: none"> - Greet people - Introduce oneself - Introduce someone to someone else - Say where one is from and ask for the same information - Ask for and give one's telephone number - Ask for and give one's email address - Ask questions during class - How to spell words <p data-bbox="505 850 706 882">Cultural notes:</p> <ul data-bbox="505 892 1104 966" style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Tu</i> or <i>Lei</i>? - <i>www, chiocciola, punto...</i> Internet in Italiano!
Lesson 2	<p data-bbox="505 1060 860 1092">Vocabulary and Grammar:</p> <ul data-bbox="505 1102 1258 1554" style="list-style-type: none"> - Greetings 1 - Adjectives of nationality - The alphabet - Numbers from 1 to 20 - Verbs <i>chiamarsi</i> and <i>essere</i> - <i>Come...? Di dove...? Che cosa...?</i> - Subject pronouns (<i>io, tu, Lei, lui, lei, noi, voi, loro</i>) - Singular forms of the verbs <i>chiamarsi</i> and <i>essere</i> - Agreement between subject and adjective (singular form) - Articoli determinativi (<i>il, la</i>) - Nouns (singular form)

Giorno	Obiettivi della lezione
Lesson 3	<p>Lezione 2: Incontri</p> <p>Communicative Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask and say how someone is - Ask and give information about one's job - Ask and say where one lives - Ask and say one's age - Ask and say what languages one speaks <p>Cultural Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One or two little kisses on the cheek? How to greet an Italian friend - Some common Italian gestures
Lesson 4	<p>Vocabulary and Grammar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greetings 2 - Professions - Countries and languages - Numbers from 20 to 100 - <i>Che...? Dove...? Perché...?</i> - Conjugation of regular verbs ending with <i>-are</i> - Irregular verbs <i>fare</i> and <i>stare</i> - Articoli determinativi (singular form) - Articoli indeterminativi (<i>un, uno, un', una</i>) - Nouns ending with <i>-ista</i> - Prepositions <i>per, a</i> and <i>in</i> - The negative form of verbs (<i>non</i>)
Lesson 5	<p>Review of Lezioni 1 and 2</p> <p>Quiz I on Lezioni 1 e 2</p>

Giorno	Obiettivi della lezione
Lesson 6	<p data-bbox="505 304 941 336">Lezione 3: Un caffè, per favore!</p> <p data-bbox="505 388 860 420"><i>Communicative Objectives:</i></p> <ul data-bbox="505 430 1299 630" style="list-style-type: none"> - Read and understand a bar menu - Order from a bar menu - Ask how much the total of an order is - Describe drinks and food - Talk about one's habits related to breakfast, lunch and dinner <p data-bbox="505 724 706 756"><i>Cultural Notes:</i></p> <ul data-bbox="505 766 990 840" style="list-style-type: none"> - Coffee in Italy - Americans and Italians' eating habits
Lesson 7	<p data-bbox="505 934 860 966"><i>Vocabulary and Grammar:</i></p> <ul data-bbox="505 976 1218 1344" style="list-style-type: none"> - Drinks and snacks at an Italian bar - Adjectives describing food and drinks - Verbs expressing wish (<i>volere, preferire</i>) - Conjugation of regular verbs ending with <i>-ere</i> - Conjugation of the irregular verb <i>bere</i> - Agreement between noun and adjective (singular form) - Nouns (plural form) - Articoli determinativi (plural form) - Prepositions <i>con</i> and <i>senza</i>

Giorno	Obiettivi della lezione
Lesson 8	<p>Lezione 4: Tutti i santi giorni</p> <p>Communicative Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask and say the time - Ask and say what time events occur - Talk about one's daily life/routine - Express preferences - Talk about activities one likes to do in the spare time <p>Cultural Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Let's look for the train schedule online! - Let's look for information about a movie online!
Lesson 9	<p>Vocabulary and Grammar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The time - Verbs describing daily activities - Different moments of the day (<i>mattina, pomeriggio, sera, notte</i>) - Time adverbs (<i>sempre, qualche volta, spesso, mai</i>) - <i>Chi?</i> - Time expressions (<i>dalle... alle...</i>) - Vocabulary related to free time/weekend activities - Conjugation of verbs ending with <i>-ire</i> - Verbi riflessivi - Verb <i>piacere</i> (+ infinitive) - Conjugation of the irregular verbs <i>uscire</i> and <i>andare</i> - Prepositions <i>a</i> and <i>da</i> + articolo indeterminativo <p>Quiz II on Lezioni 3 and 4</p>
Lesson 10	<p>Quiz II - check</p> <p>Presentazioni finali</p>