



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 to implement 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 knowledge of Italian. The goal of this course is to

* 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/>

help students develop basic communicative skills in Italian. It aims to developing students' ability to use simple and familiar everyday expressions related to the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. It also provides students the linguistic skills to ask and answer questions about personal details and everyday social topics.

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

- talk about daily habits and activities;
- reserve a table at the restaurant;
- ask for and give directions;
- read a simple menu, order food and ask for the bill;
- express food preferences;
- share and express opinions;
- talk about past activities and events in chronological order;
- talk about activities one does or doesn't do in his/her free time;
- talk about grocery shopping in a supermarket or at the open market.

By the end of this course, students will also:

- Have general knowledge of Italian shops and stores;
- Know about Italians' habits at a restaurant (bread, water, tip, etc.);
- Know about some popular Italian festivals and holidays.

Textbook

- Savorgnani/Bergero, *Chiaro! A1, 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 to 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!

Calendar:

Giorno	Obiettivi della lezione
Lesson 1	<p data-bbox="613 422 1024 453">Review of Lezioni 1 through 4</p> <p data-bbox="613 506 976 537"><i>Communicative Objectives:</i></p> <p data-bbox="613 548 1414 789">- Introduce yourself and others, ask and give personal information, talk about one's job, ask about someone's job, read a simple menu and order from a bar menu, express likes and dislikes, ask and say the time, talk about daily activities, talk about one's habits at breakfast, lunch, and dinner, ask and talk about one's habits in the weekend.</p> <p data-bbox="613 842 976 873"><i>Grammar and Vocabulary:</i></p> <p data-bbox="613 884 1414 1167">- Greetings, the alphabet, numbers from 1 to 100, vocabulary related to a bar menu, vocabulary related to daily and weekend activities, the time, Present Tense of regular and some irregular verbs ending with -are, -ere, and -ire, articolo determinativo in the singular and plural forms, articolo indeterminativo, agreement between noun and adjective in gender and number, singular and plural forms of nouns.</p>

Giorno	Obiettivi della lezione
Lesson 2	<p data-bbox="613 275 1008 310">Lezione 5: Usciamo insieme?</p> <p data-bbox="613 359 976 394"><i>Communicative Objectives:</i></p> <ul data-bbox="634 405 1227 688" style="list-style-type: none"> - reserve a table at the restaurant - thank people and respond to a thank-you - ask for and give directions - read a menu - order food and ask for the bill - express food preferences - share and question opinions
Lesson 3	<p data-bbox="613 741 813 777"><i>Cultural notes:</i></p> <ul data-bbox="613 787 1162 823" style="list-style-type: none"> - Italian and American menus: differences. <p data-bbox="613 909 976 945"><i>Grammar and Vocabulary:</i></p> <ul data-bbox="634 955 1219 1199" style="list-style-type: none"> - verbs <i>sapere</i> and <i>potere</i> - verb <i>piacere</i> + noun - indirect object pronoun (atonic) - prepositions <i>in</i> (<i>via, viale, piazza</i>) and <i>a</i> - adjectives to describe a restaurant - names of Italian recipes

