

# Glossary

This is a glossary of grammar definitions. You will find the main parts of speech defined at the beginning of each relevant chapter. This section contains additional terms used in the book. If a term is in small capitals, it is further defined in alphabetical order within this glossary or else at the beginning of the relevant chapter in the book itself.

<b>active voice</b>	Verbs have two voices: active and PASSIVE. An active verb is one in which the subject performs the action (as opposed to being affected by the action). See p. 413.
<b>agreement</b>	Refers to the matching of word endings in NUMBER and GENDER to other words they are linked to, e.g. in Italian the form of a noun affects the form of related adjectives or pronouns.
<b>antecedent</b>	A word or phrase to which a following pronoun (often relative, such as ‘who’/‘which’) refers. e.g. <i>I spoke to <b>the boy</b> who had broken his leg</i> : ‘the boy’ is the antecedent of the relative pronoun ‘who’. <i>That day I <b>spent all the money</b>, which angered him</i> : ‘I spent all the money’ is the antecedent of ‘which’. Antecedents are usually relative, interrogative, indefinite/negative or superlative. (See also p. 390.)
<b>auxiliary</b>	Auxiliary or ‘helper’ verbs are <b>avere</b> , <b>essere</b> and <b>stare</b> used in conjunction with a PAST PARTICIPLE or GERUND to form COMPOUND TENSES. See also <i>The Italian Verb</i> in Appendix B on this website.
<b>clause</b>	Part of a sentence containing a SUBJECT and a VERB. A main clause makes sense on its own, whereas the meaning of a subordinate or dependent clause may be unclear on its own, e.g. <i>I left the house</i> (main clause) <i>without speaking</i> (subordinate/dependent clause). <i>I saw him</i> (main clause) <i>when he arrived</i> (subordinate/dependent clause). See also RELATIVE CLAUSE.
<b>collocation</b>	A combination or juxtaposition of words depending on convention and common usage. Often especially relevant when using intensifying adverbs: e.g. <i>highly intelligent</i> but not ‘highly clever’; <i>hilariously funny</i> rather than ‘hilariously comic/humorous’.
<b>complex sentence</b>	A sentence with a MAIN CLAUSE and one or more SUBORDINATE or DEPENDENT CLAUSES, e.g. <i>When it stopped raining</i> (subordinate clause) <i>I left the house</i> (main clause).
<b>compound sentence</b>	A sentence with more than one main clause linked by a COORDINATING CONJUNCTION such as <i>and</i> , e.g. <i>I left the house and I went to the station</i> . It can also contain subordinate clauses, e.g. <i>After he had rung me</i> (SUBORDINATE CLAUSE), <i>I left the house and went to the station</i> (MAIN CLAUSES).
<b>compound tense</b>	A tense made up of an AUXILIARY and a PAST PARTICIPLE or GERUND. See <i>The Italian Verb</i> in Appendix B on this website.
<b>conjugation</b>	Italian verbs are grouped into three conjugations defined by different infinitive endings: <b>-are</b> (1st conjugation), <b>-ere</b> (2nd conjugation) and <b>-ire</b> (3rd conjugation). Some 2nd conjugation verbs have endings such as <b>-arre</b> , <b>-orre</b> or <b>-urre</b> . See also <i>The Italian Verb</i> in Appendix B on this website.
<b>context</b>	Refers to the surrounding text of written language or to the accompanying situation of speech. The context is often crucial in determining the meaning of a word, phrase, etc., e.g. <i>That’s nice!</i> can be response to a genuine compliment or the ironic response to an unpleasant remark.
<b>continuous/ progressive tense</b>	A tense made up of the verb <b>stare</b> followed by the GERUND. See also <i>The Italian Verb</i> in Appendix B on this website.
<b>coordinating conjunction</b>	This is a word linking words or clauses of the same kind and of equal importance, e.g. <i>Do you want beer <b>or</b> wine? I drank beer <b>but</b> he drank wine.</i>
<b>countable noun</b>	Also known as count nouns, these refer to people or things that have a singular and plural form and can be counted individually, e.g. <i>house/houses, boy/boys</i> .
<b>dependent clause</b>	See CLAUSE.
<b>determiner</b>	A word used with a noun to specify its meaning more closely. Typical determiners are articles ( <i>a, the</i> ), demonstratives ( <i>this, that</i> ), possessives (e.g. <i>my, your</i> ) and indefinites (e.g. <i>all or many</i> ).
<b>direct and indirect object</b>	See OBJECT
<b>direct and indirect speech</b>	Direct speech refers to the words actually spoken, e.g. <i>I can come tomorrow</i> . Indirect (or reported) speech is what is reported, e.g. <i>He says he can come tomorrow</i> .

<b>double object verb</b>	A verb which can have two objects, direct and indirect: both a person and a thing, e.g. <i>to give</i> (sth. to sb.), <i>to offer</i> (sth. to sb.). See also pp. 135-36 and OBJECT.
<b>finite verb</b>	A verb form with a definite subject and tense, e.g. <i>I sing/They played</i> .
<b>gender</b>	In Italian all nouns are masculine or feminine, even if referring to things. The gender affects the form of the noun and sometimes its meaning.
<b>gerund</b>	See NON-FINITE VERB and Appendix B on this website
<b>impersonal use</b>	Impersonal use refers to instances where the specific agent of the action is either unknown, not expressed or unimportant, e.g. <i>It is incomprehensible/ One can't be too careful/ You can't blame him</i> . See Chapter 25, pp. 411-12.
<b>indicative</b>	This refers to the most common MOOD used in verb tenses. It expresses fact and certainty.
<b>indirect speech</b>	See DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH.
<b>infinitive</b>	The form used in the dictionary to identify a verb. See also NON-FINITE VERB and Appendix B on this website.
<b>intransitive verb</b>	A verb like <i>to die, to sleep</i> , whose action does not affect anyone else directly and which is not used with direct objects. It cannot be used to form passive tenses. See also p. 302 and Appendix B on this website.
<b>literal meaning</b>	This refers to a word-by-word translation which may not be the natural equivalent to the word or phrase in the original language, e.g. In English <b>Mi piace il burro</b> literally means <i>Butter is pleasing to me</i> , but the normal equivalent is <i>I like butter</i> .
<b>main clause</b>	See CLAUSE.
<b>mood</b>	A category of verb tenses which indicates the attitude or perception of the writer/speaker. In Italian, verb tenses can be INDICATIVE (expressing fact), subjunctive (expressing uncertainty, hopes, desires), conditional (awareness of conditions or limitations) or imperative (expressing commands).
<b>non-finite verb</b>	A verb form with no specified subject or tense which is sometimes equivalent to a noun or adjective. There are four main types: infinitive ( <b>to sing is fun</b> ), gerund ( <b>singing is fun</b> ), past participle ( <b>the song sung was sad</b> ) and present participle ( <b>the singing doll was very popular</b> ). See Chapter 23.
<b>number</b>	The number of a noun or verb refers to whether it is singular or plural.
<b>object</b>	The noun, pronoun or noun phrase considered to be affected by the action of a verb, either directly or indirectly: e.g. <i>I see John/the tower/Who/What do you see?</i> (direct objects: <i>John, the tower, Who? What?</i> ); <i>I speak to John/To whom do you speak?/Who do you speak to?</i> (indirect objects: <i>John, To whom?/Who... to?</i> ). See also pp. 133, 135-36.
<b>passive voice</b>	The form of a verb in which the subject is affected by the action rather than performing the action: e.g. <i>The cake was eaten by Luca</i> . The ACTIVE VOICE of the verb is: <i>Luca ate the cake</i> . See also Chapter 26, p. 413.
<b>past participle</b>	Part of a verb that typically expresses completed action in COMPOUND TENSES and which may also be used as an adjective. See also NON-FINITE VERBS and Appendix B on this website.
<b>person of a verb</b>	This refers to the particular form of the verb that expresses who or what performs the action. There are three singular and three plural persons – 1st persons: <i>I, we</i> ; 2nd persons: <i>you, you</i> (plural); 3rd persons: <i>he, she, it, they</i> .
<b>phrase</b>	A group of words lacking a FINITE VERB, e.g. <i>the enormous house</i> (noun phrase), <i>having been working</i> (verb phrase).
<b>present participle</b>	See NON-FINITE VERB.
<b>quantifier</b>	A word or phrase denoting quantity, e.g. <i>a lot, some, many</i> ,
<b>register</b>	This refers to the variety of language used for a particular purpose or social setting. It tends to denote the degree of formality or informality in speech or writing and is dependent on who is being addressed and for what purpose. See also STYLE.
<b>relative clause</b>	A subordinate clause which modifies a noun and is introduced by a relative pronoun, e.g. <i>The man who came yesterday is my brother/The book that I read is very long</i> .
<b>reported speech</b>	Also known as INDIRECT SPEECH.
<b>simple sentence</b>	A simple sentence consists of one CLAUSE with only one verb and SUBJECT, e.g. <i>I left the house/I feel tired</i> .
<b>stem</b>	Sometimes referred to as 'root', this is the basic part of the verb INFINITIVE from which the

	different tenses are usually formed, e.g. <b>pens-</b> is the stem of <b>pensare</b> , <b>vend-</b> the stem of <b>vendere</b> and <b>fin-</b> the stem of <b>finire</b> .
<b>style</b>	Style denotes variation in speech or writing. It can encompass register and a person's individual use of speech or writing, as well as a way of using language at a particular historical period.
<b>subject</b>	Generally the noun, pronoun or noun phrase which performs the action of a verb, e.g., <i><b>Peter</b> plays tennis/<b>He</b> is eating/<b>The black cat</b> disappeared.</i>
<b>subordinate clause</b>	See CLAUSE.
<b>subordinating conjunction</b>	A word which links a main clause to a subordinate clause, e.g. <i>He went to work <b>although</b> he was ill.</i>
<b>syntax</b>	The rules governing sentence formation: how words are arranged in a sentence. See also Chapter 29.
<b>tense</b>	Forms of FINITE VERBS which locate the action in time with relation to past, present and future. See also <i>The Italian verb</i> in Appendix B on this website.
<b>transitive verb</b>	This is a verb like <i>to buy, to make</i> , which can be used with a direct object (see pp.129 and 133). In Italian a transitive verb is nearly always used with the auxiliary <b>avere</b> (see Appendix B on this website). Unlike INTRANSITIVE VERBS, transitive verbs in Italian can be used with the PASSIVE (see also p. 413).
<b>uncountable noun</b>	Also known as mass nouns, and used in the singular, this refers to indivisible masses such as foods, substances or abstract concepts, e.g. <i>gas, snow, bread, rice, housing, rudeness.</i>
<b>verb</b>	A word denoting an action, condition or experience. See Appendix B on this website.