Italian Language Online Resource Guide

INTRODUCTION

Never has there been a better time to learn the Italian language, particularly in terms of online learning opportunities. You simply can't beat the combination of low cost (in most cases), variety of offerings, and flexibility of when and how the learning is accessed.

This resource guide for Italian language online learning opportunities is intended to provide a sampling of the different approaches and offerings that are currently available to anyone with an interest in learning the Italian language and access to the internet. For those who benefit more from in-person instruction, including in-person classrooms and discussion groups, other opportunities also exist in our community though they are not addressed in this guide.

The different types of instruction described in this guide provide various approaches to language learning which can be tailored towards individual schedules, budgets, and different styles of learners. Are you someone who wants to learn Italian on your daily commute in your car? Do you enjoy playing games as a fun way to learn a new language? Do you like more free-form instruction, or do you benefit from a more structured approach? Choose the method, or methods, that best suit your style of learning and your schedule. And by all means, mix-and-match the different types to get the benefits that each offers.

This guide is intended to illustrate the breadth of online resources that are currently available and is by no means exhaustive. Also, please note the prices are subject to change, but are current as of this guide's version date.

CATEGORIES

The following categories of online learning opportunities are covered in this guide:

1. Comprehensive Online Language Programs
2. Language Apps
3. Podcasts
4. YouTube Videos
5. Immersive Language Apps
6. Online Tutors
7. Live Online Instruction

> **Comprehensive Online Language Programs** provide the structure and the planned, incremental skill development of traditional language learning programs with the convenience of online access.

edX Italian Language and Culture

URL:
https://www.edx.org/course/italian-language-and-culture-beginner-2021-2022
https://www.edx.org/course/italian-language-and-culture-intermediate-2021-2022
https://www.edx.org/course/italian-language-and-culture-advanced-2021-2022

Description: Structured coursework offered through Wellesley College, consisting of lessons, videos, listening comprehension and periodic quizzes and tests.

Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Delivery: Web Access

Timing: Courses last for one year from the student's start date and then the pace of instruction is determined by the student, though guidelines are offered.

Cost: FREE or $49 for additional benefits (graded exams, course certificate, etc.)

One World Italiano

URL: http://www.oneworlditaliano.com/english/home.htm

Description: An extensive website consisting of 37 courses, teaching vocabulary and grammar in the context of specific activities, such as shopping or eating in a restaurant. The coursework is supplemented by a wide assortment of resources, such as videos and listening comprehension exercises.

Level: Primarily Beginner, though some resources might be more appropriate for Intermediate and Advanced learners.

Delivery: Web access

Timing: At the student's discretion.

Cost: FREE

Pimsleur

URL: https://www.pimsleur.com/learn-italian/subscription-all-access

Description: Pimsleur is an audio-based language course, offered in 30-minute lessons. These lessons are supplemented with reading and pronunciation, along with games and exercises.

Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Delivery: Web access or mobile app (IOS and Android)

Timing: At student's discretion

Cost: $20.95 / month.

Notes: Offers free 7-day trial. Access to any Pimsleur course also entitles the student to materials for 51 different languages.

Rosetta Stone

URL: https://www.rosettastone.com/

Description: A structured approach to learning Italian, consisting of 10-minute lessons that teach vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation using reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Level: Beginner

Delivery: Web access or mobile app (IOS and Android)

Timing: At student's discretion

Cost: Various options (3-months @ $11.99/month; 6-months @ $7.99/month; lifetime @ $179.

Notes: Offers a 30-day money-back guarantee.

Language Apps provide the user with a wide array of engaging and flexible online resources, though typically in smaller bite-sized pieces, with less structure than Comprehensive Online Language Programs.

Babbel

URL: https://www.babbel.com/

Description: Babbel uses a series of activities to help the student improve their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Materials can be provided online or through live classes.

Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Delivery: Web access or mobile app (IOS and Android)

Timing: At student's discretion

Cost: 1-month @ 13.95; 3-months @ $9.95/month; 12-months @ $6.95/month or Lifetime @ $249.00

Duolingo

URL: https://www.duolingo.com/course/it/en/Learn-Italian

Description: Game-like lessons with bite-sized learning exercises using spaced repetition. Users can practice vocabulary, basic grammar construction, pronunciation and listening skills.

Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Delivery: Web access or mobile app (IOS and Android)

Timing: At student's discretion

Cost: Basic (FREE with ads) or Premium Plus ($6.99/month without ads and with additional features)

Notes: Premium Plus offers a 14-day free trial.

Memrise

URL: https://www.memrise.com/

Description: A popular language learning app that uses flashcards to help the student learn new words and phrases quickly. It uses a lot of unique features to enhance the flashcards and improve speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills.

Level: Mostly Beginners

Delivery: Web access or mobile app (IOS and Android)

Timing: At student's discretion

Cost: Most of the content is FREE. Other features become available with subscriptions ($8.49/month, $29.99/year or $119.99/Lifetime)

Quizlet

URL: https://quizlet.com/

Description: A collection of various learning tools, utilizing flashcards, games and other tools. You can use existing materials, or you can create your own. Though quite customizable, this app is focused on learning vocabulary.

Level: Mostly Beginners

Delivery: Web access or mobile app (IOS and Android)

Timing: At student's discretion.

Cost: FREE (though some additional features available to Premium members @ $34/year).

> **Podcasts** provide audio-only content on a wide variety of topics and are particularly convenient for people who want to learn without hands-on access to a device. Podcasts can be accessed on a variety of audio streaming services, such as Spotify, Apple and Google Podcasts, Pandora and others – which typically come with monthly subscription costs.

There are a dizzying variety of podcasts that are available. What follows is simply a taste of the offerings that are available.

Coffee Break Italian

> URL: [Currently experiencing issues with website. Suggest accessing podcasts directly through your streaming service]

> Description: A progressive exposure to the Italian language, spread across three seasons of podcasts, ranging from beginner to intermediate. Most sessions are 30-minutes in length or shorter and introduce the student to new vocabulary and grammar, while also exploring different aspects of Italian culture.

> Level: Beginner, Intermediate

> Delivery: Web access or mobile app which accesses an audio streaming service.

> Timing: At student's discretion.

> Cost: FREE (though you can also join "Coffee Break Academy", with videos, lesson plans and audio guides, for an additional fee).

News in Slow Italian

> URL: https://www.newsinslowitalian.com/

> Description: A streaming service for language immersion, created and produced by an international team of journalists, writers, linguists, audio engineers, and native language hosts. Helps to learn the language in the context of current events.

> Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

> Delivery: Web access or mobile app which accesses an audio streaming service.

> Timing: At student's discretion. Over 10 news stories and cultural conversations added each week

> Cost: $19.90 / month

> Notes: Free 7-day trial period

Oggi Parliamo – Italiano con Andrea

URL: No general website, only streaming specific links, such as:
https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/oggi-parliamo-italiano-con-andrea/id1492802130

Description: Brief 5 to 20-minute podcasts with host Andrea Callegaro, who speaks only Italian in a slow and clear manner, on a variety of topics such as culture, grammar, current events, and expressions.

Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Delivery: Web access or mobile app which accesses an audio streaming service.

Timing: At student's discretion, with a new episode delivered each week.

Cost: FREE

> **YouTube Videos** is an online video sharing platform with almost a billion videos on a wide variety of topics. Videos are often offered on "channels", on which providers offer a series of videos, to which users can "subscribe" without an additional fee.

There are many Italian language video channels which are too numerous to list. What follows is a sampling of some of the most popular channels, listed in order of the number of subscribers.

URL: www.youtube.com

- Learn Italian with Lucrezia [526k subscribers]
  (https://www.youtube.com/c/lucreziaoddone)

- Learn Italian with ItalianPod101.com [468k subscribers]
  (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb5faEH1hEiLaT_aGMBWeBg)

- Easy Italian [200k subscribers]
- (https://www.youtube.com/c/EasyItalian)

- Italy Made Easy [195k subscribers]
- (https://www.youtube.com/c/Italymadeeasy)

- Learn Italian with Vaporetto Italian [134k subscribers]
  (https://www.youtube.com/c/VaporettoItaliano)

- Weilà Tom [105k subscribers]
- (https://www.youtube.com/c/Weil%C3%A0Tom)

Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Delivery: Web access or mobile app (IOS and Android)

Timing: At the student's discretion

Cost: FREE (basic service with ads) or Premium @ $12 / month (no ads, downloadable content and other benefits)

Notes: Premium is available for a 1-month free trial.

Immersive Language Apps rely on learning a language by using exclusively the language being learned. These apps offer videos in Italian only, with varying degrees of English support (sub-titles, etc.)

Lingopie

URL: https://lingopie.com/w/learn-italian

Description: Lingopie offers a vast collection of videos (mostly TV content) with adjustable playback speed and interactive subtitles and flashcards.

Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced (though best for non-beginners)

Delivery: Web access or mobile app (IOS and Android)

Timing: At student's discretion

Cost: $12/month or $72/year

Notes: Free 7-day trial period. This application doesn't provide any opportunity to practice pronunciation. Subscription provides access to 9 languages for the same price.

Yabla

URL: https://italian.yabla.com/

Description: Thousands of videos (wide variety of content) all with native Italian speakers, available with English subtitles. Supported by learning tools (dictionary, learning games).

Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced (though best for non-beginners)

Delivery: Web access or mobile app (IOS and Android)

Timing: At student's discretion

Cost: $13/month, $55/6-months, $100/year

Notes: Free 15-day trial period. Subscription only provides access to one language.

Online Tutors provide live, one-to-one, instruction with a proficient tutor, typically a native language speaker. Tutors are often based in Italy, which should be considered due to differences in time zones and available lesson times.

iTalki

URL: https://www.italki.com/

Description: An interface that connects interested language students with instructors. Currently hosts over 1,000 instructors.

Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Delivery: Online video interface (specific to iTalki) requiring web access.

Timing: On a schedule that works for both student and tutor.

Cost: Various – most range from $12 - $30 per hour.

Notes: Most tutors offer a 30-minute trial session for a nominal fee.

Preply

URL: https://preply.com/

Description: An interface that connects interested language students with instructors. Currently hosts over 1,000 instructors.

Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Delivery: Online video interface (specific to Preply) requiring web access.

Timing: On a schedule that works for both student and tutor.

Cost: Various – most range from $12 - $30 per hour.

Notes: Trial sessions can be scheduled with prospective tutors. They are not free, or even at a reduced rate, but you can get a refund if not happy.

> **Live Online Instruction** are similar to classroom sessions but offered through an online video platform. Typically, they involve language instruction as well as opportunities to practice speaking and listening with class peers.

Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts

URL: https://www.schooldantemass.org/html/school.html

Description: An extensive listing of online instructional courses, covering the range from total beginner to advanced speaker. These courses provide learning in a structured environment and are supported by a textbook and homework assignments.

Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

Delivery: Online using Zoom

Timing: Classes are on the trimester schedule, ranging in length from 4 to 10-weeks, with classes typically held once or twice a week on weeknights. Please refer to the website for specifics.

Cost: $260 / class ($20 discount for Dante members)