

UNITÀ 2 Come passi il tempo libero?

VERBI IRREGOLARI AL PRESENTE IRREGULAR VERBS IN THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

1. The verbs **andare** (to go), **dare** (to give), **sapere** (to know), **stare** (to be, to stay) are irregular. They do not follow the regular patterns of the first, second and third conjugation. Please note that the third plural person (“loro”) is spelt with a double **n**.

Examples:

Loro vanno a Londra = They go to London.

Loro danno un regalo alla mamma = They give a present to their mom.

Loro sanno tutto! = They know everything!

Stanno spesso a casa = They are often at home.

2. The verbs **bere** (to drink), **dire** (to say, to tell), **fare** (to do, to make) are also irregular in the present tense. Some forms derive from the stem of their Latin infinitives (*bevere, dicere, facere*).

Examples:

Io bevo la Coca Cola = I drink Coke.

Lui dice sempre la verità = He always tells the truth.

Facciamo errori grammaticali = We make grammar mistakes.

3. In some irregular verbs, a **-g-** is added after the stem of the verb and before the suffix in the first person singular and in the third person plural. These are: **rimanere** (to remain, to stay), **spegnere** (to turn off), **venire** (to come), **tenere** (to have, to keep), **salire** (to go up, upstairs, to climb), etc.

Examples:

Io rimango a casa = I stay at home.

Loro rimangono a scuola = They stay at school.

Io vengo con te! = I am coming with you!

Vengono da te Sabrina and Stefano? = Are Sabrina and Stefano coming to your place?

Salgo al terzo piano = I am going up to the third floor.

Spengono le luci alle nove = They turn the lights off at nine.

The verbs *venire* and *tenere* add an **-i-** in the second and third person singular: *Tu vieni alla partita?* = Are you coming to the game?

4. When the modal verbs **potere** (can, to be able to), **volere** (to want), **dovere** (to have to) are followed by a verb, this latter is always in the infinitive form. Between the modals and the infinitive there is no preposition:

Examples:

Posso venire = I can come.

Voglio vedere = I want to see.

Devo partire = I have to leave.

PREPOSIZIONI - PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions show how words in a sentence relate to each other. They usually indicate position, direction or time. Simple prepositions are invariable. They have no plural, nor do they have a gender.

In Italian there are the following prepositions: **da, di, a, in, su, con, tra/fra, per**. It would be a mistake to translate each preposition as a single word, because every time the translation is different, according to the use of each word. Therefore, as in English, the meaning of a preposition is often determined by its context. Unlike English, however, the position of a preposition never varies. It is always placed within a sentence before its object. Also, Italian may use different prepositions to translate the ones we use in English, or sometimes no prepositions are used at all. Always consult a dictionary to verify whether a preposition is required.

Example: *to look for* = *cercare* (no preposition “for” after the verb).

We are going to give the most common uses of each preposition and some examples to go with them.

DA - states:

- Origin or descent. In this case, it accompanies verbs such as *arrivare*, *venire*:
Veniamo da Monaco = *We come from Monaco*.
Arrivo da Perugia = *I am arriving from Perugia*.
- Motion from or to a place:
Lui è partito da Roma = *He left Rome*.
Vado dal medico = *I am going to the doctor*.
- Use, in everything that is used as an object:
occhiali da sole = *sunglasses*, *camera da letto* = *bedroom*.
- Time (i.e. since sth. has happened):
Vi aspetto da un'ora* = *I have been waiting for you for an hour*.
Studio l'italiano da tre mesi* = *I have been studying Italian for three months*.
*Notice the use of the simple present tense in Italian vs. the present perfect continuous in English.

DI - states:

- Ownership (i.e. to whom an object belongs): *la macchina di Piero* = *Piero's car*.
- Origin: *Anna è di Firenze* = *Anna is from Florence*.
- Content: *un bicchiere di latte* = *a glass of milk*.
- Material: *un tavolo di legno* = *a wooden table (made of wood)*.
- Time: *di giorno, di notte, d'estate* = *during the day, at night, in the summer*.

A - states:

- Indirect object (i.e. to someone or something): *Regalo il libro a Maria* = *I am giving (as a gift) the book to Maria*, *Telefono a...* = *I am calling...*, *Parlo a...* = *I am talking to...*, etc.
- Motion or state in a place (not with countries): *Vado a Milano* = *I am going to Milan*, *Sono a casa* = *I am at home*.
- Time (i.e. we define with accuracy the time when an action is happening or happened): *A mezzogiorno vengo da te* = *I am coming to see you at noon*.

IN - states:

- In, inside (i.e. the inside part of a place; with this use the preposition also takes an article): *Le chiavi sono in questo cassetto* = *The keys are in this drawer*.
- Motion or state in a place (i.e. it shows us the place that someone is moving or, that is, found): *Vado in Italia* = *I am going to Italy*, *Vivo in Australia* = *I live in Australia*.
- A means of transport when ownership or time is not defined: *Parto in aereo* = *I am leaving by plane*, *Vado in treno* = *I am going by train*.

SU - states:

- Position (on): *Il libro è sul tavolo* = *The book is on the table*.
- Age approximately, in this case the preposition is articulated: *Una bambina sui 6 anni* = *A little girl about six years old*.

CON - states:

- Together with someone: *Vado a teatro con Stefano* = *I am going to the theatre with Stefano*.
- Way of doing (i.e. how we are doing sth.): *Ascolto con attenzione* = *I am listening carefully*.

FRA (TRA) - states:

- Between: *Brindisi si trova fra Bari e Lecce* = *Brindisi is (located) between Bari and Lecce*.
- Time (i.e. how long it will take us to do sth.): *Esco fra poco* = *I am going out shortly*.

PER - states:

- Direction, destination: *Il treno parte per Torino* = *The train is leaving for Turin*.
- Purpose: *Vado in Italia per motivi di lavoro* = *I am going to Italy for business*.
- Time duration: *Devo restare a Firenze per tre settimane* = *I have to stay in Florence for three weeks*.