

L'italiano nell'aria 1
Directions for the Pronunciation Reference

Traduzione ad opera di TperTradurre, Roma.

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1. Tonic accent rules in Italian

In the Italian language, the accent is not subject to precise rules. Words are classified based on the location of the tonic accent (where voice falls with more force).

Where the accent falls

1.a. Listen to the words. Pay particular attention to the parts in blue!

1. **Oxytone words** - The accent falls on the last syllable, which is **always** marked.
2. **Paroxytone words** - The accent falls on the second to last syllable. **They are the most numerous.**
3. **Proparoxytone words** - The accent falls on the third to last syllable.
4. **Superproparoxytone words** - The accent falls on the fourth to last syllable. **They are rare in Italian.**

b. Now, listen again and repeat after each group of words.

How do you pronounce these words?

2.a. Read the word below out loud. The accent falls on the blue syllable.

b. Now, check your pronunciation and repeat after each word.

Heteromyns

These are words that are spelled in the same way but take on different meanings when pronounced differently.

3.a. Listen carefully to each word pair.

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2. Italian pronunciation - Observations

1. Listen to the groups of words and then repeat.

Reading Examples	Phonemes	Spelling
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3. /k/-/tʃ/ and /g/-/dʒ/

1.c. Complete with some of the words from exercise 1.a

2.a. Listen and fill in the missing letters.

3.a. Read the sentences out loud.

b. Now listen and repeat after each sentence.

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7. Listen and indicate (✓) the sounds that you hear.
- 8.a. Listen to the pronunciation of the following words.
- b. In which words can you clearly hear the *i*?

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- 8.c. On which syllable does the accent fall?
- d. Can you hear the *i* in the other words?

4. /l/-/ʎ/ and /gl/

2. Remember that the /ʎ/ is pronounced as a double consonant!
- 3.b. Remember!

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7. How do you pronounce /r/?

- 1.a. *pronto* - Here, the tongue vibrates rapidly and repeatedly as the /r/ is pronounced.
sera - Here, the tongue vibrates just once as the /r/ is pronounced.
- b. Now try to repeat the words *pronto* and *sera* several times.
- c. Listen and underline the words with the rapidly vibrating /r/.

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- 1.e. Fill in the rule and indicate (✓) the correct statements.
- /r/: the tongue vibrates rapidly...
- when it is the first letter and is followed by a vowel.
 - when it is followed by a consonant.
 - when the consonant precedes the /r/.
 - when it is between two vowels (a, e, i, o, u).
 - when it is double.
 - when it is the last letter of a word.
 - when it is at the end of a word and is followed by a vowel.

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8. S – when do you pronounce /s/ and when /z/?

- 1.a. *Sicilia* - Here, the pronunciation of the **S** is the unvoiced /s/ in which the vocal cords **do not** vibrate.
casa - Here, the pronunciation of the **S** is the voiced /z/ in which the vocal cords **do** vibrate.

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- 1.c. Listen and underline the words pronounced with an /s/.
 - d. Insert the words pronounced with an /s/ into the table.
 - e. Now, insert the words pronounced with a /z/ into the table.
 - f. Now, listen to activity 1c. again and repeat after each word.
- 2.c. In activity 2.a, underline the /s/ sounds once (like in the word Sicilia) and the /z/ twice (like in the word cassa).

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10. /sk/ and /ʃ/

- 1.b. Now, insert the words into the correct column of the table.

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14. Pronouncing the double consonant

- 3.a. Listen and note the difference between these word pairs.
[Remember that the vowel before a double consonant is always short.]
4. Listen and indicate (✓) if the consonants are single or double.

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- 5.a. [Remember that two pairs of double consonants must have the same sound duration within the word.]

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15. Unvoiced and voiced sounds compared

16. Syntactic doubling

The initial consonant of a word has a doubled sound when preceded by an oxytone or accented monosyllable word. The extra stress is a rule not linked to spelling.

After oxytone words

After accented monosyllable words

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18. E – when do you pronounce /e/ and when /ɛ/?

The vowel *E* is the only vowel that can have both an acute accent mark (´) and a grave accent mark (`) on the last syllable.

2. Listen and repeat after each group of words. Watch out for the exceptions!
Generally, the sound is an /e/ when the word contains:

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In the following cases, the sound is always an /e/:

Final ending...

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7. ...

The following words are heteronyms. Differences in the pronunciation of *E* result in two different meanings.

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19. O – when do you pronounce /o/ and when /ɔ/?

2. The final *O* in a word is always an /o/. It is pronounced /ɔ/ in the presence of the grave accent, *Ò*, or if the word is monosyllable (example: *no*).

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3.b. ...

The vowel *O* can only have a grave accent (̀) if it is in the last syllable (for example, *mangiò*).

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20. Diphthong, triphthong and hiatus

Diphthong: 2 vowels pronounced with a single speech sound. Combination of *i/u* with other vowels.

Triphthong: 3 vowels pronounced with a single speech sound. Combination of *i/u/* with other vowels.

Hiatus: Hiatus means a separation. Two adjacent vowels that are pronounced with two distinct speech sounds.

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21. Intonation

- 1.a. Listen to the sentences and pay attention to the intonation. Choose the correct punctuation mark: question mark (?), exclamation mark (!) or period (.).