

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

Traduzione ad opera di TperTradurre, Roma.

**Pagina 3**

**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.

**Pagina 4**

**2. Italian pronunciation - Observations**

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

Reading Examples	Phonemes	Spelling
------------------	----------	----------

**Pagina 5**

**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.

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

**Pagina 6**

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*?

**Pagina 7**

- 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!

**Pagina 9**

**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/.

**Pagina 10**

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

**Pagina 11**

**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.

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

**Pagina 12**

- 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).

**Pagina 13**

**10. /sk/ and /ʃ/**

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

**Pagina 16**

**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.

**Pagina 17**

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

**Pagina 18**

**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

**Pagina 20**

**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:

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

**Pagina 21**

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

Final ending...

**Pagina 25**

**7.** ...

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

**Pagina 26**

**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*).

**Pagina 27**

**3.b.** ...

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

**Pagina 30**

**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.

**Pagina 31**

**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 (.).