

Top Ten Translanguaging Tips: Italian & English

Adjective-Noun Order



Italian

- Adjectives largely follow the noun they modify
- Only adjectives of beauty, age, goodness, and size precede nouns

"Il client silenzioso è qui."

English

- Adjectives precede the noun they modify
- Adjectives have no pluralization or gender

"The silent client is here."

Italian

- The nominative 'noi' may be used both as the subject and as the explicit direct object of the verb

"Sta insegnando noi."
"Noi stiamo imparando."

English

- **We** and **us** are not interchangeable
- **We**: subject or nominative pronoun
- **Us**: object or accusative pronoun

"He is teaching us."
"We are learning."



Us v. We



Subject Omission

Italian

- Because verbs are inflected for case, number, and gender, a subject pronoun can be omitted as nonessential

"(Lei) studia grammatica."

English

- Every grammatical sentence requires a subject and a verb
- The subject can never be omitted

"She studies grammar."

Italian

- Questions are often indicated by tone with no sentence restructuring
- Why (perché) questions are typically not accompanied by subject-verb inversion

"Lei ha letto il libro."
"Perché ei ha letto il libro?"

English

- All question forms utilize subject-verb inversion. Why questions are formed: Why + Aux. Verb + Subject + Verb + other sentence elements, if present

"She read the book."
"Why did she read the book?"



Why Question Formation



Modal Verbs

Italian

- One modal verb is used to express all connotations of responsibility or duty in an action: *dovere*.
- No differentiation for shades of meaning

"Dovrei finire i miei compiti."
"Dovrei finire i miei compiti."

English

- There are a set of modal verbs used to express the connotation of duty, each with a different level of emphasis or shade of meaning (e.g., must, should, ought to)

"I should finish my homework."
"I must finish my homework."

Top Ten Translanguaging Tips



Definite Articles

Italian

- Definite articles are used for nouns that are: known, well-defined, specific days of the week/times, abstract, personal belongings, and more.

"Gli studenti studiano le regole grammaticali il venerdì."

English

- Specific, countable nouns require the definite article: *the*
- General, plural nouns and noncount nouns do not require articles

"The students study grammar rules on Fridays."

Italian

- Typically, Subject-Verb-Object order
- Free order option for emphasis
- Subject-Object-Verb order with enclitic pronouns:

"Io la sto studiando."

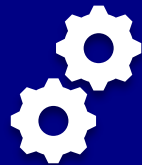
English

- Strict Subject-Verb-Object order
- Transposition of dependent phrases/clauses only

"I am studying it."



Sentence Order



Auxiliary Verb: Do

Italian

- Verb tenses are indicated in sets of inflectional endings + auxiliary verbs
- However, the auxiliary "do" does not exist in Italian

*"Studia inglese."
"Ho studiato inglese."*

English

- Many verb tenses are expressed in two-part structures of the auxiliary verb 'do', expressing the tense, and another verb, expressing the meaning:

*"He does study English."
"I did study English."*

Italian

- Possessive adjectives match the gender and number of the noun possessed, not the possessor's gender
- Preceded by a definite article

"Studia sulla la sua sedia."

English

- Possessive adjectives match the gender and number of the possessor, not the possessed noun's gender
- No articles are used

"He studies in his chair."



Possessive Adjectives



Present Perfect Tense

Italian

- The present perfect tense (*passato prossimo*) refers to an action that was recently completed and is in the past:

"Ho studiato l'inglese."

English

- The present perfect tense is used to refer to an action that began in the past and is still happening in the present:

*Present-Perfect: "I have studied English."
Simple Past: "I studied English."*

Further Resources & Guided Tutoring

Online Campus Writing Center

Multilingual Writer Support