



# Advanced Italian

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## English Dialogues

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## ADVANCED ITALIAN

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**Lesson 1      Enjoy your Meal!**

*Carlo:*            Hi, excuse me! Can we order?

*Waiter:*          Yes, of course.

*Carlo:*            I'll have the tagliatelle with mushroom sauce.

*Waiter:*          And you, ma'am, what would you like?

*Rita:*             Excuse me, does the rigatoni all'ortolana have meat?

*Waiter:*          No, it's prepared with seasonal vegetables: eggplants, zucchini, bell peppers... It's really good. It's our chef's specialty.

*Rita:*             Is it spicy?

*Waiter:*          No, not at all.

*Rita:*             OK, I'll have the rigatoni then.

*Waiter:*          What would you like for your second course?

*Carlo:*            What about the swordfish carpaccio that I always have, do you still make that?

*Waiter:*          Yes, we usually do. But we're out of fresh swordfish. We only have frozen fish, I'm sorry.

*Carlo:*            That's too bad! Then I'll have the braised rabbit with a side of baked potatoes. What about you Rita, would you rather have fish or meat?

*Rita:*             Neither of the two. I'm a vegetarian. I don't eat fish or meat.

*Carlo:*            Really? Well, at least have a salad or some cheese.

*Rita:*             No, thanks. I'd rather have a good dessert later.

*Waiter:*          What would you like to drink?

*Rita:*             A bottle of sparkling mineral water and a bottle of wine. What kind of wine should we have? I prefer white.

*Carlo:*            OK, hold on a minute... a bottle of this Soave, please.

*Waiter:*          Very good.

*A little later...*

*Waiter:*          Here you are, the rigatoni for you and the tagliatelle for the gentleman.

*Rita:*             Thank you. Could you please bring me another napkin?

*Waiter:*          Of course, ma'am, right away.

*Carlo:*            Well, we finally managed to have dinner together. Let's make a toast!

*Rita:* Cheers!  
*Carlo:* That smells great! Enjoy your meal!  
*Rita:* You too! This rigatoni is delicious! Do you want to try it?  
*Carlo:* I'd love to! Excellent! This is better than my mom's!

## **Lesson 2 At the Doctor's Office**

*Carlo Malga:* Hi, Doctor!  
*Doctor:* Hi, Mr. Malga! So, tell me, what's the problem?  
*Carlo Malga:* Well, I've had a stomachache for some time now. I've suffered from stomachaches in the past, but lately it happens quite often, especially after lunch.  
*Doctor:* Do you drink coffee, alcohol?  
*Carlo Malga:* Oh yes, I drink a lot of coffee in the office when I have a lot of work, like we do right now. But alcohol, no not really, maybe a glass of wine with my meals; you know, when you have lunch at a restaurant with your colleagues as I often do, it's hard not to.  
*Doctor:* Do you have any other complaints?  
*Carlo Malga:* No, actually...perhaps a little exhaustion because I get so little sleep.  
*Doctor:* OK. I'd like to examine you— please get undressed and lay on the bed.  
*A few moments later...*  
*Doctor:* Thank you, Mr. Malga, you can get dressed now. There's nothing to worry about, but to be on the safe side, let's do a blood test. In the meantime, take these anti-inflammatory tablets.  
*Carlo Malga:* OK. How many of them do I have to take?  
*Doctor:* One after your main meals. In addition, here's some advice: try to have light meals. Don't eat too much fat, and above all, stop drinking coffee, at least for a while. Do you play sports?  
*Carlo Malga:* Umm, no, I don't have the time.  
*Doctor:* Find the time! Move around a little! At least take a nice walk after work or on the weekend. For example, stop taking the elevator or the car and

walk instead. You'll see that you'll feel better. And, please, don't overdo it with work. Your problem may be due to stress.

*Carlo Malga:* OK, doctor, I'll try.

*Doctor:* Goodbye, then. I'll call you when I have the test results.

*Carlo Malga:* Goodbye and thank you.

### **Lesson 3      Do the Pants Fit?**

*Marina:* Hello?

*Rita:* Hi, Marina. It's Rita. Listen, I'm about to get a dress for my cousin's wedding. Do you want to come with me and help me choose something?

*Marina:* Sorry, I'm about to leave. I have an appointment with my father. In fact, I'm late. He's probably already waiting for me. But why do you want to buy a dress? Buy a pantsuit. Pants look better on you.

*Rita:* Well, let's see what I find! Then I'll tell you about it.

*Marina:* Yes, bye. And please forgive me, but I really can't make it today.

*Rita:* Don't worry, maybe next time. Ciao.

*Later at the department store...*

*Rita:* Good morning.

*Sales Associate:* Good morning, ma'am. How can I help you?

*Rita:* I'm going to a wedding, and I'm looking for something elegant to wear, I don't know, pants or a dress...

*Sales Associate:* Did you see the beige pants in the window display? They're made of silk. They are very elegant and they're also available in black. You can match them with this striped blouse, for example. Or, if you prefer a dress, we have this floor length one in linen. It comes in blue or green.

*Rita:* Can I try on the pants and then the dress... the blue one?

*Sales Associate:* Of course. What size are you?

*Rita:* 42.

*Sales Associate:* OK. Here you are. The changing room is over there, on your right.

*A few moments later...*

*Sales Associate:* Do the pants fit?

*Rita:* Yes, but they seem a little loose in the waist.  
*Sales Associate:* Just a little. They can be taken in. That's not a problem. Try on the dress, too. It's a style that fits well.  
*Rita:* I like the dress better, especially the color. It's beautiful.  
*Sales Associate:* And it fits you perfectly! No need for alterations.  
*Rita:* I usually prefer pants because they are more comfortable than dresses. But since this is a special occasion, I'll take the blue dress.  
*Sales Associate:* OK. Would you like anything else?

#### **Lesson 4      A Guided Tour**

*Rita:* Hi, guys!  
*Carlo:* Hi!  
*Chiara:* May I?  
*Rita:* Come on in!  
*Carlo:* Well, we finally get to see the apartment!  
*Rita:* Yes, it's not finished yet, but little by little I'm getting it furnished. In fact, you're a little early, they're supposed to deliver the new sofa tomorrow. OK, do you want a guided tour?  
*Carlo:* Sure, that's why we're here!  
*Rita:* This is the kitchen. It was already furnished. I really didn't have to buy anything, even though I don't really like it the way it is. Would you change it?  
*Chiara:* No, but if you painted the cabinets white, it'd be nicer. We could help you. What do you think, Carlo?  
*Carlo:* Well, if Rita trusts us, sure. But I'm not very handy when it comes to manual labor. I'm telling you that right away.  
*Rita:* I got it. Anyway, it might be better not to. Across from here is the bathroom and my bedroom, and to the right is the guestroom.  
*Chiara:* Your room is nice and bright—you can see the ocean from your bed! This is not the desk you already had, is it?

*Rita:* No, I would have preferred to buy myself a modern desk, but then my aunt gave me this antique, so I bought the lamp at the antique shop and now I'm happy.

*Carlo:* And is this the living room?

*Rita:* Yes, it's my favorite room because of the terrace, and since I am on the west side, I can enjoy the sunset from here in the evening. If you want, we can sit outside and have something to drink.

*Carlo:* I'd love to.

*Chiara:* This is truly wonderful! Do you realize how lucky you were to find this apartment?

## **Lesson 5      Anything Else?**

*Carlo:* Well, did you make a shopping list this time?

*Chiara:* Sure. Don't you trust me? But wait... darn! I've left it at home.

*Carlo:* I told you to bring it.

*Chiara:* Yes, yes, I know. And I put it near my wallet so I wouldn't forget. I'm so absent minded!

*Carlo:* Well, never mind now. Let's try to remember what we have to buy.

*Chiara:* Now then, two packs of pasta and one bag of rice, a small bag of biscotti, jam...

*Carlo:* Which one do you prefer?

*Chiara:* Apricot jam and then a dozen eggs and a liter of milk.

*Carlo:* Here we go. Should we get some fish for dinner on Saturday?

*Chiara:* Well, not everybody likes fish. Some prefer meat. We could make some cutlets, right?

*Carlo:* Yes, great idea. And do we need cold cuts?

*Chiara:* I'd say 200 grams of prosciutto and some salami.

*Carlo:* And veal for the cutlets?

*Chiara:* Yes, in the meantime, I'll get some fruit and vegetables. Oh, get some parmesan cheese too, please.

*Sales Associate:* So, who's next?

*Chiara:* I'm next. I'd like a kilo of peaches, the yellow ones, please.  
*Sales Associate:* Anything else?  
*Chiara:* Some bananas, not too ripe, please.  
*Sales Associate:* Are these good?  
*Chiara:* Yes, could you also get me half a kilo of carrots and two or three onions?  
*Sales Associate:* Anything else?  
*Chiara:* No, that's it. Thanks.  
*Carlo:* Did we get everything? Can we go to the register?  
*Chiara:* I think so. When we get home we'll probably remember all the things we forgot!

## **Lesson 6 Problems with the ATM!**

*Switchboard:* Mutual Savings Bank of Liguria.  
*Ms. Biagi:* Hi. My name is Biagi. I'd like to speak with Dr. Mori, please.  
*Switchboard:* Wait a minute, please, and I'll put you through right away.  
*Ms. Biagi:* Thank you.  
*Dr. Mori:* Hi, Ms. Biagi?  
*Ms. Biagi:* Yes, this is Ms. Biaggi. Hello, Dr. Mori. Am I interrupting?  
*Dr. Mori:* Not at all! What can I do for you?  
*Ms. Biagi:* I had a problem with the ATM yesterday– I tried to make a withdrawal, entered my PIN, but I wasn't able to withdraw the money. Something's wrong!  
*Dr. Mori:* That's possible. I'm sorry that you couldn't use the ATM. I'm looking at your checking account right now. One moment, please... no, everything's order. It could be that the ATM doesn't work or that your card is damaged. When you come to the bank, please bring it along so we can see.  
*Ms. Biagi:* OK, but I don't think it's the card because it's practically new. Anyway, I'd like some other information, as well.  
*Dr. Mori:* Yes?

*Ms. Biagi:* I have to transfer some money abroad, and I don't know the best way to do this.

*Dr. Mori:* That depends, there are different possibilities. For example, you could issue a money order. Unless you are in a hurry, a bank transfer is the best solution.

*Ms. Biagi:* Do I have to pay a commission?

*Dr. Mori:* Yes, but it's not a large amount.

*Ms. Biagi:* OK, thank you then, I'll come tomorrow for the transfer.

*Dr. Mori:* No problem! And don't forget your card. We'll check it and possibly replace it.

*Ms. Biagi:* That's fine. Goodbye.

*Dr. Mori:* Goodbye.

## **Lesson 7      What happened to you?**

*Rita:* Hey, Marina! Is everything OK?

*Marina:* Fine thanks, and you?

*Rita:* Fine, thanks. What happened last Saturday at Anna's party? I thought I'd chat a little with you, but you left in such a hurry that I couldn't even say hello. What happened?

*Marina:* Yes, I'm sorry. I had a meeting for the World Wildlife Fund, and since I was late already and afraid of not making it on time, I rushed off without saying anything.

*Rita:* The World Wildlife Fund?

*Marina:* Yes, it's an environmental organization that is concerned about ecological issues, you know, issues like endangered animals, destruction of the rainforest and so on. You surely have heard of it.

*Rita:* Yes, yes, of course.

*Marina:* I've been a member for many years already. Why don't you join too?

*Rita:* Me? Personally, animals don't interest me. I've never had a dog or a cat. Not even a canary.

*Marina:* What does that have to do with it? You don't have to have animals! This is about doing something for the environment, to raise awareness of the damages caused by environmental pollution or to protect endangered animals and plants.

*Rita:* The government should take care of these problems and not us, right?

*Marina:* But what, in your opinion, has the government done? Very little, if anything at all! So, should I just sit tight, be quiet and wait until something happens? I think it would be better for me to commit myself to an organization like this one.

*Rita:* Good for you! If you're convinced then, it's the right thing to do! But listen, that's not for me. Don't be upset with me if I don't sign up, OK?

*Marina:* No, I wouldn't do that! You're free to do what you want, but at least don't buy a fur coat, please!

*Rita:* For heaven's sake! Don't worry, I would never do that! I don't like fur coats at all.

## **Lesson 8      You've Gone Completely Out of Your Minds!**

*Rita:* Guys, something incredible happened to me!

*Carlo:* What? Tell us!

*Rita:* Yesterday, while I was going home on the bus, I met the man of my dreams.

*Chiara:* Come on, Rita, what are you talking about? How do you know it's the right man if you just met him yesterday?

*Rita:* If you'd have seen him, you would understand too. Tall, green eyes, blond, curly hair, fit and good-looking, all-in-all, totally cute!

*Carlo:* Here we go! This time Rita has fallen in love. I'd even say she's head-over-heels!

*Chiara:* And have you talked to him?

*Rita:* Obviously! I found an excuse to start a conversation. And it turns out he's really nice. He's a nurse. He works here at St. Mauro's hospital.

But anyway, the incredible thing is I read my horoscope in the newspaper yesterday, and it said that I would meet my soul mate.

*Chiara:* Please, Rita, I didn't think you believed in those things!

*Rita:* Well, in fact, I never have in the past. But now...

*Carlo:* If I had read my horoscope more often, I could have met Chiara much sooner. What a pity!

*Chiara:* Don't talk nonsense! All we need now is to become superstitious.

*Carlo:* Where's the newspaper? Let me see... here it is, Capricorn... listen to what it says: "Your financial situation will improve quickly. Trust your proverbial luck."

*Chiara:* Ah, I wish! Imagine!

*Carlo:* You never know. This time it could work. I'll go buy a ticket for the New Year's lottery.

*Rita:* Why not? It seems like a great idea. I'll come with you. If you win we'll split the prize fifty-fifty, OK?

*Chiara:* That's crazy! You've gone completely out of your minds!

## **Lesson 9      It's Almost an Addiction!**

*Carlo:* Rita! Hi. What are you doing around here at this time?

*Rita:* Hi. I'm going to the library before it closes. I absolutely have to return these books today, which I borrowed three weeks ago. Are you going too?

*Carlo:* To do what? I haven't been to the library since my school days!

*Rita:* Then it's about time you go! I've always liked libraries, all those old books, the atmosphere, it's so quiet... besides, when I'm broke and I don't want to buy new books, I can borrow them.

*Carlo:* To be honest, I don't read very much. At the most, in the summer I'll read some detective stories or adventure novels, by the ocean. If I only had more time! I don't even get to flip through the newspaper. Tell me, how do you do it?

*Rita:* I love reading. That's why I read everywhere. When I read a review that inspires me or someone speaks well about a book, I have to buy it right away.

*Carlo:* So, it's almost an addiction!

*Rita:* Well, yes. Just picture this, as a child, I would hide in the attic with my favorite books and my mother would look for me for hours.

*Carlo:* And what do you read?

*Rita:* To be honest, a little bit of everything: essays, novels, and also detective stories, if they are engaging. But there's one thing I can't stand: books that try to be funny, but don't make you laugh at all! Sometimes I'll re-read a nice classic. I just finished reading *The Odyssey* by Homer. A masterpiece!

*Carlo:* That might be so, but what a bore! Virgil, Dante, Manzoni... who reads these books after high school? But some beautiful films just opened...

*Rita:* Yes, yes, I know, you are the movie, theater and art exhibition expert. That's why you don't have time to read anything! Anyway, the world is beautiful because of its diversity. You prefer films, and I prefer literature.

## **Lesson 10      The Neighbor Told Me Everything!**

*Rita:* Is anyone here? Can I come in?

*Chiara:* Hi. Come in, come in, I've been waiting for you.

*Rita:* Do you always leave the door open? Don't you know that you live in a dangerous neighborhood?

*Chiara:* What are you talking about?

*Rita:* You haven't read today's newspaper?

*Chiara:* No, why?

*Rita:* There was a theft or rather an attempted theft, right here, in front of your house. When I was walking up the stairs, I met your neighbor who told me everything.

*Chiara:* What happened?

*Rita:* She told me that the night before, her husband saw someone entering the bar across the street from here. But he thought it was just the owner. When he realized that it was two men trying to break open the door, he decided to go and take a look.

*Chiara:* What? That's dangerous!

*Rita:* Oh yes, in fact, his wife asked him if he had gone crazy. And she told him that it would be better to call the police right away.

*Chiara:* Well, I would think so.

*Rita:* He told her that if he waited for the police, the thieves would have all the time in the world to take off.

*Chiara:* Actually...

*Rita:* Instead, the police squad arrived right away. But because the officers turned on their sirens, the thieves escaped. In their haste, instead of keeping the money or hiding it, they left it there. All in all, everything ended well. But your neighbor asked me if you had an alarm system, and I told her that I didn't think so.

*Chiara:* Well, wouldn't you know! An alarm system is all I need. It would go off every time I come in. Since I'm so forgetful, I know that I would turn it on and then forget to turn it off.

*Rita:* Anyway, she told me that I should convince you to install one.

*Chiara:* Look, I'd rather get myself a German shepherd!

*Rita:* Well, you could start by not leaving your door wide-open like it was when I arrived.