

# LEARN ITALIAN IN 3 SIMPLE STEPS

*italianglot.com*



*HOW TO LEARN  
ITALIAN WITH  
MINIMAL EFFORT*

# The 3 phases of language learning

**fase 1**

**familiarizzazione**

## Familiarization

The first phase of language learning consists in becoming familiar with the language. Everything about the language is new and we need to gradually explore this unknown territory.

**fase 2**

**acquisizione**

## Acquisition

The second phase is about being exposed to the language as much as possible. Once we've laid the groundwork in the first phase, we can keep building on it by adding new information that we acquire naturally and automatically without any effort.

**fase 3**

**produzione**

## Production

The third phase is the stage in which we actively use the language by speaking and writing. In phase 1 we planted the seeds, in phase 2 we watered the plants, in phase 3 we harvest the crops.



# Methods and tools



Each one of the three phases has its own methods and tools that we can use to acquire the language.

The acquisition process is more effective if:

## **we are organized**

Always organize your learning material, your documents, your notes.

Our brain needs order and structure to acquire new information more effectively.

## **we have fun**

Choose learning tools and materials that are entertaining and interesting. Our brain doesn't memorize new information effectively if we don't have fun.

## **we vary our activities**

Use different learning methods and tools every day. If we carry out the same type of activity every day, it can be boring for our brain which won't retain new information effectively.

# Phase 1: Familiarization



A new language is like new, unexplored territory. We don't know its sounds, its rhythm and melody, we don't know the meaning of words, how to structure sentences, how to conjugate verbs. We need a clear map to get our bearings. Our map is a structured course with lessons of increasing difficulty.



## So do I have to study grammar ?



No, if studying means trying to memorize long lists of rules and exceptions, long lists of words or the conjugation of a high number of verbs. This is not how we can reach fluency in a language. At this stage, we're just trying to become familiar with the language. All we have to do is *observe* and *understand*.

If you're exploring a new city and you try to memorize where every restaurant in town is, you're forcing your brain to make a big effort which won't have a good outcome. Even if you remember where a certain restaurant is at first, you will soon forget it, if you hardly ever eat there. If you take a nice, relaxed walk by that restaurant every day, though, you will memorize where it is naturally and automatically. This relaxed walk is what phase 2 is about.



# Phase 1: Familiarization

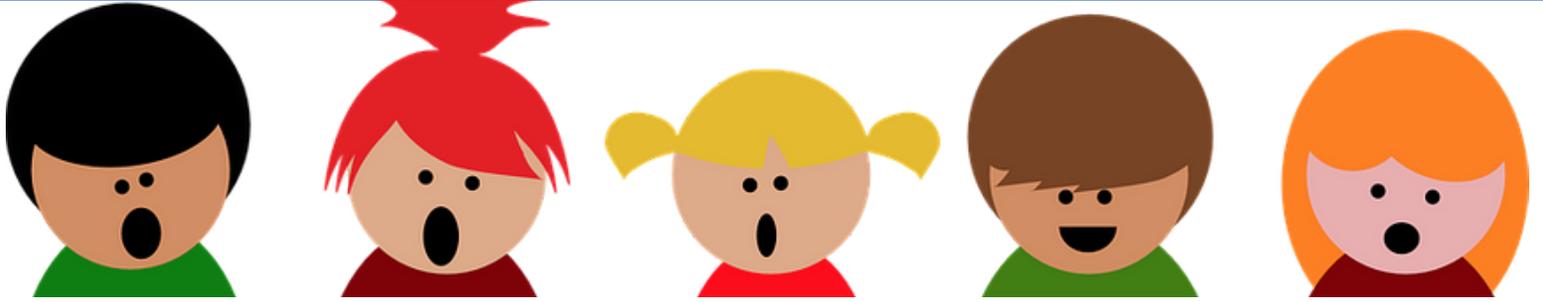


**Just take one first, relaxed exploratory walk around town.**

- Find a structured course with multimedia material
- Listen to its dialogues as many times as you can
- Focus on the pronunciation and the rhythm of the language
- Read the meaning of the words
- Observe the structure of the sentences
- Don't make any effort to memorize.  
If you've heard it or read it at least once, it's somewhere in your brain. Phase 2 will help you retrieve this information.
- If everything is clear, move on to the next lesson.
- Find the right pace for you and finish the course as fast as you want.

[Check the Italianglot courses.](#)

# Phase 2: Acquisition



Phase 2 is based on the so called "natural approach" theorized by the linguist Stephen Krashen. It's how children learn their mother tongue. They don't *learn* the language, they *acquire* it.

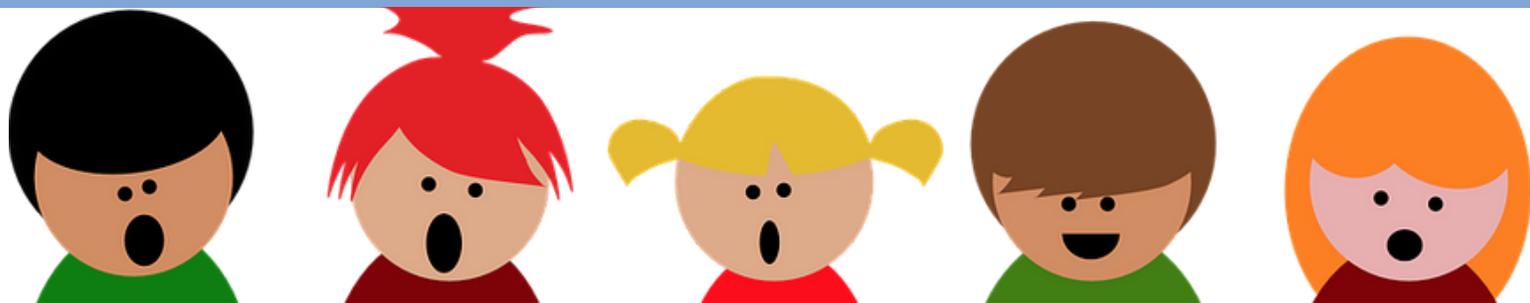
**Learning** is an active process. It requires work and effort.

**Acquisition** is a passive process. It's natural and automatic.

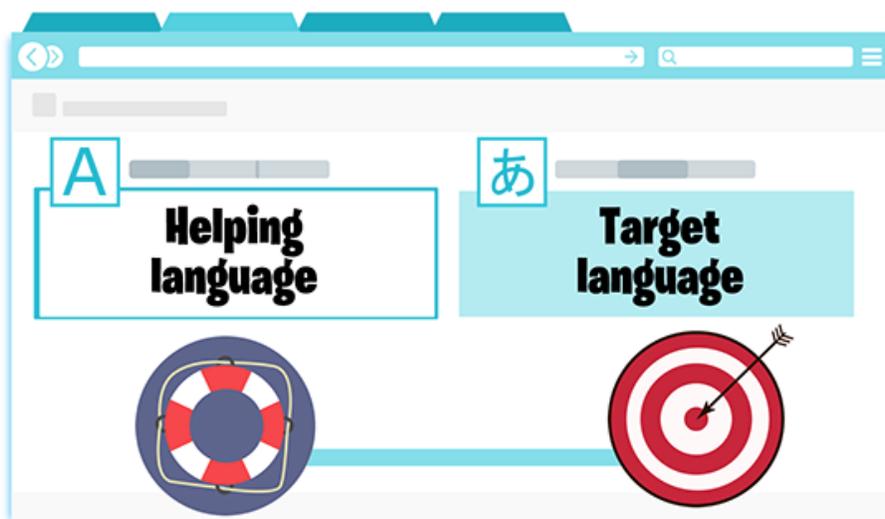


Phase 1 didn't require much effort because all we did was observing and understanding. Nevertheless, we laid the groundwork where we can start building our knowledge of the language by adding more and more information. This is what happens in Phase 2 which won't require much effort either, because it's a natural and automatic process.

# Phase 2: Acquisition



The natural method consists in being exposed to a language as much as possible. Children learn their mother tongue because the context, the images, the gestures, the tone of the voice and the expression of the face of adults help them figure out what they're saying.



In the case of adults who want to learn a *target language*, they can figure out what they hear by using a *helping language* which can be their mother tongue or another language they know (and which will be used in subtitles, transcriptions, etc).

# Phase 2: Acquisition



You can use lots of different tools in this phase in order to be exposed to the language.

## Podcasts

The [Italianglot podcast](#) can help you become fluent in Italian. Listen to an episode and take the comprehension test, then read the transcript and the vocabulary list and finally listen to the same episode over and over again.

## YouTube videos

Watch videos on YouTube as much as you can. The videos on the [Italianglot channel](#) have double subtitles, while the videos of the [practice](#) and the [simple stories](#) series have a transcription, a vocabulary list and exercises.

## Songs

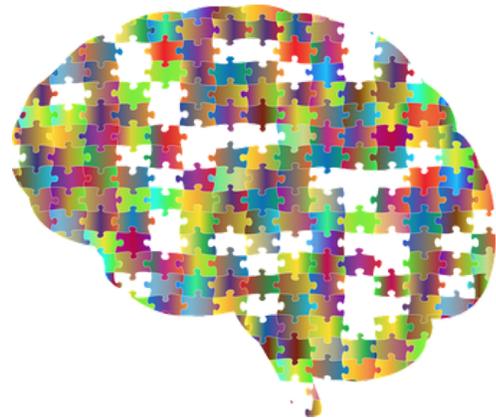
Choose a song that you like, find its lyrics, figure out their meaning and then listen to the song over and over again. Sing along, once you've memorized it. On the [Italianglot channel](#) you can also find videos with the explanation of Italian songs.

## TV series Movies

Choose TV series and films in Italian that you particularly like and watch them more than once. Help yourself with subtitles. The add-on for Chrome [Language learning with Netflix](#) provides a translation of the subtitles in many languages.



# Phase 3: Production



The more you're exposed to the language, the more your brain will absorb new information and when the time comes for a real conversation, you'll realize you remember words and expressions you didn't even know you had memorized. It all happened automatically and subconsciously through the natural method.

## The time has come to use the language!

**Write:** think of topics you might actually talk about in a real conversation and write about them. Write about yourself, your hobbies, your habits, your work, your family, your memories and then have a mother tongue friend or a teacher correct them for you. Then record your voice as you read your text and listen to it over and over again, just like in Phase 2.

**Talk:** Find a conversation partner on a Tandem website or app and then schedule a weekly session. Each session will be split in two. In the first half you'll speak Italian and in the second half your partner will speak your mother tongue. Or viceversa. Make sure to establish a topic of conversation in advance so you can prepare yourself.



# Resources



[Italianglot courses \(A1 to B1\)](#)



[Italianglot podcast](#)



[Italianglot videos](#)



[Video transcriptions and exercises](#)



[Simple stories for beginners](#)



[Activites on Instagram](#)

