

Sillabazione (Syllabication)

Most Italian syllables end in a vowel sound. A syllable contains one or more consonants plus a vowel sound. Grammatically, the division of a word into syllables follows these rules:

- a. a single consonant between two vowels belongs with the following vowel or diphthong (two vowels pronounced as a single syllable):

Ca.ro.li.na	stu.dia	ma.te.ma.ti.ca
le.zio.ne	co.me	Mi.la.no
- b. double consonants are always divided:

cit.tà	Mar.cel.lo	dot.to.re	pro.fes.so.re
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- c. a combination of two different consonants belongs with the following vowel, unless the first consonant is **l**, **m**, **n** or **r**. In this case the two consonants are divided:

so.pra	pre.sto	si.gno.ra	li.bro
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But: Ven.tu.ri gior.no ar.ri.ve.der.ci tar.di
- d. when three consonants are together the first goes with the preceding syllable, except **s**, which goes with the following syllable:

al.tro	en.tra.re	in.gle.se	sem.pre
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But: mi.ni.stro e.spres.sio.ne ma.e.stro a.stro.nau.ta
- e. unstressed **i** and **u** are not separated from the vowel they combine with:

uo.mo	pia.no	Gio.van.ni	Eu.ro.pa
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But: mi.o zi.o po.e.si.a far.ma.ci.a pa.u.ra

Accento tonico (Stress)

1. Italian words are usually stressed on the second-to-last syllable. Most of the exceptions are stressed on the third-to-last syllable.

stu.den. tes .sa	a .bi.to
a.me.ri. ca .no	dia .lo.go
cul.tu. ra .le	be. nis .si.mo
2. Words stressed on the last syllable have a written accent mark on the final vowel.

u.ni.ver.si. tà	pos.si.bi.li. tà	at.ti.vi. tà	cit. tà
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3. A few words (mostly verb forms) are stressed on the fourth-to-last

te. le .fo.na.no	a .bi.ta.no	de. si .de.ra.no
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- A. Listen and repeat the following words after your instructor. Be sure to stress the correct syllable.

pe. ni .so.la	cit. tà	an. ti .ci.po
Mar .co	me.di. ci .na	To. sca .na
co. sì	stu. den .te	fre. quen .ta
mi. ni stro	si.gno. ri .na	pro.fes. so .re

- B. Divide the following words into syllables.

arrivederci	legge	golfo	grazie
università	benissimo	scientifico	signorina
abbastanza	presto	cinque	ritardo

- C. Proverbio. Read the following proverb aloud. Then dictate it to another student, syllable by syllable.

Tutte le strade portano a Roma.
All roads lead to Rome.

AMPLIAMENTO DEL VOCABOLARIO

I numeri da 21 a 100

21 = ventuno	31 = trentuno	50 = cinquanta
22 = ventidue	32 = trentadue	60 = sessanta
23 = ventitré	33 = trentatré	70 = settanta
24 = ventiquattro	34 = trentaquattro	80 = ottanta
25 = venticinque	35 = trentacinque	90 = novanta
26 = ventisei	36 = trentasei	
27 = ventisette	37 = trentasette	
28 = ventotto	38 = trentotto	
29 = ventinove	39 = trentanove	
30 = trenta	40 = quaranta	

Tre always has a written acute accent when added to another number:
ventitré, trantatré, settantatré

The numbers venti, trenta, quaranta, etc., drop the final vowel (-i or -a) when combined with uno and otto: ventotto, trentuno, trentotto, quarantuno, quarantotto, etc.