

Studentessa Matta

Elevate Your Passion for Italy and Italian

10 Ways to Create

AN

Italian Immersion Program

At Home



10 Ways to Create an Italian Immersion Program at Home

(1) Chat up a storm!

Loosen up your tongue and start chatting! How and with whom? Well, there is always Fido, your faithful “cane” (dog) to practice with — which I’ve been known to do — but, seriously I recommend finding an Italian language partner via Skype or Facetime. Other options to help overcome conversation jitters is to find a Meet-up Italian group in your area and connect with other Italian speakers. For help with pronunciation skills, try reading Italian dialogues out loud and record yourself speaking. You can then compare your pronunciation to native speakers on the [Forvo](#) site. If you still need a confidence booster, through the Matta website, I offer [“Chat Italiano” conversation sessions](#) to help you feel more relaxed and comfortable with the spoken word, regardless of your language level.

(2) Go Italiano in Social Media.

Andiamo online and surf the web like an Italian. Instead of turning on the “Pirate” mode on your Facebook feed, turn it on to Italiano — and presto! — you are riding the internet waves like an Italian. To up your tech game just a little more, change the settings on your Smartphone and add the Italian keyboard and spell-checker. Then click on WhatsApp, Twitter, and Instagram, and all your other social apps. Be sure to look me up on the [Matta Twitter](#), and [Matta Facebook page](#) and join the [Matta Facebook Conversation Group](#) and start making friends and chatting in Italian on the internet.

(3) Become a Youtube Italo-Fanatic.

Youtube is a fantastic platform for working on your Italian skills at home. There are so many Italian teachers and videos to watch. Of course, sign up to the [Matta Youtube Channel](#) first! Then start exploring. Watching short films is informative AND entertaining. It also helps your listening comprehension to hear Italian spoken at normal rhythms and speeds, and you will increase your vocabolario.

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(4) Get your daily dose of NOTIZIA in Italian.

Tune in to the news every day in Italian and stay on top of current events. For starters, try [la Repubblica TV online](#), where you can listen to short videos about current events happening daily in Italy. Another great resource is [News in Slow Italian](#), a site that allows you to control the speed of the broadcast. You can also follow your favorite Italian news feeds on Facebook and Twitter.

(5) Listen to Italian Podcasts while driving.

Stuck in traffic? Got a long commute? Don't waste your valuable time drumming your fingers on the steering wheel, when instead you could be keeping yourself entertained and elevating your Italian skills by listening to a podcast in Italian. Start by subscribing to the [Matta Podcast](#) to stay informed of cultural and historical anecdotes and all the crazy things that make Italy's culture so fascinating. The best part? All Matta podcasts are transcribed into English and Italian on the Matta Website in companion articles.

(6) Take an armchair trip to Italy.

Longing to escape to Italy but can't get to the Bel Paese for a while. Satisfy your Italian wanderlust by picking up a novel set in Italy. I have just the perfect books for you! [Read my novels set in Italy](#). I write in English but include lots of Italian words. I have also translated my second story about Isabella de' Medici and her missing painting — [Il risveglio di Isabella](#) — into Italian. Quick reading tip: When reading an Italian book, don't stop to look up every unfamiliar word in a dictionary. It will only slow you down. Instead, read for meaning and try to determine the context by the words that you do know.

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(7) Parole, Parole! You've got new words, now use them!

Get in the practice of writing something in Italian every day. Keep an old-fashioned journal and jot down a couple of sentences about your day — it could be as simple as a short paragraph describing an activity or the weather, even a grocery list. In so doing, you work on new vocabulary and improve your grammar skills. Need another idea? Jump on over to the [Matta Blog](#) and write a comment in Italian. It's time to get creative and let those words fly — digitally or on paper!

(8) Get out the popcorn, it's time to watch a movie.

Who doesn't love a good movie flick? And they are fantastic ways to keep your language skills thriving! These days it is easier than ever to find Italian movies online and through film distribution services like Netflix. At the moment, I'm enjoying the [Medici series](#) and the [Young & New Pope](#) series by Paolo Sorrentino. Technically its filmed in English, but the scenes are set in Italy, and there is a healthy smattering of Italian dialogue thrown in. You can also watch [RAIplay.it](#) for authentic Italian shows and movies. (attenzione: you have to have region access to view RAIplay, which can be done by subscribing to Hola.) I particularly like the series [Il Paradiso delle Signore](#), L'Amica Geniale, Don Matteo (very easy to understand!), and a whole bunch of silly comedies and soap dramas. Quick viewing tip: When watching an Italian film, turn off English subtitles. Instead, turn on Italian subtitles for the hearing impaired — you will be forced to really focus on the Italian words that way.

(9) Let's play a game in Italiano.

Play around in the Italian language and take your language skills farther. One of my favorites is [Duolingo](#), a site that has gamified language learning offering rewards for advancing to new levels. Another great choice is [Parole Vietate](#), the Italian take on Taboo. You can also find Aworded word games and find an Italian partner to play with. [Check out a post on the Matta blog about Italian games.](#)

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(10) Get up and sing and dance – Mambo Italian style!

Sing Mambo Italiano with Sophia Loren and dance away with a new Italian vocabulary. While you move to an Italiofile beat, you are learning new words, idioms and catchy phrases. Don't know where to start? Here is the [Matta Spotify Italian Playlist](#) to tune into. You can also, follow the Matta blog where I feature Italian musicians past and present and their Youtube videos. My tastes are eclectic — I love the golden oldies as well as selections "brani" from current musicians. Check out a [post I wrote about the songs I listen to when write.](#)

Need more ideas! Great! I'm just getting warmed up.

I've got lots more to share.

My goal is to inspire you to learn the language and keep your learning techniques fresh and enjoyable.

Sign-up and follow the [Studentessa Matta site](#) for more tips, motivation, and lots of ways to keep your Italian language skills thriving at home.

...and, perhaps I might also interest you in traveling to Italy with me to learn the language on one of my [Andiamo in Italia!](#) Small group immersion programs in Italy — I go twice a year.

[**Intrigued? Come along with me and learn more!**](#)

