



Grammar Homework

The Native Italian Alphabet

This chart shows the names of the letters in the Italian alphabet with pronunciation

Letter	Name	"Sounds Like"	Letter	Name	"Sounds Like"
a	a	AH	n	enne	EN-NAY
b	bi	BEE	o	o	OH
c	ci	CHEE	p	pi	PEE
d	di	DEE	q	cu	COO
e	e	AY	r	erre	AIR-RAY
f	effe	EF-FAY	s	esse	ES-SAY
g	gi	JEE	t	ti	TEE
h	acca	AHK-KA	u	u	OO
i	i	EE	v	vu (or vi)	VOO (or) VEE
l	elle	EL-LAY	z	zeta	ZAY-TAH
m	emme	EM-MAY			

This chart shows Letters from words of foreign origin found in the Italian Language with pronunciation

Letter	Name	"Sounds Like"	Letter	Name	"Sounds Like"
j	i lunga	EE LOON-GA	x	ics	EEX
k	cappa	KAH-PAH	y	ipsilon	EET-SEE-LONE
w	doppia vu	DOPE-PEE-AH VOO		(or) i greca	EE GRAY-KAH

Learning tips on pronouncing Italian

Disclaimer – I confess that I do use and teach some generalizations and even sound exaggerations but if you follow this path you will find it will lead you to a good pronunciation of the Italian Language. Also, as with most if not all information presented on this website there are “exceptions to the rule”. We will deal with these as we come across them in our studies.



Italian vowels

For the time being, when speaking Italian, always pronounce the vowels in the following manner:

Vowel	Sounds Like
A	Ah
E	Ay
I	Ee
O	Oh
U	Oo

Italian Diphthongs

Example	Sounds Like
I before for example ù	Y as in yet
U before for example o	W as in wet

Italian Consonants

Consonant	Sounds Like
C (followed by I or E)	Ch as in chip
G (followed by I or E)	J as in jello
Ch	K as in key
Gh	G as in get
Sch	Sc as in scatter
Sc (followed by I or E)	Sh as in shelter
Gn	N as in onion
Gli	L as in million

Italian Syllabication and Double Consonants

You will find more often than not that syllables in Italian are divided as follows:

Sono (So_no) Sette (Set_te) Perche (Per_che)

When you see double consonants, pronounce both as follows:

Otto (sounds like Oht-toh)

* Although greatly simplified I learned this information from the Book "Ciao!" by Carla Federici and Carla Larese Riga, Copyright 1986 – Capitolo Preliminare (Pages 2-4) and from the Drive Time Italian Audio Course, Copyright 2005