

Verb Drills 1 - Week 1 - Conjugating regular ARE Verbs

Before we actually talk about conjugating verbs let's review subject pronouns. A subject is the person or thing in a sentence that is doing or being whatever the verb of the sentence conveys. Hence in English in the sentence "Bob throws the ball" Bob is the subject. A subject pronoun is simply a pronoun that takes the place of the subject. Here are the most common subject pronouns in English with their Italian counterparts:

I	io
you	tu
he/she/it	lui/lei/Lei
we	noi
you (plural)	voi
they	loro

About conjugating regular Italian verbs ending with ARE in the present tense

Infinitive – "...A verb form that functions as a substantive while retaining certain verbal characteristics, such as modification by adverbs, and that in English may be preceded by to, as in To go willingly is to show strength or We want him to work..."

To Conjugate – "...To inflect (a verb) in its forms for distinctions such as number, person, voice, mood, and tense."

The definition of conjugate taken from thefreedictionary.com

There are three main categories of Italian Verbs

are known as 1st, 2nd and 3rd conjugation. Here is the most obvious, initial difference;

1st Conjugation verbs are verbs that end with the letters ARE in the infinitive form.

2nd Conjugation verbs are verbs that end with the letters ERE in the infinitive form.

3rd Conjugation verbs are verbs that end with the letters IRE in the infinitive form.

(These ending are “Infinitive endings”)

To illustrate how to conjugate an ARE verb, I like to use a math equation as an example but first here are the conjugated endings for ARE verbs;

<u>Subject Pronoun</u>	<u>Ending</u>
io	o
tu	i
lui/lei	a
noi	iamo
voi	ate
loro	ano

To conjugate = infinitive verb – infinitive ending = verb stem + conjugated ending = conjugated verb. Example;

Parlare (To Speak) - are = Parl + iamo (ending for we) = Parliamo (We speak)

Parlare conjugated in the present tense

io	parlo	I speak
tu	parli	you speak
lui/lei	parla	he/she/it speaks
noi	parliamo	we speak
voi	parlate	y'all speak
loro	parlano	they speak