

## Regular ERE verbs, direct object pronouns and sapere

### Conjugating regular Italian verbs ending with ERE 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...”<sup>1</sup>

There are three main categories of Italian Verbs 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 ERE verb, I like to use a math equation as an example but first here are the conjugated endings for ERE verbs;

Subject Pronoun	Ending
Io	o
Tu	i
Lui/Lei	e
Noi	iamo
Voi	ete
Loro	ono

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To conjugate = infinitive verb – infinitive ending = verb stem + conjugated ending = conjugated verb. Example;  
**Vedere (To See) - ere = Ved + iamo (ending for we) = Vediamo (We see)**

Vedere conjugated in the present tense

Io	Vedo	I see
Tu	Vedi	You see
Lui/Lei	Vede	He/She/It sees
Noi	Vediamo	We see
Voi	Vedete	Y'all see
Loro	Vedono	They see

<sup>1</sup> The definitions or portions thereof were taken from thefreedictionary.com

## Direct Object Pronouns in Italian

What is a direct object pronouns? Well to answer that let's first look at a direct object in a sentence. We know that a verb represents an action or some type of state of being. We also know that the subject is the doer of that action or the one "being" something. As a result the subject pronouns are a type of subject. They are a subject where one word (the pronoun) has been used in place of a noun (a person, place or thing). The direct object simply put, is the direct recipient of the verb and can be identified by asking who or what. Here are a few examples (for the sake of clarity and having a visible subject in the sentence, I am also including subject pronouns);

Io ho scritto un libro. - I wrote a book.

(who or what did I write? "a book". A book is the direct object.

Tu aiuti mia sorella. - You help my sister.

(who or what do you help? "my sister". My sister is the direct object.

Noi giochiamo calcio. - We play soccer.

(who or what do we play? "soccer". Soccer is the direct object.

Now all we have to do is replace the direct object nouns with direct object pronouns and look at how to use them.

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**This chart shows the basic direct object pronouns**

## Italian Direct Object Pronouns

Weak form	Strong form	English
mi	me	me
ti	te	you
lo/la/La	lui/lei/Lei	him/her/it
ci	noi	us
vi	voi	you all
li/le/Li/Le	loro/Loro	them

## How to use the Italian direct object pronoun!

The weak form is most often used so we will start there. The weak form of the direct object pronoun is usually found in 1 of 3 places. First, it is found just before the verb, secondly it is found attached to the end of an infinitive verb and third it is found attached to the end of a conjugated verb in certain instances. We will start by looking at it appearing just before the verb.

Loro hanno chiamato il nostro gruppo. - They called our group.

Loro ci hanno chiamato. - They called us.

Tu vedi mia sorella. - You see my sister.

Tu la vedi - You see her.

Tu porti i bambini qui. - Bring the children here.

Tu li porti qui. - Bring them here.

Here are a few more examples without a subject pronoun.

Mi aiuti molto. - You help me a lot.

Ti chiamerò. - I will call you.

Lo abbiamo portato. - We brought him.

Ci sentiranno. - They will hear us.

Le hanno visto. - They saw them.

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Now lets look at a couple of instance when a direct object pronoun being attached to the end of an infinitive.

There are many instance where we have an infinitive verb in our phrases such as when we use modal verbs like volere, dovere or potere and also in various subjunctive clauses where the subject is the same in both clauses.

Vuole vederci. - He wants to see us.  
Spero di sentirti presto! - I hope to hear (from) you soon!  
Devi studiarlo. - You have to study it.

And finally lets take a look at the strong form of the direct object pronoun which can be used to add emphasis to that direct object and/or can be used for stylistic reasons.

Ha spinto me. - He pushed me.  
Ascolterete noi. - You will listen to us.  
Porti loro. - Bring them.)

## The present tense of the irregular Italian ERE verb Sapere (to know)

This verb does not follow the regular conjugation pattern of the Italian ERE verbs and thus will be looked at separately here. There are still more irregular ERE verbs but this one is also extremely important to know as it can be used often in everyday conversation. This verb, "to Know" is not "to Know" as in to know or to be acquainted with a person, town or show, etc. It is "to Know" as in to know a fact.

Sapere		
Subject Pronoun	Sapere conjugated	English
Io	So	I know
Tu	Sai	You know
Lui/Lei	Sa	He/She knows
Noi	Sappiamo	We know
Voi	Sapete	Y'all know
Loro	Sanno	They know

Thus;

Io so = I know / Tu sai = You know / Lui sa = He knows / Lei sa = She knows  
Noi sappiamo = we know / Voi sapete = Y'all know / Loro sanno = They know