Cognates and patterns in Italian

Starter: (3 minutes) How many of the words below can you translate into English?

filosofia

farmacia

fisioterapista

terapia

atleta

contatto

perfetto

insetto

adottare

adattare

avventura

avventuroso

istruzione

costruzione

trasparente

istante

espansione

esperto

ansioso

espressione

Do you notice any patterns?

Sometimes you will have to turn into a detective to guess certain words you haven't learnt before. These strategies will not work all of the time, but they will help you when you cannot use a dictionary.
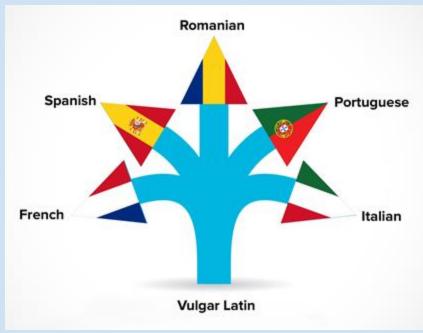
Similarities between English and Italian

Since you've started learning Italian, you'll have noticed that it has many aspects that sound a lot like English.

That's because they both have a lot in common with the other Romance languages. Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Romanian and Catalan.

Why do you think this is?

Why do you think they are called Romance languages?

The Spread of Latin
The Development of the Romance languages

The Roman influence

Both English and Italian take their common words from Vulgar Latin, a conversational version of Latin spoken by commoners in the Roman Empire. At the time, this form of Latin was spoken mostly by slaves, soldiers and immigrants, which allowed it to spread far and wide across the continent.

Over time, different regions developed their own way of speaking (dialects: a different version of the same language).

After the Roman Empire fell and these regions grew further and further apart, all of these geographic dialects evolved on their own to become the different Romance languages we know today (e.g. French, Spanish, Italian).

Since all the Romance languages grew from the same single language (Latin), there are still many obvious vocabulary and grammatical similarities—even after almost 2000 years!

ENGLISH	LATIN	ITALIAN	FRENCH	SPANISH	PORTUGUESE	ROMANIAN
book	liber	libro	livre	libro	livro	carte
bread	panem	pane	pain	pan	pão	pâine
family	familia	famiglia	famille	familia	família	familie
friend	amicus/ amica	amico/ amica	ami/ amie	amigo/ amiga	amigo/ amiga	prieten
well	bene	bene	bien	bien	bem	bine

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0n2nVvsS-A

Cognates

What is a cognate?

Cognates are words that have similar (or, in some cases, the same) spellings and pronunciations between two languages, usually because they derive from the same original word.

Can you think of some examples?

Cognates

As we learned a moment ago, English and Italian share a historic root: Vulgar Latin. When you already know a language with elements of the Romance languages, cognates make it easier to learn others from the same family.

Cognates are usually easy to recognize, learn and remember. They're generally pronounced the same or similarly in both languages and their spellings tend to be similar as well.

Most importantly, they have the same basic definition. Think about the months of the year as an example.

Cognates

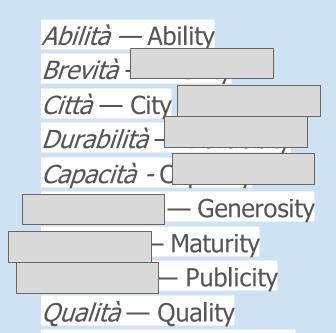Cognates usually have similar spellings, which can help you identify them.

One easy way to tell a cognate is by looking at word endings. If an English word ends in a particular way, the Italian counterpart will also end a different, specific way.

This can also help you learn entire categories of words quickly and efficiently, including almost all adverbs.

Let's look at some examples….

-ty → -tà

When an English word ends in *-ty,* its Italian cognate ends in *-tà.*

Abilità — Ability

Brevità —

Città — City

Durabilità —

Capacità - C

 — Generosity

 — Maturity

 — Publicity

Qualità — Quality

Can you follow the pattern to work out the missing words?

-ble → -bile

When an English word ends in *-ble,* the Italian cognate ends in *-bile.*

Memorabile — Memorable
Adorabile — Adorable
Accettabile — Acceptable
Eccitabile — Excitable
Credibile —
Flessibile —
Impossibile —
— Possible
— Responsible
Visible

Can you follow the pattern to work out the missing words?

-tion → -zione

When an English word ends in *-tion,* the Italian cognate ends in *-zione.*

Situazione — Situation
Attenzione — Attention
Celebrazione — Celebration
Comunicazione — ▢▢▢▢▢ation
Educazione — Ed▢▢▢▢▢
Informazione — ▢▢▢▢▢
▢▢▢▢▢peration
▢▢▢▢▢e — Organization
▢▢▢▢▢zione — Population
Reazione — Reaction
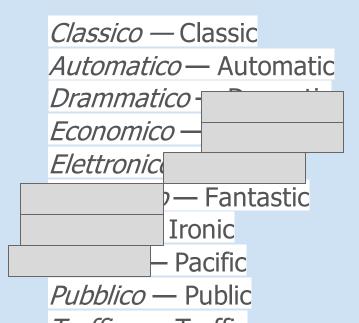
Can you follow the pattern to work out the missing words?

-ly → -mente

When an English word ends in -ly (as with most adverbs), the Italian cognate ends in -mente.

Probabilmente — Probably
Brevemente — Briefly
Semplicemente — Simply
Costantemente — Constantly
Direttamente — D
Generalmente — G
Originariamente —
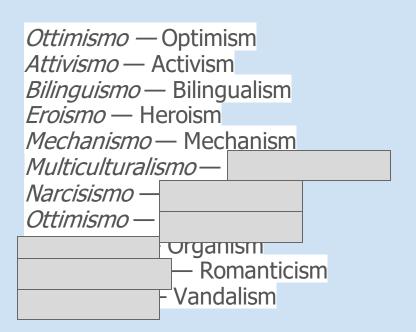— Rapidly
— Naturally
Totally

Can you follow the pattern to work out the missing words?

-ic → -ico

When an English word ends in *-ic*, the Italian cognate ends in *-ico*.

Classico — Classic
Automatico — Automatic
Drammatico — Dramatic
Economico — Economic
Elettronico — Electronic
— Fantastic
Ironic
— Pacific
Pubblico — Public

Can you follow the pattern to work out the missing words?

-ism → -ismo

When an English word ends in *-ism,* the Italian cognate ends in *-ismo.*

Ottimismo — Optimism
Attivismo — Activism
Bilinguismo — Bilingualism
Eroismo — Heroism
Mechanismo — Mechanism
Multiculturalismo —
Narcisismo —
Ottimismo —
Organism
— Romanticism
- Vandalism

Can you follow the pattern to work out the missing words?

Let's practise following patterns

Amici textbook

P6 ex A,3 and P7.

Look at the following English word endings and compare them with the Italian word endings

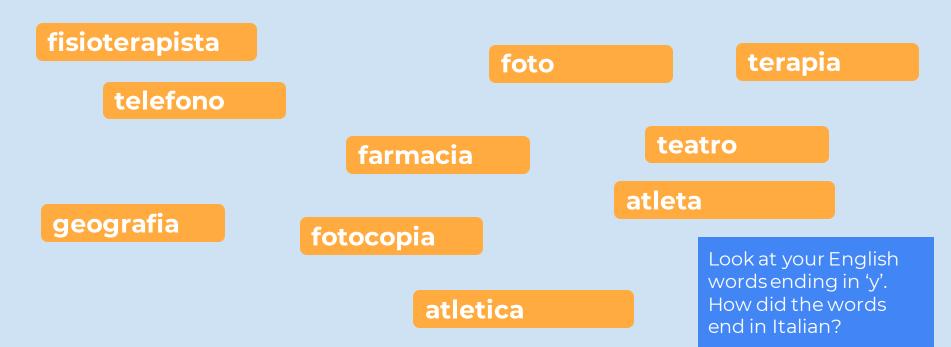| English	Italian
- ble (possible)	- bile (possibile)
- tion (creation)	- zione (creazione)
- ion (confusion)	- ione (confusione)
- ty (ability)	- tà (abilità)
- al (local)	- ale (locale)
- nce (violence)	- nza (violenza)
- ive (positive)	- ivo (positivo)
- ary (necessary)	- ario (necessario)
- ous (furious)	- oso (furioso)

Work out the Italian for the words below

1 impossible, incredible, invisible, probable
2 station, information, television, decision
3 quantity, necessity, capacity, identity
4 musical, central, industrial, natural
5 diligence, difference, intelligence, ambulance
6 negative, creative, motive, incentive
7 anniversary, documentary, contrary, glossary
8 nervous, religious, famous, glorious

Check your work:

1. Impossibile, incredibile, invisibile, probabile.
2. Stazione, informazione, televisione, decisione.
3. Quantità, necessità, capacità, identità.
4. Musicale, centrale, industriale, naturale.
5. Diligenza, differenza, intelligenza, ambulanza.
6. Negativo, creativo, motivo, incentivo
7. Anniversario, documentario, contrario, glossario.
8. Nervoso, religioso, famoso, glorioso.

The '**ph**' and the '**th**' in English words often become '**f**' and '**t**' in Italian.
Esempio - atleta → athlete

Work out the English for these Italian words.

fisioterapista

foto

terapia

telefono

teatro

farmacia

atleta

geografia

fotocopia

atletica

Look at your English words ending in 'y'. How did the words end in Italian?

Work out the Italian for these English words.

Remember often (but not always) '**y**' changes to '**ia**' at the end of a word in Italian.

biology

allergy

energy

ecology

industry

If the 'y' occurs in the middle of an English word it usually changes to ;i' in Italian. E.g. style → stile

Other common changes.

English	Italian
- ct (act)	- tt (atto)
- pt (optimist)	- tt (ottimista)
- dv (adventure)	- vv (avventura)
- dm (admire)	- mm (ammirare)
- ns (transfer)	- s (trasferire)
- x (exam)	- s (esame)

Work out the English for the words below

1 fatto, contratto, contatto, perfetto, insetto
2 battesimo, adottare, adattare
3 avventuroso
4 amministrazione
5 istruzione, costruzione
6 trasparente, istante
7 ansioso, espansione, esperienza, esperto, espressione

Check your work:

1. Fact, contract, contact, perfect, insect
2. baptism , adopt, adapt
3. Adventurous
4. Administration
5. Instruction, construction
6. Transparent, instant
7. Anxious, expansion, experience, expert, expression.

There are a number of words we use in English that have the same spelling and meaning and a similar or slightly different pronunciation in Italian

panorama

computer

banana

tennis

radio

idea

film

mania

area

Ascolta e ripeti

turista, turismo, timido, sportivo, elegante, interessante, logico, magnifico, fantastico, aereo, aeroporto, essenziale, urgente, importante, raro, esatto, corretto, treno, autobus, metropolitana, bicicletta, militare, concerto, povertà, documento, passaporto, carta d'identità, coraggioso, ambizioso, caffè, tè, limone, melone, misterioso, mistero, nazionale, internazionale, nazionalità, frontiera, violino, chitarra, chitarrista, tennista, violinista, pianista, italiano, inglese, francese, spagnolo, guida turistica, visita, arte, architetto, memoria, memorizzare, identificazione, soluzione, intenzione

In pairs, take turns to try to pronounce these words in Italian.

Now try to pronounce these words in Italian.

finire, appartamento, immaginazione, pessimista, studente, professore, meccanico, pilota, studio, studiare, mamma, papà, animale, musica classica, ristorante, banca, supermercato, mercato, sigaretta, fumare, vino, birra, acqua minerale, legale, dottore, cinema, museo, galleria d'arte, motivato, motivazione, cultura, culturale, natura, foresta, trasporto, poeta, tranquillo, volume, programma, elettrico, moderno, valido

Word ending patterns in English Vs Italian

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