

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Intermediate S1 #1

## Are These the Best Italian Films?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Italian
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 1

## ITALIAN

1. Manuel: Ti andrebbe di venire al cinema con me?
2. Giulia: Cinema? Hmm, che film hai in mente?
3. Manuel: Stavo pensando al Signore degli Anelli.
4. Giulia: Oh, amo Viggo Mortensen.
5. Manuel: Cosa ne dici del Labirinto del Fauno?
6. Giulia: Hmm no, preferisco il primo.

## ENGLISH

1. Manuel: Would you fancy going to the cinema with me?
2. Giulia: Cinema? Hmm, what movie do you have in mind?
3. Manuel: I was thinking of "The Lord of the Rings."
4. Giulia: Oh, I love Viggo Mortensen.
5. Manuel: What about "Pan's Labyrinth?"
6. Giulia: Hmm...no, I prefer the first one.

## VOCABULARY

---

Italian	English	Class	Gender
---------	---------	-------	--------

---

film	movie	noun	masculine
mente	mind	noun	
pensare	to think	verb	
amare	to love	verb	
labirinto	labyrinth, maze	noun	
primo	first	adjective	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Vai direttamente a casa dopo il film?</b></p> <p>"Are you going straight home after the movie?"</p>	<p><b>Che film vuoi vedere?</b></p> <p>"What movie do you want to watch?"</p>
<p><b>Lui era la mente del gruppo.</b></p> <p>"He was the mind of the group."</p>	<p><b>A che pensi?</b></p> <p>"What are you thinking about?"</p>
<p><b>Non pensare troppo!</b></p> <p>"Don't think too much!"</p>	<p><b>Ami il tuo ragazzo?</b></p> <p>"Do you love your boyfriend?"</p>
<p><b>I Giapponesi amano passare il tempo libero nei parchi.</b></p> <p>"Japanese people love spending free time in the parks."</p>	<p><b>Amo viaggiare.</b></p> <p>"I love traveling."</p>
<p><b>Il labirinto di Cnosso.</b></p> <p>"The Knossos labyrinth."</p>	<p><b>Noi siamo i primi e gli unici!</b></p> <p>"We are the first and only!"</p>

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the *Presente Progressivo* ("Progressive Present") and *Passato Progressivo* ("Progressive Past").**

***Ti andrebbe di venire al cinema con me?***

**"Would you fancy going to the cinema with me?"**

---

We shall first consider the functioning of the two progressive present and past tenses, in Italian respectively the *presente progressivo* and the *passato progressivo*.

To convey these two tenses in Italian, we use the verb *stare* to translate the English "to be" plus the *gerundio* ("gerund") of the main verb that never changes its ending. For the *presente progressivo* tense, we simply use the present of the verb *stare*.

**For Example:**

1. *Sto andando a pranzo.*  
"I'm going for lunch."

For the *passato progressivo* tense, we use the *imperfetto* tense of the verb *stare*.

**For Example:**

1. *Stavo uscendo quando mi hai telefonato.*  
"I was going out when you called me."

We note that the *gerundio* of the main verb never changes its ending. The information regarding the person and the number is provided by the conjugation of the auxiliary verb *stare*: *io stavo*; *tu stavi*; *lui stava*, etc. + *pensando* ("I was," "you were," "he was," etc. + "thinking").

Whereas we can use the *presente progressivo* tense only to talk about ongoing actions that are taking place at the present moment, we can also use the *passato progressivo* in its extended employment to refer both to ongoing actions that took place in the past as well as to present ongoing actions. In the first case, we use the *passato progressivo* in its proper form, while in the latter we use it metaphorically. When Giulia says *Stavo pensando al...* ("I was

thinking of..."), she actually means *Sto pensando al* ("I am thinking of...").

In Italian, we often use the expression *ti andrebbe di* + infinitive form to invite a friend out or to ask him or her to do something together with us. This expression is made up of the pronominal particle *ti* that means *a te* ("to you") and *andrebbe*, which is the *condizionale presente* of the verb *andare* ("to go"). We normally translate this in English as "do you fancy/like" + -ing form.

### For Example:

1. *Ti andrebbe di andare a Rimini per il fine settimana?*  
"Do you fancy going to Rimini this weekend?"

Then we have another similar expression: *cosa ne dici di* + infinitive form. They can be interchangeable because they have the same meaning, so if we use this expression for the sentence we have just seen, it would become *Cosa ne dici di andare a Rimini per il fine settimana?* ("What about going to Rimini this weekend?") Be careful because as you can see, in the dialogue the English translation is conveyed with "what about" + noun

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Are You Being Fresh or Just Straightforward?

---

When talking about dating a person in Italy, we first have to consider the traditions and customs of the area we live in. In average-size cities, people have a more open-minded approach to life, and this general attitude also reflects their dating habits. In particular, new generation girls tend to be more aggressive, and it does sometimes happen that ladies make the first move. They obviously first need a certain degree of acquaintance with the person.

Whether or not it is the male who makes the proposal, girls expect males to respect certain unwritten rules. Males usually pick them up at their homes and then take them to a nice, upscale place. Although this might sound old-fashioned or even chauvinistic, it is customary for men to open the car's door for them. However, this should not lead us to believe that Italian girls are generally shy or timid. They like to be courted with respect but also with passion. They talk about their lives and intimate desires sometimes even on the first date, and they

expect their partner to show their true selves with the same self-confidence. Bringing flowers or gifts on the first date is not common.

On the other hand, foreign girls occasionally become puzzled by the straightforwardness of Italian males, taking offense when they give unwanted and uncalled-for compliments. So long as those compliments do not cross the respect line, we should keep in mind that in Italian cultures people relate differently, look (even stare) at each other when walking in public streets, and have a "theatrical" way of performing their everyday actions. This is a sort of game in which everyone plays their own part, and it's just another aspect of the passionate Italian way of life. If we are to delve into this culture, we have to learn how to tell rude observations from sincere, honest compliments.