

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S2 #1

When Are You Getting a Haircut in Italy?

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ITALIAN

1. Kevin: Ormai sono più di due mesi che sono in Italia...
2. Nora: È vero! C'è ancora qualche posto che vorresti visitare prima di tornare a casa?
3. Kevin: In realtà è da due mesi che non taglio i capelli...tra un po' sembrerò uno spaventapasseri!
4. Nora: Ma no dai! Saranno un po' lunghi, ma non ti stanno male!
5. Kevin: Non conosci qualche buon barbiere?
6. Nora: Qui a Genova c'è una delle botteghe più antiche d'Italia! Sono dei veri professionisti!
7. Kevin: Oggi è lunedì, sarà aperta?
8. Nora: Non so. Non dista molto da qui, andiamoci e lo sapremo subito!

ENGLISH

1. Kevin: It's already been two months since I've been in Italy...
2. Nora: It's true! Is there still somewhere you would like to visit before going back home?
3. Kevin: Actually I haven't had my hair cut for two months...in a little while I will be looking like a scarecrow!

CONT'D OVER

4. Nora: No, come on! It might be long, but it doesn't look bad on you!
5. Kevin: Don't you know a good barber?
6. Nora: Here in Genova there is one of the oldest barber shops in Italy!
They are real professionals!
7. Kevin: Today is Monday, might it be open?
8. Nora: I don't know. It's not far from here: let's go there and we'll recognize it immediately!

VOCABULARY

Italian	English	Class	Gender
bottega	small shop, workshop	noun	feminine
stare male	to clash	Verb	
distare	to be distant, to be away	Verb	
ma no dai!	no, come on!	phrase	
ormai	by now, already	adverb	
professionista	professional		
barbiere	barber	noun	masculine
spaventapasseri	scarecrow	noun	masculine
sembrare	to seem, look, look like	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Questo quadro è attribuito alla bottega del Verrocchio.</p> <p>"This picture is attributed to the Verrocchio's workshop."</p>	<p>Il cappello che mi ha regalato Nicola mi sta veramente male, ma non dirglielo!</p> <p>"The cap that Nicola gave me as a present does not suit me at all, but don't tell him!"</p>
<p>La scuola dista solo cinque minuti dal parco.</p> <p>"The school is only five minutes away from the park."</p>	<p>Ma no dai! Non ti scoraggiare!</p> <p>"No, come on! Don't get discouraged!"</p>
<p>Ormai il treno del mattino è partito, dovremo aspettare quello del pomeriggio.</p> <p>"The morning train has already gone, we have to wait for the afternoon one."</p>	<p>Mia sorella è una cantante professionista.</p> <p>"My sister is a professional singer."</p>
<p>Ogni due settimane il nonno si fa tagliare i capelli da un barbiere a domicilio.</p> <p>"Once every two weeks grandfather has his hair cut by a barber at home."</p>	<p>Non vorrai uscire conciato come uno spaventapasseri?</p> <p>"You don't mean to go out dressed up like a scarecrow?"</p>
<p>Questa borsa sembra carissima.</p> <p>"This bag looks very expensive."</p>	<p>Le cose non sono sempre come sembrano.</p> <p>"Things are not always what they seem."</p>
<p>Quegli spaghetti sembrano buoni.</p> <p>"That spaghetti looks delicious."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Spaventapasseri, meaning "scarecrow," is a compound word, just like in English. Here, it is

made up of the verb, *spaventa*, from the verb *spaventare*, "to scare," and the noun *passeri*, "sparrows." It is of course an element of the farming world, but nowadays it is more used in figurative expressions, especially when referring to someone who has an unkempt and funny look or an unkempt hair-style.

Ma no dai! is a colloquial expression, close to the English "No! Come on!" It is used in informal language and can also be found as *Ma dai!*

Ma is an adversative conjunction, while *dai* is a particular form of the verb *dare*, "to give," in the imperative voice, second person singular, which actually should be *dà*.

This exclamation is used when one wants to say something in contrast with the interlocutor, whether to encourage him/her or to discourage or scold him/her.

Ormai sono/è più di... followed by a time expression is a common phrase to mean "It's already been more than..." *Ormai* is an adverb, which synonym can be *già* meaning "already" or *a questo punto* meaning "at this point." Differently than these two synonyms *ormai* implies a sense of resignation for a situation that very likely is not going to change or has arrived at a point in which is no more possible to play for time.

For example:

1. *Ormai dobbiamo andare (anche se vorremmo restare).*
"At this point we have to go (even though we would like to stay)."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is The Future Tense

Saranno un po' lunghi i capelli, ma non ti stanno male!

Oggi è lunedì, sarà aperta?

"They might be long, but they do not look bad on you!"

"Today is Monday, might it be open?"

The Italian Future Tense (Indicative) is basically used to talk about a future event, but it can also be used with two other different nuances: (A) to express something in a soft way that

could otherwise be considered rude or (B) to make a conjecture.

A. The Future Tense can be used to make a concession, to express something in a more polite way, making the expression less direct. The speaker, even though they accept the fact, does not want to sound too direct and impolite towards the interlocutor.

This also means that in this case the future tense can be substituted by the present, without any substantial change in the meaning.

1. *Avrai fame, ma abbiamo finito di mangiare solo un'ora fa.*
"You might be hungry (or "I admit you could be hungry"), but we finished eating only one hour ago."
2. *Il concerto sarà un po' caro, come dici tu, ma il ricavato andrà tutto in beneficenza.*
"The concert might be a little expensive, as you say, but the proceeds will all be donated to charity."

Saranno un po' lunghi, ma non ti stanno male. This sentence expresses the fact that though the hairs are long, the speaker does not want to sound too direct and impolite toward the interlocutor.

Language Tip: It is common to find this future form with the adverb *pure* (or *pur*, in a shorter form), meaning "perhaps," "possibly" and always coming after the verb.

1. *Avrai **pur** fame, ma abbiamo finito di mangiare solo un'ora fa.*
"You might be hungry, but we finished eating only one hour ago."
2. *Il concerto sarà **pure** un po' caro, come dici tu, ma il ricavato andrà tutto in beneficenza.*
"The concert might be a little expensive, as you say, but the proceeds will all be donated."

B. The Future Tense can be used to express a conjecture, something the speaker supposes to be possible or is not sure of.

1. *A quest'ora i miei staranno già mangiando.*
"Mine (my parents) are supposed to be eating by now."

2. *Sono già le 10: Maria sarà già arrivata in stazione.*

"It's already 10: Mary is supposed to have already arrived at the station."

Oggi è lunedì, sarà aperta? - "Today is Monday, might it be open?": this phrase expresses something the speaker is not sure of.

Language Tip: this particular usage of the future is more common with verbs that indicate a continuous state, like *stare*, "to stay," and *essere*, "to be," or with the combination *stare + gerundio*, "to stay"+ gerund (*see Lesson 11 for more information about the gerund).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Bottega Storica Di Barbiere (Genova, vicolo Caprettari 14)

In the old center of *Genova* there is a wonderful little (only ten meters square) barber's workshop. It was founded in 1882 by Mr. Giacalone and in 1922 it was restored in the actual shape by the son, Mr. Italo, in an astonishing Art Nouveau style ("Stile Liberty"). The client is literally overwhelmed by the luxurious decoration: turquoise and orange colored glass covers the ceiling. The floor and the walls are made of tiles, that, with the great mirrors, make the little space look larger and really gorgeous. Entering the shop is just like travelling back in time. In 1992 this little Art Nouveau treat risked to go lost, because no one was going to continue Giacalone's family's barber tradition. The worst could be avoided thanks to FAI (*Fondo Ambiente Italiano*), the National Trust that looks after the Italian physical heritage, that due to the lack of funds could be lost. Now the shop is one of the most visited places in Genova and is normally ran by Mr. Giugno. Anyone who is a member of the FAI has access to a 20% discount.