

AN ITALIAN GRAMMAR

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An Italian Grammar by Girolamo Volpe

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GIROLAMO VOLPE

**AN ITALIAN
GRAMMAR**

AN
ITALIAN GRAMMAR.

BY
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For the Use of Eton.

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PREFACE.

This Grammar has been designed with the view of giving an impulse to the study of the Italian language, by developing the interest which is already more and more felt amongst English scholars and students, in the monuments of Italian literature. In its plan, therefore, the work has reference, not merely to the current phrases of ordinary life, but to the growth and construction of the language, numerous examples of which have been extracted from the best authors. Thus, the book may be called a theoretico-practical Grammar, not only furnishing the correct syntax of the period, but also occasionally explaining the theory of the formation of the idioms, and imparting a true notion of their spirit. Heretofore, no work has appeared in which sufficient pains have been taken to supply the English student with a full knowledge of the language in its best authors, or the means of appreciating its power and beauty both in prose and verse. In the present instance, the Author has so arranged his materials, that, after a careful perusal, the student will have acquired a very considerable knowledge of the classical language of Italy. In order to carry out the design more effectually, he has not confined himself to laying down the bare rules, but examples have throughout been taken from the best authors.

The exercises consist of carefully executed English translations from the Italian prose writers. Annexed is a vocabulary, containing the original phrases precisely as they are found in the authors themselves, and following the same order of words. Every exercise illustrates some particular part of speech, which is brought prominently forward. After each exercise are appended some passages of verse, which offer the most convenient form of com-

PREFACE.

position for committal to memory. In this manner the student is assisted in acquiring, step by step, a full knowledge of the grammatical laws.

Another speciality in this Grammar is, that the most obvious affinities of the Italian with the Latin language are noted in separate paragraphs, and printed in smaller type. This addition has been suggested by the observation that classical scholars acquire the Italian language with peculiar rapidity; and the Author's aim is, to afford an additional facility for such a class of students. He does not affect to discuss the affinities in question with any minuteness of philological research, but has limited his selection to those which are of practical utility in promoting a general knowledge of the modern tongue and its structure.

Particular attention has been paid to the nouns and verbs, since it has been found possible to point out many rules which will be found theoretically serviceable in displaying the most important affinities between the two tongues. Those, however, who are not acquainted with the Latin language, may pass over these paragraphs without any detriment to the completeness of the course.

During the progress of the task, several friends have been most liberal in affording their advice; and amongst them may be mentioned, J. R. Butlin, Esq., F.S.A.; F. T. Pratt, Esq., D.C.L.; and the Rev. Henry J. Hose, M.A.; whose kind and valuable assistance is acknowledged with gratitude. Even with this help, the Author feels that he cannot advance any pretension to the merit of having produced a Grammar free from error; he has simply done his best to render it as correct as possible, and wishes also to observe, that if the general plan of the work should be approved, such mistakes as are most likely to be found in the execution of any new method, may be easily removed on a future occasion.

37, *Weymouth Street,*
Portland Place.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.—THE PRONUNCIATION.		
		PAGE
	The Vowels	3
	The Consonants	5
	The Syllabication.....	9
	The Accent	11
CHAPTER II.—THE GENDERS OF NOUNS.		
SECTION 1.	General Remarks	28
" 2.	Nouns which end in <i>o</i> ,.....	28
" 3.	Nouns which end in <i>e</i>	32
" 4.	Nouns which end in <i>a</i>	34
" 5.	Other General Remarks.....	42
" 6.	Endings of Genders in the Plural.....	43
CHAPTER III.—THE ARTICLE.		
SECTION 1.	The Article, as the external sign of Gender	44
" 2.	Other uses of the Article.....	46
" 3.	Special offices of the Article	54
" 4.	The Articular Prepositions.....	56
CHAPTER IV.—THE PLURAL NUMBER.		
SECTION 1.	The Plural Terminations	58
" 2.	The Terminations in <i>es</i> , <i>o</i> , <i>ae</i> ,.....	63
" 3.	The Article as a sign of the Plural	68
	Exercises on the Plural	69
CHAPTER V.—THE CASES OF NOUNS.		
SECTION 1.	General Remarks	71
" 2.	The Genitive Case	72
	Exercises on the Genitive	75
" 3.	The Dative Case	77
" 4.	The Ablative Case	77
	Exercises on the Dative and Ablative.....	78

	PAGE
CHAPTER VI.—THE ADJECTIVE OF QUALITY	81
Exercises on the Adjective	86
General Exercises on the Nouns and Adjectives.....	88
 CHAPTER VII.—THE AUGMENTATIVE & DIMINUTIVE FORMS.	
SECTION 1. General Remarks.....	94
" 2. The Latin Affinities noted	99
Exercises on the Augmentatives and Diminutives,....	107
 CHAPTER VIII.—THE COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES.	
SECTION 1. The Comparative	113
" 2. The Comparative of Equality	120
" 3. The Superlative	123
Exercises on the Comparatives and Superlatives	128
 CHAPTER IX.—THE NUMERALS & INDEFINITE ADJECTIVES.	
SECTION 1. The Numerals	130
" 2. Indefinite Adjectives of Quantity	134
" 3. Another Species of Indefinite Adjectives	137
Exercises on the Numeral & Indeterminate Adjectives	139
" 4. The Indicative Adjectives	142
Exercises on the Indicative Adjectives.....	147
 CHAPTER X.—THE PERSONAL PRONOUNS.	
SECTION 1. General Rules	150
" 2. Special Rules	155
" 3. The Reflexive Noun <i>se</i>	163
" 4. The Pronominal Particles, <i>ei, ei, me</i>	167
" 5. The Possessive Adjectives	169
" 6. The Relative Pronoun.....	174
Exercises on Pronouns	177
 CHAPTER XI.—THE REGULAR VERBS.	
SECTION 1. The Verbal Forms	181
" 2. Observations on <i>Esse</i>	183
" 3. General Affinities of Latin and Italian Verbs.....	185
" 4. Affinities of Latin and Italian Moods	187
" 5. The Moods	189
" 6. The Tenses	193
Exercises on the Regular Verbs.....	196

CHAPTER XII.—THE IRREGULAR AND DEFECTIVE VERBS.

	PAGE
SECTION 1. The Irregular Verbs	202
" 2. The Defective Verbs	216
Exercises on the Irregular Verbs	217

CHAPTER XIII.—THE INDECLINABLE PARTS OF SPEECH.

SECTION 1. The Prepositions	218
" 2. The Adverbs.....	223
" 3. The Conjunctions.....	228
" 4. The Interjections.....	226
Exercises on the Prepositions, Adverbs, Conjunctions, and Interjections.....	228