

**A NEW PRACTICAL AND
EASY METHOD OF LEARNING
THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE:
FIRST AND SECOND COURSE**

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A New Practical and Easy Method of Learning the Italian Language: First and Second Course
by Franz Ahn

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FRANZ AHN

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BY
FRANZ AHN, Ph. D.

FIRST AND SECOND COURSE.

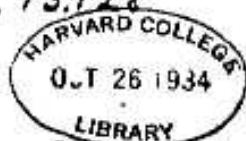
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CONTENTS.

FIRST COURSE.

PART I.		PAGE
ELEMENTS OF PRONUNCIATION.		
I. The Alphabet.	1	
II. Pronunciation of the Consonants.	2	
III. Pronunciation of the Vowels and Diphthongs.	6	
IV. Signs used in writing.	7	
V. Practice.	8	
PART II.		
PRACTICAL EXERCISES.		
Definite and Indefinite Article.	10	
Demonstrative Pronoun.	12	
Now, not.	13	
Adjective.	14	
Possessive Pronouns.	16	
The Genitive.	17	
The Dative.	18	
The Ablative.	19	
Declension of the Substantive with the Article.	20	
Formation of the Plural.	21	
Numerals.	25	
The Comparative.	29	
Interrogative Pronouns.	33	
Relative Pronouns.	35	
Auxiliary Verbs.	37	
Partitives.	45	
The Regular Verbs.	47	
1st Conjugation.	ib.	
2nd "	53	
3rd "	57	
Personal Pronouns.	60	
Disjunctive Personal Pro- nouns.	63	
Reflective Verb.	66	
The Passive.	68	
The Imperative	69	
The Infinitive.	71	
COLLECTION OF WORDS.		
1. The Town.	74	
2. The House.	75	
3. Furniture.	ib.	
4. The Professions.	76	
5. Victuals.	77	
6. Clothing.	78	
7. The Human Body.	ib.	
8. Quadrupeds.	79	
9. Birds.	80	
10. Fishes and Insects.	81	
11. Trees and Flowers.	ib.	
12. The Country	82	
EASY DIALOGUES.		
1. Eating and Drinking.	83	
2. Going and coming.	84	
3. Questions and Answers.	85	
4. Age.	86	
5. Time.	87	
6. Weather	88	
7. Salutation.	90	
8. Visiting.	ib.	
9. Breakfast.	91	
10. Before Dinner.	92	
11. Dinner.	ib.	
12. Tea.	94	

SECOND COURSE.

PART I.			PAGE
ELEMENTS OF ITALIAN GRAMMAR.			
I. The Article.			95
1. Declension of the Definite Article.	ib.		
2. Contraction of the Definite Article.		99	
3. On the use of the Definite Article.		100	
4. On the Indefinite Article.		101	
5. On the use of the Indefinite Article.		102	
6. Of Proper Names.	ib.		
7. Of the Partitive Article.	ib.		
II. The Substantive.		103	
1. Formation of the Plural	ib.		
2. Gender.		105	
3. Formation of the Feminine.		107	
III. The Adjective.		108	
1. Gender of Adjectives.	ib.		
2. Position of "	"	109	
3. Comparison of "	"	110	
4. Augmentatives and Diminutives.		112	
IV. Numbers.		114	
V. Pronouns.		116	
1. Personal Pronouns.	ib.		
2. Possessive "	"	119	
3. Demonstrative "	"	120	
4. Relative "	"	121	
5. Interrogative "	"	122	
6. Indefinite "	"	123	
VI. The Verb.		124	
1. <i>Avere</i> , to have.		125	
2. <i>Essere</i> , to be.		126	
3. Negative form.		128	
4. Interrogative form.	ib.		
5. Interrogative negative form.	ib.		
I. Regular Verbs.		129	
1. Active.	ib.		
2. Passive.		133	
3. Reflective.		134	
4. Impersonal.		137	
II. Irregular Verbs.		138	
1st Conjugation.		139	
		2nd Conjugation	141
		3rd	151
		VII. Adverbs.	154
		1. Of place.	ib.
		2. Of time.	ib.
		3. Of quality or kind.	155
		VIII. Prepositions.	156
		1. Governing the Accusative.	157
		2. " " Genitive.	ib.
		3. " " Dative.	ib.
		IX. Conjunctions.	158
		1. Uniting Conjunctions.	ib.
		2. Dividing "	159
		PART II.	
		EXERCISES OF READING AND TRANSLATING.	
		Definite Article.	160
		Indefinite Article.	162
		Partitive Article.	163
		Use of the Article.	164
		Plural of Nouns.	165
		Adjective, formation of feminine and plural.	ib.
		Comparison of Adjectives.	166
		Position of Adjectives.	167
		Numerals.	168
		Personal Pronouns.	169
		Possessive "	170
		Demonstrative "	171
		Relative "	172
		Relative particles <i>ne</i> and <i>ci</i> .	173
		Interrogative Pronouns.	174
		Indefinite "	ib.
		Regular Verbs.	176
		Passive "	180
		Reflective "	ib.
		Intransitive	181
		Impersonal "	182
		Irregular "	183
		Adverbs.	187
		Prepositions.	188
		Conjunctions.	189
		Indicative Mood.	ib.
		Subjunctive Mood.	190.
		Infinitive.	191
		Participle.	192
		Gerund.	193
		Diverse Exercises.	ib.

FIRST COURSE.

PART I.

ELEMENTS OF THE PRONUNCIATION.

I.—THE ALPHABET.

§ 1. THE Italian alphabet contains only twenty-two letters, which are pronounced as follows :

a, <i>ah.</i>	i, <i>ee.</i>	r, <i>erre.</i>
b, <i>bee.</i>	j, <i>ee.</i>	s, <i>esse.</i>
c, <i>chee.</i>	l, <i>elle.</i>	t, <i>tee.</i>
d, <i>dee.</i>	m, <i>emme.</i>	u, <i>oo.</i>
e, <i>a.</i>	n, <i>enne.</i>	v, <i>vee.</i>
f, <i>effe.</i>	o, <i>o.</i>	z, <i>dseta.</i>
g, <i>gee.</i>	p, <i>pee.</i>	
h, <i>acca.</i>	q, <i>coo.</i>	

The letters *k*, *w*, *x*, and *y* occur in Italian only in foreign words.

§ 2. The vowels are, *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u* ; all the remaining letters are consonants. The letter *k* is mute in Italian, and is only employed for forming other sounds. The consonants, *l*, *m*, *n*, *r*, are called liquids, or semi-vowels.

II.

OF THE PRONUNCIATION OF THE
CONSONANTS.

§ 3. The consonants, the pronunciation of which differs from the English, are the following :

1. *C* is a palatal before *a*, *o*, *u*, and before a consonant, and is, as in English under similar circumstances, pronounced as *k*, e. g.

<i>casa</i> ,	<i>house.</i>	<i>corpo</i> ,	<i>body.</i>	<i>cura</i> ,	<i>care.</i>
<i>clemente</i> ,	<i>kind.</i>	<i>crudèle</i> ,	<i>cruel.</i>	<i>creatore</i> ,	<i>creator.</i>

C is a sibilant before *e* and *i*, and has the sound of *ch* in the English *chin*, e. g.

<i>cera</i> ,	<i>wax.</i>	<i>feroce</i> ,	<i>wild.</i>
<i>cibo</i> ,	<i>food.</i>	<i>fácile</i> ,	<i>easy.</i>

Pronounce, *chaira*, *cheebo*, *feroche*, *fachile*.

When *c* is doubled before *e* and *i* it must be enun-
tiated rather more strongly, e. g.

<i>accénto</i> ,	<i>accent.</i>	<i>eccellénte</i> ,	<i>excellent.</i>
<i>uccélló</i> ,	<i>bird.</i>	<i>uccídere</i> ,	<i>to kill.</i>

Pronounce, *atchento*, *ootchello*, *etchehellente*, *ootcheedere*.

When *c* is to be pronounced as a palatal before *e* and *i*, an *h* is inserted, and *che* and *chi* then have the sound of *key* and *kee*, e. g.

<i>cheto</i> ,	<i>quick.</i>	<i>turchi</i> ,	<i>Turks.</i>
<i>chiesa</i> ,	<i>church.</i>	<i>vecchio</i> ,	<i>old.</i>

Pronounce, *kaito*, *kee-áisa*, *toorkee*, *vekkio*.

Similarly the palatal sound of *c* is changed into the sibilant when *i* is appended to the *c*; this *i* is however mute, being merely a sign of the sibilant pronunciation, so that *cia*, *cio*, *ciu*, are pronounced *cha*, *cho*, *choo*, e. g.