ITALIAN 111
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MATERIALS COVERED DURING THE VIDEOTAPE HOUR:

My Italian 111 was videotaped during the third hour of a four hour class. Students in the class are new to the study of the Italian language (videotaping occurred during our fifth meeting in the Fall 2010 semester).

The hour was devoted to the following grammatical topics:
“Avere” and idiomatic expressions
Numbers (small and big)
Use of descriptive adjectives
Regular verbs-indicative present
The pronunciation of “c” and “g” and how it pertains to the conjugation of some regular verbs

“AVERE” AND IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS
Avere (to have) is used in Italian in many idiomatic expressions that indicate people's feelings or convey physical sensations. They are formed with avere + noun. The equivalent English expressions are generally formed with to be + adjective. Here are a few common ones:

- avere fame—to be hungry
- avere sete—to be thirsty
- avere sonno—to be sleepy
- avere caldo—to be warm (hot)
- avere freddo—to be cold
- avere fretta—to be in a hurry
- avere paura—to be afraid
- avere bisogno di—to need, have need of
- avere voglia di—to want, to feel like

Michele ha sempre fame.
Michael is always hungry.
Ho caldo. Ho voglia di un gelato.
I'm hot. I feel like having ice cream.
The verb avere is also used to indicate age:

- avere + number + anni
to be ...years old

> Quanti anni hai?
How old are you
> Ho ventidue anni.
I'm twenty two years old.

NUMBERS-CLASS ACTIVITY
The class reviewed the pronunciation and use of numbers by guessing the age of celebrities (using the idiomatic expression for age presented above). Guessed ages were then compared to the actual date of birth.
USE OF DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES
Italian and English differ in their usage of adjectives. Italian descriptive adjectives are usually placed after the noun they modify, and with which they agree in gender and number.

Endings for adjectives:

Adjectives ending in -o have four forms. They need to modify their endings for gender and number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender &amp; number</th>
<th>Adjective ending</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>masculine singular</td>
<td>-o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>masculine plural</td>
<td>-a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feminine singular</td>
<td>-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feminine plural</td>
<td>-e</td>
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</tbody>
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*Una ragazza italiana*—*un ragazzo italiano*—*due ragazze italiane*—*due ragazzi italiani*  
(an Italian girl, an Italian boy, two Italian girls, two Italian boys)

Adjectives that end in -e do not need to modify their endings for gender. Their endings change to "i" only depending on whether the noun is singular or plural.

*Uno studente intelligente*  
*Una studentessa intelligente*  
*Due studenti intelligenti*  
*Due studentesse intelligenti*

REGULAR VERBS-INDICATIVE PRESENT
Students were introduced to the present tense of a regular -are verb (e.g.: *parlare*-to speak). It is formed by dropping the infinitive ending -are and adding the appropriate endings to the resulting stem (-o, -i, -a, -iamo, -ate, -ano).

*Parlare*

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>(io) parlo (I speak)</td>
<td>(noi) parliamo (we speak)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>(tu) parli (you speak, familiar)</td>
<td>(voi) parlate (you speak, familiar)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>(Lei) parla (you speak, formal)</td>
<td>(Loro) parlano (you speak, formal)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(lui/lei) parla (he/she speaks)</td>
<td>(loro) speak (they speak)</td>
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The Italian present tense is a simple tense—that is, the verb form consists of one word only.

PRONUNCIATION
The consonants c and g each have two possible pronunciations in Italian: a soft sound and a hard sound. When the c or g is followed by an e or an i it has a soft sound. Otherwise it has a hard sound.

This was demonstrated by presenting (and pronouncing) words familiar to the class. Examples: *gelato, Giuliani, Gucci, gondola, Gabbana, ciao, Versace, cappuccino, Coppola, Cuomo*, etc.

When a hard c or g comes before an e or an i, an h is inserted to indicate the correct pronunciation: *spaghetti, Chianti*, etc.
Students had no trouble understanding the conjugations of *giocare* (to play) and *spiegare* (to explain). In order to maintain a consistent pronunciation regular verbs ending in –*care* and –*gare* require the use of an *h* in front of *i* endings:

- giocare: gioco, giochi, gioca, giociamo, giocate, giocano
- spiegare: cerco, cerchi, cerca, cerchiamo, cercate, cercano

Class blog: [http://fitit111.blogspot.com/](http://fitit111.blogspot.com/)