

MFLE Italian Reference Grammar

Introduction

'Grammar is the way that words make sense. It is a code or set of rules accepted by any community who share a language.' (Language into Languages Teaching, SEED, University of Glasgow, 2001)

What follows is an attempt to set out the rules of grammar for the structures which are recommended in the accompanying outline of work for the teaching of Italian for P6 and P7.

It is not intended for use by pupils, unless perhaps as a spell-check for the months of the year, for example.

Why use this resource?

It is appreciated that a number of teachers who have completed their MLPS training may feel a little insecure in their knowledge of basic Italian grammar. This is understandable, and this booklet attempts to be a resource to help. It is by definition very restricted, but closely tied to the requirements of teachers offering Italian in the primary school.

The fact that it has been produced does not mean that primary school teachers will now be expected to teach grammar formally as it is laid out in this booklet. There is no expectation that pupils should work through this grammar booklet. It is a reference resource for teachers, to try to make them more comfortable with the rules behind the communicative language which they are offering in class.

It is felt that a degree of security about the rules of grammar will make teachers more comfortable in their use of Italian.

How should I use this resource?

As will be seen in the course notes, we do not shy away from explaining simple rules of grammar to the pupils. However, such explanations should be done in a sensitive way. There is nothing to be gained in foreign language teaching from leaving pupils unsure and insecure when a simple explanation, where possible drawing analogies with English, would remove doubts and make the picture clearer. Once again, any explanation of grammar given to pupils should not be taken directly from this booklet and written on the board, for example. The teacher will be expected to use this booklet to inform himself or herself about the correctness of form before going on to explain, in his or her words, the basic rules of grammar, according to the needs of the pupils, some of whom will benefit from a sharper exposure to grammar than has been the case heretofore.

Verb forms

Introduction

'Verbs are used to assert or state what is happening, or what is the case. They are sometimes called 'doing words' or 'action words', but they do not always show action: if we say 'he is bone idle' or 'he has stopped' there is not much action going on.

Verbs also show the time when things are happening: this is called the **tense** of the verb.' (Language into Languages Teaching: SEED: University of Glasgow: 2001)

The subject pronouns are

Io – I	Noi – we
Tu – you	Voi – you
Lui/lei/ - he/she	Loro – they
Esso/essa - it	Essi/esse - they

'Io', 'tu' and 'lui/ lei', 'esso/essa' are first, second and third singular persons respectively.

'Noi', 'voi' and 'loro', 'essi/esse' are first, second and third plural persons respectively.

Notes on the subject pronouns

- 'Tu' is traditionally used to address close friends, members of the immediate family, close relatives, children and animals and pets. Otherwise its use can be considered condescending.
- 'Lei', strictly speaking is the third singular person, but is also the polite form to address to another person when the speakers are not closely acquainted. It is the formal mode to address a single person.

In school, teachers would address individual pupils by 'tu', and groups of pupils by 'voi'.

Pupils should address the teacher by 'lei'.

- 'Esso' singular masculine/'essa' singular feminine – 'essi' plural masculine /'esse' plural feminine are used to address animals and objects.

Note: usually the subject pronoun is not expressed in sentences.

(Io) guardo la televisione

I watch the television

The present tense

The simple present tense and the present progressive tense are the forms most commonly used.

Affirmative

(Io) guardo la televisione

I watch the television

(Io) sto guardando la televisione

I am watching the television

Si, (io) guardo la televisione tutte le sere. Yes, I do watch television every evening.

Negative

(Io) non sto guardando la televisione.

I'm not watching television.

(Io) non guardo la televisione.

I don't watch television

Interrogative

(Tu) stai guardando la televisione ?

Are you watching television?

(Tu) guardi la televisione?

Do you watch television?

Form of the present tense

The present tense form of verbs whose infinitive ends in -re is given below. (The infinitive form of a verb is that which appears in a dictionary, and which is indicated in English by the use of the word **to** in front. Thus, 'to look' is an infinitive in English. The Italian form is 'guardare'. Infinitives in Italian end in -are, -ere or -ire.)

Structurally and analytically, to form the present tense of an **-are/ere/ire** verb:

- take the infinitive;
- remove the ending -are/ere/ire;
- add the first, second and third person endings, singular and plural.

Note: the -ire verbs have two forms. Those following the -isc pattern do have it in addition before the first, second and third person singular and before the third person plural.

These endings are:

	-are	-ere	-ire		-are	-ere	-ire
io	- o	- o	- o/isco	noi	- iamo	-iamo	-iamo
tu	- i	- i	- i/isci	voi	- ate	-ete	ite
lui/lei esso/essa	-a	- e	- e/isce	loro	-ano	-ono	ono/iscono

So, the simple present tense of the verb **guardare** is:

io guardo	noi guardiamo
tu guardi	voi guardate
lui/lei guarda esso/essa	loro guardano essi/esse

the simple present tense of the verb to fear, **temere** is:

io temo	noi temiamo
tu temi	voi temete
lui/lei teme esso/essa	loro temono essi/esse

the simple present tense of the verb to understand, **capire** is:

io capisco	noi capiamo
tu capisci	voi capite
lui/lei capisce esso/essa	loro capiscono essi/esse

the simple present tense of the verb to understand, **dormire** is:

io dormo	noi dormiamo
tu dormi	voi dormite
lui/lei dorme esso/essa	loro dormono essi/esse

Irregular verbs

Unfortunately, many verbs are irregular, and, equally unfortunately, they tend to be the ones most commonly used. This is not a case of Italian being awkward, it's the same in all languages – think of the present tense of the verb *to be* in English, for example.

This section gives the full present tense of the irregular verbs which appear in the course outline. In all cases, teachers will not be actually using the full present tense, but they are included for reference – and for security!

andare: to go

io vado	noi andiamo
tu vai	voi andate
lui/lei va esso/essa	loro vanno essi/esse

avere: to have

io ho	noi abbiamo
tu hai	voi avete
lui/lei ha esso/essa	loro hanno essi/esse

bere: to drink

io bevo	noi beviamo
tu bevi	voi bevete
lui/lei beve esso/essa	loro bevono essi/esse

dare: to give

io do	noi diamo
tu dai	voi date
lui/lei da	loro danno

esso/essa essi/esse

dire: to tell

io dico noi diciamo

tu dici voi dite

lui/lei dice loro dicono
esso/essa essi/esse

fare: to do, to make (also used in 3rd person singular for some weather expressions)

io faccio noi facciamo

tu fai voi fate

lui/lei fa loro fanno
esso/essa essi/esse

sapere: to know

io so noi sappiamo

tu sai voi sapete

lui/lei sa loro sanno
esso/essa essi/esse

scegliere: to choose

io scelgo noi scegliamo

tu scegli voi scegliete

lui/lei sceglie loro scelgono
esso/essa essi/esse

stare: to stay

io sto noi stiamo

tu stai voi state

lui/lei sta loro stanno
esso/essa essi/esse

The interrogative (question form)

In spoken form, the only way for asking a question is to use the correct intonation.

A normal statement is simply turned into a question by raising the voice at the end.

Note: that raising the voice does not mean increasing the volume; it is an upturn in the stress pattern of the sentence which turns the statement into a question.

In written form, a question mark must be put at the end of the sentence.

(Tu) guardi la televisione?

Do you watch television?

The negative

To make a verb negative, the particles non is placed before the verb. For example,

(Io) non vado in città' 'I'm not going into town'

The immediate future

When something is going to be done or is going to happen in the near future, rather than will be done or will happen at some indeterminate point sometime in the future, the Italian infinitive form is stare per.

'(Io) sto per guardare la televisione' - 'I'm going to watch television'

Tu stai per

Lui/Lei sta per

Noi stiamo per

Voi state per

Loro stanno per

'Lui sta per lavare i piatti' – 'He's going to wash the dishes' is more immediate than 'He will wash the dishes'.

In this construction, the infinitive never changes.

Note that the present tense can be used to express futurity if it is accompanied by an appropriate adverb or adverbial expression.

If, for example, you are travelling by train, it is five pm, and you say (Noi) arriviamo alle sei, you are expressing futurity though strictly speaking you are using the present tense.

The simple future tense

When something will be done or will happen at some indeterminate point sometime in the future. 'I will watch television' in Italian is '(io) guarderò la televisione'.

Structurally and analytically, to form the future tense:

- take the infinitive;
- remove the ending **-are/ere/ire**;

add the first, second and third person endings, singular and plural. These endings are:

	-are/-ere	-ire		-are/-ere	-ire
io	-erò	-irò	noi	-eremo	-iremo
tu	-erai	-irai	voi	-erete	-irete
lui/lei esso/essa	-erà	-irà	loro	-eranno	-iranno

So, the simple future tense of the verb **guardare** is:

io guarderò	noi guarderemo
tu guarderai	voi guarderete
lui/lei guarderà esso/essa	loro guarderanno essi/esse

the simple future tense of the verb to fear, **temere** is:

io temerò	noi temeremo
tu temerai	voi temerete
lui/lei temerà esso/essa	loro temeranno essi/esse

the simple future tense of the verb to understand, **capire** is:

io capirò	noi capiremo
tu capirai	voi capirete
lui/lei capirà esso/essa	loro capiranno essi/esse

Reflexive verbs

In Italian verbs such as get up, sit down, stand up and combinations with get (get cold/hot, dressed) are usually *reflexive* (meaning to do something to oneself).

The verb takes a reflexive form when the subject acts on itself, therefore subject and object are the same.

The reflexive form can be made only with transitive verbs (verbs which take an object).

In the reflexive form the verb is always used with the personal pronouns **mi, ti, si,ci,vi**. The personal pronouns are placed usually before the verb.

So, the simple present tense of the verb **lavarsi** (to wash oneself/ to get washed) is:

io mi lavo

noi ci laviamo

tu ti lavi

voi vi lavate

lui/lei si lava
esso/essa

loro si lavano
essi/esse

Other commonly used reflexive verbs include alzarsi (to get/ stand up), sedersi (to sit down), vestirsi (to dress oneself/ get dressed).

The personal pronouns are placed after the verb with the infinitive, (io) **devo lavarmi** – I must wash myself/ I must get washed, the present continuous form, (io) **sto lavandomi** – I'm washing myself/ I'm getting washed and the imperative forms (see below), **laviamoci!** – let's wash ourselves!/ let's get washed!, **lavati!** – wash yourself!/ get washed!

The imperative mood (commands)

The imperative exists basically in three forms, second person singular and plural, and first person plural, though the latter might be considered more an exhortation rather than a command.

To form the imperative, take the **second** or **third person singular** and the **second plural forms** of the present tense and omit the **tu** and the **voi**. Do likewise with the first person plural form, omitting the **noi**.

Voi andate: you go andate!: go!

Voi guardate: you look guardate!: look!

Noi guardiamo: we look guardiamo!: let's look!

The imperative forms suggested in the course outline are:

Singular form

Plural form

ascolta : listen

ascoltate: listen

alzati: stand up

alzatevi: stand up

apri: open

aprite: open

cammina: walk

camminate: walk

chiudi: close, shut

chiudete: close, shut

colora: colour (in)

colorate: colour (in)

disegna: draw

disegnate: draw

esci: go out

uscite: go out

guarda: look

guardate: look

scrivi : write

scrivete: write

siediti: sit down

sedetevi: sit down

studia: study

studiate: study

sveglia: wake up

svegliatevi: wake up

The noun

'Nouns are the types of words which give the names of things, people, places, happenings and ideas...Nouns can be **singular** (referring to one thing) or **plural** (referring to many)'. (Language into Languages Teaching, University of Glasgow, Scottish Executive Education Department, 2001)

All nouns in Italian are either **masculine** or **feminine**. In some other languages, including English, nouns can also be neuter.

In English the situation has more or less resolved itself into the use of the masculine for male humans or animals, feminine for female humans or animals, and neuter for objects or things. But things are not quite as simple as they seem. For example, in English we readily say:

'Look at that child. It's going to run across the road.'

'The ship is on time. She will arrive at noon.'

In Italian, nouns which refer to objects or things are either masculine or feminine.

Nouns which refer to male humans or animals are, as in English, masculine; nouns which refer to female humans or animals are feminine.

- But there can be exceptions. Even though an engineer may be a woman, the correct term is **l'ingegnere**. Many nouns denoting jobs or characteristics originally associated with men are still masculine even when applied to women, though, as you might expect, some sections of modern Italian society are not happy with that situation.

Note: when referring to the gender of nouns, the correct grammatical terms must be used. They are masculine and feminine. For objects or things the gender is arbitrary, only the use has established that, for instance, *il libro* – the book is masculine and *la matita* – the pencil is feminine.

Knowing the gender of the nouns is important because there are variables like articles and adjectives which refer to the name and change according to it:

Il libro è giallo – the book is yellow.

Plurals

For plurals the general rule is that the masculine names change their endings in -i: *libro* – *libri* *book* – *books*.

The feminine names ending in -a change in -e while the ending in -e change in -i.

Masculine singular

-a il problema *the problem*
-e il cane *the dog*
-o il libro *the book*

Masculine plural

-i i problemi *the problems*
-i i cani *the dogs*
-i i libri *the books*

Feminine singular

-a la casa *the house*
-e la madre *the mother*

Feminine plural

-e le case *the houses*
-i le madri *the mothers*

There are, however, particular cases and exceptions.

The names ending in **-ca, -ga, e -cia, -gia**

Singular

-ca, -ga
(feminine)
la pesca *the peach,*
il collega *the colleague*

Plural

-chi, -ghi (*masculine*) **-che, -ghe**
le pesche *the peaches*
I colleghi *the colleagues*

The names ending in **-co e -go**

Singular

-co, -go
il cuoco *the cook*
l'albergo *the hotel*

Plural

-chi, -ghi (of names with the accent on the last syllable but one)
i cuochi *the cooks*
gli alberghi *the hotels*

There are exceptions like:

l'amico/gli amici *the friend/the friends*
 Il greco/i greci *the Greek/the Greeks*

-co, -go

il medico *the doctor*

-ci, -gi (of names with the accent on the last syllable but two)

i medici *the doctors*

The names ending in **-io**

Singular

-io
il figlio *the son*
lo zio *the uncle*

Plural

-i/-ii
i figli *the sons*
gli zii *the uncles*

Indeclinable nouns

Like in English in Italian there are several names that have the same endings for the singular and plural forms. It's possible to recognize if they are singular or plural by the article, the adjective, the verb used in the sentence.

Some indeclinable names are:

Il re/i re	the king/ the kings
La città/le città	the town/the towns
La foto/le foto	the picture/the pictures
Il caffè/ I caffè	the coffee/the coffees
La radio/le radio	the radio/ the radio
Il film/i film	the film/the film

The article

'The' and 'a' are ...called the definite article (the) and the indefinite article (a, an). In modern grammar, both are called determiners. (LILT 2001)
There are two types of article, the definite and the indefinite.

The definite article is the word *the* in English.

In Italian, the singular definite article is *lo/il/l'* if the noun is masculine and *la/l'* if the noun is feminine.

Both *lo/la* are shortened to *l'* if the noun begins with a vowel, to make the pronunciation easier.

If the noun is masculine plural *lo* becomes *gli*, *il* becomes *i* and *l'* becomes *gli*.

If the noun is feminine plural both *la* and *l'* become *le*.

Masculine singular

Lo - the

il

l'

Masculine plural

gli - the (before words that start with s+consonant / z,

ps,gn: *lo studente* - the student

gli scherzi - the jokes)

i - the (before words that start with the other

consonants: *il sole* – the sun, *i libri*- the books)

gli - the (before words that start with vowels: *l'uomo* - the man, *gli aereoplani* - the aeroplanes).

Feminine singular

la the

Feminine plural

le - the (before words that start with consonants: *la scuola* - the school, *le scuole*- the schools).

l'

le – the (before words that start with vowels: l'Italia-Italy, le italiane- the Italian girls/ women).

The indefinite article

The indefinite article in English is 'a', 'an' or 'some'.

In Italian, the indefinite article is uno/un if the noun is masculine and una/un' if the noun is feminine.

Masculine singular

Uno before words that starts with s +consonant, z,ps,gn: uno studente – a student

Un before words that start with the other consonants or with a vowel: un orologio – a clock, un cane – a dog

Feminine singular

Una before words that start with consonant:
una città - a town.

Un' before words that start with vowel: un'amica – a (female) friend

Uno and **un** become **degli** or **dei** if the noun is plural and **una/un'** become **delle**.

Uno studente (a student) - degli studenti (some students)

Un orologio (a clock) - degli orologi (some clocks)

Un cane (a dog) - dei cani (some dogs)

Una città (a city) - delle città (some cities)

Un'amica (a female friend) - delle amiche (some female friends)

The article can be omitted in English. For example, we can say *I love cakes*. In Italian, the article cannot normally be omitted. Therefore, if we wish to express in Italian the sentence 'I love cakes', we have to decide whether the speaker means 'I love (all) cakes' or 'I love (some) cakes'. If we agree that the statement is a general statement referring to 'all cakes', then in Italian we would use the definite article and the sentence becomes:

(io) adoro i dolci. .

The contracted forms

'To the' - In Italian, you cannot use **a** together with the definite article **lo/il/l'** or **la/l'**. Instead, the two words contract into **allo** (**a + lo**), **al** (**a + il**), **all'** (**a + l'**) and **alla** (**a + la**), **all'** (**a + l'**) both meaning 'to the'.

Masculine Singular

(**a+lo**) **Allo** stadio – At the Stadium
(**a+il**) **Al** parco – At the park
(**a + l'**) **All'** aeroporto – At the airport

Feminine Singular

(**a+la**) **Alla** stazione – At the Station
(**a+l**) **All'** ombra – In the shadow

Masculine Plural

(**a+gli**) **Agli** estremi – To the extremes
(**a+i**) **Ai** confini – At the borders

Feminine Plural

(**a+le**) **Alle** piscine – At the swimming-pools

"Of the" - Similarly, you cannot use **di/de** together with the definite article **lo/il/l'** or **la/l'**. Instead, the two words contract to form **dello** (**de + lo**), **del** (**de + il**), **dell'** (**de + l'**) and **della** (**de + la**), **dell'** (**de + l'**), both meaning *of the*.

Masculine Singular

(**di+lo**) **Dello** stesso – *Of the same*
(**di+il**) **Del** cane – *Of the dog*
(**di+l'**) **Dell' uomo** – *Of the man*

Feminine Singular

(**di+la**) **Della ragazza** – *Of the girl*
(**di+l'**) **Dell' amica** – *Of the friend*

Masculine Plural

(**di+gli**) **Degli** amici – *Of the friends*
(**di+i**) **Dei** bambini – *Of the children*

Feminine Plural

(**di+le**) **Delle** piscine – *Of the swimming-pools*

Adjectives

'Adjectives qualify nouns, that is give us more detail about them. A noun such as 'man' is nondescript, but if we add words (to) the noun, a transformation occurs.' (Language into Languages Teaching, University of Glasgow, Scottish Executive Education Department, 2001)

Adjectives are used to describe, or in grammatical terms to qualify, nouns and other expressions.

In English, adjectives precede the noun unless for special effects.

In Italian, the general rule is that most adjectives **follow the noun**.

However, the adjectives used to express general qualities often precede the nouns.

bello/bella	<i>nice, lovely, beautiful</i>
buono/buona	<i>good</i>
grazioso/graziosa	<i>pretty</i>
piccolo/piccola	<i>little or small</i>

In addition, all of the possessive adjectives like 'mio/mia/tuo/tua- miei/tuoi' naturally precede the noun.

Adjectives are in accordance with the noun which they qualify. That is, if a noun is feminine singular, the adjective which qualifies it must be feminine singular. If a noun is masculine plural, any adjective in accordance with it must also be masculine plural.

To make the adjective feminine, change the masculine singular ending **o** in **a**. If the masculine singular ends in **e**, do not change anything. **Adorabile** (adorable) is both the masculine singular and the feminine singular form.

To make the adjective masculine plural, add **i** to the masculine singular. (Note the comments on forming plurals earlier!):

Il mio cane è bello - my dog is nice
I miei amici sono belli – my friends are nice

To make the adjective feminine plural, add **e** to the masculine singular.

La mia casa è bella - my house is nice
Le mie amiche sono belle – my (female) friends are nice

Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives are the words 'my', 'your', 'his/her' etc. In Italian they too have to be in accordance with the noun. They are arranged here as first, second and third person, singular and plural.

Note that the third person plural forms are both masculine and feminine.

Masc sing	Fem sing	Masc pl	Fem pl	English
il mio	la mia	i miei	le mie	<i>my</i>
il tuo	la tua	i tuoi	le tue	<i>your</i>
il suo	la sua	i suoi	le sue	<i>his, her</i>
il nostro	la nostra	i nostri	le nostre	<i>our</i>
il vostro	la vostra	i vostri	le vostre	<i>your</i>
il loro	la loro	i loro	le loro	<i>their</i>

il **mio** è lavoro è faticoso – my job is tiring
la **mia** macchina è nuova – my car is new

Date, numbers and weather

Days of the week

The days of the week are all masculine except for Sunday.

They are:

domenica	<i>Sunday</i>
lunedì	<i>Monday</i>
martedì	<i>Tuesday</i>
mercoledì	<i>Wednesday</i>
giovedì	<i>Thursday</i>
venerdì	<i>Friday</i>
sabato	<i>Saturday</i>

Note that they are written without capital letters and printed without upper case letters unless they appear at the beginning of a sentence.

On Sunday is in Italian *di domenica* .

Every Sunday is *tutte le domeniche*.

Months of the year

The months of the year are all masculine.

They are:

gennaio	<i>January</i>
febbraio	<i>February</i>
marzo	<i>March</i>
aprile	<i>April</i>
maggio	<i>May</i>
giugno	<i>June</i>
luglio	<i>July</i>
agosto	<i>August</i>
settembre	<i>September</i>
ottobre	<i>October</i>
novembre	<i>November</i>
dicembre	<i>December</i>

Note that they are written without capital letters and printed without upper case letters unless they appear at the beginning of a sentence.

To say I'n' that month, you use the expression nel mese di, literally in the month of. Therefore, in January is nel mese di gennaio. You can also use di/a/in, and so you can say in gennaio, a gennaio, di gennaio.

The date

Apart from 'the first', which is 'il primo', cardinal numbers are used with dates. The word for 'of' when giving the date in Italian is optional. Thus:

il primo marzo

il due (di) marzo

il dieci (di) marzo

il trenta (di) marzo etc

To say *on* with a date, simply use the forms **il** dieci marzo **del** 1978. **Nel** is used when giving the year only: Anna è nata nel 1978- Anna was born in 1978.

Numbers

Numbers are of two kinds:

- cardinal - giving the number of articles in question (one, two, three, etc)
- ordinal - giving the place of each article in numerical order (first, second, third, etc)

Cardinal numbers

zero	0	dieci	10
uno/una	1	undici	11
due	2	dodici	12
tre	3	tredici	13
quattro	4	quattordici	14
cinque	5	quindici	15
sei	6	sedici	16

sette	7	diciassette	17
otto	8	diciotto	18
nove	9	diciannove	19
venti	20		
ventuno	21		
ventidue	22		
ventitrè	23		
ventiquattro	24		
venticinque	25		
ventisei	26		
ventisette	27		
ventotto	28		
ventinove	29		
trenta	30		
trentuno	31		
trentadue	32	etc	
quaranta	etc	40	etc
cinquanta	etc	50	etc
sessanta	etc	60	etc
sessantanove	69		
settanta	70		
settantuno	71		
settantadue	72		
settantatre	73		

settantaquattro	74	
settantacinque	75	
settantasei	76	
settantasette		77
settantotto	78	
settantanove		79
ottanta	80	
ottantuno	81	
ottantadue	82	
ottantatre	83	
ottantaquattro	84	
ottantacinque	85	
ottantasei	86	
ottantasette	87	
ottantotto	88	
ottantanove	89	
novanta	90	
novantuno	91	
novantadue	92	
novantatre	93	
novantaquattro	94	
novantacinque	95	
novantasei	96	
novantasette	97	
novantotto	98	

novantanove	99
cento	100
centouno	101
centodieci etc	102 etc
mille	1000
milleuno	1001
millecinquecento	1500
millecinquecentodiciannove	1519
duemila	2000
un milione	1 000 000

Note: The ordinal number most likely to be needed is 'first', which is primo. It is used in dates.

Weather

The verbs used with general weather statements are fare and essere in the third person singular.

Fà/è bel tempo – il tempo è bello The weather is fine, it's lovely weather
Fà/è brutto tempo – il tempo è brutto The weather is bad, it's bad weather

Il tempo è mite	It's warm
Fà/è caldo	It's hot
Fa/è freddo	It's cold
Fà/è fresco	It's fresh
C'è il sole	It's sunny
C'è la nebbia	It's foggy
C'è vento	It's windy
C'è il temporale	It's stormy

Some verbs are used in the third person singular:

Si gela	It's freezing
Neve / sta nevicando	It's snowing
Piove / sta piovendo	It's raining