

Unit 6

- ◆ The superlative of an adverb is formed by using **molto** + the adverb

molto adagio *very/most slowly*

molto facilmente *very/most easily*

molto spesso *very/most often*

- ◆ The superlative can also be formed by adding **-mente** to the feminine form of an adjective in the *superlative assoluto*.

brevissima	<i>very brief</i>	brevissimamente	<i>very briefly</i>
chiarissima	<i>very clear</i>	chiarissimamente	<i>very clearly</i>
fortissima	<i>very strong</i>	fortissimamente	<i>very strongly</i>

- ◆ The superlative forms of adverbs **bene, male, molto** and **poco**:

		Comparative	Superlative
bene (well)	meglio (better)	molto bene	<i>very/most well, best</i>
		benissimo	
		ottamente	
male (badly)	peggio (worse)	molto male	<i>very/most badly, worst</i>
		malissimo	
		pessimamente	
molto (much)	più, di più (more)	moltissimo	<i>very much, most</i>
poco (little)	meno, di meno (less)	molto poco	<i>very little, least</i>
		pochissimo	

Future Perfect Tense (Futuro Anteriore)

The future perfect tense indicates a completed action based on a future event. It is formed by conjugating *avere* or *essere* in the future tense and attaching the past participle.

Avere (future tense: will have)

io	avrò	noi	avremo
tu	avrà	voi	avrete
lui, lei, Lei	avrà	loro	avranno

Essere (future tense: will be)

io	sarò	noi	saremo
tu	sarai	voi	sarete
lui, lei, Lei	sarà	loro	saranno

Stems for past participles

• are	• ere	• ire
• ato	• uto	• ito

Signal words for the future perfect tense: dopo, che, quando, and appena.

- Io **sarò andato** in centro. *I will have gone downtown.*
- Loro **saranno arrivati** a casa. *They will have arrived home.*
- **Avranno mangiato** troppo. *They will have eaten too much.*
- Tu **avrà dormito** tutto il pomeriggio. *You will have slept all afternoon.*
- Quando arriveremo a casa, loro **si saranno già addormentati**. *When we arrive home, they will have already fallen asleep.*

Remember to watch for agreement with *essere*.

Conditional Present Tense

The English construction of *would*, *could* or *should* is equivalent to the Italian present conditional tense. To form the conditional, add the following endings to the stem of the infinitive:

Pronoun	Verb Type		
	• are	• ere	• ire
io	• erei	• erei	• irei
tu	• eresti	• eresti	• iresti
lui, lei, Lei	• erebbe	• erebbe	• irebbe
noi	• eremmo	• eremmo	• iremmo
voi	• ereste	• ereste	• ireste
loro	• erebbero	• erebbero	• irebbero

Gerundio Composto (Gerundio Passato)

- ◆ The gerundio presente expresses an action that happens at the same time as the main verb; the gerundio composto/passato expresses an action that happens before the main verb.
- ◆ To form the *gerundio composto*, use the gerund form of *essere* or *avere* and add the past participle.
- ◆ The same rules apply here as with the passato prossimo: for transitive verbs, use *avere*; for intransitive verbs (“house” verbs), use *essere*. Remember that reflexive verbs require *essere*.
- ◆ Watch for agreement when conjugating with *essere*.
 - **Avendo parlato....** *Having spoken....*
 - **Avendoglieli dati....** *Having given them to you....*
 - **Essendo ci vestiti....** *Having gotten (ourselves) dressed....*
 - **Essendo ci ritornati....** *Having returned there....*

To express an action that is currently happening, use *stare* + the *gerundio*.

- Cosa **stai facendo?** *What are you [in the process of] doing?*
- Cosa **stavi facendo?** *What were you [in the process of] doing?*

The Gerund

The Italian gerund operates in the same way that the English gerund does: it expresses an ongoing action either in the present (*gerundio presente*: “saying”) or in the past (*gerundio composto* [*gerundio passato*]: “having said”). Although ambiguous in English, the Italian gerund always refers to the subject of the sentence. (The only exception to this rule is when the subject of the sentence is God, Time, Fortune, Nature, or the weather.)

Gerundio Presente

- ◆ To form the gerundio presente, add the following endings to the stem of the verb:

verb type	ending to add
•are	•ando
•ere	•endo
•ire	•endo

- ◆ Most verbs in the gerundio, including essere and avere, are regular. The most common irregular verbs are fare, dire, and bere:

fare	facendo
dire	dicendo
bere	bevendo

- ◆ Pronouns are always attached to the end of the gerund (e. g., mangiandola, bevendole, scriviamogliela, etc.)
- ◆ The gerundio can be used to express the following English equivalents: because, since, if, when, where, while, although and by (“how”).
 - **Andando** a casa, ho incontrato tuo zio. *While going home, I met your uncle.*
 - **Sentendo** che Olga è la ragazza di Giacomo, Giulia sorride. *Hearing that Olga is Giacomo’s girlfriend, Giulia smiles.*
 - **Apreno** la porta, Giulia ha salutato l’amica. *Opening the door, Giulia greeted her friend.*
 - **Partendo** adesso, sarete a Torino fra due ore. *If you leave now, you will be in Turin in three hours*
 - **Sbagliando** s’impara. *One learns by making mistakes.*

The same verbs that have irregular stems in the future, including *avere* and *essere*, have irregular stems in the conditional and take the following irregular endings:

io	• ei	noi	• emmo
tu	• esti	voi	• este
lui, lei, Lei	• ebbe	loro	• ebbero

- ◆ For verbs ending in **–ciare** or **–giare**, drop the **–i** of the stem before adding the conditional ending.
- ◆ For verbs ending in **–care** or **–gare**, add an **–h** before adding the conditional ending.
- ◆ The three most useful expressions in the conditional are the conjugations of *dovere*, *potere* and *volere*. They’re especially useful for polite expressions.

	<i>dovere</i> (should, ought, would have to)	<i>potere</i> (could)	<i>volere</i> (would like to)
io	• dovrei	• potrei	• vorrei
tu	• dovresti	• potresti	• vorresti
lui, lei, Lei	• dovrebbe	• potrebbe	• vorrebbe
noi	• dovremmo	• potremmo	• vorremmo
voi	• dovrete	• potrete	• vorrete
Loro	• dovrebbero	• potrebbero	• vorrebbero

- Dovrei studiare questa sera. *I ought to study this evening.*
- Potresti dammi un bacio. *You could give me a kiss.*
- Vorebbero comprargliene. *They would like to buy some of those for him.*

Conditional Past Tense (Conditional Perfect Tense)

The conditional past tense (also known as the conditional perfect tense) expresses action that would, could or should have happened in the past. It is formed by combining the conditional of *avere* or *essere* and the past participle:

- **Sarebbero venuto**, ma.... *They would have come, but....*
- **Sarei andato** volentieri in centro. *I would have gladly gone downtown.*
- Io **avrei potuto** dormire tutta la notte. *I could have slept the whole night.*

- Io **sarei dovuto** rimanere a casa. *I should have stayed at home.*
- Io **sarei voluto** andare in Florida. *I would have liked to go to Florida.*

The conditional past is also used to express rumor or hearsay:

- Antonio dice che Franca non **sarebbe partita**. *Antonio says that Francis did not leave.*
- Loro dicono che il Presidente **avrebbe dichiarato** guerra a Serbia. *They say that the President declared war on Serbia.*

The conditional past is also used after verbs of saying or knowing in the past:

- Sapevo che **saresti venuta**. *I knew you would come.*
- Avete detto che **avreste pagato**. *You said you would pay.*
- Ha telefonato per dire che Alessandra **avrebbe fatto** tardi. *She called to say Alessandra would be late.*

Nouns and Adjectives with Suffixes

Shadings of meaning can be added to Italian nouns and adjectives by adding various suffixes. The final vowel of the original word is dropped before the suffix is added. If the final vowel is preceded by a **-c** or a **-g**, an **-h** must be added before a suffix beginning with an **i** or **e**.

- **-ino/-ina, -ello/-ella, -etto/-etta** [Smallness of size, term of endearment]
 - Loro hanno comprato una **casetta** in montagna. *They bought a little house in the mountains.*
 - Nel giardino ci sono molti **alberelli**. *In the garden there are many little trees.*
 - Quel **vecchietto** abita al terzo piano. *The little old man lives on the third floor.*
- **-one, -ona** [big, large in size or quantity]
 - Lui ha un **nasone** come Pinocchio. *He has a big nose, like Pinocchio's.*
 - Che cosa c'è in quelle **scatolone**? *What is there in those big boxes?*
- **accio, accia** [large, ugly, bad]
 - Non comprare quella **stoffaccia**! *Don't buy that poor material!*
 - Lui sempre parla molte **parolacce**. *He always says many bad words.*

Idiomatic Expressions

- ◆ **Fare**
- ✓ **Fare** can be used when describing the temperature of things including the weather (**fare freddo, fare caldo**). **Fare** never describes a person's temperature; always use *avere* when describing a person's temperature.
- ✓ **Fare in ritardo** can be used to indicate when people are late; *Essere in ritardo* is used to indicate when people or things are late
- ✓ **Fare presto** indicates to be in a hurry or to be in haste
- ✓ **Fare dello sport** refers to practicing a sport or sports
- ✓ **Fare una partita a...** is used to say "to play a game of..."
- ✓ **Fare** can be used to imply "take" or "ask" (**fare fotografia, fare una domanda, fare una passeggiata**)
- ✓ **Fare** can be used to describe one's profession (**fare il medico, fare l'avvocato, fare il cantare**)
- ✓ **Fare** can be used to describe how someone plays, acts or pretends (**fare il furbo** [clever, crafty, smart, bright], **fare la stupida**)
- ✓ **Fare una gita** is used to say "take an excursion;" **fare una giro** and **giretto in macchina** are used to say "take a short drive"
- ✓ **Fare il giro della città** is used to say "take a tour of the city"
- ◆ **Miscellaneous**
- ✓ **A cominciare da** and **a partire da** mean "beginning with"
- ✓ **Battere a macchina** means "to type"
- ✓ **Lavorare a orario ridotto** and **lavorare a tempo pieno** mean to work part- and full-time respectively
- ✓ **Prendere in giro** means to make fun of someone or pull someone's leg

**The material following this point is included here
but will not be tested until the final exam.**