

Test of Italian Comprehension

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This test examines the aural comprehension of Italian. Each of the 45 test items consists of a statement followed by three possible answers. The test items were recorded by Prof. Carlo Schirru of the University of Padua. The materials were digitized on a PC, and will be presented using a PC. Participants use a mouse to choose the correct answer ("a", "b" or "c"). The test is non-speeded. The participants may take as long as they wish to respond. They are also permitted to replay an item, but are not permitted to change an answer once it is given. There are two practice items, but no training is provided.

The time needed to administer the test ranges from a minimum of 10 minutes, to about 15 minutes for individuals who listen multiple times to many items.

The test was designed to assess the comprehension of Italian by individuals who immigrated to Canada during the 1950s and 1960s. The instructions will be provided in both English and Italian. The test materials, of course, are entirely in Italian. The participants will not see a written version of the test items, which will be presented over a loudspeaker.

In designing the test, an attempt has been made to minimize the extent to which factual information is needed to respond correctly. However, it is not possible to completely disentangle the ability to comprehend language and knowledge of the world. Consider, for example, the following test item:

- Roma si trova nell'Italia centrale/Rome is located in central Italy
- a Roma e' una piccola citta' italiana/Rome is a small Italian city
 - b* Roma si trova al centro dell'Italia/Rome is in the middle of Italy
 - c Roma e' una nuova citta' italiana/Rome is a new Italian city

To respond correctly, the participant needs to know that "central" and "middle" are nearly synonymous. However, knowing something about Rome will also help. Few if any of the test items can be regarded as explicitly testing knowledge of Italian grammar. However, to respond correctly to a few items, participants must accurately process gender and number information.

Instructions: This is a listening comprehension test. There are 45 short questions. Each question is followed by 3 possible answers. Just one of the answers is correct. Use the mouse to choose the correct answer ("a", "b" or "c"). If necessary, you can listen to a question again. You can take as much time as you want to answer. We will begin with the two practice questions, which are written here. However, because this is a listening test, the questions presented during the test will not be written. You will only hear them.

Istruzioni: Questo e' un test di comprensione uditiva. Si compone di 45 brevi domande, ciascuna seguita da 3 risposte ("a", "b" or "c") una sola delle quali e' corretta. Usi il mouse per indicarla. Se necessario puo' riascoltare le domande con calma e rispondere con altrettanta calma. Cominceremo con i due esempi seguenti, qui riportati eccezionalmente per iscritto. Le altre domande saranno infatti presentate solo in forma orale data la caratteristica uditiva del test.

Practice Questions (will also be presented aurally by the computer)

L'uomo ha dipinto la sua casa ('The man painted his house')

- a* Ha usato un pennello ('He used a brush')
- b Ha usato un pettine ('The used a comb')
- c Ha usato un rastrello ('He used a rake')

La signora e' entrata a casa sua ('The woman entered her house')

- a* E' a casa ('She is home')
- b Sta facendo la spesa ('She is shopping')
- c Sta uscendo ('She is going')

Test items

- 1 Paola ha venduto la macchina a Luigi/Paula sold the car to Luigi
 a Adesso il proprietario della macchina e' Paola/The car belongs to Paula
 b* Adesso il proprietario della macchina e' Luigi/The car now belongs to Luigi
 c Adesso la macchina e' di tutte e due/The car belongs to both of them now
- 2 La lettera e' arrivata ieri dall'Italia/The letter arrived yesterday from Italy
 a* La lettera e' stata scritta in Italia/The letter was written in Italy
 b La lettera non e' stata ancora scritta/The letter has not yet been written
 c La lettera e' stata scritta in Canada/The letter was written in Canada
- 3 Il film gli e' piaciuto veramente/ He really enjoyed the movie
 Non va mai al cinema/He never goes to the movies
 b Va spesso a teatro/He often goes to the theatre
 c* Pensava che il film fosse brutto/He thought the movie was bad
- 4 Adesso la donna e' senza lavoro/The woman has no job now
 a Adesso la donna ha un lavoro/The woman is now employed
 b La donna va a lavorare tutti i giorni/The woman goes to work every day
 c* Adesso la donna e' disoccupata/The woman is now unemployed
- 5 Franco ha cinque fratelli e due sorelle/Franco has five brothers and two sisters
 a Franco non ha fratelli/Franco has no brothers
 b* Franco ha piu' fratelli che sorelle/Franco has more brothers than sisters
 c Franco ha piu' sorelle che fratelli/Franco has more sisters than brothers
- 6 Questa mattina la moglie di Antonio era molto arrabbiata/Antonio's wife was very angry this morning
 a* Antonio e' un uomo sposato/Antonio is a married man
 b Antonio non si e' mai sposato/Antonio has never married
 c La moglie di Antonio e' morta alcuni anni fa/Antonio's wife died several years ago
- 7 In questo appartamento e' possibile tenere cani e gatti/Cats and dogs are permitted in this apartment building
 a Gli appartamenti sono molto grandi/The apartments are very large
 b Gli appartamenti sono molto piccoli/The apartments are very small
 c* In questo palazzo si possono tenere animali domestici/You are allowed to have pets in this building
- 8 Le campane hanno suonato alle sei del mattino/The church bells rang at 6 am
 a Le campane non suonano mai/The bells never ring
 b* Suonano di mattina/They ring in the morning
 c Suonano di sera/They ring in the afternoon
- 9 Giovanni ha pulito la cucina alla fine del pranzo/Giovanni cleaned the kitchen after his meal
 a* Giovanni ha finito di mangiare/Giovanni has finished eating
 b La cucina e' ancora sporca/The kitchen is still dirty
 c Giovanni mangera' presto/Giovanni will eat soon
- 10 Anna parla raramente a sua sorella/Anna seldom talks to her sister
 a Anna non ha sorelle/Anna has no sisters
 b* Anna ha una sorella/Anna has a sister
 c Nessuno parla ad Anna/Nobody speaks to Anna

ERROR. No valid response has been provided; exclude from analyses

- 11 Silvia scrive a sua nonna ogni sabato/Silvia writes to her grandmother every Saturday
a Silvia scrive una storia su sua nonna/Silvia is writing a story about her grandmother
b Silvia ha ricevuto una lettera da sua nonna/Silvia received a letter from her grandmother
c* Silvia scrive lettere regolarmente/Silvia writes letters on a regular basis
- 12 I suoi vini preferiti vengono dalla Toscana/His favorite wines are from Tuscany
a Preferisce i vini siciliani/His prefers Sicilian wines
b* Preferisce i vini toscani/His prefers Tuscan wines
c Non beve mai vino/He never drinks wine
- 13 L'uomo ha apparecchiato la tavola/The man set the table.
a* Ha messo i piatti sul tavolo/He put plates on the table.
b Ha messo i libri sul tavolo/He put books on the table.
c Ha riparato il tavolo/He fixed the table.
- 14 L'uomo ha riparato la sua macchina/The man fixed his car
a* La macchina e' stata riparata/The car has been repaired
b La macchina e' stata dipinta/The car has been painted
c La macchina e' ancora rotta/The car is still broken
- 15 L'uomo ha fatto il bagno prima di uscire/The man took a bath before leaving
a Stara' a casa tutto il giorno/He will remain at home all day
b Non c'era acqua per farsi il bagno/There was no water for a bath
c* L'uomo e' gia' uscito/The man has already left
- 16 L'uccello cantava sull'albero/The bird was singing in the tree
a* Faceva dei suoni/It was making sounds
b Era silenzioso/It was quiet
c Era in una gabbia/It was in a cage
- 17 L'uomo e' nato povero ma ora e' ricco/The man was born poor, but now he is rich
a L'uomo sara' sempre povero/The man will always be poor
b L'uomo era nato ricco/The man was born rich
c* L'uomo ha guadagnato molti soldi/The man earned a lot of money
- 18 Mia sorella e' sempre di buon umore/My sister is always in a good mood.
a Legge molto/She reads a lot
b* Ride molto/She laughs a lot
c Si lamenta sempre/She is always complaining
- 19 Il vecchio si ricordava della bambina/The old man remembered the young girl
a Si ricordava di lui/He remembered him
b* Si ricordava di lei/He remembered her
c Si ricordava di loro/He remembered them
- 20 Questo giornale e' molto interessante/This newspaper is very interesting
a* Mi piace questo giornale/I like to read this newspaper
b Non leggo mai giornali/I never read newspapers
c Il giornale e' noioso/The newspaper is boring

- 21 Il cognome del signore e' molto comune/The man's family name is very common
a Non ho mai sentito il suo cognome/I have never heard his name
b Nessuno ha questo cognome/No one has this name
c* Molti hanno lo stesso cognome/Many people have the same name
- 22 Il prete aveva molti amici/The priest had many friends
a Aveva molti libri/He had many books
b Era molto solo/He was very lonely
c* Conosceva molta gente/He knew many people
- 23 La zuppa contiene molte verdure/The soup contains many vegetables
a E' una zuppa di pesce/It is a fish soup
b* E' una zuppa di verdure/It is a vegetable soup
c Ha molte uova/It has many eggs
- 24 La bambina ha molti vestiti/The girl has many dresses
a E' molto piccola/She is very small
b E' molto graziosa/She is very pretty
c* Ha molte cose da mettersi/She has many things to wear
- 25 La scuola e' vicina all'Universita'/The school is near the university
a* Sono a due passi l'una dall'altra/They are right next to one another
b Distanza 100 Km l'una dall'altra/They are 100 Km from one another
c Si trovano in due citta' diverse/They are located in two different cities
- 26 L'insegnante non fa mai colazione/The teacher never eats breakfast
a Non mangia mai/He never eats
b* Non mangia mai di mattina/He never eats in the morning
c Non mangia mai di sera/He never eats in the evening
- 27 Il bambino era molto stanco/The small child was very tired
a* Aveva bisogno di dormire/He needed to sleep
b Aveva bisogno di bere/He needed to drink
c Voleva giocare/He wanted to play
- 28 Il mio insegnante mi ha appena chiamato/My teacher just called me
a* Ho sentito la sua voce/I heard his voice
b Non ho insegnanti/I have no teacher
c Il mio insegnante e' partito ieri/My teacher left yesterday
- 29 L'ascensore era rotto/The elevator was broken
a Ho usato la mia macchina/I used my car
b L'ascensore stava salendo/The elevator is coming up
c* Ho usato le scale/I used the stairs
- 30 Roma si trova nell'Italia centrale/Rome is located in central Italy
a Roma e' una piccola citta' italiana/Rome is a small Italian city
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- 31 Ha viaggiato al nord per tre giorni/He traveled north for three days
a Tornera' fra tre giorni/He will return in three days
b Partira' fra tre giorni/He will leave in three days
c* E' andato da qualche parte/He went somewhere
- 32 Sta aspettando l'arrivo di sua zia e di suo cugino/He is expecting his aunt and cousin to come
a* Arriveranno due persone/Two people will come
b Arriveranno tre persone/Three people will come
c Non ha parenti/He has no relatives
- 33 Portava una camicia blu/He was wearing a blue shirt
a Ha indossato una cravatta/He put on a tie
b* Ha indossato una camicia/He put on a shirt
c La camicia era bianca/The shirt was white
- 34 L'Italia e' un paese europeo/Italy is a European country
a L'Europa si trova in Italia/Europe is located in Italy
b L'Italia e' una nazione molto grande/Italy is a very large country
c* L'Italia si trova in Europa/Italy is located in Europe
- 35 Ha fatto cadere il vaso di fiori sul pavimento/He dropped the vase of flowers on the floor
a* Il vaso si e' rotto/The vase is broken
b Dentro c'era del cibo/It has food in it
c Non c'erano fiori nel vaso/There were no flower in the vase
- 36 Il ragazzo ha lanciato la palla rossa/The boy threw the red ball
a Il ragazzo ha fatto cadere la palla rossa/The boy dropped the red ball
b* La palla e' volata in aria/The ball sailed through the air
c Il ragazzo ha tenuto la palla in mano/The boy held the ball
- 37 Ha aperto la scatola con un coltello/He opened the box with a knife
a Non ha coltelli/He has no knife
b Non ha trovato la scatola/He didn't find the box
c* Adesso la scatola e' aperta/The box is now open
- 38 Ha tagliato tre fette di prosciutto/He cut three slices of ham
a Ha usato un cappello/He used a hat
b* Ha usato un coltello/He used a knife
c Ha usato un cucchiaino/He used a spoon
- 39 L'uomo ha comprato una camicia e una cravatta/The man bought a shirt and a tie
a* Ha comprato dei vestiti/He bought some clothing
b Ha comprato dei quadri/He bought some pictures
c Ha comprato roba da mangiare/He bought some food
- 40 La bottiglia di vino e' stata riempita con acqua/The wine bottle was re-filled with water
a* Ora c'e' dell'acqua/It has water in it now
b Ora c'e' del vino/It has wine in it now
c La bottiglia e' vuota/The bottle is empty

- 41 Il vescovo e il prete hanno cenato insieme/The bishop and priest ate dinner together
a Hanno fatto colazione insieme/They had breakfast together
b Hanno mangiato da soli/They ate alone
c* Tutti e due erano cattolici/Both were catholic
- 42 Per il suo compleanno il ragazzo ha ricevuto 10 regali/The boy received 10 gifts for his birthday
a Era il suo decimo compleanno/It was his 10th birthday
b* Ha avuto 10 regali/He was given 10 gifts
c Ha chiesto 10 regali/He asked for 10 gifts
- 43 La moglie dell'uomo e' morta/The man's wife died
a* E' vedovo/He is a widower
b E' vedova/She is a widow
c L'uomo e' morto/The man died
- 44 Il commesso ha pranzato molto in fretta/The clerk ate lunch very quickly
a Il cibo era molto caldo/The food was very hot
b Il cibo era abbondante/There was a lot of food
c* Ha avuto pochissimo tempo per mangiare/He had very little time to eat
- 45 L'acqua ha invaso la casa/The water flooded the house
a E' asciutta/It is dry
b* E' bagnata/It is wet
c E' fatta di legno/It is made of wood