

CHAPTER 7

Present Tense of Regular -ARE Verbs

In Italian, all verbs belong to one of three groups (conjugations); *-are*, *-ere*, *-ire*, based on the last three letters of the infinitive.

EXAMPLES: *parlare* *scrivere* *dormire*

1. Endings for Regular -ARE Verbs

The present tense of *-are* verbs is formed by dropping the infinitive ending *-are* and replacing it with the specific ending for each subject pronoun as in the table below.

SUBJECT PRONOUNS	ENDINGS
io	-o
tu (familiar)	-i
lui/lei	-a
Lei (formal)	-a
noi	-iamo
voi (familiar)	-ate
loro	-ano
Lui (formal)	-ano

2. Conjugating Regular -ARE Verbs

parlare to speak		
io	parlo	I speak, I am speaking
tu (familiar)	parli	you speak, you are speaking
lui/lei	parla	he/she speaks, he/she is speaking
Lei (formal)	parla	you speak, you are speaking
noi	parliamo	we speak, we are speaking
voi (familiar)	parlate	you speak, you are speaking
loro	parlano	they speak, they are speaking
Loro (formal)	parlano	you speak, you are speaking

3. Commonly Used -ARE Verbs

abitare to live

aiutare to help

cercare to look for

chiamare to call

amare to love
 arrivare to arrive
 ascoltare to listen
 aspettare to wait for
 ballare to dance
 camminare to walk
 cantare to sing
 guardare to look
 imparare to learn
 incontrare to meet
 insegnare to teach
 invitare to invite
 lavare to wash
 lavorare to work
 mangiare to eat
 nuotare to swim
 pagare to pay
 parlare to speak, to talk
 pensare to think

cominciare to begin
 comprare to buy
 cucinare to cook
 desiderare to wish, to desire
 domandare to ask
 entrare to enter, to come in
 giocare to play (an activity or sport)
 portare to bring, to carry
 praticare to practice
 preparare to prepare
 ritornare to return
 sperare to hope
 spiegare to explain
 studiare to study
 suonare to play (an instrument)
 usare to use
 viaggiare to travel
 visitare to visit

NOTES: 1. Verbs ending in *-iare* retain only one *i* in the *tu* and *noi* forms.

EXAMPLES: cominciare

Tu cominci.

Noi cominciamo.

2. Verbs ending in *-care* and *-gare* add an *h* in the *tu* and *noi* forms.

EXAMPLES: giocare

pagare

Tu giochi.

Tu paghi.

Noi giochiamo.

Noi paghiamo.

EXERCISE A

Che facciamo con questi verbi? Conjugate the following verbs in the present tense.

comprare		studiare		pagare	
io	_____	io	_____	io	_____
tu	_____	tu	_____	tu	_____
lui/lei	_____	lui/lei	_____	lui/lei	_____
noi	_____	noi	_____	noi	_____
voi	_____	voi	_____	voi	_____
loro	_____	loro	_____	loro	_____