



Week #2

Part 1

English/Italian **FALSE FRIENDS**

WHAT ARE FALSE FRIENDS?

→ **False Friends** are English words which seem similar to an Italian word but have a **different meaning**



Sometimes an English word can be correctly translated by looking for **similarities** with Italian words, but in many cases the word has a **different meaning**

I frequent
an English
course
every Friday

false friend *



I attend
an English
course
every Friday

* Attenzione!
E' simile all'italiano
ma non vuole dire
la stessa cosa
in inglese

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ILLUSTRATION AND GRAPHIC DESIGN BY MARTA SCUPELLI

1. **ACTUALLY = ATTUALMENTE → IN REALTÀ, IN EFFETTI**

~~Actually~~, Currently, I am studying to become deck officer

<<I met your friend Tom yesterday. >>

<<Actually, Tom is my boss!>>

Attualmente = Currently

Currently, I am looking for a good job opportunity

2. **To ADJUST = ~~AGGIUSTARE~~ → ADATTARSI, REGOLARE (to set)**

I have never adjusted to London's weather

I forgot to adjust the color on the TV to a brighter level

Aggiustare, riparare = To repair, to fix

Tom can ~~adjust~~ fix anything

3. **ADVICE** = ~~AVVISO~~ → **CONSIGLIO**

The best advice I can give you is to keep trying

Avviso = Communication / Avvisare = To ~~advise~~ → To inform

The ~~advise~~ communication was posted on the school walls

Passengers were ~~advised~~ informed of the emergency

4. **ARGUMENT** = ~~ARGOMENTO~~ → **DISCUSSIONE**

After a long argument, I finally convinced him to go on holiday abroad

Argomento = Topic, subject

One of this week's ~~arguments~~ topics is 'False friends'

5. **ARRANGE** = ~~ARRANGIARSI~~ → **ORGANIZZARE/DISPORRE**

I tried to arrange the interview for tomorrow via Skype

Arrangiarsi = To make do (with)

Sorry, you will have to make do with the last slice of pizza

6. **ATTEND** = ~~ATTENDERE~~ → **PARTECIPARE/FREQUENTARE**

I will ~~frequent~~ attend a Maritime English course next summer

You are invited to attend the meeting

Attendere = To wait for
I'll be waiting for your call

Frequent = Frequente (avver. tempo)
Trains are frequent at this time

7. CONFIDENCE = ~~CONFIDENZA~~ → SICUREZZA, FIDUCIA

Showing confidence is a key to success

Confidenza = Familiarity

Seafarers must have ~~confidence~~ familiarity with shipboard procedures

8. DEFINITELY = ~~DEFINITIVAMENTE~~ → CERTAMENTE, SENZ'ALTRO

I am definitely going to visit you next winter

Our trip was definitely a success

Definitivamente = Permanently

The TV seems to be ~~definitely~~ permanently broken

9. EDUCATED = ~~EDUCATO~~ → ISTRUITO

He was ~~instructed~~ educated at University here in Rome

Educato = Well-mannered, polite To instruct = istruire

I like your brother, he's extremely kind and ~~educated~~ polite

10. EDUCATION = ~~EDUCAZIONE~~ → ISTRUZIONE

My parents paid for my education and training

Educazione = Good manners, Courtesy

His ~~education~~ good manners made the difference

11. EVENTUALLY = ~~EVENTUALMENTE~~ → INFINE

Eventually, we managed to arrive home

Eventualmente = Possibly

Could I possibly come and see you?

12. FAMILIAR = ~~FAMILIARE~~ → CONOSCERE

The Master was not familiar with the regulations

My ~~familiars~~ family members are all tall and blond

Familiare = Family member

I invited most of my family members

13. LARGE = ~~LARGO~~ → GRANDE

I come from a large family

The shirt is too large for me

Largo = Wide, broad

I remember my Granfather's ~~large~~ wide shoulders

14. NOTICE = ~~NOTIZIA~~ → PREAVVISO, NOTARE

We were only given two week notice

I didn't notice him coming

Notizia = (piece of) news

Bad ~~notices~~ news travels fast

15. PARENTS = ~~PARENTI~~ → GENITORI

My parents are from France but I have ~~parents~~ relatives all over the world

Parenti = Relatives

I have ~~parents~~ relatives in the US

16. PATENT = ~~PATENTE~~ → BREVETTO

The device was patented in 1980

Patente = Driving Licence

I got my driving ~~patent~~ licence in 1997

17. SALARY = ~~SALARIO~~ → STIPENDIO

Wege earners are paid by the hour while the salary is quoted on an annual basis

Salario = Wage

My ~~salary~~ wage is 20 dollars per hour

18. SENSIBLE = ~~SENSIBILE~~ → SENSATO (reasonable)

His advice is always very sensible

Sensibile = Sensitive

She always appreciated my ~~sensible~~ sensitive side

19. **VACANCY** = ~~VACANZA~~ → **POSTO VACANTE**

My Spanish ~~vacancy~~ holiday was funny and relaxing
I am calling to ask you if you have any vacancy

Vacanza = Holiday, vacation

Where will you spend holidays next summer?

Do not call me from office, I'm on vacation!

20. **VERY** = ~~VERAMENTE~~ → **MOLTO**

The temperature in the Engine room is very high

This athlete can run very fast

Veramente = Really

You must be really exhausted!

I really like playing soccer.

Week #2 assignment #1

Please translate the following sentences into English

1. L'anno scorso ho frequentato un corso di spagnolo.
2. Andrò a una riunione di famiglia con i miei parenti.
3. Attualmente lavoro come bar tender ma per hobby aggiusto biciclette.
4. Ieri ho avuto una discussione con mia sorella.
5. Il mio negozio preferito è definitivamente chiuso.
6. Il tuo capo ti insegnerà a prendere confidenza con gli strumenti di lavoro.
7. Questo scatolo non è abbastanza largo per il suo contenuto.
8. Eventualmente, posso chiamarla per organizzare un incontro?
9. Il mio datore di lavoro pretende che noi siamo puntuali.
10. Tutti mi dicono che sono una persona molto sensibile.

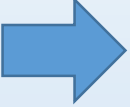
Part 2

COMMON MISTAKES Made by Italian Native Speakers



‘MISTAKES ARE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES’

In this section, you will learn how to avoid making some of the most common mistakes Italian students make while trying to improve their English.

 As an Italian speaker, you will face many challenges while trying to speak a good English.



This is due to (dovuto a) several differences between the two languages.

- **MISPRONUNCIATION:** English spelling and pronunciation is a lot more complicated than Italian. For example, Italians tend to add ‘H’ where there shouldn’t be one and forget to add it where it is required. (‘He isn’t very interesting’)/(‘I hate-ate my teacher’) (‘Hi/I’)
- **SENTENCE STRUCTURE:** When learning a foreign language we all tend to **translate in our head** before starting to speak but the sentence structure in English follows **stricter rules** compared to Italian which is more flexible. (‘Before leaving, ~~must be signed~~ the register must be signed’)
- **DIFFERENT USE OF PREPOSITIONS, ARTICLES, VERB TENSES:** Again, this is often due to a **too direct translation** without taking into account all the differences between English and Italian grammar.

CAN I HAVE MORE INFORMATION^S ABOUT THE COURSE? /

MANY PEOPLE WORK^S HERE

Words like INFORMATION, PEOPLE are UNCOUNTABLE and are always singular. What is actually confusing is that INFORMATION requires a singular verb (**INFORMATION IS** VITAL) while you should say → **MANY PEOPLE WORK HERE** with a plural verb.

I AM AGREE WITH YOU

You should say **I AGREE WITH YOU** because *to agree* means *to have the same opinion as somebody* and the verb 'to be' is not required.

IS POSSIBLE TO BOOK A ROOM?

In English, the subject is ALWAYS expressed, even when the sentence is impersonal, in which case you should use 'IT' → **IS IT POSSIBLE TO BOOK A ROOM?**

I DIDN'T LEARN **NOTHING**

In English, double negatives are considered confusing. In negative sentences (and questions) you should use ANY, ANYTHING, ANYONE, ANYWHERE → **I DIDN'T LEARN ANYTHING**

I HAVE 20 YEARS → **I AM 20 YEARS OLD (I'M 20)**

I'M WAITING FROM TWO HOURS

This mistake is due to one of the uses of the Present Perfect tense which we don't have in Italian. When you are still waiting, in Italian you use the Present ("Ti aspetto da 2 ore"). On the other hand (invece), in English you should say → **I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR TWO HOURS** or I WAITED FOR TWO HOURS (this morning/yesterday) if the action was completed in the past.

THE MY LIFE'S PRIORITIES / **THE** MY PREVIOUS WORK

Possessive adjectives DO NOT REQUIRE any ARTICLE before them; another common mistake is using the Saxon Genitive which should be used only for persons and animals (it can be used for time, distance and cities)

'My dog's favourite ball'/'Tomorrow's lesson'

→ **MY LIFE PRIORITIES / MY PREVIOUS WORK**

THE LAST YEAR, I WENT **IN** CANADA

The use of Articles in English is quite different from Italian. The zero article is when the article is not required, for example with years, proper and uncountable nouns, languages, etc. → **LAST YEAR, I WENT TO CANADA**. As you can see, there's another mistake due to the wrong preposition (il moto a luogo è SEMPRE espresso con la preposizione 'to' mentre 'in' è SEMPRE usata per lo stato in luogo).

WHEN I SPEAK, I **DO** MANY MISTAKES

This mistake is about the difference between 'do' and 'make' and exceptions. In fact, the correct sentence is **WHEN I SPEAK, I MAKE MANY MISTAKES**. Do is more about the action of doing something (do an activity, do business, do sports), while make is more about the outcome (make a cake, make an apology, make a complaint).

THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN **FROM** MY TEACHER / I WAS DISTRACTED **FROM** THE NOISE
Many students often confuse the prepositions 'from' (origin) and 'by' (after a passive, who does or causes the action) → **THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN BY MY TEACHER / I WAS DISTRACTED BY THE NOISE**

I NEED A CAR **FOR TO** GO OUT WITH MY FRIENDS

To express purpose in English, there are several ways. 2 of them are: 1 TO + INFINITIVE; 2 FOR + -ING

→ I NEED A CAR **TO** GO OUT WITH MY FRIENDS

→ I NEED A CAR **FOR** GOING OUT WITH MY FRIENDS

→ I have to study for the training course I am attending

I HAVE MET HIM 5 MINUTES AGO

This mistake is about the use of the Present Perfect and the Past Simple tenses. When you talk about the past and you have a clear time marker, such as ‘ago’, you should use the Past Simple: → **I MET HIM 5 MINUTES AGO**

I NOT LIKE WORKING AT NIGHT

Negative sentences with ordinary verbs ALWAYS require the auxiliary ‘Do/Does’ before ‘Not’ → **I DON’T LIKE WORKING AT NIGHT**

Week #2 assignment #2

Please correct the mistakes in the following sentences

1. Spanish people is very friendly but they speak fast so I don't understand nothing.
2. Is important to do this exercise.
3. Most accidents are caused from human mistakes.
4. I'm sorry but I am not agree with you this time.
5. You must know the your duties.
6. The instruction manual contain many information.
7. My name is Marco, I have 20 years and I come from Rome.
8. Did you take the your umbrella with you?
9. During summer is possible to use library for to study.
10. During summer I make many sports and activities.

Part 3

How to change General English into Business English



In this section you will learn how to sound **more professional** in a business situation.

Informal language is acceptable in everyday situations, but there are times when you want to create a more powerful impression.

How do you do that? You simply use **higher level words**

To give (information) → Please **provide** us with the required information

To get (an email) → I am writing in relation to the email I **received**

To talk about (plans, projects) → I would like to **discuss** the project with you

To make sure (to) → Please **ensure** you *meet* the *deadline*

To let know → I am pleased to **inform** you that you successfully completed the test

To tell why → I would like you to **explain** the reason for your behavior

To send → Please **submit** all the required documents by next week

To organize → Will you be able to **arrange** a meeting for tomorrow morning?

To get in touch → I will **contact** you shortly

To look at → I wonder if you would **examine** those documents for me

About → I am writing **concerning** our recent phone call

To deal with → This is how I **handled** that difficult situation

To say sorry → We **apologize** for the delay

To get → Last season we **achieved** good results

To ask → I would like to **request** some assistance

Needed → Please find attached the **required** certificates

To think about → I hope you will **consider** my résumé

Like → I have several hobbies, **such as** swimming and fishing

To fix a problem → I will **solve** the **issue** immediately

To (purpose) → Please send the report as soon as possible **in order to** meet the deadline

Big quantity → Considerable amount

Right/wrong → Correct/incorrect

Bad/good → Negative/positive

But → However

So → Therefore

Also → Moreover, in addition

I think → In my opinion

In the end → In conclusion

ADDITIONAL TIPS

[English grammar today & Oxford University press 2008]

1. Use politeness and try not to be too direct to **show respect**

Please - Thank You - Excuse Me - I Apologize

→ Excuse me Mr Jones, could you please look at my report?

→ Thank you for your email of 12 March

2. Use the Modal Verbs to sound **more formal**

I would like to request some assistance

I would appreciate if you could consider my resume

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my skills with you

Could you please provide some more information about the course?

Week #2 assignment #3

Please change the following sentences from informal to formal

1. I'm really sorry I forgot your birthday
2. Make sure you write me back when you get my email this time
3. Can you give me more information about the job?
4. Let me know if you are thinking about my application
5. You need to fix the problem immediately
6. It's cold in here, let's close the window
7. Do you want to join us for dinner on Tuesday?
8. Sorry for being late
9. Thanks for giving me such good news
10. I want to talk about my latest ideas like developing a digital strategy

Week #2 assignment #4

- ∞ Please watch the video in the link and read the subtitles as you listen to the words he speaks.
- ∞ Write down the words you have never heard, then look them up in the dictionary and watch the video again to check your understanding.

#2 The Exciting Journey of Trash By Nas Daily

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxeVB3gB0NA>

*Go to → www.wordreference.com (or download the app on your mobile) to check the meaning, pronunciation and examples for each word.

IDIOM OF THE WEEK

<< TO BE IN DEEP WATER >>

To be in trouble or difficulty

→ I'm in deep water because I lied to my mother.

Invent a sentence of your own using this idiom!

